

32nd WEDC International Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2006

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION**

**Excreta Disposal for People with Physical Disabilities in
Emergencies: Following the Earthquake in Northern Pakistan**

Shamma Lal, Jamila Nawaz, Saira Raza and Sarah House, Pakistan

Effective excreta disposal in emergencies is important for human health, but also for human dignity, which should be a right for disabled people as much as for non-disabled people. More people may also become disabled as a result of a war or a natural disaster. There is a need for pro-active consideration of the needs of disabled people as part of water and sanitation humanitarian interventions.

This was the basis for the efforts of OXFAM-GB Public Health Promotion and Public Health Engineering teams in the Mansehra / Abbatobad programmes, NWFP, Pakistan (including seconded staff from Sungi Development Programme) in finding ways to make toilet facilities accessible to people with physical disabilities, including elderly people. This presentation will describe the team's experience and some of the challenges they faced, and will highlight some of the successes and achievements.

A number of concrete recommendations will be presented for improvements in practice, in terms of planning, capacity-building, and practical implementation. These will be of relevance to any agency involved in sanitation provision in emergencies. The presentation will be illustrated with a series of photographs.

The presentation will demonstrate that it is possible to respond to the needs of disabled persons and their carers in the initial stages of an emergency. It just takes a little thought and effort.

Contact addresses

Author: Shamma Lal,
Position: Assistant Coordinator,
Address: Health Sungi Development Foundation,
House B-56, Upper Chattar, Muzaffarabad,
AJK,
Country: Pakistan
Email: shammakhan2004@yahoo.com

Author: Saira Raza,
Position: Public Health Engineer (Planning Support
Officer),
Address: OXFAM-GB
Country: UK
Email: sraza@OXFAM.org.uk

Author: Jamila Nawaz,
Position: Programme Coordinator Disaster Manage
ment,
Address: Sungi Development Foundation
House # 86, Street # 13, Jinnahabad
Manian, Abbottabad 22010,
Country: Pakistan

Author: Sarah House,
Position: Freelance Public Health/Water Engineer
Country: Pakistan
