



# Women and Water

1. Ecofeminism versus gender approach
2. Women as victims and women as actors
3. Gender in the broad sense: power relations
4. Water in the broad sense: IWRM, domestic water and sanitation, water for food, water for the environment.



# Gender and Water Alliance

International network with 1000+ members, individuals and organisations in 105 countries

40% men and 60% women

Water professionals and gender specialists

For mainstreaming gender in water policies and practice

We work with partners and members

Capacity Building

Sharing and developing of Knowledge

Advocacy and influencing policies at all levels



# Gender

Women and men, age, class, caste, religion, ethnicity, etc.

Dynamic concept

Social relations: asymmetrical power relations

Cultural constructions

All levels

Change



# Empowerment

For all

Four interrelated elements:

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Physical



# **IWRM Integrated Water Resource Management**

All water uses:

Drinking water, domestic water

Sanitation

(solid waste removal)

Water for agriculture

Water for the environment

All have important gender aspects



## **Urban Gender-and-Water Issues**

Explosive growth of cities: migration to towns

Extreme lack of infrastructure

Huge slums

Where can women find clean water

Where can women relieve themselves

Girls' education

Bad hygiene in the families

Solid waste removal

Urban agriculture

Poor sanitation is a poverty trap



# Cities in the North

Empowered people need no support

Not all are empowered

Learn from the South:

- demand-driven water services

- community-led sanitation services

Water as human right



# Current issues and trends

Financing and pricing of water and sanitation services, privatisation

Climate change: droughts and floods

International conflicts over water

Refugees and war victims

HIV-Aids





## Recommendations 1

for Women to have access to water and sanitation and positions of decision-making

- Demand right to sanitation, especially for girls in schools, and women in urban areas
- Genuine participation of water and sanitation users in watsan management for
  - equity,
  - efficiency,
  - impact
  - sustainability
  - Poverty reduction



## Recommendation 2

- Governments to sign agreement for Water as Human Right
- Pay attention to current issues: wars, refugees, climate change, HIV-Aids, in relation to women and water
- Investments in sanitation have enormous economic returns
- METROPOLIS to put sanitation-for-all on top of agenda for 2008



**Thank you**  
**Merci**  
**Gracias**  
**Dankuwel**