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MODULE ON CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

**IWRM AND SOCIAL EQUITY:
POVERTY, PARTICIPATION AND GENDER**

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MODULE ON CROSS CUTTING ISSUES: IWRM AND SOCIAL EQUITY: POVERTY, PARTICIPATION AND GENDER	
RATIONALE	<p>The definition of IWRM embraces economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity – the three E's. Much work has been done on the economic and environmental sustainability issues but less attention has been paid to equity. This Module aims to redress that imbalance. Access to, and use of water, are fundamental to human survival, health and productivity. The indivisibility of these functions of water to support human well-being lies at the heart of a holistic view of the resources and the need to assure its sustainability. In the past, water management has been assigned to a variety of institutions operating independently from one another. In a world of increasing resource constraints and competition between different uses and users over access to water resources, this approach is no longer appropriate. An integrated approach allows competing claims to be moderated by well-informed and participatory political processes and economic mechanisms.</p> <p>In the competition for access to and use of water, it is necessary to ensure that those with the least leverage in society do not suffer further disadvantage in the implementation of water-related policies. Experience has shown that in any competition over access to resources, those living in poverty do less well than others. For this reason, equity considerations are an important aspect of development interventions – those who are least able to exert their claims should receive special attention.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<p>This Module outlines how integrated water resources management can encompass social equity issues, including gender equity, and in so doing, help to reduce poverty in the contexts of public health (Module 6), land use, food production (Module 13), livelihoods, industrial development, urban planning and environmental protection (Module 7). Specifically, the module aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - •Outline why poverty and gender analysis is an integral component of IWRM; - •Highlight overlooked connections between access to/use of water and poverty, and indicate how current fragmented water management approaches can, and do, lead to adverse impacts on poor people; - •Emphasize participation as a critical approach in facilitating IWRM; - •Improve understanding and awareness of gender concepts: (i) Improve the sustainability and effectiveness of IWRM policies and approaches by incorporating poverty and gender analysis and (ii) clarify how the IWRM approach provides an important basis for the formulation of strategies for poverty reduction, citing practical examples where its adoption has had economic, social, and equity benefits.
MAIN REFERENCES & BACKGROUND MATERIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black, M.(2003) <i>Poverty Reduction and IWRM</i>, GWP,TEC Background Paper 8 - UNDP (2000) <i>Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management: A Practical Journey to Sustainability: A Resource Guide</i>. - GWA (2003) <i>Training of Trainers Manual on Gender mainstreaming in IWRM</i>.
SUGGESTED INTERNET LINKS	
DIRECTLY RELATED MODULES	All Modules

TOPIC	SESSION TOPIC SYNTHESIS
ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Water, poverty and gender have direct causal relationship? • How do you measure the cost of water poverty? • How does IWRM contribute to poverty reduction? • IWRM is based on a participatory approach: explain • Why is participation of women in water resources management important? In what way? • What are the key policy instruments for mainstreaming gender in IWRM?
<p>The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by member countries of the UN in 2000 as a global consensus on objectives for addressing poverty. Water has a key role in strategies for achieving all of the MDGs, which include a target to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to a safe water supply and a commitment to ensure environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Water is critical to the interaction between people and their livelihood base. For the majority of poor people in developing countries, this consists of land, forests, rivers, and small-scale entrepreneurial activity based on natural products. The importance of water to livelihoods, as well as to survival, health and quality of life, is implicit in life expectancy rates, hunger and malnutrition levels, poverty rates among women, employment migration, urbanization rates, flood displacement, even school retention rates.</p> <p>Poverty has a woman's face. Compared to men, women generally have less access to and control over productive assets, employment and training opportunities, basic services, information, and decision-making mechanisms at all levels and forums. There is a strong link between water, poverty and gender. Globally, increasing competition among water users for an increasingly limited supply of freshwater is threatening sustainable livelihoods, health and food security. The poor, particularly women, are the hardest hit.</p> <p>Better water management can make a key contribution to poverty reduction. Improving the water security of poor people can help to eradicate poverty and support sustainable development in direct and material ways. Access to water is thus a key intervention for addressing both poverty reduction and gender equality objectives. Whilst gender equality initiatives can address the root causes and structural factors of poverty and the feminization of poverty, improved or new access to water supply for drinking water, agriculture and income generation can enhance efforts to reduce poverty.</p> <p>The current analytical and operational failure to capture the critical importance of water in livelihood provision and protection needs to be remedied. The economic significance of the resource base, the need for its conservation and for sustainable development and service delivery needs to be integrated into critical policies such as national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.</p> <p>Much of the IWRM initiatives seeking to impact on poverty reduction and gender equality involve increasing access to a safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. The scope of IWRM to reduce poverty and enhance gender equity however, can be much broader.</p> <p>Sectoral fragmentation in water resources management has meant that there has been no means of moderating between competing, or high-value and low-value, demands. As pressure on the resource grows, and the costs of water infrastructure spirals, the need for a holistic approach to water resources management intensifies. This approach has the potential to ensure the long term, environmental, social and economic sustainability of the resource.</p> <p>Water resources management, based on an IWRM approach, allows social equity considerations to be given a high level of attention. An integrated approach to water resources management can facilitate the transparent and fair mediation of the various, and often conflicting uses of water resources. However, broad based</p>	

participation of all key stakeholders is critical to the IWRM approach¹.

Water is a subject in which everyone is a stakeholder. A participatory approach is the only means for achieving long-lasting consensus and common agreement. However, for this to occur, stakeholders and officials from water management agencies have to recognize that the sustainability of the resource is a common problem and that all parties are going to have to sacrifice some desires for the common good.

Evidence from around the world indicates that women's participation in "participatory processes" is not necessarily guaranteed. Attention to gender differences and inequalities is thus required to ensure that participatory processes do not unintentionally exclude women, or other disadvantaged groups. It is thus critical that gender analysis is part and parcel of IWRM initiatives.

Gender analysis is the means by which planners can gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users. Understanding the differences between and among women and men (who does what work, who makes decisions, who uses resources for what purposes, who controls specific resources, who is responsible for different obligations, etc.) is part and parcel of understanding what impacts development interventions can have on communities. Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management requires paying attention to the complex relationship between productive and domestic uses of water, to the importance of participation in decision making of men and women, and to the equitable distribution of benefits from improved infrastructures and management structures (World Water Council, 1997).

Since the principle of integrated water resources management became accepted in the international discourse on how to manage water in a highly-populated, over-polluted and water scarce world, there has been a tendency to regard its implementation as all that is needed to usher in a new era of sustainable, efficient, and equitable water resources management. There is an inadequate understanding of the gap between rhetoric and implementation, and the profound overhaul of laws, policies and practices, which necessitates the acceptance of the principle of integration. There are very real complexities in putting the concept of integration into effect, at all levels and in all contexts – managerial, administrative, technological, behavioural, and above all political. Some of the competitions over freshwater resources, which IWRM can moderate, are deeply felt – livelihoods depend on them, and effective modalities for negotiation will not spring into existence because policy-makers agree that they should.

