



Global Water
Partnership

The GWP Gender Strategy

Bridging the Gender Gap in Water Governance

at

**International Conference on Freshwater Governance for Sustainable
Development 5-7 Nov 2012**

Mercy Dikito-Wachtmeister (PhD)
Senior Officer Global Initiatives- GWP

Gender as pillar to poverty eradication and sustainable development-

- ☐ It is economics... social and environmental security... it is equity balance within and across the generations and between men and women
- ☐ Compelling evidence that women are powerful drivers of economic development.
- ☐ Last year's FAO report, this year World Bank's Development report have a single issue- gender- as organising principle
- ☐ Research from the World Bank and United Nations demonstrates that gender equality reduces poverty and ensure sustainable growth.
- ☐ In "Half the Sky" Nicholas Kristoff attributes the economic miracles taking place in China and Asian tigers to the empowerment of women in the workforce.
- ☐ "Forget China, India and the internet: economic growth is driven by women" declared The Economist

Why Gender in GWP

- ❑ GWP recognises gender as critical pillar for poverty eradication and sustainable development
- ❑ End 2011, GWP policy pronouncement to have gender strategy in place Dec 2011. Strategy (international team of experts; Regional Focal Points)
 - mainstreams gender in all programme and operational activities and empowers women
 - empowering not a zero-sum women, - its not controlling forms of power – its about facilitating women's voices, individual and collective strengths to work towards common goals without coercion or domination
- ❑ Strategy formalises, standardises and operationalizes GWP's approach to mainstreaming gender
- ❑ The GWP gender Strategy mainstreams gender in :
 - the enabling environment , through water policies , legal framework
 - the managing planning processes, information exchange,
 - the institutional roles through organisational frameworks and structures and building institutional capacity.

FOCUS AREAS OF THE GWP GENDER STRATEGY

- ❑ Gender integrated into national IWRM planning processes, policies and plans in countries as well as in transboundary water management.
- ❑ Legal documents for water management institutions of government and water user groups, are made gender sensitive and non discriminatory: women and men are given opportunities to participate in water management, decision-making and employment; domestic use of water, is identified as a legitimate and high priority need.
 - *Analysis of Water laws of institutions for gender discrimination and areas requiring attention identified and legal documents are amended for gender sensitivity*
 - *Bench marking assessments for women and men participation in DM*

Gender Strategy Focus Areas

- ❑ **Gender equality promoted through equal opportunities in education, training and employment in the water bureaucracy .**
 - Training and capacity building of water engineers and other technicians to create gender-just water management
 - Providing of scholarship and bursary opportunities for women and girls to obtain training in engineering, technical, and scientific areas
- ❑ **Gender equality integrated in the implementation of programmes to address critical current and emerging development challenges**
 - Eg climate change, food security, urbanisation etc

GWP Gender Strategy Focus areas contin....

- ☐ **Gender integrated in GWP knowledge building products and the GWP communication strategy**
- ☐ **Gender equality integrated in GWP structures, strategic alliances and partnerships built for gender equality advocacy, awareness raising;**
 - No lip service to Gender, - Requirement for GWP to set its own house in order
 - Building alliances with gender experts, women's organizations and networks, for gender advocacy, technical advice, capacity development
- ☐ **Meaningful financial resources allocated to support gender mainstreaming in GWP programmes and operations and gender responsive budgeting introduced**
 - GWP will use gender-responsive budgeting and fundraising for implementation of gender strategy. Gender programmes are often not resourced for.
- ☐ **A gender equality monitoring and evaluation system developed and implemented at the CWP, RWP and GWPO levels**
 - Indicators - important tools in pushing implementation

The Way forward

- ☐ You are the institutions and experts that make GWP, you are the institutions & individuals that can effectively carry through the Gender Strategy
- ☐ Lets build on each others strength and work towards the empowerment of women in Africa, - considerable expertise exists!
- ☐ We can only see further if we stand on each other's shoulders and are willing to lend our shoulders for others to stand on .
- ☐ Let us rise to the challenges of implementing this strategy

THANK YOU