

WATER AND SANITATION

FACTSHEET FOR THE SYSTEMATIC
INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER AND
ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE NEXUS

Tool developed by the Directorate for Development
Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of the Luxembourg
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

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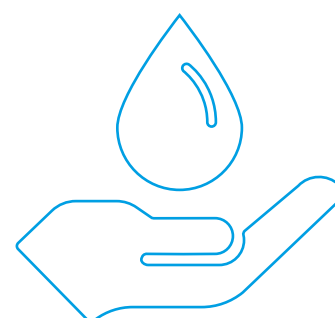
WHY INTEGRATE GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE INTO THE FIELD OF WATER AND SANITATION?

As providers and users of water, women and girls (in all their diversity) are the main actors and beneficiaries of the development of the water and sanitation sector. Their role in water management thus poses many gender issues. Because drinking water sources are sometimes located several kilometres from the house, or there may be queues at village water points involving several hours of waiting, women and girls are exposed to the risk of sexual violence when collecting water. In addition, carrying heavy loads over long distances has physical impacts and the time spent on this activity on a daily basis prevents women and girls from investing their time in either education or economic activities. Because of their responsibility for water management and household hygiene, women are also more exposed to health risks when water is polluted, especially when they are pregnant, because they have a lower tolerance of toxic substances during pregnancy. Similarly, the lack of appropriate sanitary facilities at school leads to girls dropping out of education.

Because of their limited participation in public life, women are often under-represented in decision-making bodies and their needs are rarely discussed or taken into account. Sectoral water and sanitation policies are frequently seen as socially neutral. However, decision-makers often ignore the issue of the affordability of water and sanitation services, although this is a major concern for women, who, in general, have more limited financial resources than men. It should also be noted that human rights to water and sanitation include the right of all to affordable, safe and hygienic period products, which should be subsidised or provided free of charge if necessary.

Thus, difficulties in accessing safe drinking water, exacerbated by climate change in many places, has consequences for women's physical safety, health, education and economic empowerment, and also for community development. Facilitating women's access to water could help increase agricultural and food production and thus stabilise incomes and improve nutrition, food security and family and community health. Finally, integrating gender issues into water management would allow for a more equitable sharing of burdens and benefits between men and women, both within the household and within communities.

Ecosystem degradation, combined with greater variability in rainfall due to climate change, can lead to water shortages, deterioration in water quality, droughts and severe flooding, with negative impacts on socio-economic development and human health. The over-exploitation of water, especially for agriculture, can contribute to increased salinity in groundwater and fertile plains. In many countries, poor management of sanitation and other liquid waste is leading to the pollution of waterways, resulting in the degradation of ecosystems essential for the conservation of water resources and producing serious health impacts. As the pressure on limited water resources increases, so does the need to integrate the environment and climate change into water management activities, in order to preserve the ecosystems that regulate water flows and to minimise both over-exploitation and the contamination of surface water and groundwater.



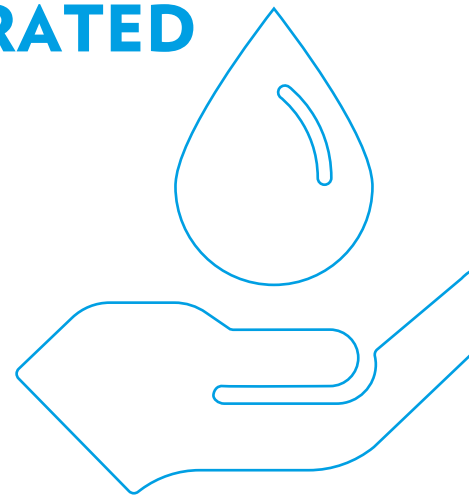
The effects of climate change must also be taken into account, as many adaptation and mitigation options involve the increased use of water even as water availability decreases or becomes less predictable. The integration of these themes into the water and sanitation sector also offers many opportunities, particularly with regard to improving public health and livelihoods and development outcomes. One example is supporting the creation of green jobs and innovation in the areas of water recycling, wastewater reuse and water efficiency.

HOW CAN THE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES BE BETTER INTEGRATED INTO WATER/SANITATION PROJECTS?

Some indicative avenues of good practice that can feed into reflection about the integration of gender and env/CC when selecting or formulating projects in the water and sanitation sector:

— Gender

- Differentiate the needs, constraints and preferences of men and women in terms of access to and use of water and sanitation at all levels (household, local communities).
- Ensure that both men and women participate at all stages of projects, adapting participation modes to the social, material and cultural constraints of each group. Separate consultation or information sessions for men and women may be organised if necessary.
- Collect and use sex-disaggregated data on demand for water and sanitation services, willingness and ability to pay, and on use of water and sanitation services.
- Analyse separately the negative impacts suffered by women and those suffered by men and develop mitigation measures appropriate to local gender relations.
- Set up partnerships with local and/or national women's associations.
- Create subsidies or credit access mechanisms targeting poor and/or female-headed households to promote their access to water and sanitation.

