



Why and How to 'Do No Harm' in development practice: Insights from the Water for Women Fund

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SNV



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Australian AID Conference
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DNH in the Fund

Leaving no one behind in WASH

Gender and Social transformative approaches in and beyond WASH



Fiji | DNH pilot

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In this
presentation,
we will
explore...

1. 'Do No Harm' (DNH) in the Fund
2. Some Fund examples covering different aspects of DNH
3. Why it is important – preliminary results
4. Lessons for wider development practice

'Do No Harm' What is it? Why?

Making a conscious effort to ensure that no negative consequences or harm occurs to anyone – including consequences which are unintended – because of actions taken.



Bangladesh | World Vision

- Access to safe, secure water and sanitation for all (SDG 6)
- Benefits are not equally shared because of power dynamics and social inequalities
- Participation of women and the marginalised is a rights issue and leads to better WASH outcomes
- Realities of resistance, backlash and even violence can come with challenging norms, by increasing participation of women and MGs

DNH examples from the Fund

DNH in....

1. EAWW lens in women's empowerment (Fund supported pilot with Habitat for Humanity and IWDA)
2. Research approaches (UTS-ISF)
3. Systems Strengthening – building organisational commitments and capacity (SNV)
4. Organisational safeguarding and translating to practice (Wateraid)



EVAW lens for women's empowerment (Fund pilot with Habitat for Humanity and IWDA)

Overarching Outcomes

Transformative organisations

Partnership with a VAW organisation

Applying A Do No Harm lens

Ongoing capacity building of different stakeholders



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DNH approaches in research (UTS-ISF)

GEM Design of approaches

Monitoring participants
experiences

Involving participants in
analysis processes



Systems Strengthening – building organisational commitments and capacity (SNV)

1

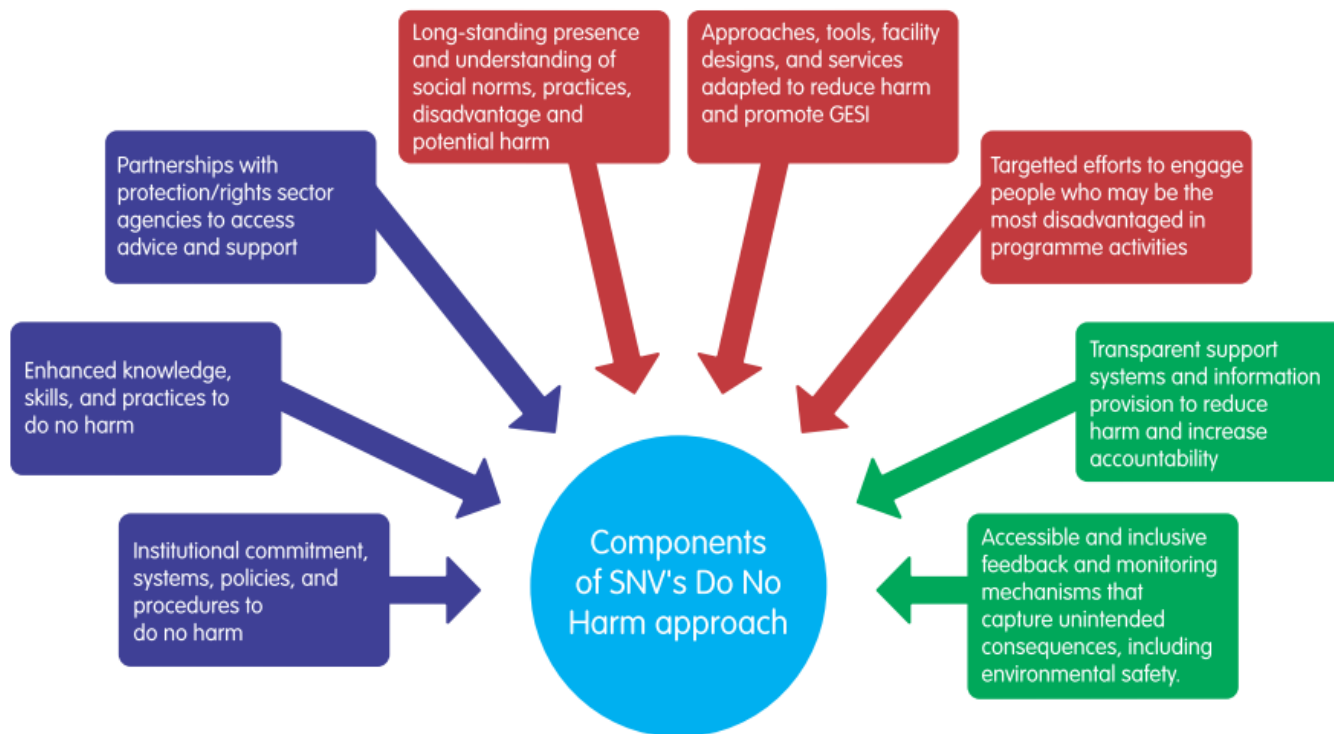
Increasing SNV's institutional commitment and capacity to a DNH approach.

