PROMOTING FEMALE-FRIENDLY WATER AND SANITATION IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

FEMALES FIND COMMUNAL SANITATION UNSAFE AND UNHYGIENIC
- Communal toilets offer no privacy.
- Most toilets are poorly located in isolated areas.
- There are no locks on doors and no lights inside.
- Women and girls feel unsafe using toilets at night.
- Toilets are unhygienic and not kept clean.
- Females get infections because of dirty toilets, resulting in frequent clinic visits.
- Women accompany children, elderly and disabled persons increasing their exposure to risk.

THE WATER BURDEN USUALLY FALLS ON FEMALES
- Women and girls are mainly responsible for collecting water.
- They fetch water several times a day for cooking, cleaning and bathing.
- They walk to water points and sometimes wait in long queues.
- If there are no taps or water trucks, women usually walk to find water elsewhere.
- Taps located in isolated areas are unsafe.

HOW TO MAKE COMMUNAL SERVICES SAFER AND FEMALE-FRIENDLY

TALK TO RESIDENTS AND PRIORITISE FEMALE VOICES

INSTALL ENOUGH SERVICES TO MEET EVERYONE’S NEEDS

BRING SERVICES CLOSER TO WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

PUT LOCKS ON TOILET DOORS AND LIGHTING INSIDE

CLEAN TOILETS MORE FREQUENTLY

PROVIDE MORE PUBLIC LIGHTING

SEPARATE TOILETS FOR MALES AND FEMALES

LET WOMEN DECIDE ON THE SAFEST LOCATION FOR SERVICES

The Water Burden usually falls on females.

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PRIORITISING WOMEN IN THE PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

PHASES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

**PHASE 1**

**PROCUREMENT PLANNING**
Municipality decides there's a NEED for services and that it must procure a SERVICE PROVIDER/CONTRACTOR (e.g., to install toilets).

**PHASE 2**

**TENDER/BID SPECIFICATIONS**
Municipality writes tender specifications which say exactly WHAT SERVICE should be provided, HOW, WHERE and by WHEN.

**PHASE 3**

**COMPANIES INVITED TO BID**
Municipality ADVERTISES the tender/bid e.g., via newspaper and radio. They might have a pre-bid meeting for companies to ask questions.

**PHASE 4**

**SUBMITTING AND OPENING OF BIDS**
Companies submit bids showing HOW they will provide the services and the COST. Municipality OPENS ALL BIDS in public on closing date.

**PHASE 5**

**EVALUATE AND ADJUDICATE BIDS**
Bids are EVALUATED by committees, looking at price, quality, technical capacity and BEE. The committees might interview shortlisted bidders.

**PHASE 6**

**SELECT COMPANY AND AWARD BID**
The company that best meets all the criteria is chosen. Municipality does background and tax checks and then AWARDS the contract.

**PHASE 7**

**CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION**
Once the company is contracted, municipality must MONITOR them to ensure that services are delivered as per the CONTRACT.

HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN BE MORE INCLUSIVE

**ASK WOMEN WHAT THEY NEED**
Conduct a needs assessment with residents and ask WOMEN WHAT THEY NEED to be SAFE e.g. what type of services, how much and where.

**WRITE SPECS USING RESIDENT INPUT**
Use resident inputs to write bid specifications for SAFE and HEALTHY SERVICES e.g., toilets must have locks on doors and proper lighting.

**BE MORE TRANSPARENT**
All bid documents must be available at government offices and on its WEBSITE so everyone can ACCESS it and ask questions.

**BIDDERS MUST KNOW THE CONTEXT**
Municipalities should ask companies that bid to show that they understand INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS and BASIC SERVICES.

**INCLUDE WOMEN ON COMMITTEES**
Women must be fairly REPRESENTED on bid evaluation and adjudication committees to promote inclusion in municipal procurement.

**PUBLISH CONTRACT AWARD INFO**
Municipalities should let the public know who the contract was awarded to and why. This promotes ACCOUNTABILITY and TRANSPARENCY.

**MONITOR WITH COMMUNITIES**
WORK WITH residents to MONITOR contractors e.g., municipality must publish service delivery schedules so residents know what to expect.