

Case studies

1.1 Introduction

These case studies have been collected as part of a project to bring issues of social exclusion in the practical development of infrastructure in low-income countries into the core of project planning and design. They have been used to influence and illustrate the guidelines that have been produced as part of the research.

The case studies are being set out here to provide a resource for engineers and the trainers of engineers. They can either be used as a supplement to the training notes produced under the project or used separately to provide illustrations of the overlap between gender issues and the development of infrastructure.

One of the problems in collating the case studies has been the lack of *engineering* issues. There are many case studies of the importance in considering the needs of men and women in the development of infrastructure, but these have come from gender studies rather than mainstream civil engineering. This leads to the impression that gender issues lie outside of the core of project development and design, forming a specialist area requiring specific expertise. In contrast, many engineering examples do not bring out social issues explicitly, so there is a gap between “gender” knowledge and “engineering” knowledge that these case studies and associated books and booklets aim to bridge.

1.2 The studies

The case studies have been kept short, to make them accessible and useful as part of larger initiatives. They have been edited slightly to bring out the engineering issues, rather than other aspects, such as politics or rights based actions. A comment is provided to expand on some the lessons that can be drawn from the case study.

The studies are grouped according to sectors:

- water resources;
- water supply
- sanitation
- solid waste
- transport
- irrigation
- construction
- management and organization
- emergencies
- hygiene activities

Within each section, the case studies are grouped according to the project cycle (planning, feasibility, design, construction, operation and maintenance, evaluation).

1.3 Other project outputs

- For a short introduction on infrastructure and its impact on people, see *Building with the Community* (WEDC 2002)
- For guidelines on how on engineers can include gender issues in their work see *Infrastructure for All* (WEDC 2002).
- To train engineers and technicians to meet the needs of men and women see *Developing Engineers and Technicians* (WEDC 2002)
- Website: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/wedc/projects/msgender/index.htm>

1.4 Referencing

The case studies have been provided by a wide ranging group of people over several years. Some are personal observations or have been extracted from published or unpublished reports. Attempts have been made to identify the originator of these extracts, but this has not always been possible. If you know the original source of a case study, please contact Brian Reed (details below), in order that credit can be given.

1.5 New Case studies

If you have examples of engineering issues that have a gender or social exclusion aspects, that you think would be useful additions to these case studies, please contact Brian Reed (details below).

1.6 Acknowledgements

The guidelines were produced by a project team consisting of Sue Coates, Marie Fry, Sarah Parry-Jones and Brian Reed, lead by Ian Smout. The team wishes to thank the following people for their assistance in preparing this publication.

The project was advised by an international review group, consisting of:

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| ■ Peter Sinclair | ■ Lizette Burgers | ■ Sarah House |
| ■ Ben Fawcett | ■ Brendan A Doyle | ■ Archana Patkar |
| ■ John Collett | ■ Louiza Duncker | ■ Rupert Talbot |
| ■ Alison Barrett | ■ Renu Gera | ■ Ilse Wilson |
| ■ Dr Morag Bell | ■ Martin Gillham | |

Special mention is made of Sarah House's contribution in laying the foundations for this project. Thanks must also go to the students and staff members of WEDC and Loughborough University who contributed material and comments for the project, especially: Paul Deverill, Margaret Ince, Cyrus Njiru, Rebecca Scott, Brian Skinner, and Mike Smith

The research and development was assisted by the following partner organisations;

- Mvula Trust
- CSIR
- UNICEF (India and Nigeria)
- WaterAid (Zambia)
- Médecins sans Frontières

The funding for the project was provided by the UK Department for International Development, as part of their knowledge and research programme. This is one of the outputs from project R7129.

This document is an output from a project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID.

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