IWRM cannot be a panacea for poverty reduction, as this Module repeatedly underlines. However, it can facilitate management of water resources and water services in ways that will help to reduce poverty. Since IWRM contains prospects for the equitable allocation of benefits from water and services dependent on it, it is important that these opportunities for healthier and more productive lives among the most at-risk and disadvantaged population groups are not lost, but are transformed into reality.

¹ Second Dublin Principle: water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels. i.e. water management should engage all stakeholders and decisions should be made in close consultation with them.

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**MODULE ON CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:
IWRM AND SOCIAL EQUITY: POVERTY, PARTICIPATION AND GENDER**

A. INTRODUCTION

The definition of IWRM embraces economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity – the three E's. Much work has been done on the economic (Module 5) and environmental sustainability (Module 7) issues but less attention has been paid to equity; this Module aims to redress that imbalance.

Access to, and use of water, are fundamental to human survival, health and productivity. The indivisibility of these functions of water to support human well-being lies at the heart of a holistic view of the resources and the need to assure its sustainability and that of the environment dependent upon it, for all those living today and for future generations. In the past, water management has been assigned to a variety of institutions operating independently from one another. In a world of increasing resource constraints and competition between different uses and users over access to water resources for various purposes, this approach is no longer appropriate. An integrated approach allows competing claims to be moderated by well-informed and participatory political processes and economic mechanisms.

In the competition for access to and use of water, it is necessary to ensure that those with the least leverage in society do not suffer further disadvantage in the implementation of water-related policies. Experience has shown that in any competition over access to resources, those living in poverty do less well than others. For this reason, equity considerations are an important aspect of development interventions – those who are least able to exert their claims should receive special attention.

This Module outlines how integrated water resources management can encompass social equity issues, including gender equity, and in so doing, help to reduce poverty in the contexts of public health (Module 6), land use, food production (Module 13), livelihoods, industrial development, urban planning and environmental protection (Module 7). Specifically, the Module aims to address the following areas:

- To outline why poverty and gender analysis is an integral component of IWRM;
- To highlight overlooked connections between access to/use of water and poverty, and indicate how current fragmented water management approaches can, and do, lead to adverse impacts on poor people;
- To emphasize participation as a critical approach in facilitating IWRM;
- To improve understanding and awareness of gender concepts;
- To improve the sustainability and effectiveness of IWRM policies and approaches through the incorporation of poverty and gender analysis.
- To explore how a changeover to the IWRM approach provides an important basis for formulating strategies for poverty reduction, citing practical examples where its adoption has had economic, social, and equity benefits.

The Module argues that no strategy for poverty reduction can be effective unless water policies in all their dimensions are brought within its purview, and an integrated approach is adopted which allows competitions over access and uses to be fairly and transparently moderated. Some case examples already exists which show that integrated approaches to water resources management and use can help people living in poverty to secure their livelihood base – and therefore their survival, health and productivity – and may even help them to improve it.

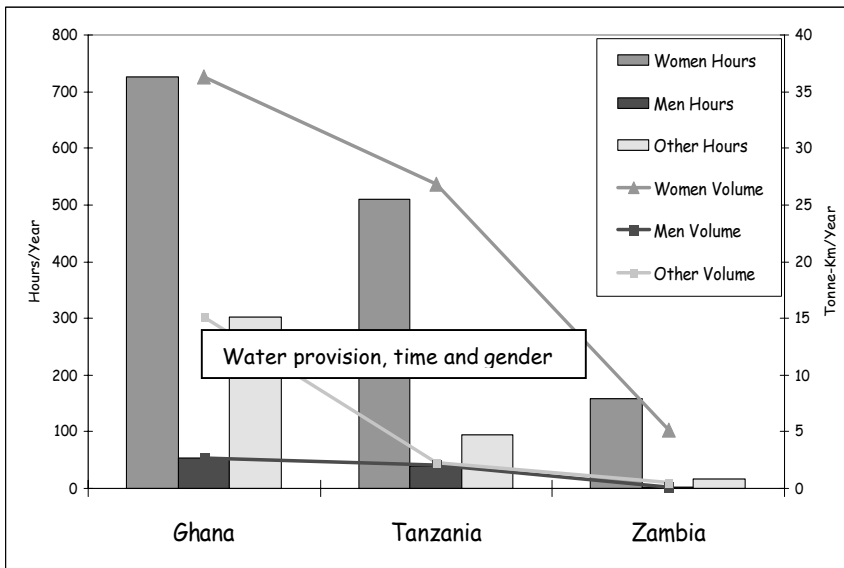
B. WATER, POVERTY AND GENDER

Water is critical to the interaction between people and their livelihood base. For the majority of poor people in developing countries, the livelihood base consists of lands, forests, rivers, and small-scale entrepreneurial activity based on natural products. A 1992 study of the international Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) showed that out of 4 billion people in 114 developing countries, more than 2.5 billion lived in rural areas; more than half of them lived in highly degraded soil, and around 1 billion lived below the poverty line (IFAD, 1992). Such people are vulnerable to rainfall variation and seasonal food and fodder shortage; many are also at risk from catastrophic flood. At times of drought, even if drinking water supplies remain, the land becomes barren, livestock dies, and with the exhaustion of the food supply, people are forced to migrate unless relief is provided. The importance of water to livelihoods, as well as to survival, health and quality of life, is implicit in life expectancy rates, hunger and malnutrition levels, poverty rates among women, employment migration, urbanization rates, flood displacement, even school retention rates (Black, 2003).

Did You Know That?

The numbers of those living on less than \$1 a day (1.2 billion) worldwide coincide approximately with the numbers of those without access to safe drinking water (1.1 billion). The numbers of those living on less than \$2 a day (2.8 billion) coincide with the numbers without access to safe sanitation (2.4 billion) (WSSCC 2000).

Poverty has a woman's face. Compared to men, women generally have less access to and control over productive assets, employment and training opportunities, basic services, information, and decision-making mechanisms at all levels and in all forums. These gender inequalities contribute to and perpetuate the phenomenon known as the 'feminization of poverty'. A recent World Bank report indicates that ignoring gender disparities comes at great costs to people's well-being and to countries' abilities to grow in a sustainable manner, to govern effectively, and thus to reduce poverty (World Bank 2001).



Source: Christina Malmberg-Calvo. 1994, *Women in Rural Transport* SSTP Working Paper No. 11. World Bank and ECA

There is a strong link between water, poverty and gender. Globally, increasing competition among water users for an increasingly limited supply of freshwater is threatening sustainable livelihoods, health and food security. The poor, particularly women, are the hardest hit.

