

# Module Three: Introduction of the Concept of gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation and why Gender is Central to Water and Sanitation?



# Learning Objectives



To understand the differences between women and men interests' when formulating reuse projects and policies



To Define what is meant by Gender Inequality and understand the relevance for differences between men and women



To understand the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in policy analysis



To know the key questions that have to be asked when formulating a water re-use project

# Learning Objectives

- To introduce key gender concepts and gender mainstreaming
- To operationalize gender mainstreaming
- To draw lessons learned from gender mainstreaming
- To understand gender implications for domestic water and sanitation
- To understand the importance in mainstreaming gender in water and sanitation
- To fulfill international commitments by governments and partners
- To highlight the importance of having accurate analysis for water reuse



# Introduction



**An uncoordinated and sectoral approach has resulted in environmental degradation from overexploitation of water resources**

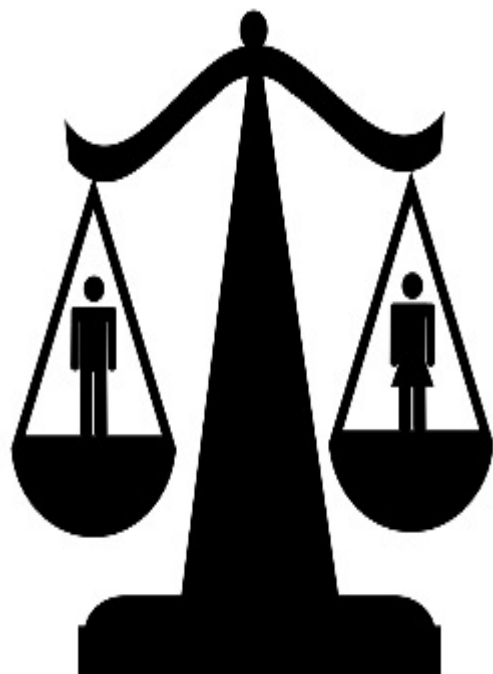


**Inadequate involvement of both women and men has hindered programs and projects aimed at addressing sustainability in water resources management**



**A deliberate strategy of gender mainstreaming can be useful to ensure that these issues that affect women and men are part of analysis, programme and project planning, implementation, and evaluation**

# Key Gender Concepts



**Sex and gender:** Gender refers to those characteristics of men and women that are socially determined, in contrast to those that are biologically determined. People are born male or female, but learn to be boys and girls who grow into men and women

# Key Gender Concepts



**Gender mainstreaming: The UNDP defines gender mainstreaming as: “Taking account of gender equity concerns in all policy, programme, administrative and financial activities, and in organizational procedures, thereby contributing to a profound organizational transformation.”**



**Similarly, SIDA defines gender mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, policy or programme, in all areas and at all levels before any decisions are made and throughout the whole process.**

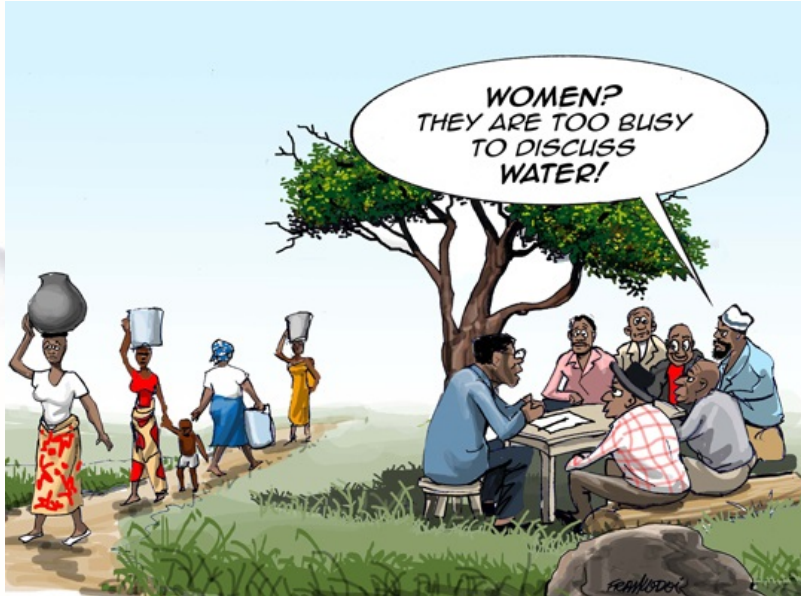
# Key Gender Concepts

There is an important link between SDG5 and SDG6 as women are a major user for water and sanitation, and water use and sanitation tends to be the responsibility of women





