

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World Water  
Assessment  
Programme

# SEX-DISAGGREGATED WATER DATA AND GENDER-SENSITIVE INDICATORS: THE UNESCO WWAP TOOLKIT

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## UNDERSTANDING THE GENDER DIMENSION OF WATER AND WASTE (SEMINAR 9)

World Water Week 2017

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Stockholm

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UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO

The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) is a UNESCO Programme that was founded in 2000 in response to a call from the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for a United Nations system-wide effort 'to prepare periodic assessments and analyses of water resources availability (with a focus on both quantity and quality) and present a global picture of the state of freshwater resources and major challenges'.



**“You can't manage  
what you can't measure”**

**WWAP's MANDATE:** WWAP assesses and reports on the state, use and management of freshwater resources worldwide. It seeks to equip water managers and key decision-makers with the information, data, tools and skills necessary to effectively participate in the development of relevant policies.

**ABOUT  
WWAP**

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# WWAP GENDER INITIATIVE

To achieve a global standard for sex-disaggregated water assessment, monitoring and reporting, and create a baseline knowledge on water and gender, WWAP has initiated a major gender initiative in 2014.

The screenshot shows the WWAP website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Français', 'Español', and a search bar. Below this is a main menu with categories like 'UNESCO', 'Education', 'Natural Sciences', 'Social and Human Sciences', 'Culture', 'Communication and Information', and 'Media Services'. The main content area is titled 'World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Water' and 'IHP' sections, including 'IHP-VIII Water Security' and 'WWAP' with a list of links like 'About', 'World Water Development Report', 'SDG 6 - Synthesis Report', etc. The main content features a headline 'Water, if not engendered, is endangered!' with a sub-headline 'Water is a gendered issue. Although women play a key role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water, gender inequality persists around the globe. In line with UNESCO global priority, WWAP is committed to advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in the water realm.' Below this is a photo of a workshop and text describing the second edition of the capacity development programme. A 'Read more:' section lists 'Water, if not engendered, is endangered' and 'The new Brochure on WWAP Gender activities'. There is also a section for 'UN WWAP UNESCO Project on Gender Sensitive Water Monitoring Assessment and Reporting' with a photo of people working on a table and text describing the project's methodology. On the right, there is a 'WWAP GENDER TOOLKIT' section with three toolkits: 'Toolkit n. 1 & 2. Sex-disaggregated indicators for water assessment, monitoring and reporting ENG, FR, SP', 'Toolkit n. 3. Guidelines on how to collect sex-disaggregated water data', and 'Toolkit n. 4. Questionnaire for collecting sex-disaggregated water data'. Below that is 'WWAP RESOURCE MATERIAL ON GENDER AND WATER' with links to 'Overview of resources on gender-sensitive data related to water', 'Integrating gender responsive indicators in the SDG process', 'Gender and Water data infographic', 'Gender Flyer (new)', and 'Gender and Water data booklet (English, Français)'. At the bottom right, there is a 'WATER AND GENDER' section with links to 'Project on Gender-Sensitive Water Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting', 'Project overview and Phases', 'Working Group on Sex-Disaggregated Indicators', 'Members of the Working Group', 'Meetings of the Working Group', 'Interviews with the Working Group members', and 'Partners of the Project'. A 'News' section at the very bottom mentions '18.11.2016 New Gender & Water Transboundary Team has been activated for the Stimpriet Transboundary Aquifer'.

The 'WWAP Expert Group on Sex-disaggregated indicators for water assessment, monitoring and reporting', consisting of 35 experts, produced a groundbreaking methodology and identified a list of high-priority indicators for gender sensitive water assessment, monitoring and reporting.

Based on these results, the 'Toolkit for the collection of sex-disaggregated data on water resources' was produced.

- September 2016: WWAP Toolkit is included in the Guidelines for Gender and CC of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC**;
- March 2016: the **60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60)** recognizes the importance of sex-disaggregated data, and of the WWAP Toolkit for water data;
- March 2015: WWAP Toolkit is adopted as gender analysis tool for **GEF IW projects (IW:LEARN)**;
- 2015: WWAP indicators are included in the list of indicators identified for **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6** on water;
- November 2014 : the **African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)** officially recognizes the WWAP indicators to be used in water assessments and monitoring.