It is women who primarily bear the daily burden of providing water to meet the domestic needs of their families and households. In many countries, on average, women and children travel 10-15 kilometers, spending 8 or more hours per day

collecting water, carrying up to 20 kilos or 20 liters per trip².

² Bulajic Borjana, women's roles-a policy overview, *Waterline*, Vol 17 No 1, 1998

Women are also, more than men, excluded from many income-generating opportunities. They have less access to and control over resources and assets, their health care and nutritional needs often go unmet and their participation in decision-making in the home and community is reduced. Thus women are not able to have input in the decisions that affect their daily lives, and that can improve their situation. A high proportion of poor households are headed by women. In other households, lack of water and waste management- for which women are principally responsible, inhibits women's capacity to protect their families' health and to enhance their productivity.

Lack of water contributes to the feminization of poverty and to the entrenchment of poverty in general. Whilst gender equality initiatives can address the root causes and structural factors of poverty and the feminization of poverty, mechanisms for improved water governance can enhance efforts to reduce poverty.

Worldwide, ninety-eight percent of rural women classified as "economically productive" are in the agricultural sector. Endowing poor women with irrigation assets and water for their own farm businesses is an effective way to alleviate poverty. Women who are *de facto* heads of households and women who manage their own farm businesses alongside their male kin need direct access to irrigation water. However, irrigation agencies tend to exclude women from access to water.

Better water management can make a key contribution to poverty reduction. Improving the water security of poor people can help to eradicate poverty and support sustainable development in direct and material ways. Improved access to safe water and appropriate sanitation can also increase economic well-being at the household level, primarily through savings of (mainly women and children's) time and energy. Seeking privacy for open defecation can also be very time-consuming, typically causing women to wake an hour earlier every day. Being ill with water related diseases or caring for an ill family member, also consumes time and money for medical attention or medicines. The time and energy saved by improved water supply and sanitation can be used in many economically productive or educational activities. The control of water for agriculture can boost the yield of the main wet-season crop, secure extra dry-season crops and enable the timing of production to match market demands. At the household level, water for food production can improve poor people's livelihoods and economic well-being. Water also has important economic benefits through industrial use, power generation and transport. Though these benefits accrue at the national level, they can have a profound impact on economic opportunities for poor people, and hence the reduction of poverty. Access to safe water and sanitation services can reduce the burden of disease, as well as the huge costs in time (and, for the urban poor, money) that gaining access to safe water entails. Access to water is thus a key intervention for addressing both poverty reduction and gender equality objectives. While gender equality initiatives can address the root causes and structural factors of poverty and the feminization of poverty, improved or new access to water supply for drinking water, agriculture and income generation can enhance efforts to reduce poverty.

B.1. Measuring the Cost of Water Poverty

While there is an ever-increasing understanding of the relationship between access to water resources and poverty, and the role it can play in social equity, there is presently no coherent and systematic analysis of the relationship between poverty and water access and use.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

A recent study in the poverty-stricken coastal districts of Nicaragua (5,025 households) found that households with a well had 20-100% more income than those without, with the difference being most marked among the poorest; and that 40% of the extra income came from garden plots and small livestock managed by women around the house. (Van Der Zee et al., 2002).

Black (2003) argues that even though water is classified as an ‘economic good’, and various global commitments, such as the MDGs, have recognized the intimate relationship between water and poverty, its role in economic productivity, eco-system integrity, and socio-economic status, including that of women, is neglected. There is a standard assumption that water supply and sanitation will primarily benefit women and children, but analysis of household income levels and food security in relation to water provision is rare. Minor attention has been paid to such aspects as the hours of women’s and girls saved from collecting water, and the direct value of water in productive areas of their lives is typically ignored. Only the impact on health has been systematically analyzed, to justify household supplies in terms of reduced burden on health service infrastructures.

Although poverty is typically defined in socio-economic terms, the recognition that water is linked intimately with poverty has led Black (2003) to define the ‘water-poor’ as those whose:

- Natural livelihood base is persistently threatened by severe drought or flood;
- Livelihood depends on cultivation of food or gathering of natural products, and whose water source is not dependable or sufficient;
- Natural livelihood base is subject to erosion, degradation, or state confiscation (e.g. for construction of major infrastructure) without due compensation;
- Living at a long (defined) distance from a year-round supply of drinking water;
- Obligated to expend a high (e.g. >5%) percentage of household income on water; slum dwellers obliged to pay for water well above market rates;
- Water supply is contaminated bacteriologically or chemically, and this group of people cannot afford to use, or have no access to, an alternative source;
- Women and girls who spend hours a day collecting water, and whose security, education, productivity, and nutritional status is thereby put at risk;
- Living in areas with high levels of water-associated disease without means of protection;

B.2. IWRM and Poverty Reduction

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) describes ‘water security’ as the balance between multi-purpose uses of water and the sustainability of resources at household and community levels. However, indicators for monitoring aspects of water security, including the quantitative and qualitative condition of the resource over time, need to be established as an integral component of poverty assessment and reduction. The economic significance of the resource base, the need for its conservation and for sustainable development and service delivery needs to be integrated into critical policies such as national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

B.3. Beyond Water Supply and Sanitation

Much of the IWRM initiatives seeking to impact on poverty reduction and gender equality involve increasing access to a safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. However, the interactions between the degradation of soils, forests, biodiversity, and water quality in relation to environmental costs, protection measures and livelihood systems provide a broader scope of analysis, which are not always used. For instance, the implications of major environmental change on the productivity and household food security of farming and fishing communities, whose livelihoods depend on the behavior of natural water courses, lakes and wetlands, need to be analyzed. Likewise, while the implications for overall economic productivity of large-scale investments in irrigation have been analyzed, its implications for groups living in poverty have frequently been

ignored. Such investments may also discriminate in many cases against the poorest, those living 'at the end of the canal line' in more remote, usually poorer, settlements left with little or no water. In order for IWRM to be progressively introduced, there will need to be changes in law, policy, and regulatory frameworks (Module 2). In undertaking such changes, equity requires that a "political decision" be taken to address and safeguard the interests of people living in poverty.

C. IWRM: A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Broad based participation of all key stakeholders is critical to the IWRM approach³ because it allows social equity considerations to be given a high level of attention and can facilitate the transparent and fair mediation of the various, and often conflicting uses of water resources. Stakeholder participation ensures that the views of all those who have an interest in water (users, suppliers, developers, operators, researchers, decision-makers, politicians, and others) are presented and taken into account.

C.1. What is Participation?

BOX 1: PARTICIPATION TYPES

Real participation only takes place when stakeholders are part of the decision-making process. This can occur directly when local communities come together to make water supply, management and use choices. Participation also occurs if democratically elected or otherwise accountable agencies or spokespersons can represent stakeholder groups.

