

“MAINSTREAMING GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICIES: CHILE AND BRAZIL CASES STUDY ”



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Since Dublin's Conference in 1992 the world has accepted and understood that integrated management of water is a process that assures the environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability.

Also, the third Dublin's principle set that women play a fundamental role in the management and sustainable use of water, which systematically has been ignored even by many of those who subscribed this Declaration.



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Here is analyzed the role and meaning of Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM in a wide extent, and shows the institutionality and public policies of Chile and Brazil available to mainstream gender approach in this process.



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The Dublin Statement (1992), calls for the pivotal role of women as providers and users of water, and guardians of the living environment to “be reflected” in *institutional arrangements* for the development and management of water resources in each country.



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Principle 20 of Rio Declaration (1992) stated: "Women have a **vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore **essential** to achieve sustainable development".**



Agenda 21 (1992) contains an entire chapter on women and sustainable development (Chapter 24).

Besides, the **importance of gender was reaffirmed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 in Johannesburg.**





In the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) three strategic objectives were agreed:

- (1) integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development;***
- (2) strengthen or establish mechanisms to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women.***
- (3) involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels;***

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"MAINTREAMING GENDER AS A STRATEGY"

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PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING **IN IWRM**

Sustainable development must consider and recognize that there are *different groups* of interest with different necessities, relations and opportunities respect to the access and use of water.



Take into account the specificity of men and women & their participation from that perspective in the IWRM, have greater probabilities of improving its *impact and effectiveness*.

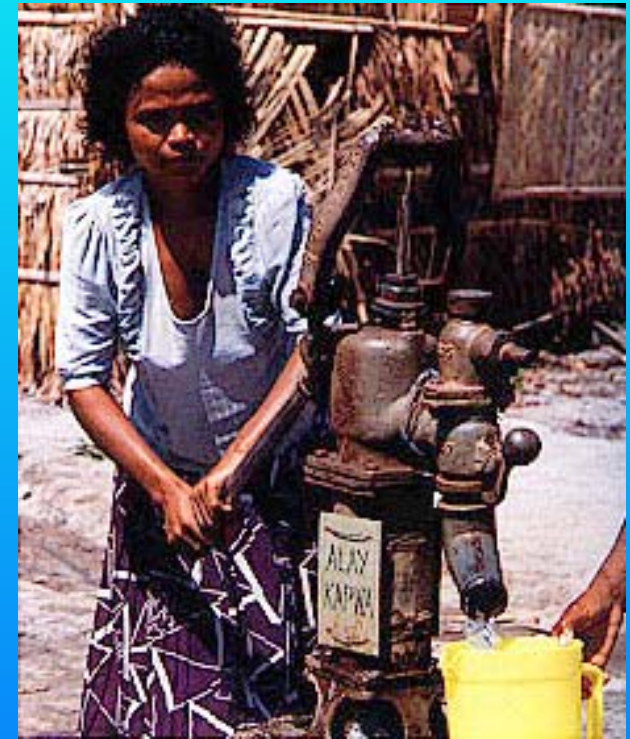


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THE REALITY

In the 2nd World Water Forum recognition of the importance of applying a gender approach received great acceptance. But at international and national levels, gender approach is **little recognized or understood.**

There is a kind of a **invisibility** about the gender focus in IWRM and it systematically has been ignored.



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This little recognition or understanding is due to a number of factors:



- ***inaccessibility*** to information on existing policies and practices,
- ***limited*** experience of mainstreaming gender in relation to water for irrigation, health and nature,
- ***insufficient*** gender analytical disaggregated data,
- ***lack*** of tailored tools and methodologies for training and capacity building,
- ***inadequate*** documentation of good practices,
- ***insufficient*** targeted advocacy at national, regional and international levels,
- ***limited*** capacity in time, resources, responsibilities and interest for mainstreaming gender.

CONSIDERATIONS

Gender *refers* to the roles and responsibilities of men and women and the relationship between them.

Does not simply refer to women or men, but to the way their qualities, behaviors and identities are determined through the process of *socialization*.



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Gender roles are distinguished from sex roles, which are biologically determined, it refers to the *socially* determined roles played by women and men.



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These different roles are influenced by historical, religious, economic, cultural and ethnic factors, therefore, social and economic analysis is **incomplete** without an understanding of gender differences and inequalities.



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FACTS

Community participation and management approaches have failed to address issues about IWRM

- **communities are often seen as a collection of people with a **common** purpose.**
- **a community is not a collection of **equal** people living in a particular geographic region**
- **it is usually made up of individuals and groups who command **different** levels of power, wealth, influence and ability to express their needs, concerns and rights**
- **communities contain **competing** interest groups.**



Where water resources are scarce, there is *competition* for supplies and those at the lowest end of the power spectrum, often the poor, will go without.



Power issues place women in a *disadvantaged* position.

Applying a gender analysis helps development agencies better *target* their resources and the needs of different groups.



People centered approaches *do not always ensure* that gender perspectives are taken into account.



