



GENDER MAINSTREAMING- the missing link...

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What is Gender?

- Gender refers to the socially constructed rather than biologically determined roles of men and women as well as the relationships between them in a given society at a specific time and place. These roles are not fixed but can and do change. They are usually unequal in terms of power, freedom, agency and status as well as access to and control over entitlements, resources and assets.
- The different roles of women and men are influenced by historical, religious, economic and cultural realities.



Dublin Principles:

1. Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource essential to sustain life, development and the environment;
2. Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy makers at all levels;
3. ***WOMEN PLAY A CENTRAL PART IN THE PROVISION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING OF WATER;***
4. Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good.



What is IWRM?

- A process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of **water, land and related resources** in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
- IWRM has three pillars:
 1. Enabling Environment – legislation, policies, strategies;
 2. Institutional Framework- ZINWA, CCs & SCCs etc;
 3. Management Instruments – tools for the job.



What is Gender Mainstreaming?

- “A strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated” (UN 1997).
- Mainstreaming includes gender specific activities and positive actions whenever women or men are in unfavourable position.



Why Gender Approach in IWRM?

- Guarantees Efficient, Effective and Equitable management of Water Resources;
- Guards against gender stereotyping thus promoting equity in all spheres of life;
- Social & Economic analysis is incomplete without an appreciation of gender differences and inequalities;
- Improved water services avails to women and girls more time for productive engagements like education, business & leisure;
- Water resources management and environmental sustainability are enhanced when priorities and demands of all stakeholders (women & men) are taken care of.



Smart Economics

- World Bank views gender equality as “smart economics” – Failure to empower more than half the world population would result in :
 - Lower productivity;
 - Lower economic growth;
 - Weaker development outcomes.



Some perceptions!!





Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM Strategies:

- Strategies & Plans present opportunity for enhancing equal participation, representation and rights of women in the water sector thus improving effectiveness & sustainability of those strategies.
- THREE steps of gender mainstreaming in strategy formulation:
 1. Carrying out a good gender analysis as a strong part of the process of creating a knowledge base for decision making;
 2. Involving women as key stakeholders and anchoring them in the decision making process;
 3. Developing sex disaggregated indicators and incorporating them in monitoring and evaluation systems.



Where gender blind policies & strategies are already in place??

- Knowledge base can be enhanced through collection of data disaggregated by sex;
- Gender sensitive indicators can be developed;
- Marginalized stakeholders can be brought into the process;
- Strategy objectives can be modified to suit new realities;
- Capacity for mainstreaming among key institutional actors can be enhanced.



Enhancing Mainstreaming at SCC level:

- Have a quota system for men and women councillors;
- Engage women as well as Inspectors and Outreach Officers;
- Engage the girl child in promotional events like shows etc;
- Educate men so they do not stereotype women and the girl child;
- Educate women that water management business is gender blind – we are in it together.



How far is Gender Mainstreaming in Zimbabwe?

- The new WATER ACT?
- The National Water Policy?
- Runde Catchment Council?
- Save Catchment Council?
- Your Sub-Catchment Council?



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THANK YOU

HAVE A NICE DAY!!