

WATER FOR AFRICAN CITIES PHASE II



UN-HABITAT Partnership with the Gender and Water Alliance



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United Nations Human Settlement Programme



UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT is the Agency mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT has been actively engaged for thirty years in supporting developing countries in their efforts to develop sustainable human settlements, and ensuring that the urban poor are provided with adequate shelter and basic services such as water and sanitation. Between 1999 and 2002, UN-HABITAT, through its Water for African Cities (WAC) Programme, assisted 7 African countries to improve the management of water and sanitation. They include: Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia. South Africa participates in the programme as a resource country.

The goal of WAC is to contribute to the achievement of the water and sanitation related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Goal 7, target 10 to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015 and "to reduce by half by 2015 the number of people without access to sustainable sanitation. The highest priority of the Programme is to reduce the urban water crisis through efficient and effective water demand management, build capacity to reduce the environmental impact of urbanization on freshwater resources and boost awareness and information exchange on water management and conservation.

UN-HABITAT's Governing Council in its resolution 19/6

of 2003 approved the establishment of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund to provide a well coordinated, fast track programmatic approach which facilitates the assistance to municipalities and utilities to enable them to reach out to the poorest of the poor, and offering contributors an opportunity to target a high priority sector with clear objectives and maximum impact.

The response from the donor community to the Trust Fund has been encouraging. In 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UN-HABITAT and the Canada Fund for Africa, through which the Canadian Government contributed 15 million Canadian dollars (USD\$12.4) to support the second phase of the Water for African Cities Programme. In early December 2003, the Government of Norway announced a contribution to the Trust Fund of 10 million Kroners (USD\$1.6 million). The fund has also received boosts from the Government of the Netherlands and Sweden International Development Agency. In 2005, the Trust Fund received a further boost from the Government of Norway of nearly US\$7 million.

The second phase of the WAC Programme was launched in December 2003, with the clear objective to assist in the international effort to reduce poverty as embodied in the goals and targets of the MDGs and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation. An additional list of seven countries joined the programme: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.



The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

The Gender and Water Alliance was formally established in June 2000 to promote gender mainstreaming as an integral part of integrated water resources management. The establishment of the Alliance responds to the wide recognition that water is a finite natural resource essential for human survival, with increasing pressures making management and allocation of water resources one of the vital issues for the 21st

Century. Many projects and experiences have demonstrated the effectiveness of a gender approach in promoting efficiency, equity and sustainability of water management systems. Mainstreaming gender in the entire water sector promotes more user-responsive strategies for management, favours multiple uses and users of scarce water resources, broadens the base of participation and responds to the specific needs of women. At

the highest international policy levels, the importance of applying a gender approach has received some acceptance. But at national implementation levels and especially among sector professionals who actually manage water resources, the need for and implications of adopting a gender approach is little recognized or understood. There is valuable experience in-country, which can be supported in order to increase awareness

of the importance of gender at a national and international level. The Alliance works to facilitate this interaction for broad experience sharing at local, national and international levels.

The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) was mooted from discussions among Gender Ambassadors during the Second World Water Forum held at The Hague in March 2000. Subsequent to the meeting, a list serve was established which allowed interested women and men to engage in discussions to assess how best the challenges identified at the Second World Water Forum could be addressed. The idea of a Gender and Water Alliance first introduced at The Hague was taken forward during this dialogue and the objectives, guiding principles, strategies and institutional structure of the proposed network was shared among the participants of the List serve. These ideas were consolidated in a meeting of selected participants in Paris in June-July 2000. The Gender and Water Alliance was formally established and a Steering Committee elected and assigned specific tasks. The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) was established as a global network of institutions and individuals to deal with the key challenge of mainstreaming gender in the water sector.

The challenge before the Gender Alliance is promote gender mainstreaming in the water sector. This involves working with policy makers, staff in water sector organizations and community groups, developing their skills in gender analysis, their understanding of and commitment to gender equality, and the partnership linkages between them from "bottom" to "top". This requires capacity building - sharing information, training in gender mainstreaming and advocacy, dissemination of gender analytical tools and methodologies, and networking – as well targeted initiatives to promote gender mainstreaming in specific contexts.



