

## Seminar: Women and youth: Living apart together



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## ABSTRACT VOLUME

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Water for society – Including all

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# Mainstreaming women/youth in stakeholder engagement in the Kura River Basin

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**Authors:** Dr. Jeanene Mitchell, United Nations Development Programme, United States

## **Keywords**

Women, youth, gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement

## **Highlights**

This paper describes how the mainstreaming of women and youth voices in water management occurs through stakeholder engagement initiatives in the Kura River Basin.

Combining high-level dialogues, joint research programs and targeted trainings forges new connections between transnational, state, and local actors germane to women, youth, and water.

## **Introduction and objectives**

To achieve sustainable mainstreaming of women and youth voices in transboundary water management within the Kura River Basin of Azerbaijan and Georgia, the UNDP-GEF Kura II project is engaging in stakeholder engagement initiatives that are novel because they span the transnational, state and local scales. These initiatives - including high-level dialogues, multilateral research programs and targeted trainings for capacity building - are being developed with the input of women and youth in collaboration with key institutional stakeholders in water management. The objective is to move beyond one-off mainstreaming initiatives to co-production of water management policies by and for women/youth.

## **Methodology approach**

This paper uses ethnographic and anthropological methods to explain the processes of translating high-level stakeholder engagement on gender/youth mainstreaming to the state and local scale in the Kura River Basin. These methods describe the process of increasing women and youth voices in institutional stakeholder dialogues on the relationship between water, women and children; to increase women's knowledge of rational water use, such as through access to more efficient irrigation technologies; and to address the disproportionate impacts of drought and flooding on women and youth.

## **Analysis and results**

Stakeholder engagement that incorporates the voices of women and youth in transboundary water management creates synergies among actors that help to better identify and address problems specific to these groups. The challenge, however, is twofold: 1) cultivating forms of engagement in relation to women and youth that are sustainable beyond a one-off initiative, and 2) engaging with local women and youth in a way that fosters a connection and information exchange with key institutional stakeholders.

These challenges are addressed in three ways: 1) through repeated and varied forms of engagement with groups of actors germane to women/youth issues and water management, ranging from roundtables to trainings; 2) through on-the-ground research conducted with these actors that gives primacy to the voices of women and youth, allowing them to identify problems and help set the agenda for capacity building, and 3) by beginning with high-level support from key institutional stakeholders for engagement at multiple levels. Specific examples are provided.

In the Kura River Basin, the result is that women and youth can help to identify priority issues and establish a capacity building agenda that meets the needs of their communities, while building their connections with transboundary and state stakeholders.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

Including women and youth voices in transboundary water management within the Kura River Basin helps identify multiple priority issues: women and children's relationship to water in the Kura River; bolstering women's knowledge of rational water use, including through access to more efficient irrigation technologies; and addressing the disproportionate impacts of drought and flooding on women and children. Taking a multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach to mainstreaming the voices of women and youth in water management promotes sustainable, replicable engagement between these groups and other key stakeholders.

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### **Presenter biography**



**Dr. Jeanene Mitchell, United Nations Development Programme, United States**

Dr. Jeanene Mitchell has 17 years of experience in water, energy, and environmental policy, with an area studies focus on Turkey and the South Caucasus. She is currently managing the stakeholder engagement component of the UNDP-GEF Kura II Project: Advancing IWRM across the Kura River Basin in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Her research interests include gender mainstreaming, state-society relations, and understanding the interconnection between local, national, and international actors in solving environmental problems.

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## Analysing gender effectiveness of groundwater governance frameworks

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**Authors:** Ms. Paola Piccione, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme, Italy

### Keywords

Groundwater governance, Gender mainstreaming, Policy, Sex-disaggregated water data

### Highlights

- Call for mainstreaming gender into groundwater governance frameworks to achieve the 2030 Agenda
- Share case studies and policy recommendations based on the results of the application of the UNESCO WWAP Toolkit and methodology on Sex-disaggregated Water Data within the UNESCO “Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers” (GGRETA) Project.

### Introduction and objectives

Groundwater and gender are intrinsically linked. Nevertheless, groundwater studies conducted so far have mainly focused on individual (male) farmers' control over resources and technology, with little attention to governance frameworks and even less focus on their gender impacts and the key role of women in the water realm.

The 2019 policy paper produced by UNESCO WWAP and IHP aims at filling this gap by analysing how gender issues are currently addressed in groundwater governance frameworks and programming on the global, regional/transboundary and national levels. In addition, it provides recommendations to policy-makers and practitioners for engendering groundwater governance through different tools.

### Methodology approach

The global and regional groundwater governance framework analyses are based on review of existing literature, policies and frameworks. The regional focus is on Southern Africa, Central America and Southeast Asia.

The case study of the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS) located in Southern Africa is informed by two gender surveys conducted within the Groundwater Governance in the Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) Project, led by UNESCO and funded by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

Analytical elements of the gender-responsive water data collected are discussed to analyse the consistency of national water policies and laws of Botswana and Namibia with the gender-related patterns on the ground.

### Analysis and results

The analysis of the global and regional/transboundary levels showed that, although the need to mainstream gender in water governance is increasingly being recognized, further efforts are needed at the implementation and policy levels.

