

GENDER AND INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Integrated Water Resources Management and Gender Training Course

About this course

Fresh water is becoming increasingly scarce across the world, while remaining a daily basic need for all. Decisions about the different uses of water are overshadowed by men, while the actual use of water is mostly by women for their families, exacerbating this disparity. Being aware of this reality makes it difficult to ignore the need for integrated water resources management (IWRM) through a gender-inclusive approach.

As the effects of climate change worsen globally, the importance of integrating gender perspectives when applying an IWRM approach to climate change adaptation initiatives becomes ever more pressing. Using this as an opportunity to address existing gender norms can in turn build more inclusive and resilient societies.

Over the last 40 years, evidence shows that simply including women and other vulnerable participants in decision-making processes is not sufficient to ensure their meaningful participation. Women and vulnerable people of any society face a set of obstacles (social, cultural, economic, even physical) that can prevent them from fully participating. Participatory water management and development gives women and men opportunities for empowerment and decision-making power over their own lives, livelihoods, and surroundings. To effectively manage initiatives, progress needs to be monitored, using qualitative and quantitative indicators. Inclusive monitoring is a participatory exercise with the involvement of all who benefit and suffer from the activities, allowing for opportunities to learn and adjust the course of the work that we do.

Gender and water resources are intrinsically linked. As such, we need to learn how to apply sustainable and inclusive water resources management to ensure resilience in a world of changing climate, with meaningful participation of all stakeholders. Guided by the [Why Gender Matters in IWRM](#) training manual, this course unravels the existing challenges faced by vulnerable groups when dealing with water, demonstrates how the two are connected, explains the benefits of addressing them in an integrated way, and presents comprehensive tools on how to achieve this. An abundance of case studies and lessons learned are shared to provide concrete examples which can be tailored and adapted to suit practitioners' needs.

Objective

The course aims to improve practitioners' understanding of the benefits of integrating gender meaningfully through integrated water management practices.

The course discusses the tools required to fully integrate women and vulnerable participants, and the potential negative impacts of ignoring gender components when planning for water and

sanitation, climate resilient measures, and inclusive participation in the water sector. The modules provide examples of tools and practical ways forward, as well as real-life case studies. The various monitoring and gender-specific indicators are also discussed.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to design and implement integrated and inclusive interventions in the water sector which ensure strong recognition of marginalised groups, leverage their knowledge towards adaptive measures to climate change, and work towards inclusive representation and access for sustainable management practices.

Learning objectives

The course will enable participants to:

- Understand different water uses through an IWRM approach, the need to integrate gender and diversity, and how to do so.
- Understand the basic gender concepts and the four interacting elements of empowerment.
- Implement IWRM using a gender-integrative approach.
- Understand the adverse effects of climate change on water and specifically on vulnerable groups.
- Grasp the benefits of incorporating a gender-inclusive approach to climate change adaptation in the context of water resources management.
- Integrate gender into water and climate change adaptation responses.
- Acquire a basic overview of the history and types of participatory approaches in the context of development interventions and decision-making processes in both natural and water resources management.
- Understand the obstacles that women and vulnerable groups face in order to participate in any decision-making processes.
- Understand the positive impact of inclusive decision-making processes on development and on IWRM more particularly and how to use existing guidelines for ensuring meaningful participation.
- Understand the need for gender-disaggregated data collection in water-related programmes or projects, and how to develop inclusive indicators.
- Understand the importance of participatory monitoring, and how to do so effectively.
- Apply different tools for gender-inclusive monitoring, know where to find them, and which one(s) to select.

Course structure and contents

The course contains the following modules:

1. Introduction to Gender and Integrated Water Resources Management.
2. Gender, Water, and Climate Change.
3. Gender, Water, and Meaningful Participation in Decision-making Processes.
4. Gender-disaggregated Data and Monitoring IWRM.

Each module consists of mandatory readings based on the training manual and is complemented by additional resources: videos, websites, case studies, and suggested readings. Participants are invited to share their experiences and questions through dedicated discussion forums in each of the modules. Answering multiple-choice questions at the end of each module is a prerequisite to completing each module and advancing to the next module.

Course participants will interact with their peers in rich forum discussions to connect the course contents with their own experiences and challenges.

Course contents

The contents of modules 1 and 2 are guided by the training manual, "[Why Gender Matters in IWRM](#)" developed by Cap-Net and GWA.

Among other readings, participants will also be introduced to:

- [Empowerment](#) (GWA, 2016).
- [The gender dimension of water and climate change](#) (SIWI, AGWA, 2018).
- [Gender and the Environment and Climate](#) (UNEP, GWA 2018).
- [Gender Equality and Inclusion in Water Resources Management](#) (GWP, 2017).
- ["Natural resources, people and participation"](#) (Pimbert, 2004).

Participants

Participants representing various stakeholder groups from the entire water sector globally are invited to take this course:

- Stakeholders and professionals forming part of water management, civil society, river basin, or international organisations; development programmes, members of UN organisations, and representatives of the private sector.
- Sustainable Development Goals focal points and facilitators within national governments.
- Decision-makers, policy-makers, and high-level professionals and managers active in governmental bodies.
- Capacity developers active in the fields of integrated water resources management, climate action, gender mainstreaming, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and evaluation among others.

Participants are expected to have previous knowledge of the basic concepts of integrated water resources management. A basic understanding of the impacts of climate change on water resources is expected. No previous knowledge of gender or its interactions with water is required.

Time requirements

Estimated between two and four hours per module, including attendance and preparation. Participants who wish to access other suggested readings and related videos will require additional time.

Course approval criteria

Approval requires 70 percent correct responses on the set of multiple-choice questions in each module. Participants who complete all modules receive a certificate granted by the course organisers.

Answering the multiple-choice questions at the end of each module is a condition to move on to the next module, completing the course, and receiving a course certificate. Participants have up to three chances to obtain at least 70 percent correct responses, and in all cases the platform will indicate the wrong answers.

After completing the four modules, participants are invited to answer a short feedback survey on the course. Once this survey is answered, participants may download their certificate. Participation in the course, as well as the download of the certificate, is free to the participant.