**WWAP TOOLKIT FOR  
THE COLLECTION OF  
SEX-DISAGGREGATED  
DATA ON WATER  
RESOURCES:  
ENDORSEMENT &  
ADOPTION**

# THE TOOLS



**Tool One:** Methodological framework

**Tool Two:** Key-indicators for sex-disaggregated water data (QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE!)

**Tool 1 and tool 2 are contained in the same publication:**  
*'Sex-disaggregated indicators for water assessment, monitoring and reporting'*

**Tool Three:** Guidelines for data gathering in the field

**Publication:** *'Guidelines on how to collect sex-disaggregated water data'*



**Tool Four:** Questionnaire for field surveys  
*'Questionnaire for collecting sex-disaggregated water data'*

# PRIORITY TOPICS AND KEY INDICATORS

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'Long list' (100) of sex-disaggregated water indicators

40 priority indicators subdivided by 'priority topics'

## PRIORITY TOPICS

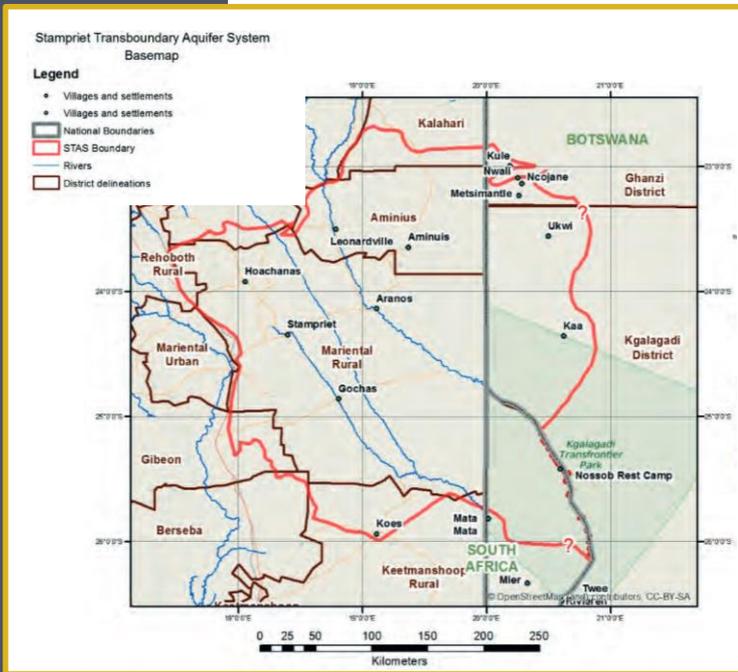
1. Water Governance
2. Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
3. Decision-making and Knowledge Production
4. Transboundary Water Resource Management
5. Water for Income Generation for Industrial and Agricultural Uses, including unaccounted-for labor

# THE STAMPRIET TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER SYSTEM

## RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

The toolkit was applied in the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer Region.

