

WOMEN'S COPING MECHANISMS – AND WHY WE NEED THEM

RESILIENCE, WATER GOVERNANCE AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN

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WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP

Federation – 28 member organisations – representing 1,5 million women

High diversity: from grassroots to academics

Active on any water issue locally – depending on local circumstances and concerns (all types of countries)

Initiating and supporting advocacy, knowledge sharing and research

Advocating for and supporting women's full participation as leaders also in the sphere of water governance and management as key to enable and empower women

Advocating for and supporting vocational training

THEY “GOT” IT ALREADY IN 1992:
DUBLIN PRINCIPLES, THE RIO PRINCIPLES, BEIJING PLAN FOR
ACTION, CEDAW

Principle 3: Women play a **central role** in the supply, management and safeguarding of water



Women

key role in water management
a place at the decision-making table

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION: CAN CHANGE PER PHASE

1.	Sharing information (informative level)	information
2.	Seeking advice (consultative level)	consultation
3.	Pursuing common objectives (collaborative level whereby strategies and inputs are aligned)	collaboration
4.	Systematically combining decision-making, resources and actions (integrative level)	full participation

Key actors

Veto players

Primary actors

Secondary actors

IVRA May 2020

THE ISSUE

- ISSUES OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION (IMPACT OF THAT) AND GENDER EQUALITY IN GOVERNANCE HAVE RECEIVED INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO DATE IN BOTH THE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE LITERATURE,
- YET ACTION IS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND. WOMEN PLAY KEY ROLES IN GENERATING CHANGE IN THE WAY WATER IS USED, SHARED, AND ALLOCATED, FROM LOCAL TO TRANSNATIONAL LEVELS
- LEGAL, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE END SEEM TO PROVIDE LITTLE SPACE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING.
- MAJORITY WORK DONE BY WOMEN IS UNPAID OR VOLUNTARY AND DOES NOT SHOW IN STATISTICS

WHY WOMEN'S ROLES ARE OVERLOOKED AND SHOULD NOT BE

- THEIR DEEP PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND INNOVATION IN USE AND SHARING OF THE RESOURCE; BUT MOST OF THE TIME “OVERLOOKED” BECAUSE ITS NOT LABELED THAT WAY AND/ OR SMALL SCALE BY NATURE
- THEIR ENSUING TECHNICAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE RESOURCE;
- THEIR ABILITY TO COPE, DISSEMINATE AND CONTRIBUTE THEIR KNOWLEDGE TOWARDS COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS;
- THE VALUE OF THEIR LEADERSHIP, AND THEIR MEANINGFUL ROLE IN COOPERATIVE PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING TO DRIVE CHANGE

RESEARCH

- LOT OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN AS “VICTIMS” – NOT AS ACTORS
- IF EXISTING, MAINLY FOCUSED ON WASH DELIVERY
- VERY LITTLE INFORMATION / RESEARCH ON **IMPACT** OF WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION
FIRST PHASE RESEARCH DONE BY WFWP TOGETHER WITH OECD (TO BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR)
- WHAT DOES EXIST IS MAINLY FROM PROJECTS (TOO SMALL SAMPLES TO BE CONCLUSIVE) OR PRIVATE SECTOR (CONSULTANCY)
- WFWP IS PART OF THE UNESCO-WWAP EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON GENDER AND WATER
- WOMEN’S INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSBOUNDARY IWRM (WFWP, IUCN)
([HTTPS://WWW.WOMENFORWATER.ORG/PUBLICATIONS-WFWP.HTML](https://www.womenforwater.org/publications-wfwp.html))
- NEW RESEARCH: WASAG: FAO AND WFWP ON ROLE OF WOMEN RE. WATER SCARCITY (ONGOING)
([HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=1EOKL53S6XI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EOKL53S6XI))

INFORMATION

- REPORTING AGENCIES COLLECT RELEVANT DISAGGREGATED DATA LIKE JMP AND GLAAS.
- CONDENSED INFORMATION THEN LOSES DIVERSITY > AT POLICY LEVEL THIS INFORMATION IS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (ENOUGH)
- AND: NOTHING ON HOW TO INCORPORATE CITIZENS (AND WOMEN'S) DATA.
- UNESCO-WWAP DEVELOPED AND TESTED WATER-WOMEN SEX-DISAGGREGATED INDICATORS FOR ALL 8 TARGETS OF SDG6 AND BEYOND. INTER ALIA UNFCCC ADOPTED THIS TOOLKIT AS PART OF THEIR INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE
- GEF IW:LEARN (WATER) GENDER COMPONENT

DATA, MONITORING, ANALYSIS

- There is a lack of data, information and analysis and therefore, insufficient knowledge on the state of women's participation in the water sector in general and more specifically in water scarce areas, the impact of water scarcity on their responsibilities as farmers, business women and for the household, how they cope with water scarcity and also numbers how many women are living in water scarce area, how many men, how many women migrate because of water scarcity and how many men. Etc.
- EXISTING TOOLS MAINLY UNKNOWN (SO NOT USED)
- WWAP: [HTTP://WWW.UNESCO.ORG/NEW/EN/NATURAL-SCIENCES/ENVIRONMENT/WATER/WWAP/WATER-AND-GENDER/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/water-and-gender/)

WAY FORWARD?

- COLLECT MORE DATA INCL. CITIZENS DATA (HOW DO WE DO THAT?)
- INFLUENCE E.G. THE STATISTICAL OFFICES TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA
- BUILD THE EXPERTISE OF E.G. “ WATER” PROJECT MANAGERS TO INCLUDE WOMEN AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE MEASURES
- MORE RESEARCH TO CONVINC ODA AND OTHER DONORS TO GIVE MONEY DIRECTLY TO WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS ... (EVIDENCE BASE)