A transboundary mechanism for coordinated actions/management of the STAS by the countries that share the aquifer could represent a valuable opportunity for both ensuring women's empowerment in groundwater governance, and for setting a good practice for the management of other transboundary aquifers elsewhere.

At the national level, two intra-household surveys were conducted in the Stampriet transboundary aquifer area (in Ncojane village - Botswana and in Stampriet Town – Namibia) by applying the UNESCO WWAP Toolkit on the collection of sex-disaggregated water data and key indicators. The selected gender-responsive

indicators included access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, water governance, decision-making, water for agriculture and income generation.

The findings of the field testing suggest, among other things, that men still emerge as primary decision makers in household water-related decision making, in contrast with the national water policy's goal of empowerment and full inclusion of women in issues and decisions relating to sustainable development and management of water resources.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

The lack of gender responsiveness in groundwater governance frameworks at all levels can exacerbate existing inequalities between women and men in the use, management and decision-making related to groundwater resources.

For this reason, this report calls for gender mainstreaming and analysis into groundwater governance frameworks at all level including transboundary, urging policy-makers and practitioners to fully acknowledge these two interlinked areas and inform, with scientific evidence, national and regional/transboundary water programmes and policies for future gender-transformative action planning.

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### **Presenter biography**



#### **Ms. Paola Piccione, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme, Italy**

Paola Piccione is the Gender and Water Specialist at the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). In this capacity, she contributes to implementing WWAP gender portfolio, supporting Member States to incorporate gender considerations into water policies.

Prior to joining WWAP, Paola has worked for more than ten years on mainstreaming gender into policies and development programmes, results-based management and partnerships for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NGOs in Italy, Thailand, South Sudan and Iraq. She holds a master's degree in Gender and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science-LSE.

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# Barriers to inclusion: insights from Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda

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**Authors:** Ms. Sara Ahrari, Simavi, Netherlands

## Keywords

GESI, SDGs, barriers, inclusion, LNOB

## Highlights

- Relationships and differences found challenged some of our assumptions and expectations on barriers to inclusion.
- Insight in specific barriers to inclusion is needed to make sure 'no one is left behind'.
- WASH programmes need to go beyond inviting women to meetings and ensure they can influence decisions.

## Introduction and objectives

The WASH SDG programme (2017-2022) is being implemented in seven countries by a consortium consisting of the WASH Alliance International (WAI), Plan Netherlands and SNV aiming towards an improved WASH situation for all. Simavi as lead implementing organisation of the WAI-programme in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda designed and conducted the baseline assessment to gather evidence on the barriers to inclusion and identify who are left behind in access to / use of WASH services and participation in related decision making processes. Data analysis provided insights on how exclusion works in these countries which challenged some of our previously held assumptions.

## Methodology approach

The following research questions were asked and answered:

- How are the WASH practices different for different (marginalized) groups?
- How does this differ per country?
- What are the barriers for inclusion?

The baseline study consisted of a household survey (around 1000 respondents per country, including water quality assessments) to find out the WASH practices (following the JMP ladders), disaggregated for different wealth quintiles, urban/rural settings and gender. Additionally, Key Informant Interviews with key stakeholders and a Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Assessment are done to find out more about the barriers to inclusion.

## Analysis and results

The baseline studied showed that barriers to inclusion vary per country and even per locality, and general perceptions such as that the poor have less access to safe sanitation might not be true in all circumstances. Relationships and differences found challenged some of our previously held assumptions. In Bangladesh for example, the poorest group of people does not seem to be left behind in terms of sanitation services – probably because many development programmes have been targeting the poor there. In terms of use of safe drinking water the differences between the different wealth groups are much smaller compared to the use of safe sanitation services – probably because drinking water is more easily taken care of at community level whereas sanitation facilities are much more organised at household level.

Limited control and decision making power of women over household and community investments/resources, and women carrying most of the unpaid work within the household were identified as the main barriers to economic inclusion. On the other hand women were the main recipients of the loans from saving and or credit groups, which combined with their limited decision making power can lead to their exposure to violence within and outside family.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

Gender stereotyping, patriarchal system, limited female mobility outside house, discriminatory beliefs and stigma's against minorities, women lack of decision making power, and lack of knowledge of men and boys were among the major social and cultural barriers in these countries.

Stigmas related to disability within family and menstrual health might have affected the response to some questions. We hope to learn more about the real situation during the programme.

However, comparing three countries shows how important it is to be specific in identifying the barriers to inclusion in each context to make sure 'no one is left behind'.

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### **Presenter biography**



#### **Ms. Sara Ahrari, Simavi, Netherlands**

Sara Ahrari is Simavi Programme Manager. She is Iranian/Dutch and has a master in Civil Engineering. Prior to joining Simavi has worked with oil & gas companies, emergency response and disaster risk reduction programmes with international NGOs (namely World Vision, International Medical Corps, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center) and UN agencies (UNICEF and UNOPS) in Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand. Since 2009 she is working with Simavi. She uses her technical background and field experience combined with the social skills to strengthen the inclusiveness and sustainability of WASH services in her work.



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# WASH enterprises in Cambodia and Indonesia: A pathway for empowerment?

