

“Gender evaluation in the water sector as a tool to achieve the principle of IWRM”

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Background


Water is the key resource which, if used rationally and efficiently, contributes to high yields, profitability, sustainability and, consequently, the material independence of rural women.



However, women do not implement their rights to natural resources, transferring management to men, due to social violence.



Violence against women in the environment is a social mechanism to force women to take a subordinate status as compared to men.



Mentality and education create gender stereotypes according to which a girl/woman is by definition lower than a man in the social hierarchy.

Problem statement

Gender stereotypes create the basis for psychological violence against women. Women's limited opportunities do not allow them to develop as leaders and managers, and as a result, women-owners of the land share are landowners are considered to be so just on "paper" and men manage the resources in fact.

Achieving the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management and transformation of gender stereotypes requires analysis and identification of the causes. Analysis requires the collection of data and facts.

In this regard, gender assessment and evaluation in the water sector is an important factor for achieving gender equality in integrated water resources management.

Water resources management and gender considerations

- Competition for any scarce resource can create tensions that lead to conflict, and water is a strategic resource crucial to local, national and regional security and peace.
- The OSCE views gender mainstreaming in water governance as contributing to stability and security by leading to more effective policies and reducing social imbalances and tension.
- According to UN Water: “Gender considerations are at the heart of providing, managing and conserving the world’s water resources as well as for safeguarding public health and private dignity through proper provision of sanitation and hygiene. The central role of women in water resource management and sanitation, especially in developing countries, is increasingly recognized at all levels of development activity.

Five steps for gender mainstreaming with examples of links (1)



Organizational mainstreaming

The share of women in leadership

External projects

The needs of women and men in rural communities for irrigation water

Women will achieve equal representation in the next 2 years

Women will gain equal access to irrigation water in the next 5 years



Five steps for gender mainstreaming with examples of links (2)



Road map for reaching equal representation; gender-sensitive policies (work-life balance, flexible hours, child-care facilities, parental leave)

Road map and associated action plan outlining activities related to water access and empowerment of women in rural areas

Increased number of women in leadership per year

Number of women with access to water for irrigation; number of women business-owners in the community



Adequate funding for capacity-building for women in leadership, including middle management


Adequate funding for capacity-building of women at all levels in agriculture; start-up funds for women; extending water availability and infrastructure


Gender analysis matrix: Household

Household

Labour


Who does what?


 Household tasks, irrigation of the garden, cooking, ensuring water is stored properly

 Planting of the garden and setting up irrigation canals for the garden

Time


How much time is used to do what?


 7-8 hours daily spent on household tasks, 1-2 hours for irrigation and maintenance of canals and water tanks depending on season, washing and cooking 2-3 hours depending on availability of water

 3-4 hours a week on household tasks depending on season

Resources


Who has access and control over what?


 Limited control over financial assets, overall management of daily budget of the family

 Bread winner and holder of all assets and bank accounts of the family

Culture

How does culture influence the access and control over?

 Traditionally homemakers except in cases of labour migration of husband or to take part-time seasonal jobs

 Traditionally sole bread winner of the family except in cases of labour migration

Gender analysis matrix: Community

Community

Labour

Who does what?



Seasonal workers in agriculture



Factory or agricultural worker, some traders

Time

How much time is used to do what?



60-80 days a year spent working in agriculture mainly harvesting produce



Full-time workers, sometimes away for 5-6 months and sending remittances

Resources

Who has access and control over what?



Have limited control over the market through selling some produce from home gardens and income from seasonal work



Traditionally land owners and have main control over the market and trade

Culture

How does culture influence the access and control over?





Traditionally only present in certain positions – education, health care but more and more present in the markets and agricultural associations



Main representative of family in the community and the main decision makers in communities, be it formal or informal governing bodies

Gender analysis matrix: WUAs

WUAs


| | |
|---|--|
| Labour Who does what? |  Some limited input as seasonal workers |
| |  Managers and decision makers, sometimes absent or working in other countries |
| Time How much time is used to do what? |  1-2 hours a year in community meeting where seasonal workers are included |
| |  Full-time jobs at all levels of tasks |
| Resources Who has access and control over what? |  Close to no access or control |
| |  Main decision makers |
| Culture How does culture influence the access and control over? |  Not included traditionally |
| |  Main decision makers and policy influencers |


Gender analysis matrix: Basin Associations/Council

Basin association

Labour


Who does what?