Participation is more than consultation. Participation requires that stakeholders at all levels of the social structure have an impact on decisions at different levels of water management. Consultative mechanisms, ranging from questionnaires to stakeholder meetings, will not allow real participation if they are merely employed to legitimize decisions already made, to defuse political opposition or to delay the implementation of measures which could adversely impinge upon a powerful interest group.

To achieve long-lasting consensus and common agreement, stakeholders and officials from water management agencies have to recognize that the sustainability of water resources is a common problem and that all parties are going to have to sacrifice some desires for the common good, recognize the effect of sectoral actions on other water users and aquatic ecosystems and accept the need for change to improve the efficiency of water use and allow the sustainable development of the resource.

C.2. Conflict Resolution - Managing disputes, ensuring sharing of water

Participation not always achieves consensus, arbitration processes or other conflict resolution mechanisms also need to be put in place. Conflicts can occur for many reasons such as competition for scarce resources or differences in organizational status and influence. Conflicts can also be positive. For example, conflicts may help in: (1) Identifying real problems needing solutions; (2) Bringing about needed change; (3) Permitting adjustments to be made without threatening the basis of a relationship; (4) Helping to build new relationships;

³ Second Dublin Principle: water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels. i.e. water management should engage all stakeholders and decisions are made close to them.

(5) Changing the way we look at issues, clarifying purposes and identifying what is most important; and (6) Identifying what is most important.

Governments at national, regional and local levels have the responsibility for making participation possible by creating the necessary consultative mechanisms but also by creating **participatory capacity**, particularly among women and other marginalized social groups. This may not only involve awareness raising, confidence building and education, but also the provision of the economic resources needed to facilitate participation and the establishment of good and transparent sources of information. It has to be recognized that simply creating participatory opportunities will do nothing for currently disadvantaged groups unless their capacity to participate is enhanced.

Participation is an instrument that can be used to pursue an appropriate balance between a top-down and a bottom-up approach to IWRM. For some decisions the lowest appropriate decision unit is the household or the farm; participation depends on the provision of mechanisms and information to allow individuals and communities to make water-sensitive choices. At the other end of the spatial scale the management of international river basins will require some form of cross-national coordinating committees and mechanisms for conflict resolution (GWP, 2000).

One aspect of water management being experimented with is that of water user associations. The establishment of water user associations may contribute to enhancing the welfare of farmers and improving the development of irrigation and drainage services.

BOX 2: WATER USERS' ASSOCIATIONS (WUA'S)

The Water user associations are suggested as an alternative to public utilities in some circumstances. In the Republic of Korea, the establishment of water user associations has led to full user participation in water resource management.

In Mexico, the new strategy for water management relies heavily on the constitution of local water use associations. These groups are responsible for the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems at the district level, and for the design and implementation of pricing schemes to achieve financial self-sufficiency. Although water prices vary from one area to another, depending on the source, these associations have been able to fully recover operation and maintenance costs in most districts (World Bank, 1994).

Water user associations have also proved successful in countries such as Argentina, Indonesia and the Philippines (ESCWA, 1994).

In France, each water basin has its own management committee consisting of consumer, professional, academic and government representatives. The basin committees fall under the jurisdiction of the ministries of environment and finance.

C.3. Participation in water management and women

Evidence from around the world indicates that women's participation in water users' associations tends to be minimal due to a number of formal and informal constraints. Further, their participation in these institutions may not be effective due to low representation and "traditional" cultural norms, which influence women's ability to voice concerns or interests. However, women's lack of formal participation in water users' association should not be interpreted as their lack of influence on irrigation management. Studies document a number of ways women can have influence in informal ways.

Thus, it is important to investigate (1) whether it is appropriate for women to participate in water users' associations; (2) what constraints hinder their participation in such institutions; (3) what strategies can be used to increase women's participation; (4) what indirect ways do women utilize to influence irrigation management; (5) whether these indirect means may be more appropriate and just as effective as formal participation in water users' associations; and (6) how women's participation, direct or indirect, can be used to advance water demand management strategies.

In general, it is important to be aware that participatory processes do not automatically recognize inequalities between women and men, nor seek to involve women as equally as men. Participatory processes need to be cognizant of, for example:

Power imbalances in communities. Communities are not harmonious groups with a common set of interests and priorities. There are often strong divisions along the lines of age, religion, class and gender. These power differentials make it difficult for some people to voice options that may contradict general views. Power differentials may affect who participates in specific meetings.

Intra-household and intra-family relations. Some women may find it difficult to speak out in front of their husbands or fathers.

Different constraints to participation. Men and women have different responsibilities and workloads, with women often having less time to devote to new activities. Attending specific meetings may raise problems for women if meetings are set for times of the day when women tend to be occupied. Women's responsibilities for childcare may also make it difficult to participate.

Different abilities to participate. Given gender biases in education, women and men often have varying literacy levels. Men may also have more experience putting their arguments forward to outsiders and more confidence in dealing with new people, or in public forums.

Perceived benefits of participation. Women and men may make different calculations about the costs and benefits of their involvement in participatory processes. Given the already high demands on most women's time, they often find little time to participate.

Experience shows that in any competition over access to resources, whether these be natural resources or man made services and livelihood opportunities, those living in poverty do less well than others, unless they or agents acting on their behalf manage to secure their relative interest vis-à-vis those with more economic, social and political clout. For this reason equity considerations are an important aspect of policy formulation for development interventions; those who are least able to exert their claims, including women, should receive special attention.

Attention to gender differences and inequalities is thus required to ensure that participatory processes do not unintentionally exclude women, or other disadvantaged groups. It is thus critical that gender analysis is part and parcel of IWRM initiatives.

D. MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN IWRM

Without specific attention to gender issues, development interventions, including water resources management, can reinforce inequalities between women and men and even increase imbalances. By contrast, paying attention to gender differences can facilitate greater gender equality, mediate enhanced access to, and control over water

resources for both women and men in the pursuit of sustainable livelihood, and in so doing, contribute to the achievement of social equity and poverty reduction.

BOX 3 BASIC CONCEPTS

Gender refers to the specific roles and responsibilities adopted by women and men and the relationship between them in any given society. It is related to how we are perceived and expected to think and act, as women and men, because of the way society is organized and not because of biological differences. It changes over time and is influenced by ethnicity, socio-economic group, culture and religion. Sex refers to the biological differences between a man and a woman. One is born a man or a woman.

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications of women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs in all areas at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integrated dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. Source: (ECOSOC, 1997).