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**Authors:** Prof Juliet Willetts, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

## Keywords

Women's empowerment, economic empowerment, WASH enterprises, women's entrepreneurship, enablers and barriers

## Highlights

- First research in Cambodia and Indonesia to examine empowerment of women in WASH enterprises
- Whilst the study showed evidence of empowerment, challenges and negotiations were equally observed
- Socio-cultural and religious norms, mobility and reproductive and productive workloads need consideration by NGOs, donors and governments incentivizing women's involvement in WASH markets.

## Introduction and objectives

This study examined the extent to which women's involvement in economic activity in the WASH sector led to their empowerment, including economic empowerment in Cambodia and Indonesia. This study was the first of its kind to systematically investigate the experiences and needs of female WASH entrepreneurs with reference to women's empowerment frameworks.

In alignment with this seminar session, this research presents examples of gender equality outcomes and empowerment experiences by individuals and institutions involved in WASH markets and the implications of these for improving WASH programming.

## Methodology approach

This study adopted a primarily qualitative methodology, allowing for the in-depth exploration of women's participation in WASH economic activity leading to their empowerment. An empowerment framework was adopted which conceptualized four types of power: 'power within', 'power to', 'power over' and 'power with' (Eyben, Kabeer & Cornwall, 2008; Taylor & Perezniето, 2014). A semi-structured interview guide focused on 45 participants' personal and family situation, motivations, key enablers and barriers to managing a WASH enterprise and potential support strategies. Thematic analysis was conducted including identification of common and exceptional experiences, and elucidation of key factors affecting women's empowerment pathways and

## Analysis and results

This study found that whilst there was evidence of empowerment, including economic empowerment, the complexity of the empowerment process, challenges and negotiations were equally observed. This aligns with accepted knowledge that describes empowerment as an ongoing, relational and context-specific process, which is complex to measure (Cornwall 2016, Mosedale 2005, Kabeer 1999).

In Cambodia, the study found that key barriers and enablers to establishing successful water enterprises were influenced by local gender norms and expectations, in line with other literature (Leahy et al., 2017). The majority of entrepreneurs reported managing enterprise finances, but had concerns about access to finance, their freedom of movement, and their need for additional technical training. High interest rates, the double burden of work (such as housework and running a business) were reported by several entrepreneurs.

In Indonesia, women's experiences in WASH enterprises were highly varied. Women mostly believed they had equal capabilities to men due to their communication, negotiation and managerial skills. However, socio-cultural gender norms, particularly concerning women's reproductive roles (also highlighted by Arsana and

Alibhai 2016), meant that only few participants experienced support from close relationships enabling their decision-making, leadership and financial independence. Similar to Cambodia, access to finance and mobility presented

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

This study showed that women's empowerment outcomes can be achieved through their leadership of and involvement in WASH-enterprises. However, gender norms were also limiting women's empowerment in WASH markets in terms of mobility, household and family duties, and traditional views about women and men's domains. As such, targeted strategies are needed to address such constraints. The findings of this study can assist NGOs, donors and governments incentivising WASH markets to ensure these interventions are not gender blind, and to draw on evidence of the barriers and enablers for female entrepreneurs and how these are influenced by gender norms.

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### **Presenter biography**



#### **Prof Juliet Willetts, University of Technology Sydney, Australia**

Professor Juliet Willetts leads applied research to inform policy and practice in water and sanitation in Asia-Pacific. With a background in engineering, her work has contributed to technical solutions, institutional and governance settings, private sector roles, gender equality, and more effective sector and program monitoring.

She is a founding member of the Australian Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Reference group and has been recognised by several research excellence and leadership awards. Juliet has led six major research grants, undertaken more than 80 research projects and published more than 70 peer-reviewed articles.

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## Women, water, access and finance: the right recipe

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**Authors:** Ms. Lesley Pories, Water.org , United States

### Keywords

WASH, access, women-headed households, microfinance, subsidy

### Highlights

- When government subsidies are paired with complementary financing opportunities, women's access to household water and sanitation will substantially increase.
- Existing data demonstrates that low-income women are successfully borrowing and repaying microloans for water and sanitation.
- Microcredit is an important tool in the global effort to increase women's access to WASH

### Introduction and objectives

Increasing women's access to safe water and sanitation is intricately connected with direct access to finance. The enormous projected costs of SDG6 have shocked the sector into exploring non-traditional approaches to finance, and one method that is gaining momentum is the provision of microloans for household water and sanitation. Drivers for this growth in interest will be examined in the Philippines by uniting World Bank data from a recent study with four years of loan data from Water.org's WASH microfinance portfolio. Together, these sources will demonstrate the potential for micro-lending to enable low-income women to meet their WASH needs.

### Methodology approach

This presentation will integrate the recently completed World Bank Endline Survey for the Impact Evaluation of Overcoming Barriers to Adoption of Sanitation for the Poor Households in the Philippines with Water.org's database of loan data from WASH lending in the same country. The World Bank study was a two-year randomized control trial of low-income, predominantly female-headed households in the Philippines. Water.org has been assisting several microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the Philippines to offer WASH microloans for the past four years and has a rich database that contains data about borrower gender, income level, household size and repayment progress.