 Close to no role

 Managers, decision makers and experts

Time


How much time is used to do what?


 Minimum input from local communities

 Full-time jobs at all levels of tasks

Resources


Who has access and control over what?


 Close to no access or control

 Main decision makers and access to funds

Culture

How does culture influence the access and control over?

 Not included traditionally

 Main decision makers and policy influencers

Gender mainstreaming in the NWRM/AWS project

- 29 Focus groups at local level, more than 300 women were participated (2018)
- 26 Focus groups at the local level, more than 330 women and men were participated (2021)



Results from focus groups

- Lack of knowledge on water management and agriculture; leadership and advocacy skills
- Lack of appropriate education
- Lack of confidence
- Afraid of expressing their opinions on water related issues in meetings
- Society, culture, traditions and mindsets influence the passive participation of women in local level decision-making.

Gaps

Lack of a platform for women to openly discuss water related issues and solutions at local and basin levels.



Platform - "Basin Women's Forum" at the Syrdarya River basin level

- **To fill this gap** - within the framework of the River Basin Council, the AWS and NWRM project established a "Basin Women's Forum" platform, involving gender experts and active water users and farmers.
- **The Basin Women's Forum (BWF)** provides a **platform for discussions and joint action** on strategic objectives for the work of the Forum on water management given gender aspects;
- In coordination with the Committee of Women and Family Affairs, Sughd province, **5 BWF were held** on the **"Roles and perspectives of women's participation in IWRM"** in the Syrdarya Basin.



AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF FORUM



Aim of forum:

- Increase women's participation, to achieve gender equality in decision-making on water resources management in the Tajik part of the Syrdarya River Basin.

Objectives:

