



Presentation from
**2015 World Water
Week in Stockholm**

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Gender sensitive indicators in sanitation and wastewater planning and implementation

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT - Global Guidelines and Gender Sensitive Checklist

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Why these guidelines and the checklist?

These guidelines address

- policy makers at international, national and local levels
- staff of implementing institutions within wastewater projects and programmes.

They aim at establishing a common understanding of the gender mainstreaming approach as well as for a common handling of mainstreaming gender within a certain project or programme.

Why these guidelines and checklist?

Review of 76 guidelines, toolkits, manuals and checklists on water and sanitation, WASH and wastewater management

Summary and synthesis of the guidelines and criteria into one document



What are the key dilemmas - Awareness

A huge challenge to mainstreaming gender in wastewater management is the lack of **general awareness** of the significance of gender in the sector. That applies to leaders and decision-makers, those working in wastewater management. Gender equality is not a women's agenda by women. It is about the involvement of all genders to achieve equal rights, opportunities and accesses to wastewater services and decision-making positions.



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What are the key dilemmas - Participation

Even if women have the opportunity to participate and engage in wastewater management activities they often lack capacity to enable their voices and formulate their needs, especially concerning taboos (e.g. menstrual hygiene management (MHM)).

Otherwise men from municipality staff and the community are often not aware about the obstacles that prevent women from engaging and speaking up at meetings, e.g. in planning committees.



What are the key dilemmas – Technology

Is technology gender-neutral?

When it comes to decentralised re-use of the wastewater or wastewater products often women are in charge, for example in case of biogas technology.

Extensive technical infrastructure, a field dominated by men, is needed to realise centralised systems. While centralised wastewater management is an appropriate option in urban settings, it leads to unaffordable tariffs in rural areas and fails in the long run.



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What are the key dilemmas – Lack of data

Low quantity and quality of appropriate data, a major problem for effective gender mainstreaming. These include

- sex-disaggregated data and information on gender aspects of wastewater management and
- documentation on findings of gender sensitive programming and project approaches in the sector.



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Checklist for gender mainstreaming

Three Areas:

- The enabling environment
- The programme / project level
- Operation and maintenance / Service Delivery.



Your FEEDBACK is most welcome
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Thank you!



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