### Analysis and results

The World Bank impact assessment revealed that sanitary toilet uptake increased by 38% when provided a 50% subsidy and a microfinance loan. The population group in this study featured 90% female respondents, 21% of whom are head of their household. Participant households that took loans (551) had a 98% repayment rate, suggesting that when offered a loan terms that are designed to meet the needs of low-income clients, repayment is manageable. Water.org loan data in the Philippines corroborates this theory, with 97% of borrowers for 532,000 water and sanitation microloans being female and an overall portfolio of a 99% repayment rate. Further dis-aggregation of loan data reveals 75% of those loans have been disbursed for sanitation. The study further identifies that households that installed toilets saw increases in ownership of luxury items such as television, refrigerators and motorbikes, suggesting that toilet investments had positive impacts upon household income. Deeper analysis of the impact evaluation data is forthcoming to derive additional understanding about decisions that were made at different income levels (within the poor) and comfort levels with borrowing.

### Conclusions and recommendation

Microcredit can be an effective method of securing access to water and sanitation for women, and the potential to reach increasingly poor women is greater when effectively paired with a government subsidy.

The structure and impacts of the combined program should be reviewed by governments with strong mandates to reach the underserved to assess opportunities to model similar programs. Another recommendation is for policymakers to consider the value of consistently pairing subsidy programs alongside microcredit to maximize uptake and impact. Finally, these findings can be shared with MFIs to encourage their willingness to participate in the implementation of such programs.

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### Presenter biography



#### **Ms. Lesley Pories, Water.org, United States**

Lesley Pories is Manager of Sector Strategy at Water.org. Before joining the team that builds Water.org's strategic relationships with sector influencers on global stages as well as at country level, she managed part of Water.org's portfolio in India. Lesley's previous work experience includes the World Bank, World Resources Institute, UNDP and the Carter Center. She holds degrees in City and Regional Planning as well as International Environmental

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## Gendered tenurial niches and access to the irrigation in Africa

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**Authors:** Dr. Everisto Mapedza, International Water Management Institute, Ghana

### Keywords

Gender, tenure, irrigation, Africa, SDGs

### Highlights

This paper contributes towards a better understanding of gender in irrigated agriculture and how such knowledge could help enhance fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The study hinges on land and water rights for women and how gender places barriers on women for increased agricultural productivity.

### Introduction and objectives

The objective of the study is to better understand how land and water rights affected women access to irrigated agriculture in rural Malawi and drawing lessons of experience for Africa. Formal cadastral boundaries are perceived as an incentive for individuals to invest in land. De soto and his supporters have emphasized the key role of well-defined cadastral boundaries as an incentive for land based investments. This study looks at how gender and tenurial niches overlap as decisions on irrigated agriculture are undertaken within the context of fuzzy and shifting land tenure boundaries which, however, have enabled gendered investments in agriculture.

### Methodology approach

The study used mixed methods to triangulate research findings. Firstly, a questionnaire survey was conducted in Malawi. The questionnaire covered issues such as household profiles, assets ownership, farming activities, access to land and water as well as agricultural inputs and agricultural extension. All the data thematic topics were sex-dis-aggregated. Secondly, Focus Group Discussions were conducted with men, women and youths separately. The concluding Focus Group discussions were combined. Thirdly, field participant observation was conducted with one of the authors residing in study area, attending meetings and social events to have a better understanding of gender beyond the formal research process.

### Analysis and results

Gendered land ownership and skewed access to water resources for irrigation was clearly demonstrated. Out of a total 75 irrigators, 53 were women with 22 men. This is ironical in that the study area is matrilineal where land is inherited through the females yet for irrigated irrigation you still found men 'owning' land and having access to irrigation water. This finding further demonstrated the need to go beyond the binary of matrilineal and patriarchal land ownership. This calls for scholarship that engages with the gradient of land landownership that brings out the multiple and competing stories on how both women and men are accessing land for irrigated agriculture. Decision making within the irrigated schemes was clearly gendered. In terms of decision making within Water User Associations senior positions were all held by men. The only senior position held by a woman was treasurer. Most of the decisions on how irrigation rules, scheduling, and other governing regulations were largely made by men despite women being the majority in the irrigation scheme. The study also demonstrated that women had less access to agricultural extension. For credit, men had 41% access compared to 59% for women despite comprising 70% of the

### Conclusions and recommendation

Gender does matter on who accesses land and water resources for improved livelihoods within Africa. One of the conclusions is also that whilst it is important for women to have access to land it is also important to have mechanisms that protect women's rights to irrigated land that is considered more 'valuable' than rain

fed land. Whilst land ownership is necessary, on its own it is not adequate. Women who own land need further support in terms of extension, access to capital, access to enhanced social capital, access to assets, access to markets and access to decision making institutions such

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### Presenter biography



#### **Dr. Everisto Mapedza, International Water Management Institute, Ghana**

Everisto Mapedza is a Senior Researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in the West Africa office in Accra, Ghana. Everisto was previously a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

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# Menstrual hygiene management in the workplace and women's economic empowerment

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**Authors:** Dr. Aditi Krishna, Iris Group, United States

## Keywords

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM), gender, economic assessment, empowerment, inclusion

## Highlights

- This study fills a gap in research on the effects of MHM on women's economic empowerment.
- The economic model demonstrates the social and economic returns of MHM in the workplace.
- Expected benefits of adequate MHM in the workplace include reduced absenteeism, increased productivity, and greater job security

## Introduction and objectives

MHM research has largely focused on the links between MHM and schooling outcomes with less attention to the effects of MHM on later, economic outcomes for women. Indeed, inadequate provisions for MHM have lasting and compounding effects across the life-course. These economic disadvantages are rooted in poor educational attainment and reinforced by poor MHM conditions in the workplace contributing to absenteeism and lower productivity. Our study surveys the existing evidence on MHM and women's economic empowerment and uses the relationships established by preliminary work to develop a model that estimates the economic impacts of MHM conditions in the workplace.