Gender analysis is the means by which planners can gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource uses, households and water users. It refers to a systematic way of looking at the different impacts of development on women and men. Understanding the differences between and among women and men (who does what work, who makes decisions, who uses resources for what purposes, who controls specific resources, who is responsible for different obligations, etc.) is part and parcel of understanding what impacts development interventions can have on communities.

Using a gender analysis in water resources management involves:

- Understanding the gender-differentiated systems for access to and control over resources, labor, water uses, water rights, and the distribution of benefits and produces. Sex-disaggregated data and the documentation of unpaid labor are important.
- Focusing on gender relations, not just women. Although gender analyses draw attention to women, a gender analysis looks at the relations – differences, inequalities, power imbalances, differential access to resources – between women and men. The position of women cannot be understood in isolation from broader relations between women and men.
- Understanding that gender is a factor that influences how people respond both individually and collectively. Men and women face different obstacles and draw on different resources when attempting to participate in any activity.
- Understanding the gender dimensions of institutions at all levels of society (within the household, community-based organizations, water users associations, local governments, national civil services, etc). These formal and informal institutions all incorporate gender dimensions – who makes decisions? Does the structure hinder or facilitate women's participation?
- Confirming or rejecting assumptions in each specific context, ideally using participatory methodologies. Specific locations, societies and communities have differing power relations, working arrangements, and resource availability. Participatory approaches can ensure that the specificity of each situation can be investigated.

Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management requires paying attention to the complex relationship between productive and domestic uses of water, to the importance of participation in decision

making of men and women, and to the equitable distribution of benefits from improved infrastructures and management structures (World Water Council, 1997). In developing the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making, consideration has to be given to the way different societies assign particular social, economic and cultural roles to men and women. There is a need to ensure that the water sector as a whole is gender aware, a process that should begin by the implementation of training programs for water professionals and community or grassroot mobilizers.

TABLE 1. PRINCIPLES OF IWRM AND THEIR GENDER IMPLICATIONS ⁴

PRINCIPLE	RATIONALE	GENDER ASPECTS
Demand-responsive projects; demand management	Governments that provide free services cannot maintain them. Users are better off with a service that satisfies them and is affordable and does not deplete water resources. Demands on amounts of freshwater, for water supply, sanitation, agriculture, livestock, industries etc. are manageable by price and charging policies, rationing water, reducing unaccounted for water, and public education.	Women and men have different demands for water and water-related services. A gender and class specific analysis of demands is required. Increased pricing should not reduce water consumption for cooking and hygiene. Tools of pricing and rationing miss their purpose when not compensated for by reliable and predictable services in recognition that women manage time as much as men. Campaigns to reduce water wastage need to target women and men, as either group wastes water. More attention to pollution control benefits water resources and women, who collect domestic water, deal with health and suffer from poor sanitation.
Water being an economic, social and environmental good	Freshwater is limited. Its transfer costs money. Its use for disposing waste causes damage, which also costs money. Some think that those using freshwater should therefore pay because having to pay will limit use and pollution.	In valuing freshwater, domestic and productive uses of water by women are overlooked/underrated. Their rights to water and land have social and economic benefits. Water development may affect negatively the livelihood of poor women and men. Within households, men, women or both may pay charges. Charges paid by women often press harder on them as their incomes are smaller.
Holistic approach to water management	Holistic management is needed because development and management actions taken in one water resources sector have an impact on water availability, quantity and quality in other water resources sectors.	Impacts do not stop at the household level, but affect members of households differently, according to their sex, age and position. Different types of users can also contribute differently to overall water management.

⁴ Source: Gender In Water Resources Management, Water Supply And Sanitation: Roles And Realities Revisited.

<p>Government roles shift from provider to enabler – participatory and transparent governance</p>	<p>Governments should not take upon themselves the full implementation of services. This is done more efficiently and effectively by those who have a direct stake (use and profit) in providing the service. Government’s roles remain essential in providing the environment, monitoring achievements and controlling and preventing abuse. As enablers, governments’ responsibility for capacity building becomes more important.</p>	<p>In enabling and monitoring governments have a particular responsibility to protect the interests of the groups that the profit-seeking sectors will not consider, such as low-income households, domestic water users and those who use water sources and water catchment areas for the first necessities of life. Women are heavily represented in these categories.</p> <p>Capacity building should benefit women and men equally and prepare women to represent economic and social interests overlooked in water resources development/management.</p>
<p>Stakeholders participation; civic partnership</p>	<p>A greater participation of social and economic stakeholders leads to better water management. Management should represent all interests to ensure that in given conditions and considering future impacts the best choices are made. It should be at the lowest appropriate level to ensure that decisions are supported by those who implement them.</p>	<p>Women’s traditional roles in water resources management are under-exposed and underrated. In new management systems, women are underrepresented at the levels where decisions are made that affect also their lives and livelihood. Greater participation of women in management should not lead to more work and responsibilities for women and exempt or bypass men, but equitably distribute benefits and burdens between the sexes.</p>

E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the principle of integrated water resources management became accepted in the international discourse on how to manage water in a highly-populated, over-polluted and water scarce world, there has been a tendency to regard its implementation as all that is needed to usher in a new era of sustainable, efficient, and equitable water resources management. There is an inadequate understanding of the gap between rhetoric and implementation, and the profound overhaul of laws, policies and practices, which necessitate the acceptance of the principle of integration. There are very real complexities in putting the concept of integration into effect, at all levels and in all contexts – managerial, administrative, technological, behavioral, and above all political. Some of the competitions over freshwater resources, which IWRM can moderate, are deeply felt – livelihoods depend on them, and effective modalities for negotiation will not spring into existence because policy-makers agree that they should. Addressing and safeguarding the interests of the 1.2 billion people who live in deep poverty indicates that the problems at hand are awesome and highly complex. However, the adoption of IWRM makes this prospect more attainable than would otherwise be the case.

The pace and sequence of reforms for IWRM are critical. Policies, laws and management instruments are only as good as those who administer them. The introduction of IWRM, must be backed up by the development of effective water governance (Rogers and Hall, 2002) that puts into place coherent systems. This in turn requires the development of human and institutional capacity to manage the resource and water-related services according to a range of social, economic, environmental, and technological principles. These have yet to be fully absorbed by professionals, bureaucrats, and politicians who have long established mind-sets and rules of practice which are understandably difficult to change. Not only those specifically involved in water management need to be re-oriented. Many economic planners and finance officials have yet to appreciate the importance of water in

all aspects of productive life, and the profound implications of water shortage and pollution for the livelihoods of the population as a whole, particularly the most vulnerable groups. Water's role in poverty reduction is significantly under-estimated among decision-makers and development practitioners of all kinds. As a starting-point, a much better analysis is required of the linkages between access to water and water-related services, and the priority needs of vulnerable groups targeted by poverty-reduction initiatives.