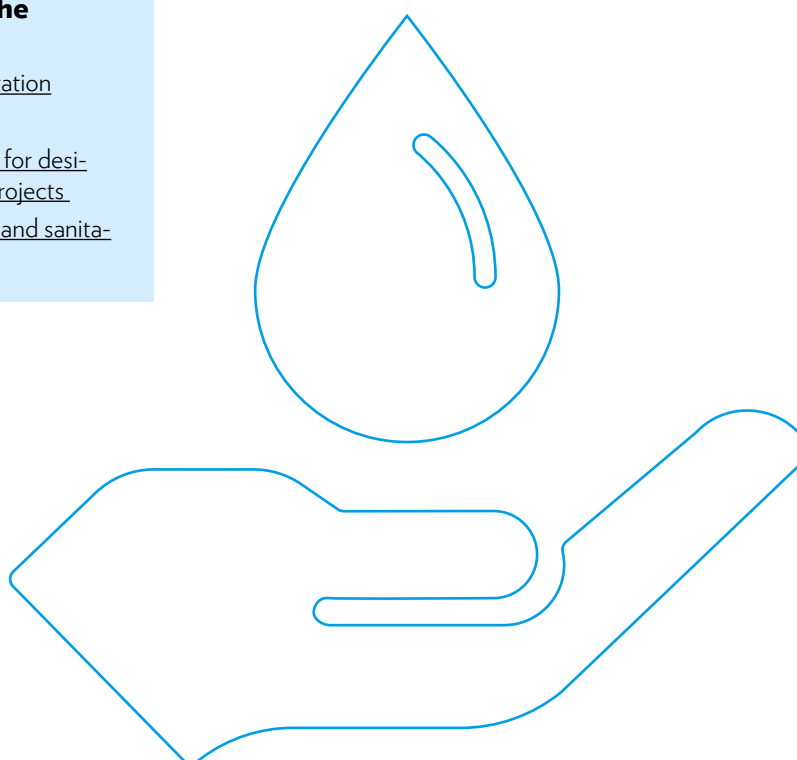


— Environment and climate change

- Identify the causes and impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on the water and sanitation sector, and the risks of environmental degradation or increased vulnerability caused by water abstraction and use.
- Identify the different uses of water (domestic, agricultural, etc.) and trade-offs and the changes to water needs in the intervention contexts, together with their implications for the management of natural resources.
- Examine the underlying causes of unsustainable water management practices and barriers to the transition to more sustainable practices.
- Identify opportunities to reap positive benefits through investments in water and sanitation that promote a more efficient, sustainable and resilient use of resources (rainwater collection and storage, reuse of treated wastewater for certain purposes, etc.).
- Opportunity to impact both supply and demand through capacity-building and awareness-raising among operators in the sector and consumers on practices, options and measures to encourage efficiency in water use and improve water management.
- Carry out environmental monitoring and regulation of water abstraction and discharges in order to protect water catchment areas.
- Mobilise the various stakeholders and users (including communities) through the establishment of water management committees for each water catchment area.
- Promote the development of infrastructure/equipment that minimises greenhouse gas emissions and is resilient to climate hazards (floods, droughts, etc.).

For more information on the links between water and sanitation and the cross-cutting themes:

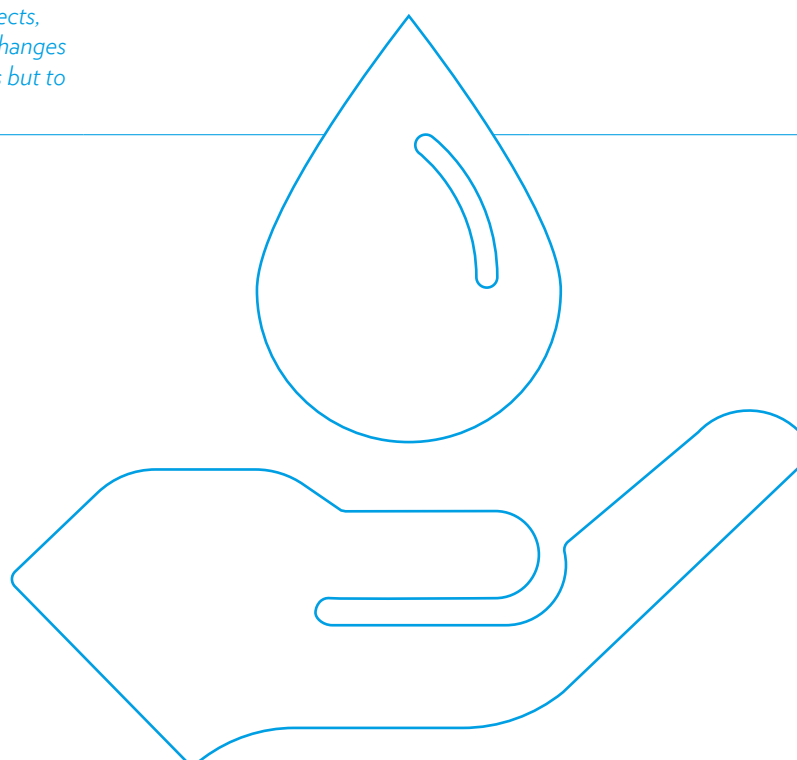
- [AFD Toolbox on Gender and Water & Sanitation](#)
- [Sector Note: Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Guide by WaterAid, the international NGO, for designing climate-resilient water and sanitation projects](#)
- [Water Solidarity Programme guide on water and sanitation services in the face of climate change](#)