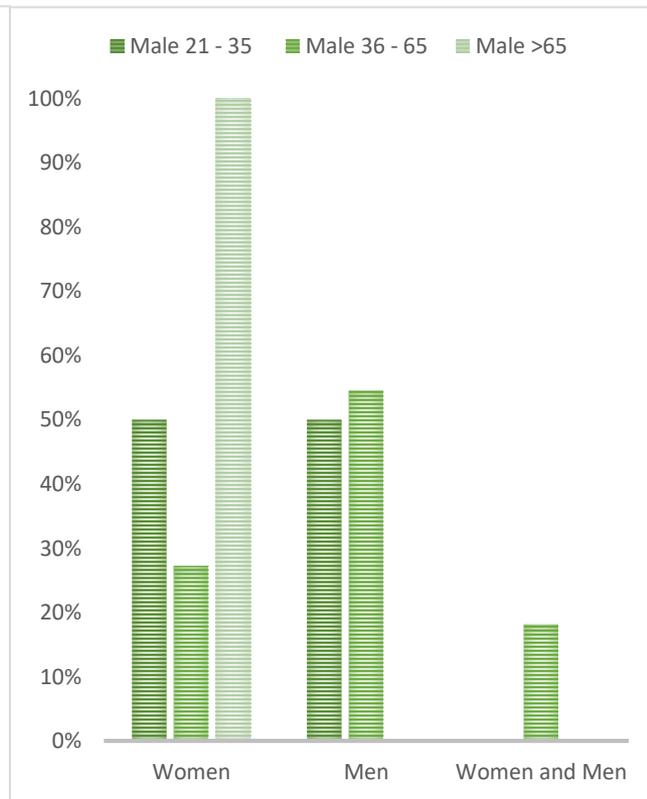
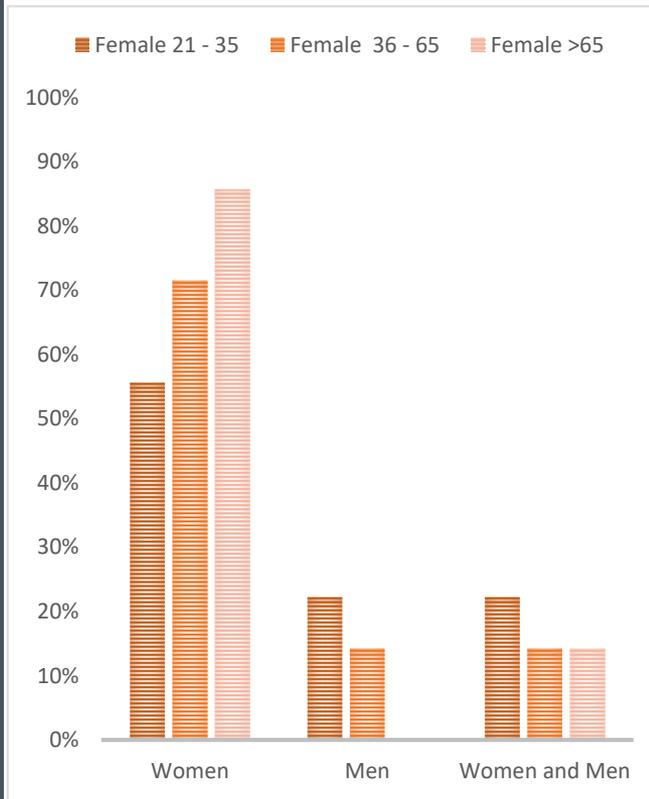
9 indicators from 4 WWAP priority topics. Collected data disaggregated by sex and age.



- shared by **Botswana, Namibia and South Africa**
- **Semi-arid conditions**; accelerating warming trend since 1960, reaching **+0.03°C/yr** in **Southern Africa** (CGS, 2015)
- **Vulnerability to climate change**, expected to result in more frequent droughts, longer dry spell duration, and higher variability of rainfall (Cook et al., 2014)
- **Water supply: mainly piped water** in urban settlements, and **boreholes** in rural settlements (MAWF, 2006; CSO, 2009)
- **Open defecation** is still widely practised both in urban and rural settlements (NSA, 2012; CSO, 2009)
- Current **vulnerabilities in water resources** are strongly correlated with climate variability, due largely to precipitation fluctuations (Green et al., 2007; Ouyse et al., 2010)