Thus a *deliberate* strategy of gender mainstreaming is useful to ensure that these issues are part of analysis, projects, planning and evaluation.



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With a gender analysis, planners gain a more *accurate* picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users.



Understanding the differences among who does what work, who makes which decisions, who uses water for what purpose, who controls which resources, who is responsible for different family obligations, etc., is part of a good analysis and can contribute to more *effective* initiatives.



Women and men tend to have *different* uses, attitudes, actions, priorities and responsibilities for water resources.

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Gender differences, inequities and inequalities mean that women and men experience changes in water availability, services or water policies differently.

Any initiative should be studied for its differential *impact* on women and men to ensure that all implications are clearly understood.



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The specific issues that participatory processes must include and consider are:

- **Power *imbalances* in communities**
- **Intra-household and intra-family *relations***
- **Different *constraints* to participation.**
- **Different *abilities* to participate**
- **Perceived *benefits* of participation**
- **Skills**
- **Time**
- **Flexibility and adaptability**
- **Support**
- **Follow-up**





ACTIONS TO ENGENDER IWRM

Empowerment of women is central to achieving sustainable development of IWRM. Through Engendering IWRM is one of the effective and efficient ways to secure this process, and therefore social, cultural, environmental and economic water resources sustainability.

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Mainstream gender implies that all the knowledge and the abilities should be used in a *holistic* and systematic way, so that the practice of the gender focus becomes a key dimension of programs and processes at communitarian level for IWRM.

Gender *indicators* are necessary too, experts must define those related to water and gender, and they will be defined according to the specificity of the circumstances



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SINTESIS

Experience has largely demonstrated that assuring participation of men and women from its own specificity in projects, programs and actions of IWRM *improves* its impact, effectiveness and sustainability.



This actions also have greater *possibilities* of reaching and of improving the proposed results, mainly because they make the planning trough the participation and commitment of the local communities from the perspective of each group within that community.

The challenge is to *promote* adequate and effective gender mainstreaming in the water sector.



There is valuable *experience* in country, which can be supported in order to increase awareness of the importance of gender.

This involves *working* with activists, policy makers, staff in water sector organizations and community groups, both women and men developing their skills in gender analysis and commitment to gender equality.



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FINDINGS

Brazil has undergone a longer and deeper journey in mainstreaming gender in the process of Integrated Water Resources Management.

Chile has developed some activities about gender and water as well but there is still a long journey to sensitize about gender and water issues and concerns.



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Both countries have specific rules or laws to mainstream and focus gender in any activity, specifically water resources in the case of Brazil.

Having a frame that strongly sets the importance of gender mainstreaming, in a mandatory way, indeed means a good chance or opportunity to work and develop this gender focus in the IWRM process to obtain the economic, cultural, social and environmental sustainability of Water.



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Why??, because accumulated experience indicate that promoting gender equality and investing in women's capabilities are fundamental for improving the *impact* of development interventions in Latin America.

Because investing in women, in their access to information, resources, opportunities and spheres of political decision-making; contributes to *poverty reduction, economic growth and good governance* at the local and national levels.



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To achieve this goal *commitments* of all institutions and relevant organisations are necessary.

***Action Plans* are needed as well, that represent *collaborative* agreements and *shared* commitments between different members of institutions, including the high levels, professional staff and assistants involved in the design, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of projects and actions of IWRM.**



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The *challenges* of Action Plans are:

- a) expand attention to gender *beyond* the social sectors,**
- b) bring *institutional learning* to bear more consistently in areas where learning has already occurred,**
- c) improve the *monitoring and tracking* of efforts to integrate a gender focus into products, services and projects, and**
- d) evaluate the *effectiveness and impacts* of development interventions for women**



SOME SPECIFIC ACTIONS

1. Intra Institutional Mechanisms

- ***Internal Review Processes***
- ***Positive Incentives & Recognition***
- ***Gender Network within the Institution***
- ***Capacity Building***
- ***Human Resources***



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1. Intra Institutional Mechanisms

Internal Review Processes

gender-sensitive performance and results indicators in project logical frameworks.

Increased attention to gender issues in projects, products and services planning

Positive Incentives & Recognition

gender mainstreaming award – for social and non-social actions



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1. Intra Institutional Mechanisms

Gender Network within the Institution

Gender specialists located in strategic departments or divisions

Focal points established in operational divisions, central and decentralized offices

Electronic Network established and information disseminated at least once per quarter.



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1. Intra Institutional Mechanisms

Capacity Building

Gender mainstreaming learning plan

Dissemination of information on good examples incorporating gender into projects, products and service's design.

Human Resources

Gender relevant findings from survey and/or census inside the institution



2. Extra Institutional Mechanisms

- **To influence, contribute and support to Governments in order to *National Water Plans for year 2005*, incorporate the gender approach.**
- **Work in specific sectors introducing gender mainstreaming:**

Water supply and sanitation

Floods and disasters, etc.



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- To continue **training and capacity building** about gender for water experts and about water resources for gender experts.
- Keep working at **communitarian levels** through participatory workshops to sensitize about this two issues: gender and water.



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