

México 2006
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water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



***Gender Mainstreaming and Water for Growth and Development:
Diversity as an Agent of Change***

***GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE WATER SECTOR IN
SOUTH AFRICA:***

The Masibambane Sector wide programme

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Context & Background

- 1994
 - 12 million people without safe water
 - 21 million without adequate sanitation.
- Now:
 - Total population: 47 million (24 million female)
 - 40% of population are poor
 - 90% of rural households are poor
 - Women-headed households are poorest of the poor
 - Ensuring adequate domestic water supply usually rests with women at the household level
 - Committed to eradicate water backlogs by 2008 and sanitation backlogs by 2010
 - Mainstreaming gender in decision making is government policy



Policies and Legislative Framework

- Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)
 - outlaws discrimination based on gender
- Signatories to Beijing, CEDAW
- National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality
 - provides guidance on women's empowerment issues and gender equality
- Office of the Status of Women; Commission for Gender Equality; Human Rights Commission
- Gender budget
- National Water Act of 1997
- Water Services Act of 1998
- Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry Gender policy
- Strategic Framework for Water Services of 2003



Sector wide gender mainstreaming programme for water services

- Ongoing for the past few years
- Collaboration and cooperation of stakeholders
- National Sector Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and 5 year Action plan developed
 - strengthening policy positions on gender in the water services sector
 - ensuring institutional arrangements support gender mainstreaming at all levels of government
 - developing gender sensitive programme management approaches
 - ensuring adequate financial resources allocated to gender mainstreaming
 - developing effective communication to share information and promote gender equality
 - supporting women's economic empowerment and control of resources
 - strengthening partnerships and networking between stakeholders
 - developing a monitoring and evaluation system with indicators for gender equality
 - developing capacity building programmes to support women's empowerment
 - supporting advocacy and awareness raising programmes
 - developing research and sharing good practice



Implementation so far: quotas

- **Quota for women's participation** in all structures of project implementation, including decision-making
 - started at 30% and moved to 50% on water committees
- **Assessment of quota system in Eastern Cape revealed:**
 - Paradigm shift needed: gender issues are not women's business
 - Value of creating a debate about women's empowerment and gender balance.
 - Need for concerted awareness raising about potential and abilities of both women and men
- **Committees replaced by local government structures**
 - Gender quotas for some parties



Training and capacity building

- **Training and Capacity Building** allocations on project budgets
 - had to be reported on every month.
- No specific gender training done
- Training w.r.t other skills provided to women and men
- Nearly 7 000 out of 22 600 people trained in water supply were women
- Over 2 000 of 6 000 trained in sanitation skills



Training and capacity building

- Health and hygiene education provided on projects
 - no gender disaggregated data
 - increased pool of HIV/AIDS caregivers
- Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Tools for senior managers in the department is currently in progress



Employment creation

- **Employment creation for local communities:**
- 56 000 of 157 000 people employed on water supply project were female
- On sanitation projects 8 800 of 25 800 people employed were women



Using training and skills

- In sanitation programmes community bricklayers skills including women were enhanced through the toilet building programmes.
- A project in KwaZulu Natal (Isulabasha) has moved to develop a community based SMME involving both women and men making hand-washing devices for sanitation projects in the area in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **Leadership development** – indirect spin-off - number of female Municipal councillors developed management skills through participation in water and sanitation programmes



Lessons Learned

- **Policy and legislative base** is extremely important
- **Quota system** brought women into decision making structures
 - gave women exposure and a voice
 - not sufficient rigorous analysis on the impact
- **Health and hygiene training** women now involved in community based HIV care
- **Women learned skills** eg bricklaying that can be used for other programmes eg housing
- **Transformation and empowerment of women** regarded negatively in some quarters.



Lessons Learned

- **Gender Management systems and institutional support** generally weak resulting in lack of support from organisation managers
- **Resource mobilisation and business planning:** Budget allocations not adequately made if organisations do not regard gender as their mandate. This also challenges sustainability of mainstreaming efforts
- **Capacity Building and training:**
 - Accreditation of qualifications still at the initial stages of development.
 - Skills level and understanding of gender is still in few hands
 - Providing skills to women is an enduring impact
- **Sector wide approach** – creates common buy in



Transferability of Local Action

- Guidelines and tools for mainstreaming gender in water programmes are currently being introduced to municipalities and broader sector partners with the sector wide approach helping to create an enabling environment.
- Gender training programme for managers developed and can be applied broadly
- The linkages and collaboration on water in the SADC region is an opportunity of scaling up the practice.



Conclusions

- Achieving gender mainstreaming needs:
 - Political will
 - Legislation, policy
 - Implementation programmes, including targets (eg quotas)
 - M&E and disaggregated data
 - ***Accountability and responsibility***
 - ***More than lip service***



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Marzo 16 al 22



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antes de que sea demasiado tarde.



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