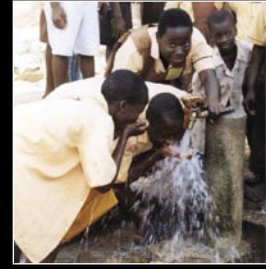
UN-HABITAT partnership with the Gender and Water Alliance

Fully aware of the burden placed on women and children in fetching water, and the adverse consequences of inadequate supplies in the participating countries, UN-HABITAT, in partnership with the GWA started a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Initiative (GMSI) in January 2005.

The objective of the GMSI is to facilitate the gender mainstreaming of water and sanitation utilities through the development of gender sensitive norms and standards to enable the poorest urban families to benefit from improved access to safe water and dignified sanitation facilities.

The GMSI comprises of eight underlying principles

1. Participatory research approach, based on the understanding that participation is the key to learning, awareness raising, and garnering political commitment.
2. Investment in local expertise and resources, based on the understanding that local experts have a much deeper understanding of local realities and the context surrounding program initiatives than external experts, and that they will remain in the geographic location. Thus they represent a potential sustainable resource.
3. Location specific context, knowledge, and situations are used as the basis of analysis to inform and influence national policy and sector wide reforms, in order to ensure they are pro-poor and gender sensitive.
4. Strengthening of existing networks to support local capacity building, both in terms of knowledge expansion, and by forging partnerships that foster multi-sectoral approaches.
5. Innovative, creative, and useful learning and communication material will be produced to support awareness raising and capacity building efforts.
6. Capacity building is integrated into the strategy to ensure sustainable long term results.
7. The exchange of information, methodological approaches, and situational analysis is vital to the design and implementation of a feasible and sustainable Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and city-level Action Plans.
8. Follow-up support is essential to the implementation of concrete actions. The strategy will not only produce plans which can be presented as evidence of gender mainstreaming, but will also foster concrete action at local levels to ensure the achievement of the objectives of gender mainstreaming.



Achievements of the partnership

In 2005, UN-HABITAT commissioned the GWA to conduct a Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) in 17 cities in 14 countries namely: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Accra, Ghana; Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Harar, Ethiopia; Bamako, Mali; Dakar, Senegal; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; Douala and Yaoundé, Cameroon; Jos, Nigeria; Kampala, Uganda; Kigali, Rwanda; Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The objective of the RGA was to use a pro-poor and gender sensitive lens to identify, gather, and analyze baseline data relevant to the six priority themes of the second phase of Water for African Cities being: (i) Pro-Poor Water Governance and Follow-up Investments, (ii) Sanitation for the Urban Poor, (iii) Urban Catchments Management, (iv) Water Demand Management, (v) Water Education in Schools and Communities, and (vi) Advocacy, Awareness-raising, and Information Exchange

Results of and lessons learnt from the RGA.

Below are the main results from the 17 African cities:

Pro-Poor Water Governance and Follow-up Investments

- Utilities and local governments need to facilitate the delivery of water and sanitation services with affordable charges and at reasonable distances and relieve the poor, particularly women, from paying higher rates and traveling long distances to fetch heavy loads of water.
- Capacity development programmes for water and sanitation utilities, including senior and middle management should include the development of capacities for a gender pro-poor analysis, planning and budgeting and pro-poor-governance for the implementation of the gender-sensitive and pro-poor policy and legislative frameworks.
- Tariffs and subsidies, and norms and standards need to be modified so that services can be

expanded to the poor, people with disabilities and elderly and in the end to the whole community so as to relieve the burden of poverty on families, in the community and the nation as a whole.

- The utility providers need to revise existing documents pertinent to water and sanitation issues with poverty reduction and gender equity perspectives so the targets set in the poverty reduction strategies and the MDGs will be realized.
- Civil society, NGOs and CBOs need to be encouraged to be involved into the planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and decision making of water and sanitation projects and programmes at all level.