It is only realistic to recognize that political resistance in many settings will be considerable, and the implementation of IWRM will have to grapple with the trade-off between the feasible and the ideal. The need to secure the rights of vulnerable groups to their natural resource base of land and water should not be sacrificed on the grounds of achieving service efficiency and cost-recovery.

The following recommendations emerge from the Module:

- 'Water poverty' is an important and unrecognized component of the poverty issue in general, whereby a vast majority of the poor lack access to water resources, including safe drinking water and sanitation; therefore a concerted effort should be made to promote a paradigm shift in thinking about poverty. If the linkages between water and poverty were extended beyond drinking water supplies and sanitation to land and water use in productivity and livelihoods, the case for IWRM as part of poverty reduction would become self-evident.
- Sectoral approaches to water resources management are not only inefficient, unsustainable, and incapable of protecting the environment, but they also are unlikely to promote equity. Up to now, the only sectoral programme specifically targeted to poor people has been rural drinking water and (dry) sanitation programmes, and some smallholder irrigation services, conservation schemes and urban supply projects. However, since their thrust has mainly been to expand coverage, information about their impact on poorer groups remains sketchy and hypothetical. If sectoral policies were brought within one framework, allocations between users, including lower- and higher-income groups, could be managed in a transparent, democratic and equitable way.
- Care needs to be taken that recent changes in water-related policy deriving from the Dublin principles – water is a scarce resource, water is an economic good – are not introduced in such a way as to discriminate against poor people. In any competition over scarce resources and services for which payment is required, those with least economic and political clout will lose out unless their interests are defended. Experience has shown that reduction of subsidies, charging of fees, privatization of services, and decentralization of maintenance and ownership to community groups, can discriminate against poor people unless introduced in an enlightened, efficient and equitable manner. IWRM cannot guarantee that this will happen, but it makes the prospects more likely.
- Reforms to laws, policies, institutional and management structures designed to promote integration of policies and services should place an important emphasis on social, including gender equity and poverty reduction. The need for democracy, transparency, and information sharing in the context of major infrastructure projects, especially those that involve substantial environmental changes, should be underlined. Advocacy relating to IWRM should emphasize its value in poverty reduction strategies, which should repair their neglect of water resources management as a necessary component.
- Within IWRM frameworks, specific policies and programme should be undertaken to redress the disadvantages of at-risk and vulnerable groups, especially those living in marginal, drought- or flood-prone environments, and those already suffering from exclusion such as indigenous groups, those in shanty-towns

and illegal squatter settlements, and those suffering from other forms of disadvantage such as women and children living in rural or urban poverty without support from male bread-winners.

- Water resources management, based on an IWRM approach, allows social equity considerations to be given a high level of attention. Broad based participation of all key stakeholders is critical to achieving long-lasting consensus and common agreement. Participation is an instrument that can be used to pursue an appropriate balance between a top-down and a bottom-up approach to IWRM. Governments at national, regional and local levels have the responsibility for making participation possible.
- Participatory processes do not automatically recognize inequalities between women and men, nor seek to involve women as equally as men. Attention to gender differences and inequalities is thus required to ensure that participatory processes do not unintentionally exclude women, or other disadvantaged groups. It is thus critical that gender analysis is part and parcel of IWRM initiatives.
- Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management requires paying attention to the complex relationship between productive and domestic uses of water, to the importance of participation in decision making of men and women, and to the equitable distribution of benefits from improved infrastructures and management structures (World Water Council, 1997). In developing the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making, consideration has to be given to the way different societies assign particular social, economic and cultural roles to men and women. There is a need to ensure that the water sector as a whole is gender aware, a process, which should begin by the implementation of training programs for water professionals and community or grassroot mobilizers.

IWRM cannot be a panacea for poverty reduction, as this Module has repeatedly underlined. However, it can facilitate management of water resources and water services in ways that will help reduce poverty. Any proposed change in laws, policies, and administrative structures has implications for winners and losers, which may not be clear at inception. Since IWRM contains prospects for the equitable allocation of benefits from water and services dependent on it, it is important that these opportunities for healthier and more productive lives among the most at-risk and disadvantaged population groups are not lost, but are transformed into reality.

F. DISCUSSION

The trainees can discuss the case studies in the following Boxes to identify the ways in which the project had a positive impact on poverty reduction and social, including gender equity.

BOX 4 - CASE STUDY: GREY WATER REUSE IN URBAN AGRICULTURE FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION A CASE STUDY IN JORDAN (FARUQUI AND AL-JAYYOUSI, 2002)

Although Jordan has a human development index higher than most developing countries, about seven percent of its population earns less than the international poverty line of one dollar (US\$) a day. Furthermore, because of its scarce water resources and rapidly growing population, the poor, who are increasingly moving to cities, face growing food and water insecurity. This case study describes a pilot project that allowed the poor in Tufileh, Jordan, to reuse untreated household grey water in home gardens. The women of the community used small revolving loans to implement simple grey water recovery systems and set-up gardens. The project allowed the community to offset food purchases and generate income by selling surplus production, saving or earning an average of 10 percent of its income. Had the households used municipal sources for this supplemental irrigation, on average, they would have used 15 percent more water and had 27 percent higher water bills. Moreover, the project helped community members gain valuable gardening, irrigation, and food preservation skills. Women on the project report feeling more independent and proud because of the income they generated, the skills that they gained, and their enhanced ability to feed their families. An environmental impact assessment demonstrated that the quality of the untreated grey water was adequate, and the negative impacts on soil and crops were negligible. Nevertheless, this could change if greater volumes of grey water are reused. A follow-up project will increase grey water recovery, pilot simple treatment devices, and improve gardening practices and production.

BOX 5: WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

In 1995, the Self-employed women's association (SEWA) a trade union of 215,000 poor self-employed women launched a 10- year water campaign to revive water sources in drought-prone districts of Gujarat, India. Women comprised seven out of eleven members of watershed committees set up at village meetings, the chairperson was also a women. As part of the programme, the committees performed soil and moisture conservation work, creating a green belt and grass cover for better conservation of water. They also created an irrigation facility to guarantee drinking water. These projects decreased soil salinity resulting in more fertile land and a more sustainable source of income for women, while generating employment opportunities for about 240 women. Source: SEWA in Khosla et al (2002)

BOX 6: GENDER, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND IRRIGATION

In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank and the Grameen Krishi Foundation (GKF) found that providing women with access to irrigation water was ineffective if they did not also have access to land, credit, seeds and fertilizer. By providing these resources to women, as well as negotiating lease agreements with landowners, women's income for irrigation activities increased by as much as 10 times what they would have earned in wage labour or in traditional female activities. The programme linked agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation to women's empowerment, increasing women's self-confidence and reducing their dependence on male intermediaries. Source: Jordans, E and Zwartveen, M (1997)

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H. ANNEX A

(Extracted from Training of Trainers Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM, GWA, 2003)

Gender and Freshwater issues

Session objectives:

Introduce the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Introduce participants to the complexity and inter-linkages of water uses, development and management.