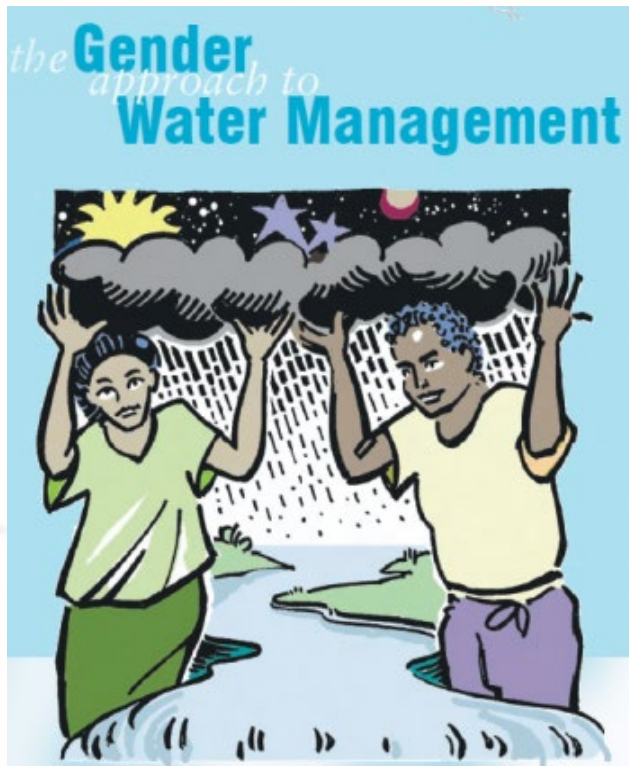
# Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management



**Gender mainstreaming** is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated.



# Operationalizing gender mainstreaming



- Understanding the gender-differentiated systems for access to resources, labour, water uses, water rights, and the distribution of benefits and production. Sex-disaggregated data and the documentation of unpaid labour are important.
- Focusing on gender relations, not just women. The position of women cannot be understood in isolation from the broader relationships between women and men.
- Understanding that gender is a factor that influences how people respond both individually and collectively.

# Lessons Learned from Gender Mainstreaming



- Gender is a central concern in water and sanitation.
- Women's participation improves project performance.
- Specific, simple mechanisms must be created to ensure women's involvement.
- Attention to gender analysis should start as early as possible.
- Gender analysis is integral to project identification and data collection.
- A learning approach is more gender responsive than a blueprint approach.

# Principles of Integrated Water Resources Management and their Gender Implications

## 1 Principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)



- IWRM is a cross-sectoral holistic approach to water management, in response to the growing competing demands for finite freshwater supplies.
- The global environmental crisis, growing poverty in urban and rural areas, and continued gender inequalities all point to the need for a different governance approach to water use and management.
- Gender in this context is not a sufficient point of analysis without also considering intersecting identities of race, class, caste, ethnicity, age, ability, and geographical location.



## 2 Gender Implications

### 2.1 The treatment of domestic water as an economic, social, and environmental good



- **Freshwater** is valuable and limited. Access to **basic water supply** is a fundamental human right.
- While it is desirable for **water supply to be paid for**, it is also important to take into account people's ability to pay.
- Even though women often do not have control over cash, they are still expected to pay for water and sanitation, more than men.



## 2 Gender Implications

### 2.2

**Focusing on the management of domestic water and not just on the provision of water in water policies**



- **The private sector play a role in providing water supply services for greater efficiency.**
- **Companies solely interested in making a profit will not be concerned about low income households, domestic water users and those who use water sources and water catchments for their basic necessities of life.**
- **Women are heavily represented in these categories.**

## 2 Gender Implications

### 2.3

### Governments to facilitate and enable the sustainable development of domestic water



- Governments to facilitate and enable the sustainable development of domestic water resources through the provision of integrated water resources policies and regulatory frameworks
- **Holistic water management is needed because actions taken in one water sector have an impact on water availability, quantity and quality in another.**
- Such impact is different for men and women, between and even within households, and according to sex, age and status.

## 2 Gender Implications

### 2.4

### Managing domestic water resources at the lowest appropriate level



- Participation by all stakeholders leads to better water management. Because of women's traditional roles in water resources management.
- The lowest level is most important to ensure that decisions are supported by those who implement water projects on the ground. These are often women.
- Female-headed households tend to have less bargaining power in communities than male-headed households.



## 2 Gender Implications

### 2.5

**Both women and men are recognized as central to the provision, management and safeguarding of domestic water**



- Campaigns to reduce water wastage should target men and women and especially industries and institutions for waste water
- Women's skills and knowledge are crucial for the effective and efficient management of water, thus it is important to capitalize on women for changing cultural norms



# Importance of Mainstreaming Gender in Water and Sanitation



- Increase the effective and efficiency of water sector programs and projects: Participation by both women and men improves project performance and improves the likelihood of sustainability.
- Increase the chance of environmental sustainability: Using a gender perspective and enabling the integration of women's knowledge of the environment will increase the chances of environmental sustainability.

# Fulfillment of international commitments by governments and partners



Governments and development agencies have made commitments to support equality between women and men and to use a gender perspective in all programs and projects. Specific commitments include:

- The results of and follow-up to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990)
- The Dublin Statement (1992)
- Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration (1992)
- The Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), para 25(a)
- The Sustainable Development Goals

# The need for an accurate analysis of water use



- With a gender analysis, planners gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users.
- Gender relations and inequalities influence collective responses to water resource management issues.
- Poor women are less likely to be elected to positions on water committees or village development committees.
- Collection of gender disaggregated data and conduct through analysis.

# Conclusions



- Inadequate involvement of both women and men has hindered programs and projects aimed at addressing sustainability in water resources management
- Key concepts and definitions of gender mainstreaming
- Understanding the gender-differentiated systems for access to resources, labour, water uses, water rights, and the distribution of benefits and production. Sex-disaggregated data and the documentation of unpaid labour are important
- The importance of having an accurate analysis for water re-use
- There are gender implications in water and sanitation



# Questions