## Methodology approach

As part of USAID's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Partnerships and Learning for Sustainability (WASHPaLS) project, we will review the evidence on MHM and economic empowerment to glean inputs for the economic model. Two research questions will guide this work:

- What is the evidence of the cost-effectiveness, sustainability and scalability of approaches to address MHM in the workplace?
- What are the links between MHM in the workplace and women's economic empowerment? What losses ensue from poor MHM in the workplace?

The economic model will use social cost-benefit methods to estimate impacts on outcomes such as social isolation, workforce productivity,

## Analysis and results

To our knowledge, there is a paucity of evidence on MHM and women's economic empowerment. Broadly, sanitation programs have demonstrated economic, social, and health benefits for all individuals. Pertaining to MHM, interventions have improved psychosocial outcomes and reduced sanitation insecurity especially for adult women. Consistent with these findings, we anticipate that identified resources will show positive relationships between adequate MHM and economic empowerment for women. The economic model also will corroborate these findings, quantitatively demonstrating the social and economic returns of improved MHM in the workplace. More specifically, MHM in the workplace will reduce absenteeism and increase productivity and promote women's sense of job security and satisfaction. There are likely intergenerational effects of improved MHM because economically empowered women are better able to advocate for and invest in the empowerment of their daughters.

## Conclusions and recommendation

This study contributes to the body of knowledge on MHM, gender and sanitation in the workplace, and links to women's economic empowerment, filling a key gap in the evidence on the effects of MHM later in the

life-course. The contributions of this work shed light on the importance of MHM in the workplace and garners support for greater investment in initiatives to improve MHM conditions for women in pursuit of economic empowerment.

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## Presenter biography



### **Dr. Aditi Krishna, Iris Group, United States**

Aditi Krishna, PhD, MS, is a Senior Associate at Iris Group. She is a social epidemiologist with expertise in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), maternal and child health, nutrition, child development, family planning, and reproductive and sexual health. At Iris Group, Aditi provides key technical services on WASH through two USAID-funded projects: (a) a WASH and integrated water resource management project in Tanzania, and (b) a global project to learning and partnerships to improve WASH programming by identifying, sharing and guiding the use of best practices for the delivery of WASH services and sustained behavior.

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# Unravelling gendered practices in the public water sector in Nepal

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**Authors:** Ms. Gitta Shrestha, International Water Management Institute, Nepal

## Keywords

Gender, Institutions, Nepal, professional culture, water user associations

## Highlights

- Institutionalisation of gender in public organisations alone is unlikely to achieve gender equality.
- The masculine professional culture of the water sector contributes to reproducing gendered inequalities across work spaces.
- Attention to masculine spaces, practices and attitudes is imperative to address equity and justice issues in water sector.

## Introduction and objectives

Despite decades of gender mainstreaming in the water sector, a wide gap between policy commitments and outcomes remains. This study aims at offering a fresh perspective on such policy gaps, by analysing how gendered discourses, institutions and masculine professional culture contribute to policy gaps. By doing so, this research deals with policy and institutional aspect of water governance issues at different levels– in central or local level offices, in development project units, in meetings, in the field etc. thereby, offers an important contribution to the aim of the session which is to achieve inclusive and equitable water governance.

## Methodology approach

We reviewed public policies in the water sector. We draw on a series of semi-structured interviews with water professionals from public agencies operating in the water sector, representatives from the civil society and non-government organisations (NGOs). Interviews were conducted in Kathmandu in February-March 2017. Respondents represented a mix of engineers, sociologists and gender experts, at different seniority levels. Altogether, 21 interviews (12 females, 19 males) were conducted in February and March 2017. To analyse our data, we relied on the TPC framework for strategic change management (Tichy, 1983). It was adapted for gender mainstreaming by Oxfam Novib (2010).

## Analysis and results

Our research confirms and adds to the emerging scholarships on masculinities and gendered organisations and its impact on gender equality goals in Nepal (Zwarteveen, M. Z. 2008; Liebrand, J., & Udas, P. B. 2017). Our findings evidence how dominant discourses, formal rules and professional culture, intersect to support and reproduce hegemonic masculine attitudes and practices of water professionals. Such attitudes and practices in turn favour a technocratic implementation of policy measures.