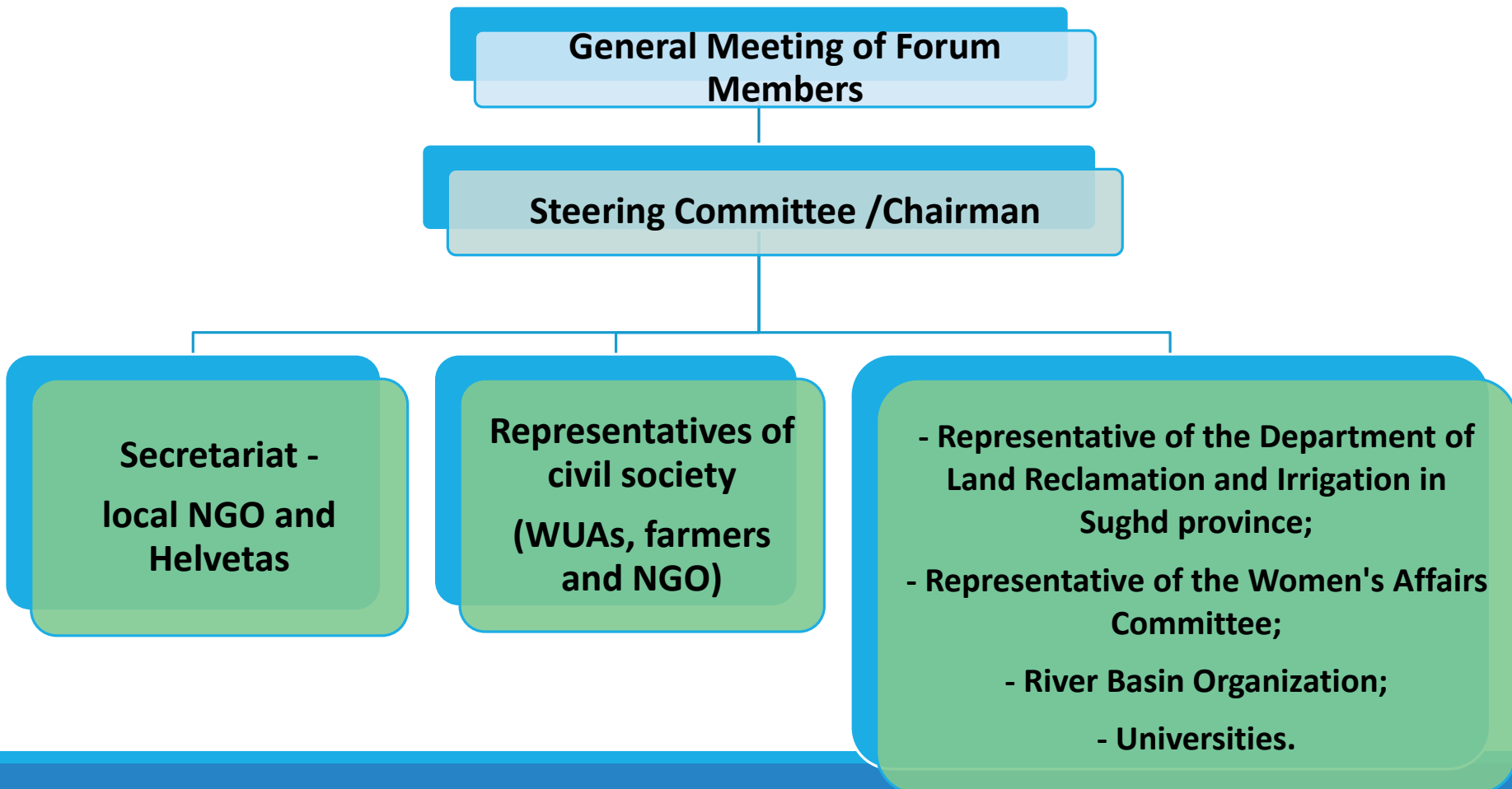
1. Lobbying for rights and opportunities for quality education in the water sector at all levels and for all ages;
2. Creating a supportive information environment for communities:
 - in the field of IWRM.
 - capacity building on gender equality approaches
 - reducing gender stereotypes.
3. Coordination of water projects on gender aspects;
4. PR - promotion of information about the Forum, IWRM principles, and activities of Basin Councils of Tajikistan in Facebook page and You Tube channel – “Land and Water in Central Asia”.

Forum slogan: *"Achieving gender equality through the development of society's self-awareness."*



Organizational structure of the forum

- Secretariat of forum (regular 5 members)
- Steering Committee of forum (22 states and Civil Society – regular 25 members)