Examples of integrating the cross-cutting themes into water and sanitation projects in line with the DAC/OECD markers

Gender

| | DAC Gender 0 Project | DAC Gender 1 Project | DAC Gender 2 Project |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Objectives | <p>The project seeks to develop the drinking water supply system in the community.</p> <p><i>No distinction is drawn between the genders since everyone drinks water. The benefits to women in terms of time and energy reduction will be a “bonus” for women.</i></p> | <p>The project seeks to promote access by households to drinking water and sanitation, taking into account the differentiated needs of men and women.</p> <p><i>The different needs of men and women are taken into account, but the primary objective remains that of installing sanitary facilities.</i></p> | <p>The project seeks to promote women’s safety by facilitating access to safe and appropriate sanitation facilities for women and girls.</p> <p><i>The objective targeted is to improve women’s safety and thus reduce the risk of assaults by means of a sanitary installation specifically designed for that purpose.</i></p> |
| Monitoring indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of households connected to drinking water • Number of water management awareness-raising activities • Incorporation of gender data into the database on users <p><i>Including gendered outcome indicators is also important for a DAC 0 project to ensure that the intervention does not have negative effects on women, reinforcing inequalities. For example, it would be unacceptable to install unisex sanitary facilities in cultural contexts where there is gender segregation: that would effectively exclude access by women to the facilities. However, these indicators will be less ambitious than for DAC 1 or 2 projects, since they do not aim to measure changes in power relations between genders but to avoid worsening them.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of women participating in decision-making (male to female ratio) • Number of women and men in the community who have received training in managing community taps and/or sanitary facilities • Monitoring of the ability to pay the water bill among single-parent households • Incorporation of gender data into the database of users • % of female single-parent households that are connected compared to all households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of women participating in decision-making (male to female ratio) • Number of sexual assaults • Number of awareness-raising actions delivered to women and men on issues linked to consent and respect for women’s safety • Perception of changes regarding the unacceptability of violence against women in the community • Incorporation of gender data into the database of users |



Env/CC

| | DAC Rio 0 Project | DAC Rio Adaptation 1 project | DAC Rio Adaptation 2 project |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Objectives | <p>The project seeks to improve access to drinking water and sanitation in a specific region.</p> <p><i>There is no specific climate-change impact on the availability or quality of water resources.</i></p> | <p>The project seeks to improve the management of and access to drinking water and sanitation in a specific water-stressed region.</p> <p><i>The project integrates water management and efficiency measures to address the risk of water stress, but its main objective remains to improve access to drinking water and sanitation services.</i></p> | <p>The project seeks to strengthen the climate resilience of water supply in a specific water-stressed region.</p> <p><i>The main concern of the DAC 2 objective is to adapt the water supply system to the impacts of climate change.</i></p> |
| Monitoring indicators | <p><i>A DAC 0 project may include env/CC indicators to ensure that the intervention does not have adverse impacts on the environment and climate (in particular, that it does not exacerbate the pressures on the resource or increase the vulnerability of human and natural systems to climate change).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of freshwater abstraction as a percentage of available freshwater resources • % of watercourses and bodies of water with good ambient water quality • Number of people with access to water and sanitation (individual connections or improved sources of drinking water within a reasonable distance) • Number of water management awareness-raising activities • Level of implementation of possible actions identified at the design stage to limit the environmental impacts linked to the construction and operation of water and sanitation infrastructure/equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water stress level (freshwater abstraction as a percentage of freshwater resources available in the long term, considering the resource's renewal rate) • Trends in efficient water use (e.g. intensity of water use in agriculture), (drip system/energy sector/industry) • Level of water leaks in networks (as a percentage of total volumes distributed) • Number of people who have received awareness-raising on water efficiency • Number of boreholes/wells protected against contamination (flooding) • Effective environmental monitoring of water abstraction and discharge of wastewater into watercourses and bodies of water • Creation and implementation of an Action Plan for Integrated Water Resource Management (APIWRM) | <p>In addition to the DAC 1 project indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of alternative supply options in place (rainwater retention and harvesting, groundwater recharge system, reuse of treated wastewater for certain purposes, etc.) • Existence of a multi-actor management/emergency plan to deal with water stress risk • Percentage of population covered by drinking water services managed in a safe and resilient way • Water catchments rehabilitated and sustainably managed • Establishment of water management committees for each water catchment |