Sanitation for the Poor

Financial mechanisms are needed to ensure that sanitation services are accessible to all in the community, particularly the poor, and specifically poor women and men.

National and local governments should:

- (i) Explore potential areas of entrepreneurship in sanitation. This means promoting the creation of opportunities for income generation activities for both women and men through capacity building in areas such as construction of latrines, recycling and re-use of solid waste and using creating a revolving fund for innovative lending, savings and training, particularly for female headed households.
- (ii) Promote new appropriate approaches, techniques and technologies to address the physical limitations facing the vulnerable groups for example, ECOSAN toilet.
- (iii) Ensure that any new infrastructure construction or rehabilitation for water and sanitation services is carried out in consultation with the women users.
- (iv) Promote Sanitation policies to mandate separation of toilet blocks in schools and ensure

toilet blocks for girls and boys should be located away from each other.

- (v) Develop capacities for collection of gender-disaggregated data to facilitate the design of appropriate gender mainstreaming strategies in urban sanitation.

Urban Catchments Management

- Local governments should recognize that alternative water sources will continue to be used until residents in peri-urban areas have access to affordable, convenient, and safe water sources. Therefore:
- There is need to encourage minimum improvements to traditional water sources with adequate and regular health education messages to improve effective and hygienic use of these sources.
- Agencies and institutions responsible for environmental management should ensure that gender equity considerations are incorporated throughout their program or project designs, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.
- There is need to provide gender analysis skills training to urban planners in order to mainstream gender issues in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and help to incorporate poor women and men's needs in urban planning programmes.

Water Demand Management (WDM)

The key approach to adopt for the water and sanitation utilities is to ensure representation on planning structures by committed and skilled gender experts who not only appreciate gender as a development concept but are also able to effectively influence discussions, plans, and strategies from a gender-sensitive and pro-poor perspective.

- Data collection and acquisition of information need to be made in such a way that impacts of

WDM activities can be measured in terms of the participation, benefits, and costs to women, men, girls, and boys.

- Gender issues should be integrated into the institutional and legal framework of the WDM strategies.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education in Schools and Communities

Illustrations and messages found in textbooks focus on the traditional roles of boys and girls and men and women perpetuating the gender roles that have kept women in poverty and relegated women and girls to the background.

- A deliberate effort will have to be made to change this in the areas of gender and text book writing and gender equity and the role of curriculum and teachers.
- Teaching aids and the curriculum should be reviewed to make them



gender-sensitive.

- The VBWE programme should integrate gender mainstreaming and pro-poor issues into the planning and implementation of all activities.
- The VBWE materials and activities should speak to the need for equity in water and sanitation coverage.
- Training and educational material should address the reality of both genders..



Advocacy, Awareness-raising, and Information Exchange

- Local governments should develop gender focused information, education, and communication materials and tools and increase the participation and representation of women and men from informal settlements and slums in public meetings.
- Information exchange and dissemination should be done using different forms of media such as drama, games, and demonstrations in the promotion of water and sanitation and enhancement of gender mainstreaming.
- National Governments should strengthen government and communities in lobbying and advocacy to provide strategic leadership in key areas such as human rights education and mainstreaming of a rights-based approach in development.



Next Steps

The action plans developed by each city are currently at different stages of implementation. The ownership and learning by doing catalyzed by the process are remarkable. While the training needs gap will feed into the sub-programme on Training and Capacity Building, UN-HABITAT and the GWA are in the meantime preparing for a high level policy meeting of multi-stakeholders from the 17 African cities. The aim of this meeting is to reflect on the progress made on the implementation of the various action plans at city level with a view to identify gaps and design strategy for policy design. It is also expected that this high level policy consultation will provide a platform for peer review and strategic convergence with the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative (LVWATSAN) and the Water for Asian Cities Programme.



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