

GENDER & WATER

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Objectives

- 1 Demonstrate the intersection between water and gender and its impact
- 2 Demonstrate evidence of gender related policy approaches in contributing to water management issues

Why is Water Important



Fundamental human right



Essential role in every sector e.g., agriculture, transport, land management, and overall welfare



Gender



Gender relates to how society, laws, policies and institutions shape roles, decision making power, participation, leadership & access/control to resources for people in their diversity



It is one of many social dimensions that shapes their vulnerability & privilege

Gender



Interacts with other social dimensions like age, sex, religion, geographical status adding layers of marginalisation & privilege



Issues related to gender change depending on the context

Perspectives Gender & Water

01

Roles & Responsibility

Women travel up to 9 hours to fetch water on foot; Men - checking pipes, water supply, water location

02

Women underrepresented

<17% in WASH labour force in developing countries – UNICEF, 2014; Specific challenge in participation & consultation

03

Unequal Power Relations

Limit women's decision-making power-water points location, features

04

Laws & Policies

<50 countries globally have policies or laws that mention women's participation in rural sanitation or water resource management

Implication Gender & Water

05

Role & Responsibility

Health is affected, Missed economic, education opportunities & full potential is not realized; knowledge on water location, quality, safe storage

07

Unequal Power Relations

This exposes women to conflict in cases of water scarcity – home & community

06

Women underrepresented

Their needs are not well captured in development efforts; Men use water for irrigation & livestock

08

Laws & Policies

Health risks are high
1 million deaths due to unclean births; women exposed to abuse and assault

Gender Integration in Water

Deliberate consideration of gender dimensions in areas such as policies, programmes & institutions to mitigate against the impact of gender inequality

- ✓ Effectiveness & Sustainable Impact*
- ✓ Efficiency of Resources

*Resource Guide: Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management (UNDP, 2006)



Evidence of Impact

Case Study - Kenya

01

Context

- Mathare slums (urban informal settlement)
- Southeastern part of Nairobi.
- Population 87,097 (2019)

02

Challenge

- Lack of access to clean & safe water for men and women (2007)
- Public land-changed hands severally limiting public investment
- Illegal water connections – cartels that diverted money utility companies

03

Solution

- Gender analysis & data
- Water committee-women participation-decision & planning
- Water collection points – prepaid tokens-subsidised

Evidence of Impact

01

Govt of Malawi

1980s piping water project to low-income households; 90% men in water committees; **reviewed to involve women** when it failed; 24,000 low income households reached

02

Uganda

Water Minister - Maria Mutagamba (2011- 2012); **gender strategy** for water-promoted women to take key positions in decision making; guidance on integrating women into WASH sectors-increase access to safe water (51% to 61%) in 2 years

03

Ghana

Locally Led Action-community set up rules on water access to promote equitable benefit from water & avoid conflict from water scarcity (women exposed to conflict due to gender roles)

Gender Related- Approaches



Laws & Policies

Develop gender policy that outlines commitment to gender equality



Women Representation

In leadership and decision-making roles- representation of specific needs of both men and women



Gender Strategies

Guide the integration & implementation of gender in water related policies



Gender Data

Collect, analyze and integrate context specific gender dimensions in policies related to water & related sectors

Guiding principles (programs)



Gender Analysis & Intersectionality

Contextualize needs, gaps, barriers and opportunities based on group diversity; multisectoral approach in project delivery



Gender Responsive M&E

Indicators, Sex & Age Disaggregated data



Leverage on Local Assets

Women's knowledge, skills & capacity; Existing community groups- women/men/youth...



Social Norms & Power

Address discriminating gender norms, behaviors, challenge unequal power relations e.g., Gender approaches- GMF, EKATA

Thank You

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Source: World Bank Water and Sanitation Program,
<https://www.wsp.org/content/2013-cartoon-calendar>

fao.org/in-action/naps | adaptation-undp.org/naps-agriculture | international-climate-initia