Introducing the Gender - Water Quality Angle

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THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIVATE WATER OPERATORS

Session Objective

- "Water quality issues and waste water treatment are not gender neutral"
- 1) Is this true?
- 2) Why is it that way?
- 3) Does it matter?
- 4) What to do about it?

It is True

It is true on two counts:

- 1) Opportunities **To** access and benefit from services
- 2) Opportunities **In** water and wastewater employment

Water, Women & Men

Water related **needs** and **attitudes** differ between women & men

- Physiological differences
 - Our bodies are not the same
- Psychological differences
 - Our brains work differently
- Sociological differences
 - Societies and traditions give us different roles & opportunities
- Economic differences
 - Opportunities, roles, resources, incomes, & outgoings often diverge

The focus of this presentation is the

Gender Angle in Opportunities TO

"There was no more important event that liberated women than the invention of running water and indoor plumbing, which happened in urban America between 1890 and 1930."

Quality & Accessibility are linked

- Quantity and quality are completely interconnected
- The Human Rights criteria underline this





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OHCHR Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Combined AquaFed & Women for Water Partnership contribution on questions for the report on Gender Equality

To Achieve Gender Equality

- Gender equality requires totally satisfactory water and sanitation for everyone, everywhere, at all times.
- When high quality, reliable, gender and culturally responsive services are available up to and including the internal installations of homes and workplaces there is no divergence in equality between the sexes.
- The more services and installations degrade from this the wider and more unfavourable the divergences become for women.

Gender Equality - Sanitation

Degree of Inequality between Women & Men

High Slightly less Dangerous dangerous Inconvenient Inconvenient Lack of privacy Limited privacy • Safe Poor health self Poor health self Better health Poor health Poor health self family family Better health Apparently Apparently family cheap cheap Better High real costs High real costs menstrual Safe Difficult Difficult management Safe & menstrual Convenient menstrual Requires Comfortable management management Reliable disposal route Service & Private Stigmatisation Stigmatisation Service costs Low Service costs Investment costs Self esteem Self esteem High quality service **Toilet** Toilet in Full HR Open defecation including private shared home Compliant installations Sanitation Level of Service

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Gender Equality - Water

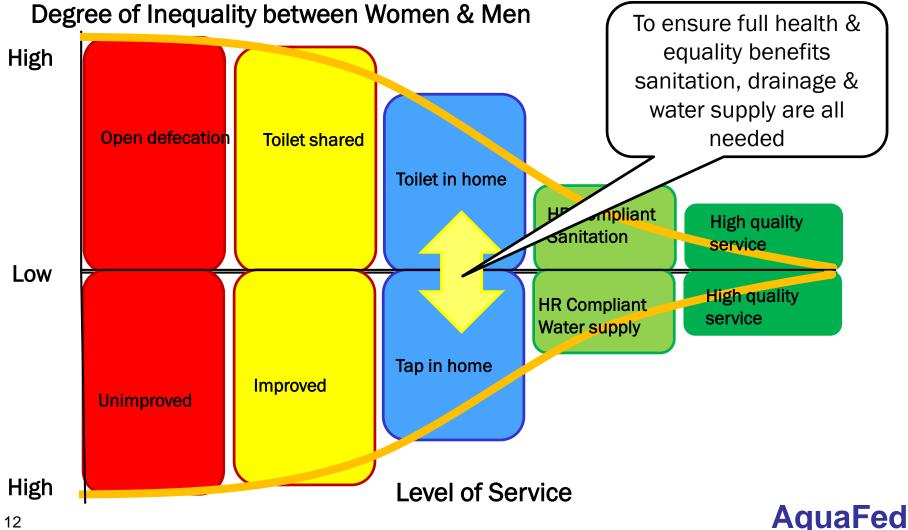
Degree of Inequality between Women & Men

High Water carrying Water carrying Unsafe Water Unsafe Water • Small Small quantities quantities Better Quality Poor health Poor health Reasonable self self volumes Poor health Poor health Better health. family family self Loss of Loss of Better health opportunity opportunity family Apparently Apparently More cheap Safe cheap opportunity · High coping Comfortable Convenient High coping reduced coping **Private Investment** cost Reliable cost cost High real costs Real water Charge Real water High real Real water Low Stigmatisation charge costs charge • Stigmatisation Tap in home Unimproved **HR Compliant** High quality service including private Water supply installations

Level of Service

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Need for interconnection between sanitation & water



Quality Failures Impact Women Most - Examples

- The faeces of young children generally pose higher pathogenic risk than those of adults
 - Women as primary childminders and caregivers therefore face a higher risk of infection
 - Can give rise to a vicious circle of disease retransmission:
 Child Mother Child Mother (Senile Carer Senile)
- Women generally have higher % of body fat than men
 - Heavy metals and persistent chemicals are retained in body fat and slowly secreted – longer exposure to women than men
- Sanitation in schools enhances girls' performance
 - for every 10% increase in female literacy, a country's economy can grow by 0.3%

Policies to Act are now Vital

- Policies are required at all levels to set up and operate appropriate programmes and infrastructure for water, wastewater, sanitation and pollution prevention
- Policy and regulatory environments must enable stakeholders to establish effective governance to manage, plan, fund, implement and coordinate improvements.
- SDGs 5 & 6 & the HRWS are important steps that require full political prioritisation, support and integration



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