The predominant narratives, institutional arrangements and professional culture in the water sector have negatively influenced the implementation of policy efforts towards gender equality. Gender issues are delimited to the 'WUA space', with well-delineated experts, the sociologists, institutional set-up, the GESI unit, and activities. There is no space or incentives to reflect and learn on GESI-related challenges. This has contributed to the technocratic implementation of democratic and participatory decision-making in water management –limited to following fixed procedures that does not address the root causes of injustices. Gender is perceived as a frivolous ethical gloss imposed by donors rather than as a technical subject. The narrow focus on WUA and the lack of involvement of engineers in improving gender equality infer that many opportunities for more gender-sensitive interventions are lost.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

We argue that gender equality policy initiatives in the water sector have overly focused on local level formal institutions and have not adequately considered the effects of masculine discourses, norms and culture. We contend that as long as water agencies do not acknowledge the social nature of water and the hegemonic masculinity of the professional culture, policy commitments towards gender equality will have little effect on the ground. It is important that water institutions pay attention to their own masculine spaces, practices and attitudes, in order to address equity and justice issues in water resource management at the ground level.

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### **Presenter biography**



**Ms. Gitta Shrestha, International Water Management Institute, Nepal**

I am a post graduate [M.Phil] in human geography from the University of Bergen, Norway. Currently, I work as a senior research officer at the International Water Resource Management, Nepal. My research interest involves inquiring into the reproduction of social and gender inequalities, role of norms, trust and emotions and its impact on the changing human-environment relations. My ongoing research investigates water governance at the organisational and at the community level in Nepal.

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## Youth and Women for drinking water security

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**Authors:** Ms. Amrita Gautam, Water Youth Network, Women for Water Partnership, World Youth Parliament for Water, Technische Hochschule Köln and Universität zu Köln, Germany

### Keywords

"Youth and Women", Drinking Water Security, Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

### Highlights

- Drinking Water Quality Monitoring in developing regions is a big challenge (No baseline Data).
- 'Youth Inclusion' Strategy helps in managing drinking water quality data using digital application (Mobile app).
- Local expertise of Women Groups play guiding role in the framework of integrated ICTs and Youth-led citizen science for water quality monitoring system.

### Introduction and objectives

Despite huge investment in implementing the Water Safety Plan (WSP) approach in developing regions, many countries still lack the baseline water quality data in the water supply system. "Youth and Women" are active stakeholders in many water-related projects but their knowledge and capabilities are not properly valued and scaled up in drinking water quality monitoring plan. Thus, my research project aims to develop a systematic approach to assess and monitor water quality by proposing relevant technical solutions (HydroInformatics) incorporating needs, capabilities, and support of local communities (esp. Youth and Women) including responsible local institutions for safe drinking-water monitoring.

### Methodology approach

The main research questions were to understand, why existing water safety plans are not working completely to fill the information gap on water quality; How can 'Youth & Women Groups' be included in drinking water monitoring plan using ICTs?, and What is the adequate design of integrated ICTs and Youth-led citizen science for water quality monitoring system?, and how can it be optimized?

The situational analysis, design, and testing of a mobile application were done with interviews/workshops/experts' consultation to understand the existing situation and to develop the strategy to include youth and women in drinking water monitoring plan.

### Analysis and results

The research approach focused mainly on the selection of HydroInformatics tools ( like mobile application: dWaterInfo, smart water quality sensors) in combination with stakeholders' participation/Citizen Science (through water user's committees, local schools/universities and authorities) including co-learning interfaces (mobile e-learning), which in conjunction aims to provide a suitable data management system: Techno-Socio-Institutional (TSI) Model towards drinking water security. The Youth and Women showed great interest from the beginning of the study and have been actively involved in data collection training and session connected by Water Supply Provider (Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management), local schools/universities, Karkhana (educational company), Soroptimist International (member of Women for Water Partnership). This research is on-going and more methods will be applied (Technology Applicability Framework and Technology Introduction Process for detailed implementation of the model and to check the reliability and scalability), and more results will be obtained and analyzed during this summer field research plan (by June/July 2019) before coming to Stockholm WWW (August 2019).

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

This research aimed to investigate the roles of Youth (through Water Clubs) in monitoring water quality in water supply systems using ICTs, where Women's group of the localities are also considered as the active collaborators/ facilitators. The long term financial support to Water Clubs is the crucial part of the responsibility and it is still under discussion and needs to be followed in a timely manner so that the positive results of the model will get an opportunity to grow in replicating this idea in many other adjacent regions and beyond.

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### **Presenter biography**



**Ms. Amrita Gautam, Water Youth Network, Women for Water Partnership, World Youth Parliament for Water, Technische Hochschule Köln and Universität zu Köln, Germany**

Amrita Gautam, a Ph.D. research scholar in Technical University of Cologne (TH Koeln), Germany, is originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. She is Civil Engineer by profession and has worked for different United Nations (UN) Projects in Nepal, Germany and America. Her ongoing doctoral research is about “Water Supply and Quality Monitoring via emerging technologies”, and the case study area is Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC), Nepal. The case study area of master thesis was Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As a Young Water Professional, Amrita has been handling active roles in different organizations in water sector like IWA, RWSN, WYPW, WfWP and SI.

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# Gender Mainstreaming in Sanitation: Implementation Experience from Narsapur, India.

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**Authors:** Dr. Y. Malini Reddy, Administrative Staff College of India, India

## **Keywords**

Women, Gender, Sanitation, India, Vulnerabilities

## **Highlights**

Narsapur, a town with 60% of its population living in informal settlements aspires to achieve city wide inclusive sanitation to benefit the often neglected poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities. The Mayor of the town, a lady, envisioned a gendered approach towards planning and provisioning of sanitation services.