Enable a gender analysis within this complexity.

What you need:

GWP brochure on IWRM

Flip chart stand and paper, markers, masking tape and OHP

Step-by-step process:

- Step 1 EXERCISE (1 hour 30 minutes)

Objective: Get participants to identify the various factors related to freshwater that have led to the call for a sustainability approach to water use and management and in recent years culminated in what has come to be called Integrated Water Resources Management or IWRM.

Step 2 Begin by asking participants how they feel about the fact that everyone is talking and writing about water. Listen to participants' views. Discuss with them. Ask them to reflect on that as they exchange experiences with their colleagues. Then, building on what participants have expressed, the facilitator complements with actual/accurate information, bringing updated data, new developments concerning the topic, and the different views of experts on: the problems with water, the lack of water, water stress, water conflicts, a water crisis, gender and water etc. The facilitator should provide information that confirms that there is no water crisis but a crisis of governance and management.

Step 3 Tell participants that they are going to make a map of gender and freshwater issues so that we can develop a sense of our collective understanding of the issues of water and gender. Before participants break into 3 teams, demonstrate the exercise.

Procedure:

- a. On flip chart paper, make the following diagram.
- b. With the water body in the middle, show a river coming into the water. Lets say one of the major issues around freshwater these days is pollution. This river will be called pollution. It will have tributaries that will define what kinds of pollution, i.e., industrial, agricultural chemicals, sewerage etc. Draw the river in one color and all the tributaries in another. This will help to see the issues more clearly.
- c. On a flip chart paper, write the word "Pollution". From the information in the sample diagram above, list the gender implications of the issues identified in the "tributaries". You should get a list with comments such as: health problems for women and men, sick children from playing in the water, or children get diarrhea from contaminated water, more work for women when children are sick, women stay home and care for sick children and lose income, family loses income from repeated medical costs, men getting sick from working in chemical factory, chemicals in drinking water causing reproductive problems for women etc.
- d. Make sure they understand what is to be done. Repeat if necessary. Or give them another example, i.e., domestic use. Draw this river and its tributaries with the assistance of participants.

- e. Next, get them to identify the gender implications of “domestic water” and its tributaries. The objective here is to map the range of issues related to gender and freshwater so people get to see the need for an integrated approach to gender and water resources management.
- Step 4 Organize the participants into 3 teams. Ask them to make a Gender and Freshwater Issues Map on a large sheet of paper (4 flip chart sheets taped together). Here they will map out all the issues that they see that implicate gender and water. They have 45 minutes for the exercise. One person from each team will present their Map or they can divide the presentation between themselves.
- Step 5 Team presentations to the plenary. (10 minutes per team).
Be sure to read also the Trainer’s Notes by Jasveen Jairath on Gender Mainstreaming and the New Water Paradigm: a Fresher Look into the ‘Gender and Freshwater Issues Map’ that follows.
- Step 6 Following the team presentations, go through Transparency 1.8 on IWRM and 1.9 on IWRM Components.

Figure 1: SAMPLE DIAGRAM: ROUGH MAP OF GENDER AND FRESHWATER ISSUES

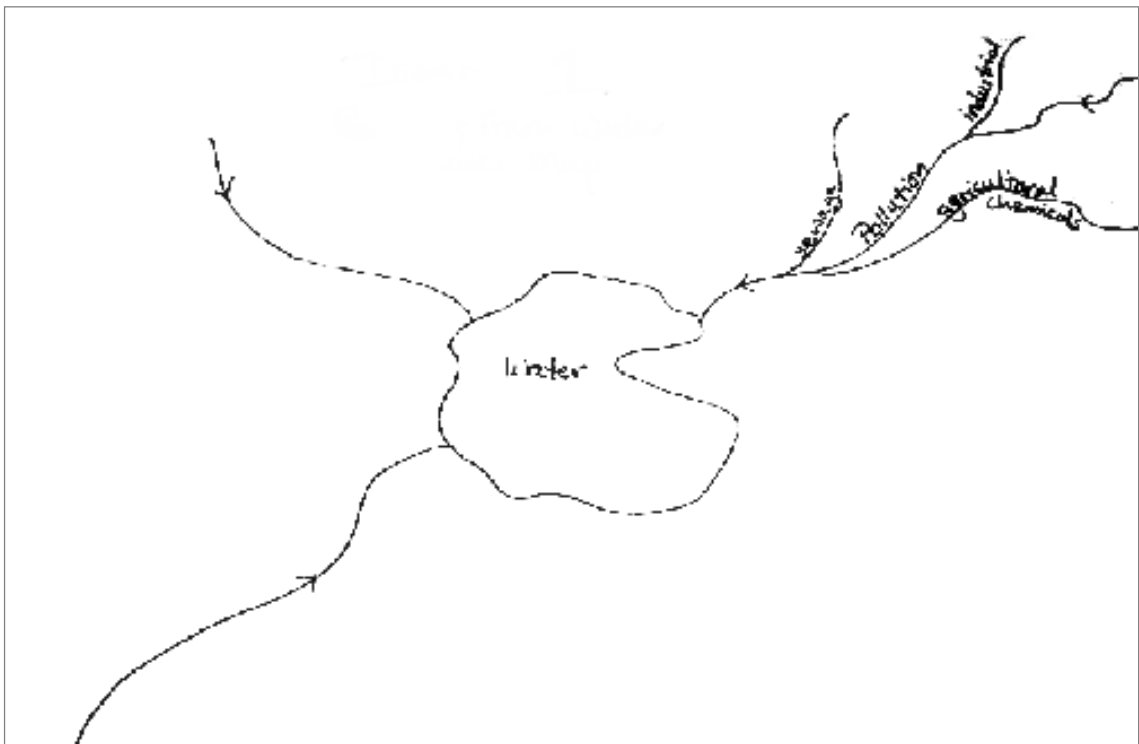


Table A.1. TRAINER'S NOTES

The teams' maps should be able to define the many challenges that are implicated in IWRM. These include the following:

Population Pressures (e.g., too much withdrawal by humans)

Competition amongst Sectors (e.g., agriculture, industry, domestic etc.)

Un-coordinated development and management (e.g., between different levels of government, service providers, utilities, water users etc.)

Ineffective and inadequate regulatory framework (e.g., laws, regulations, enforcement etc.)

Poor Governance (e.g., legislation, development and management capacity, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, women and poor people excluded from management and decision-making etc.)

Unequal access to freshwater (e.g., poor and women do not have equal access as more powerful members of society.)

Unequal spatial distribution (e.g., water rich and water poor areas, countries etc.)