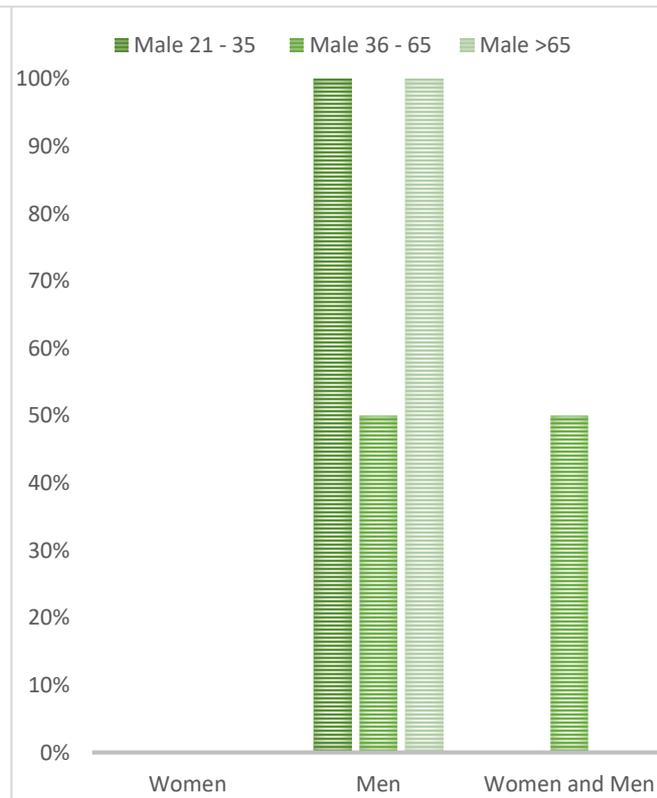
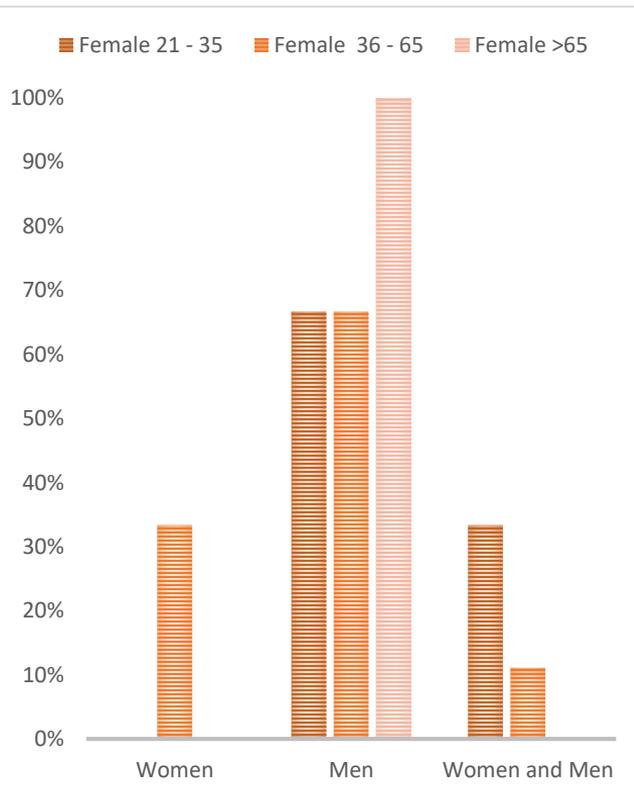
# RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

Who makes  
decision on water  
safety in the  
household  
according to  
MALE/female  
respondents



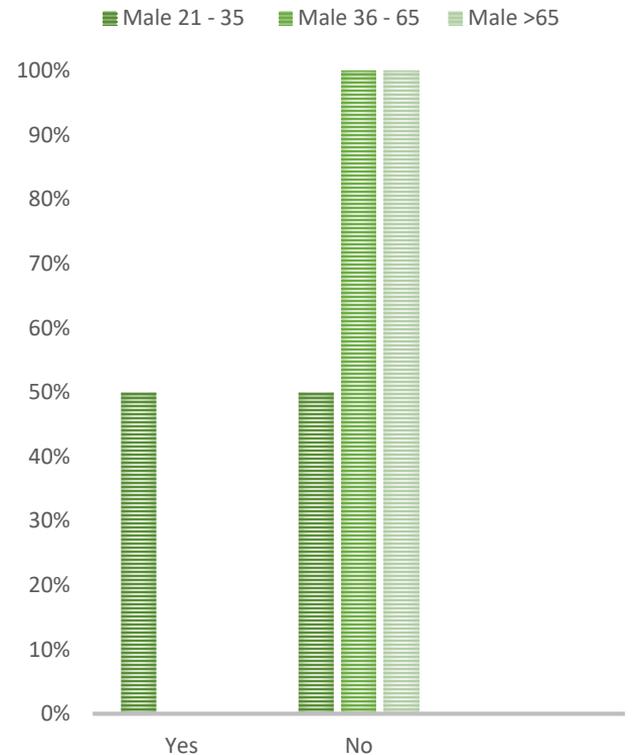
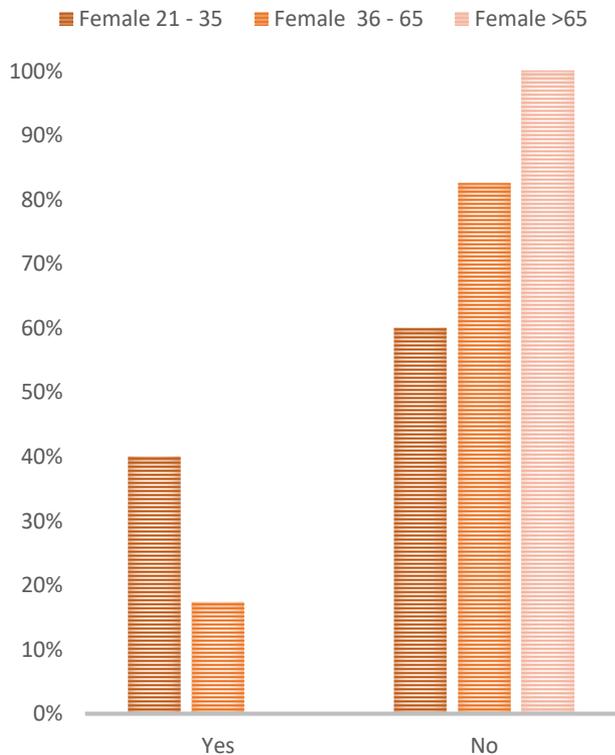
# RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING WATER FOR IRRIGATION IN THE HOUSEHOLD ACCORDING TO MALE/FEMALE RESPONDENTS



# RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

## PERCEPTION OF MALE/FEMALE RESPONDENTS REGARDING DECREASE OF WATER AVAILABILITY IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



# RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

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Field data identified socially-determined differences in roles:

- Prevalent role of women in managing water for drinking and sanitation purposes within the household boundaries
- However, decision-making for water allocation and use for agriculture and livestock purposes is broadly under men's responsibility

In general, adult women and men do not perceive a substantial decrease of water availability.

Young respondents, both women and men, show a higher willingness to share responsibilities and decisions concerning water within the household.



# THANK YOU

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WWDR and other publications, videos, PPTs, TOOLS etc. are available at:

[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)

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## Contact

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## WHY ENGAGING WITH WOMEN ?

- gendered divisions of labour and unsafe management of human waste

## HEALTH RISKS OF WATER REUSE IN AGRICULTURE AND EXPOSURE OF WOMEN

- use of low-cost labour is a common practice among farmers using wastewater: much of this work is carried out by women

## LOW EDUCATION ON HEALTH RISKS IS COMMON AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN

- Limited awareness of health risks

## INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN URBAN CONTEXTS , SANITATION ACCESS , RISKS AND GENDER

- Finding a suitable place to go to the toilet is especially problematic for women, causing risks related to personal security, embarrassment and hygiene

# GENDER DIMENSION OF WASTEWATER

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Women are the social group which is more in contact with food and direct contact with faeces (during child care).

Women should become the main target of exposure-prevention and risk minimizing measures

# GENDER- SENSITIVE RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

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- **FAMILY HEALTH FALLS DISPROPORTIONATELY ON WOMEN**

Reducing the burden of disease also reduces time spent taking care of sick family members; reducing the burden of disease means reducing exposure of women to unsafe water

**Exposure of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to partially treated or untreated wastewater requires specific attention.**

# WWAP GENDER-SENSITIVE WATER INDICATORS USED IN THIS SURVEY

PRIORITY TOPIC	KEY INDICATOR
GENERAL INFORMATION	Total population disaggregated by sex
	Educational level of the population in the aquifer area
WATER GOVERNANCE	1h. Presence and nature of gender-sensitive training; Participation of Males and Females (M/F)
SAFE DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	2a. Percentage of households without water on premises, by sex of main person responsible for collecting drinking water and by type of household 2b. Unpaid time spent by individual household members in supplying water, making it safe for use and managing it 2c. M/F perceptions of the adequacy of current water supply/availability in both quality and quantity in the household 3d. M/F perceptions of current total household use of water, by category of use and by primary user
DECISION MAKING AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION	3e. Household member primarily responsible for managing the household water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M/F perceptions of the nature of their household decision-making process for water priorities and use;</li> <li>• M/F perceptions of the primary decision-maker on water issues within the household (if any); and</li> <li>• M/F perceptions of how intra-household conflicts related to water (if any) are resolved.</li> </ul>
INCOME GENERATION FOR AGRICULTURAL USE	5d. Decision makers and participants in household-based decision-making process regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• irrigation;</li> <li>• decisions re allocation of time and financial resources; and</li> <li>• crops to be irrigated.</li> </ul> 5g. M/F access to bank loans/credit for irrigation  5h. M/F membership in and intensity of participation in community-based irrigation committees/ associations and cooperatives