## **Introduction and objectives**

Narsapur Municipal Corporation took practical steps to involve women and vulnerable groups in sanitation planning for achieving citywide inclusive sanitation. This paper presents the framework and practical actions initiated for mainstreaming gender in FSM. The approaches taken by the city to address gender gaps and barriers to women empowerment are discussed. Also discussed are the potential solutions to address the challenge of strengthening institutions and individual capacities for gender mainstreaming in FSM. The initiatives aimed at mainstreaming gender in FSM have yielded positive results and have enthused the city to apply a gender lens to all sanitation activities.

## **Methodology approach**

A detailed survey incorporating gender lens and inclusive approach was undertaken to cover the 12,000 households/properties in Narsapur with an aim to understand access to sanitation infrastructure and services as well as the attitudes and behaviors related to sanitation and hygiene practices. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews at 43 informal settlements were conducted to map vulnerabilities. The analysis brought to light sanitation practices, challenges and requirements in the town. It revealed the existence of deep-seated gender discrimination and exclusion faced by women, children, elderly and vulnerable groups (fisher folk, pig rearing community, differently abled) in accessing sanitation

## **Analysis and results**

Basis the results, the city council and municipality have taken transformative initiatives towards mainstreaming gender in sanitation:

- Workshops to involve women self-help groups in addressing sanitation, related gender issues, extending funding towards construction of toilets and promoting livelihoods/entrepreneurship.
- Identification of change champions and formation of Gender Forums (GF) in all the urban poor settlements to bring insights and concerns to a formal institutional structure, a Gender Resource Centre (GRC) established at the municipality.
- Gender sensitisation and budgeting workshops for municipal functionaries and key stakeholders
- Expansion of City Sanitation Task Force (CSTF), a multi-stakeholder platform, to include a sub-group on gender to bring the voices into policy and decision making.
- Inclusion of gender components in City Sanitation Plan (CSP): sex disaggregated data on usage patterns; inclusive designs; gender budgeting; Menstrual Hygiene Management in schools
- Involving women groups in maintenance of community and public toilet facilities, extending loans to women for construction of toilets to promote livelihoods/entrepreneurship.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship in emptying and transportation services – the only town in India to have a woman entrepreneur providing desludging services.

- The Faecal Sludge Treatment plant in Narsapur is operated and run by women.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

The city continues to collect evidence on gender gaps and building capacities to apply gender lens in sanitation investments. Mechanisms to identify opportunities to empower women, poor and vulnerable and to engage them in sanitation planning, decision making and delivery are now institutionalised.

While the city deepens its understanding of gender influences on sanitation and strives for gender equity, it also continues to face the challenges of rigid social norms, lack of active involvement of men in driving gender equity initiatives and limited capacities and financial resources with the the municipality to support and sustain the initiatives.

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### **Presenter biography**



#### **Dr. Y. Malini Reddy, Administrative Staff College of India, India**

A multi-disciplinary researcher and practitioner in the area of urban governance and service delivery, Dr. Malini is a specialist in management, ICT for development, social marketing, gender integration, policy and social entrepreneurship. She has more than 22 years of professional experience working with academic institutions, business organizations, Indian national, state and local governments, international foundations and not-for-profit organizations. She leads several international and national large and long duration assignments in the areas of sanitation, smart cities and improvements in public infrastructure as well as service design and delivery.

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## Gender and youth transformational laws

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**Authors:** Ms. Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari, The Center for Water Security and Cooperation, United States

### Keywords

WASH law, water, sanitation, gender, youth

### Highlights

Women often are excluded from decision-making and planning processes. Law and policy play an essential role in making sure women and youth are represented in decision-making bodies. Laws and policies are also essential to ensuring that the unique needs and interests of women and youth are considered.

### Introduction and objectives

Laws and policies can be gender unintentional, gender intentional or gender transformational. This means that laws can ignore the role of gender; acknowledge, but not advance gender; or transform how gender is addressed in decision-making regarding water and sanitation. Women are disproportionately impacted by poor water quality, water scarcity, and lack of sanitation. They often also have the clearest understanding of the needs of its communities but are excluded from key discussions and decisions. Laws and policies are essential to requiring that these shortcomings be addressed.

### Methodology approach

We are examining laws more than five countries in Africa in order to determine whether the laws are gender unintentional, gender intentional or gender transformational. We are identifying those laws which specifically address or acknowledge gender as relevant to the mandate, implementation or enforcement of the law and the depth to which gender is acknowledged. For example, this would mean identifying whether a certain number of women must sit on a relevant decision making body (e.g. a water commission) which is more gender transformational in comparison to a law which states that women "can" serve as members of the Commission.

### Analysis and results

Our research is ongoing. Based on our preliminary results, very few laws address or acknowledge gender. The degree to which gender is addressed varies widely, especially based on the topic (e.g. water rights v. sanitation v. governance/institutions). As we finalize our results we will develop a sliding scale to show the variation, as well as to demonstrate what countries can do to adopt more gender transformational laws. Laws that acknowledge gender and seek to engage more women are essential to generating broader and deeper change, especially in frequently disenfranchised communities (e.g. informal settlements and slums). Furthermore, laws mention youth and children even less.

