Cultural Issues + Ethics
compiled by Maric Kangamba and Berhanu Tunsisa

1) Social / Cultural factors that enable / inhibit children’s participation and how to deal with them

Cultural Factors
a) In traditional communities, it’s not culturally acceptable for children to discuss or reprimand elders on why they practice OD – Zambia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Bangladesh, Kenya

b) Children are not afforded an opportunity to participate in decision making in community institutions - Zambia, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya

c) Culturally OD is acceptable in traditional communities. / Nepal in Traditional Tarai communities; Ethiopia; Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya/

d) Culturally ladies and men do not use latrine at same range of time, e.g. morning, mid day, afternoon, evening). /India/

e) In traditional communities, culturally it is believed that feces of infants/children do not cause harm to health and disgust. /Malawi, Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya

f) In traditional communities, in-laws do not use same latrine. /Uganda, Ethiopia, Indonesia/

How to deal with cultural factors?

a) Mainstreaming rights of children into community institutions
b) Enable children to be part of the decision making process by co-opting them in the community governance structures.

c) Demystifying the myth’s surrounding cultural taboos by engaging elders in constructive dialogues.
d) The roles of children should be identified in the CLTS/SLTS process.
e) Promote health education in schools to enhance children’s understanding on diseases and morbidities rated to poor hygiene and sanitation issues.
f) Enhance integration of school community and other stakeholders to involve children in CLTS/SLTS.
g) Discuss in a common meeting attended by a social work, teachers, parents.
h) Sensitization
   Trigger different age groups / small groups. One person from one household.
i) During triggering, a consensus is arrived at that ladies use toilets early in the morning or day time and men will use at 7:00hrs / 8:00hrs. Fix time for different gender / age groups (India).

Day 2

What should be the minimum standards in place to ensure meaningful participation of children in CLTS/SLTS?

Participation is a right. These minimum standards are based on children’s rights as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular in Articles 2, 3, 12, 13, 17, 19, 34 and 36:

- Children have rights to be listened to, to freely express their views on all matters that affect them, and to freedom of expression, thought, association and access to information.
- Participation should promote the best interest of the child and enhance the personal development of each child.
- All children have equal rights to participation without discrimination.
- All children have the right to be protected from manipulation, violence, abuse and exploitation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Relevant Guidelines, Forms and Procedures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before CLTS /SLTS Facilitation</td>
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| 1. A realistic budget needs to be made that includes all possible costs for children’s participation. | ▪ Step by Step Guide  
▪ Budget Guidelines |
| 2. Children friendly background information on the SLTS / CLTS consultations is produced, translated and shared with children. | ▪ How To Produce Children Friendly Documents  
▪ ’What’s all this about’ |
| 3. A child protection policy and strategy is developed for the consultation, all Under 18 children and adult supporting children's participation, are informed of the policy. | ▪ Child Protection Policy  
▪ Briefing for Under 18 children  
▪ All Participation Agreements |
| 4. Potential Under 18 children are provided with relevant information regarding their involvement in the SLTS / CLTS consultation process. | ▪ Briefing for Under 18 children |
| 5. A transparent and fair process is used in the selection of Under 18 children at community level. | ▪ Guidelines for Selecting Under18 children CLTS /SLTS facilitators |
| 6. Systems are developed to ensure in the selection process under 18s are not discriminated against because of age, gender, abilities, language, social origin, class, ethnicity, geographical location, etc. | ▪ Guidelines for Selecting Under 18 children |
| 7. Potential Under 18 children have time to consider their involvement. Processes are established to ensure that Under 18 children are able to and have given their personal informed consent to their participation. | ▪ ’What’s all this about…’  
▪ Under 18 children Participation Agreement  
▪ Consent Form |
| 8. All Under 18 children are accompanied to the facilitations by a suitable adult who will take responsibility for their safety and welfare. | ▪ Guidelines for Selecting Guardians  
▪ Consent Form |
| 9. Consent is obtained for the use of all information provided by under 18s and information identified as confidential needs to be safeguarded at all times. | ▪ Media Consent Form  
▪ Media Guidelines |
| 10. The roles and responsibilities of all involved in the facilitations (children and adults) are clearly outlined and understood. | ▪ ’What’s all this about…’  
▪ All participation agreements |
<p>| 11. All Under 18 children must be fully insured (medical and travel) during their participation in the SLTS / CLTS Facilitations. | ▪ Consent Form |
| 12. All adult receive a sensitisation briefing on how to work with under 18s. | ▪ Adult Sensitisation |</p>
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<tr>
<td>13. The meeting place for the facilitation needs to be accessible to disabled Under 18 children.</td>
<td>Facilitators Guidelines</td>
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<td>14. A preparatory workshop for Under 18 children is organised immediately before the facilitation to help prepare Under 18 children for the SLTS/CLTS facilitation.</td>
<td>SLTS/CLTS facilitation Guidelines</td>
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<td>15. Facilitators are experienced at working effectively and confidently with Under 18 children and able to facilitate an environment that is non-discriminatory and inclusive</td>
<td>Facilitator’s TOR</td>
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<td><strong>During the Triggering of SLTS/CLTS</strong></td>
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<td>16. One person is given responsibility for child protection issues at all consultations.</td>
<td>Child Protection Focal Point TOR</td>
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<td>17. Under 18 children are given equal opportunity with adult to make statements, presentations and voice their opinions at the facilitation of SLTS/CLTS.</td>
<td>Facilitator TOR</td>
</tr>
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<td>18. Media activities follow an ethical code. Children who speak to the media are informed and prepared. Someone is assigned to co-ordinate work on the media.</td>
<td>Media Guidelines, Press Officer TOR, Media Consent Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. No photographs, videos or digital images of under 18s can be taken or published without that person’s informed consent.</td>
<td>Media Guidelines, Media Consent Form</td>
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<td><strong>After the triggering of SLTS / CLTS</strong></td>
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<td>20. Under 18 children are given opportunities to feedback and use their experience of participating in the the triggering process with their peers, or with projects they are connected to and with local communities or organisations.</td>
<td>Follow-up Guidelines</td>
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<td>21. Under 18 children are included in all follow-up activities after triggering.</td>
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<td>22. Facilitating institution should provide support to Under 18 children in order that they can be involved in follow-up activities on SLTS / CLTS.</td>
<td>Guidelines</td>
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Experiences from India- culture

Successes / innovations- Indonesia, India, Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya Malawi

- Children clean the toilet, whether they are pouring water in the toilets
- Community meeting – learn every thing
- Clean their own toilet
- Filling of the water storage tank in front of the pour flush toilet

GAPS

- How to address the issues of in-laws during triggering?
- How to differentiate poor attitudes and culture as factors that hamper effective triggering?
- Children’s participation not appreciated at community level

Areas to know more

- How to mainstream child participation in community institutions?
- How to facilitate the triggering process in the presence of the in-laws?