2

Understanding context-specific causes of disadvantage and modifying programming and practices to reduce harm and promote gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).

3

Building monitoring and accountability mechanisms to capture unintentional negative impacts of programming.



Organisational safeguarding and translating to practice (WaterAid)

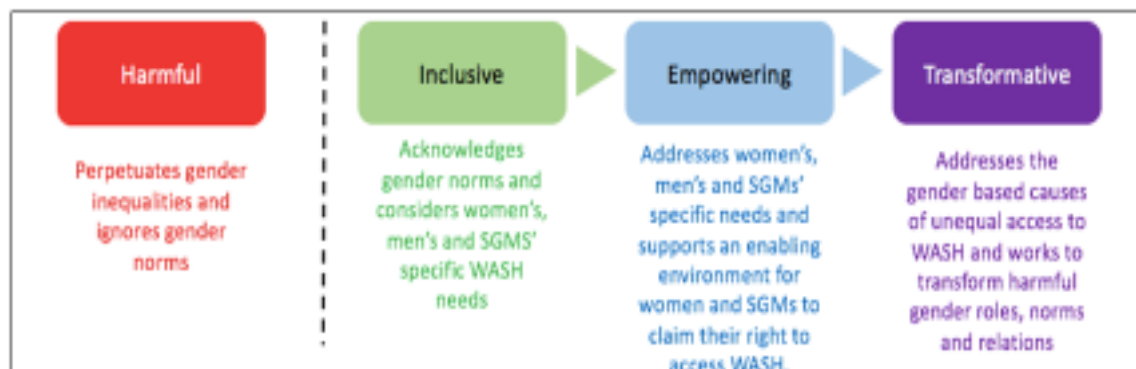
Our journey

Gender framework

Safeguarding review

Regional Gender audit

Results



What we've learnt

"We need to remember that our staff are in traditional families – we are wives, we are mothers and daughters – when we go home must we speak up? The workplace is modern quickly the family can take generations"

- staff member, gender audit, 2018



Environmental Considerations

- Thinking beyond the immediate change of who and what you can see now to the potential consequences for others now/over time and for the environment.
- Eg. Environmental risks associated with poorly resourced WASH services and the plight of sanitation workers



Overall findings

- 1. Engaging with women's and other rights holder organisations** will strengthen women's meaningful participation in development programs.
- 2. Transformative rather than extractive research processes** are needed to strengthen participant engagement and ensure their rights, dignity and wellbeing are upheld.
- 3. Increased awareness and capacity of staff** and partners of DNH issues leads to better strategies to ensure no one is left behind.
- 4. A safe and inclusive organisational / workplace culture** leads to improved practice and performance.

Key considerations for progressing DNH in development programming

1. Investing in **understanding** DNH
2. Developing **transformative culture** in organisations
3. Commitment to **partnership** with RHOs
4. Women and marginalized people having a **“seat at the table”**
5. Being mindful of **“Doing Nothing is Doing Harm”**



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QR Codes for publications



SNV
Practice brief



Habitat for Humanity
DNH Fiji Pilot
Brief



DNH in Systems Strengthening and building organisational capacity

[SNV Practice Brief "Developing approaches to Do No Harm"](#)

Other references

House, S., Ferron, S., Sommer, M., and Cavill, S., 2014. Violence, Gender & WASH. A Practitioner's Toolkit - Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services. London: WaterAid/SHARE. <https://violence-wash.lboro.ac.uk/>

DNH in research approaches

RDI Network/ACFID Principles and Guidelines for Ethical Evaluation and Research – documents as well as online learning modules

<https://rdinetwork.org.au/effective-ethical-research-evaluation/principles-guidelines-ethical-research-evaluation/>

DNH in EAW and Women's Economic Empowerment

IWDA Do No Harm toolkit

<https://iwda.org.au/resource/do-no-harm-toolkit/>

DNH in Water for Women Fund

DNH learning briefs – Fiji pilot and Kathmandu learning event

DNH Fiji pilot film

<https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/learning-and-resources/gender-and-social-inclusion.aspx>

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Useful links/references