Even when these groups are mentioned, there is very little specificity which allows for implementation of the law and actual elevation of women and women's interests and needs.

### Conclusions and recommendation

The looming question is, if laws are not gender intentional or gender transformational, how do we write a law that is? We will offer suggestions for how the gender shortcomings in the laws we have examined can be addressed. For example, if a law requires public notice and comment on water-related regulations, one recommendation could be to require that input from women and women owned businesses be specifically requested. What is clearly evident is that the laws do not do enough to elevate women and youth in gaining access (and maintaining access) to water and sanitation, and more is needed.

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## Presenter biography



### **Ms. Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari, The Center for Water Security and Cooperation, United States**

Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of The Center for Water Security and Cooperation. Alexandra teaches Water Law at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and American University Washington College of Law, and previously taught Legal Research and Writing at The George Washington University Law School. Alexandra is a member of the U.S. National Drinking Water Advisory Council and Co-Chair of the Water, Wastewater and Waste Pillar for Denton's Smart Cities and Communities Think Tank. Before co- founding the CWSC she was a Fulbright Scholar in Spain researching water law in Spain and the European Union.



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# Gender Responsive Design of Climate Financed Water Sector Resilience

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**Authors:** Ms. Wainella Isaacs, University of South Florida, United States

## Keywords

Water Utility Partnerships, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, Gender Action Plan, Green Climate Fund, Barbados

## Highlights

- Roles and Recommendations of Utility-University-Private Sector-Community Partnerships in Development of a Gender Action Plan for a Project Building Water Sector Resilience in Barbados
- Replicable Gender Assessment Methodology aligned with Green Climate Fund and International Development Best Practices
- Practical Approaches for Gender Mainstreaming the Project Development Cycle

## Introduction and objectives

“Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados (WSRN S-Barbados)” is a \$45.2M project executed by the Barbados Water Authority and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center with \$27.6M investment from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF requires a Gender Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP) for all projects it finances. Approved for funding in February 2018, this 5-year project includes climate mitigation and adaptation strategies at the water-energy nexus. This presentation summarizes the “gender-responsive” approach developed from the GAAP that fosters utility/university/community/private sector partnerships, promotes stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange, builds workforce capacity, and minimizes gender related project

## Methodology approach

The Gender Assessment and Action Plan Frameworks for WSRN S-Barbados were developed using a modified version of the following resources: GCF and UN Women’s Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects (2017), and UN Women’s Leveraging Co-Benefits Between Gender Equality and Climate Action for Sustainable Development (2016). The gender assessment used a mixed methods approach (literature review, surveys, interviews, focus groups) and generated sex disaggregated data. These methods were chosen because they enabled development of a gender responsive action plan that addresses historical biases with access, use and participation in decision making related to water resources management and infrastructure development.

## Analysis and results

There are currently no legislative commitments to gender equality in water management in Barbados and the Barbados Water Authority lacks a Gender Policy. The WSRN S-Barbados project proposes a utility-university-private sector partnership to create a Policy Paper on Gender and Water, creation of a Gender Policy for the BWA, and a Gender Mainstreaming the Water Sector Certification Program. The certification program recognizes the need to invest in gender competencies at all levels and will be a requirement for all the utility’s staff and contractors for project components. To ensure these outcomes the project’s budget includes these gender-related activities and a gender focal point.

At the utility more men than women are employed in technical (45%: 3.5%), and leadership (9.1%: 3.9%). Underrepresentation of women in these capacities skews the design and management of the utility’s projects. To address this disparity WSRN S-Barbados has set gender targets for workforce training and stakeholder engagement. Sex-dis-aggregated data is collected to monitor progress on targets.

As managers of homes, women in Barbados are more vulnerable to water disruptions. With financial support from the project's revolving adaptation fund, women are targeted as leaders for investment in domestic storage - potable water tank systems and rainwater harvesting.

### **Conclusions and recommendation**

WSRN S-Barbados's gender responsive action plan identifies the following as critical in ensuring gender objectives are achieved in utility led water sector resilience projects:

Creation of a gender-responsive budget that allocates resources for a gender focal point to coordinate integration of gender analysis findings, and reflect commitments to gender objectives.

Development and provision of routine gender training to recognize and raise awareness of the disparity in stakeholder representation and take corrective action to balance stakeholder views.

Institutional commitments to gender objectives is sustained by integration of gender concerns in organizational policies.

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## **Presenter biography**



### **Ms. Wainella Isaacs, University of South Florida, United States**

Wainella is a Guyanese Environmental Engineering PhD Candidate at the University of South Florida. Her research interests include sustainability, resilience planning and gender mainstreaming of water and energy infrastructure development. She has co-written grant applications (gender analysis; environmental and social impact assessment) for the Green Climate Fund on behalf of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Barbados Water Authority (funded project US \$27.6M). Wainella is also the Program Manager and Grants Administrator at WHYFARM, an NGO in Trinidad and Tobago. She lead's WHYFARM's proposal development and grants administration (>US \$100K) for projects that build youth capacity in agri-entrepreneurship.