ADOPTING GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TO IWRM AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE GWP

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WHAT IS GENDER?
QUICK TOP KEY POINTS

• **Gender** refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.

• This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other.

• As *a social construct*, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.
• Gender interacts with but is **different from sex**, which refers to the different biological and physiological characteristics of females, males and intersex persons, such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organs.

• Gender is hierarchical and produces inequalities that intersect with other social and economic inequalities.
• Gender-based discrimination intersects with other factors of discrimination, such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, age, geographic location, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others.

• This is referred to as **intersectionality**.
Gender equality and inclusion in water resources management: why it matters

29 years since the Dublin principles were established we are behind when it comes to principle number 3, which states that:

*Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water*
How does the world water crisis affect women and girls?

• For women, the water crisis is personal. They are responsible for finding a resource their families need to survive - for drinking, cooking, sanitation and hygiene. They may stand in line and wait for water, they may walk long distances to collect water...

• Women and children spend 200 million hours every day collecting water

• Women and girls spend 266 million hours every day finding a toilet/a place to go
• Climate change will affect different people in different ways.

• Women and men do not experience climate change equally.

• Most often, those living through its most adverse effects will have contributed least to the problem and have fewer resources to adapt to its impacts.
• The fact that women and girls are often responsible for most of the unpaid care tasks around the household also means their lives are directly affected by the changes brought about by climate change.

• They often walk further to find increasingly scarce food, fuel and water, as well as caring for family members who are susceptible to the health risks linked to climate change.

• As a result, women and girls find themselves with less time for education, income-generating activities or participation in community decision-making processes, further cementing unequal gender relations.
• Men are also negatively affected by climate change, particularly when they are poor.

• For example, men may experience deep anxiety and stress when their rural livelihoods are undermined as a result of climate change and they are no longer able to fulfil their socially expected roles as providers.

• Research also indicates that men may feel pressured into taking “heroic“ actions, which places them at a higher risk than women and children.

• For example, after Hurricane Mitch hit Central America in October 2000, a higher proportion of men than women were killed due to risk-taking behaviour.
Contributing to Gender Equality

For GWP, inclusiveness and gender sensitivity has always been a core value. GWP supports the Dublin Principle that women play a central role in providing, managing, and safeguarding water resources. The growing interconnectedness of gender, water, and sustainable development demand that we do more to ensure greater gender equality in all our efforts to properly safeguard and manage water resources for future generations.

GWP’s Gender Strategy was developed under the 2014-2019 Strategy Towards 2020: A Water Secure World, and it remains pertinent to the 2020-2025 Strategy, Mobilising for a Water Secure World, which states that GWP’s work to promote gender equality will focus on:

- Institutional leadership and commitment;
- Gender Inclusion and analysis that drives change;
- Meaningful and inclusive participation in decision-making and partnerships; and
- Equal access to and control of resources.

The Gender Strategy addresses diversity and inclusion, social equity, and women’s role in the integrated and sustainable management of water resources. It draws attention to gender differences so that men and women can benefit and contribute equally to our long-standing challenge of improving water security.

Achieving water security means adopting inclusive and participatory approaches. In treating gender equality as a global priority, GWP has taken a comprehensive approach that addresses the structural drivers as well as the complexity of gender inequalities. GWP recognises the need for a balanced representation of humans and men in...
GWP Gender Strategy

Gender equality and inclusion in water resources management
Mainstreaming gender in integrated water resources management strategies and plans: practical steps for practitioners

The water sector has been a pioneer in putting gender mainstreaming approaches into practice in the program areas in the fields of domestic water supply and sanitation. Water professionals have been at the forefront of integrating gender mainstreaming into their work. However, more needs to be done to fully integrate gender mainstreaming into the development of integrated water resources management plans and strategies. This technical brief is designed to provide professionals with an overview of how to mainstream gender in the development of integrated water resources management strategies and plans. It is also a companion tool for policy makers who are also interested.

More water professionals recognize that women and men have different interests, and that this is true at all levels, whether in the forums that discuss technical matters or in the ways in which gender mainstreaming is perceived and practiced. Gender mainstreaming is an umbrella term that refers to the incorporation of gender into the design and development of water-related policies and practices. It seeks to ensure that the needs of both men and women are considered in the development of integrated water resources management plans and strategies. This technical brief provides a practical guide to mainstreaming gender in water resources management plans and strategies. It is designed to help water professionals understand the importance of gender mainstreaming, and to provide practical guidance on how to incorporate gender issues into water resources management plans and strategies.

The brief covers the following topics:

1. Gender mainstreaming and water resources management
2. Gender mainstreaming in water resources management plans and strategies
3. Gender mainstreaming in technical briefs

The brief is intended for professionals in the water sector who are responsible for developing and implementing gender mainstreaming plans and strategies.
GENDER IN GWP 2020-2025 STRATEGY

• Through GWP’s Gender Strategy we are implementing a ‘never without them when about them’ approach. As part of all programmes developed under GWP’s Anchor Areas, our work to promote gender equality

• We commit our portfolio of action to promoting gender equality beyond statements of intent: Across our entire portfolio, we will unlock barriers to progress on gender equality and inclusion in water resources management, ultimately expanding benefits for women, vulnerable and excluded groups, and the environment through a dedicated global programme.
**Action area 1:** Institutional leadership and commitment

Make gender equality and inclusion a core business goal

**Action area 2:** Gender and inclusion analysis that drives change

Conduct gender and inclusion analysis at all levels

**Action area 3:** Meaningful and inclusive participation in decision-making and partnerships

Adopt a ‘nothing about them without them’ approach’

**Action area 4:** Equal access to and control of resources

Create a level playing field with respect to access to and control of resources
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gender transformative</td>
<td>Addresses the underlying causes of gender-based inequalities and transforms harmful gender norms, roles and relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Mainstreaming (GM)</td>
<td>Includes statements around gender across the program but does not focus on gender norms or harmful practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partial GM</td>
<td>Efforts made to include women as beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender aware</td>
<td>Acknowledges gender differences but does not sufficiently address gender inequities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender neutral</td>
<td>Vague, erratic or insubstantial effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender blind/unequal</td>
<td>No attempts to address gender and likely perpetuates gender inequalities</td>
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The five principles of gender mainstreaming

- **Gender-sensitive** language. Texts referring to or addressing both women and men must make women and men equally visible.
- **Gender**-specific data collection and analysis.
- Equal access to and utilisation of services.
- Women and men are equally involved in decision making.
- Equal treatment is integrated into steering processes
Gender-transformative approach

• Considers gender norms, roles and relations for people of all genders and that these affect access to and control over resources
• Considers the specific needs of people of all genders
• Addresses the causes of gender-based inequities in access to and governance of water resources
• Includes ways to transform harmful gender norms, roles and relations
• Aims to promote gender equality
• Includes strategies to foster progressive changes in power relationships between people of all genders
National IWRM and CLIMATE RESILIENCE strategies and plans present an opportunity to enhance the equal participation, representation, and rights of women in the water and climate sector.
This includes:

• creating policies and laws that institutionalize the equitable participation of men and women
• fostering the development of institutions and organizations that mainstream gender and that have sufficient expertise in the field of gender
• establishing budgeting processes that ensure steady and secure resources to support the necessary structures and program
THANK YOU

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