**International Women’s Day**

**Female leaders ensure better access to water for African women**

*Women are at the centre of challenges faced in accessing clean water, but are often left out of decision-making processes.*

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and its partners are implementing the Water, Climate, Development, and Gender Investments (WACDEP-G) support programme for the Continental African Water Investment Programme (AIP), the aim of which is to ensure gender equality is advanced in the preparation and management of Africa’s climate resilient water infrastructure investments. Communities living in disadvantaged situations with high poverty prevalence in Africa are critically exposed to water challenges and the effects of climate change, with most of such impacts affecting women and girls, a challenge that the AIP WACDEP-G programme aims to address. As the world commemorates International Women’s Day, we profile women leaders at GWP Southern Africa and the impact of their work with other development partners on women and girls.

Dr Nawa Mwale, Gender Advisor, GWP Zambia

“My work address the root causes of gender inequalities,” says Dr Nawa Mwale, Gender Advisor for GWP Zambia, has been working to help solve through the implementation of AIP WACDEP-G project. “My focus is to ensure that the work being supported take a gender-transformative approach in order to address root causes of gender inequalities,” says Mwale. In the course of her work, she has contributed to gender transformation through policy guidance in Zambia’s National Gender Policy, National Water Policy and the Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning Guidelines.

**“These investments will address the root causes of gender inequalities and burden inflicted on women,” says Anna Ndeketeya, Programme Officer, GWPSA.**

Through GWP’s SADC Nexus Dialogue Project, Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region, Programme Officer Anna Ndeketeya supports planning and implementation of Nexus Dialogue and Multi-Sector Investment in the SADC Region. She says, “Water, food, and energy are interlinked and are essential for social and economic development. The Nexus approach brings together diverse professionals to work together for sustainable development.”

**About GWPSA**

The Global Water Partnership’s (GWP) Southern Africa Platform (GWPSA) is the regional platform for implementing the AIP WACDEP-G programme in Southern Africa. GWPSA’s vision is to “Link water, climate, gender and development for integrated and sustainable water management that supports inclusive growth and development in Southern Africa.”

**Dr Litumelo Mate Sievers, Gender Specialist, AIP WACDEP-G Programme**

“We advocate for gender equality and social inclusion integration in water investments,” says Dr Litumelo Mate Sievers, Gender Specialist for the GWP Southern Africa Programme. “Women and climate change challenges are better resolved when there is social inclusion.”

**About Cameron**

Cameron is a world leader in energy, the company is one of the largest producers of natural gas. Cameron is actively engaged in African region where the company is involved in the development of natural gas projects, including the development of LNG facilities.

**About AIP Scorecard**

The AIP Scorecard is a tool that measures the progress of the AIP’s implementation in the African continent. It provides a snapshot of the progress made towards achieving the AIP’s goals, and allows stakeholders to track the progress of the AIP’s implementation.

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“Our work has involved advocating for gender equality and social inclusion.”

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