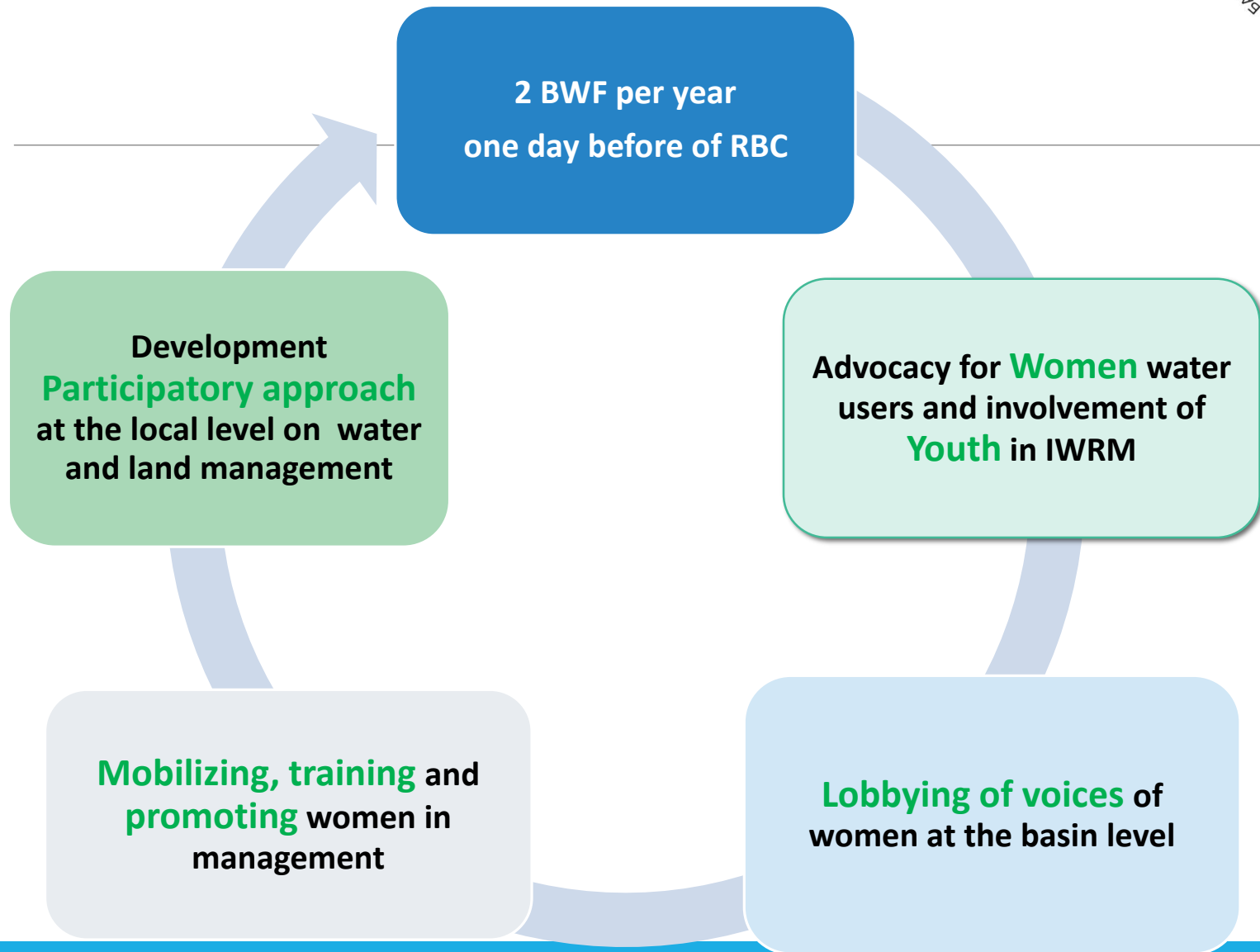
The Basin Women Forum: Key Outcomes



- **5** Basin Women Forums with more than **200** participants (incl. women from Kyrgyzstan and from the Khatlon province) conducted.

- **The collection of statistical gender data** - at the national and basin level in the process.
- Developed of a **Strategic plan for 2021-2023** with annual action plans.
- **Coordination** between water projects considering gender aspects in water sector at the Syrdarya Basin level.
- **Fundraising** - **4** mini-grants implemented
- **PR** – Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/337759290652966> & You Tube Channel “Land and Water in Central Asia” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS2JvF-H6VE>

Next steps for the Basin Women Forum...



Partnership and Collaboration

At the National and Basin levels:

- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of RT
- Syrdarya River Basin Organization
- ALRI of RT
- Committee on women and family affairs of Sughd province
- Universities in Sughd province

At the Local level:

- Local authorities
- Water users associations
- Self-help groups
- Mass Media

NGO/IO Partners:

- NWRM Project
- UN-Women
- OSCE
- International Secretariat for Water
- PO “Office for Initiatives Development”
- PO Siber Sughd
- NCC Sarob

At the Regional Level:

- Central Asia and Afghanistan “Women and Water” Association
- You Tube channel – “Land and water in Central Asia”

Links for additional information

1. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/337759290652966/events>
2. Presentation about WWF on You Tube channel “Land and Water CA”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS2JvF-H6VE>
3. Presentation about further possibilities using of innovation technologies in WWF activity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jMowtKdsPM>

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Thank you!