Trans-boundary issues (e.g., sharing of water, river basins between countries etc.)

Non-sustainability of ecosystems (e.g., degradation and loss of water quantity and quality, loss of access by flora and fauna, desertification, contamination and loss of habitats and consequently species etc.)

Land-Use Changes (e.g., increasing urbanization, loss of forests, increasing agriculture in marginal lands etc.)

Growing Conflicts (e.g., between people, sectors, users, countries, regions etc.)

Impacts of Climate Change (e.g., droughts, floods etc.)

Ensure that the teams' presentations bring out these issues. If they do not, raise these issues for them.

TRAINER'S NOTES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND THE NEW WATER PARADIGM: A FRESHER LOOK INTO THE “GENDER AND FRESHWATER ISSUES MAP”⁵

TWO MAIN IDEAS SERVE AS A BASIS FOR THE REFLECTION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

- A DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN THE NEW WATER PARADIGM AND THE OLDER, TRADITIONAL, TOP-DOWN, SECTORAL AND FRAGMENTED WATER PARADIGM, RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BEING NOTICED TODAY IN WATER RESOURCES.
 - LOOKING INTO GENDER PERSPECTIVES FLOWING TOWARDS THE NEW WATER PARADIGM.
-

While discussing the Gender and Freshwater Issues Map, participants are encouraged to relate it to their own experiences or any known situation. Contextualizing the Freshwater Issues Map to a concrete situation will confirm the need to adopt the new water paradigm: a holistic, balanced, bottom-up and interdisciplinary approach to water resources development (WRD) for a sustainable environment. The contrast with the top-down, technocratic and segmented approach to water resources will clearly confirm its connection to the water disasters. Poor women from the global south experience these negative impacts with greater severity.

It is clearer that gender perspectives are naturally accommodated in the new water paradigm, where a more ecological vision and social justice; water security, strategy of participatory decision and technology choice; and a holistic perception for water planning emerge.

In this context, *integration* is an important constituent of the concept of integrated water resources management. Most usual interpretations limit themselves to sectoral integration only or to integration of different immediate physical sources of water (surface, ground, snow, rain, etc). Integration by itself can imply/entail centralization that can be very oppressive for the poor populations (women and men). However, the ‘holism’ that we refer to (through integration) is the understanding of WRD as a *political* process (that also reflects the gender imbalance) that emerges from the competitiveness of diverse social situations with equally diverse water demands/needs and natural availability. The competition generates contentious practices not only intra-society but also with the limited natural quantum of water. This leads to observe imbalances associated with creation and utilization of water resource facilities. Rectifying the situation therefore requires:

- Understanding WRD & M (it is important to highlight the difference between ‘D’ and ‘M’ as they are often coupled as ‘M’ which lends itself to managerial interpretations of IWRM – thereby overlooking the significance of decisions regarding ‘D’) as a socio-technical process, where different WRD trajectories emerge as a result of decisions that reflect specific group interests – whether poor women are able to partake in this is critical for gender mainstreaming. Therefore, WRD is not a neutral and technical issue as it is popularly perceived. As a matter of fact, it is the technical decisions that are manifestations of the relative power balance of the special interest groups.

⁵ Dr Jasveen Jairath, Project Director, SaciWATERS (South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies).

TRAINER'S NOTES (CONT'D)

- The above also implies that if specific choices are made on which particular trajectory of WRD to follow, then it excludes other options with correspondingly differential implications of water security for different groups. This means that the existing pattern of WRD developments is not unique and alternatives do exist and can be explored. Water problems are not inevitable and natural – but created/constructed and can therefore be deconstructed. Needed are suitable strategies and capacities creation of women to identify these and facilitate their execution.
- This brings to the fore the role of mechanisms of decision-making about WRD which later will have an M component – both together influence the Freshwater Issues Map. This means developing a realistic diagnosis of the Map.
- As of now, there are two typical tracks/approaches to decision-making. The first one is associated with the older paradigm that entails a top-down, male oriented/controlled, technocratic/engineering dominated, ‘blue print’ and centrally planned approach, with bureaucratic inflexibility where water segments are treated in isolation of the impacts that they create. It is an approach to WRD that understands water as a technical issue that can be decided on by experts in a social context. Issues of equity and sustainability remain beyond the purview of this approach to WRD & M. The decision-makers in such a case are usually men and engineers. The second track – that is proposed in the new paradigm – entails the formation of multi-stakeholder platforms that reflect interests of diverse groups. Level playing field in these platforms needs to be ensured through capacity building of the weaker sections (poor women in a major constituent) for negotiating for their collective water interest. Capacities also need to be built of assessments of water demands with reference to availability (local and exogenous). The latter constitutes the starting point of departure for IWRM planning.
- Ecological externalities will be considered as a necessity as poor women are differentially and additionally affected negatively and have a stake in preventing their occurrence. Women require capacity building for assessment and articulation of eco-dangers and the ability to get heard and make impact.
- Building capacities is also required for negotiation among all the stakeholders such that balanced decision-making (best practice) is the logical outcome versus the unbalanced assertion of a particular interest group. Such a perception allows the multi-stakeholder platforms a central role in the evolution of socially equitable and ecologically sustainable WRD. In the capacity building process, needs for GM in bottom-up IWRM may include:
 - Understanding of WRD as a political process – sectional interest driven.
 - Understanding of WRD in context of SD – which includes technical and social parameters in an interdisciplinary context.
 - Negotiating capacities as a part of GS – for leadership, articulation and assertion of their water interests and for networking into collectives.
 - Sensitization to the need for advocacy from global to local fora. This will contextualize the role of international commitments.

TRAINER'S NOTES (CONT'D)

CONCLUSION

It is important to capture the contrast between top-down and bottom-up strategies in the debate on IWRM. Also important is to have in mind that its definition is broader than a collection of its characteristics, and that gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitivity will not find a place in the purely administrative or managerial interpretations of IWRM. While no one can disagree with issues of enabling environment, institutions, productive, efficient water use etc., in many situations these issues are seen independently, in a horizontal plane. For example, it is known from developing country experiences that the best kind of legal/institutional reforms are rendered ineffective by the way systems of exclusive interest representation are structured. Therefore if we want to empower women through better control over their water resources – the first thing we owe to the women is to help them analyze the water ‘crises’ as the net of a political process. Logical conclusion to redress the situation is to enable women to evolve strategies to effectively influence the decision-making framework both for D & M. This needs of course capacity for appreciation of technical aspects of WRD, but also of how gender-sensitive technical decisions can be brought about. Herein comes the need for capacity building towards advocacy for GM. While international commitments can be highlighted – there is a need to establish linkages from the global to the local as a part of getting women’s water voice heard strategically.

GENDER AND FRESHWATER ISSUES MAP (TRANSPARENCY 1.7)

