

Introducing the Gender - Water Quality Angle

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Session Objective

“Water quality issues and waste water treatment are not gender neutral”

- 1) Is this true?
- 2) Why is it that way?
- 3) Does it matter?
- 4) What to do about it?

It is True

It is true on two counts:

1) Opportunities **To**

access and benefit from services

2) Opportunities **In**

water and wastewater employment

Water, Women & Men

Water related **needs** and **attitudes** differ between women & men

- Physiological differences
 - Our bodies are not the same
- Psychological differences
 - Our brains work differently
- Sociological differences
 - Societies and traditions give us different roles & opportunities
- Economic differences
 - Opportunities, roles, resources, incomes, & outgoings often diverge

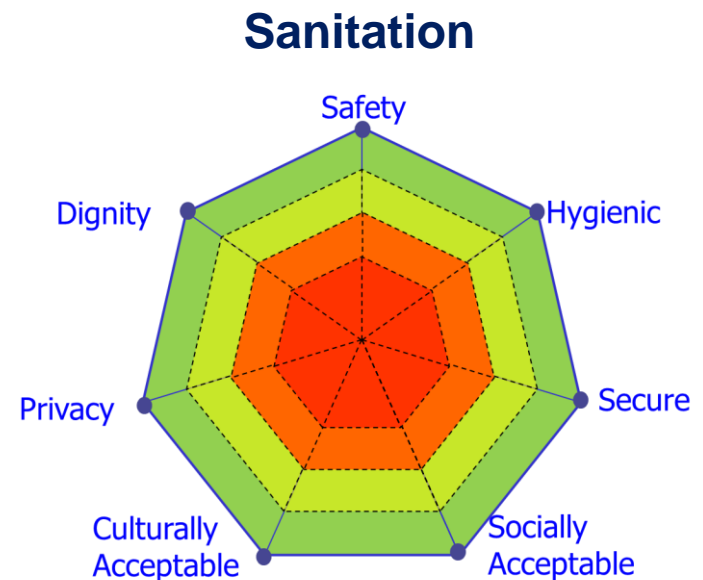
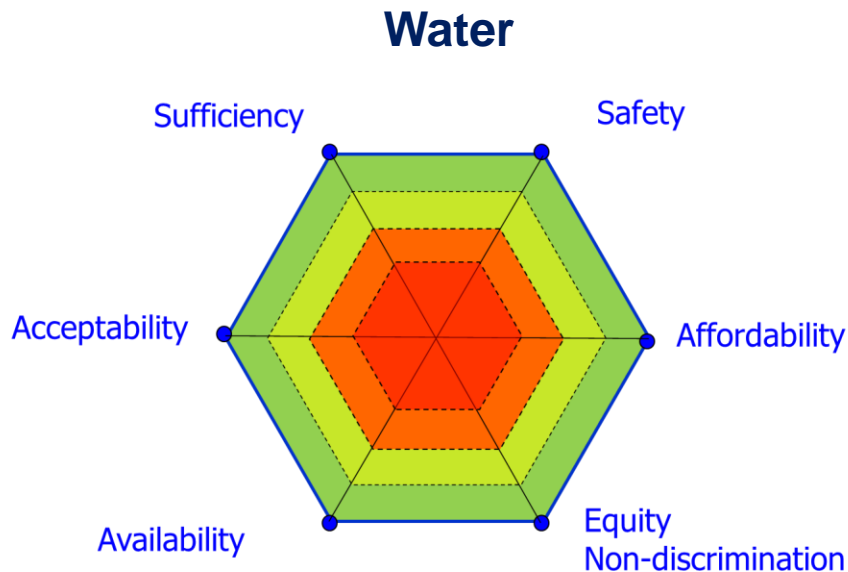
The focus of this presentation is the

**Gender Angle in Opportunities
TO**

“There was no more important event that liberated women than the invention of running water and indoor plumbing, which happened in urban America between 1890 and 1930.”₁

Quality & Accessibility are linked

- Quantity and quality are completely interconnected
- The Human Rights criteria underline this



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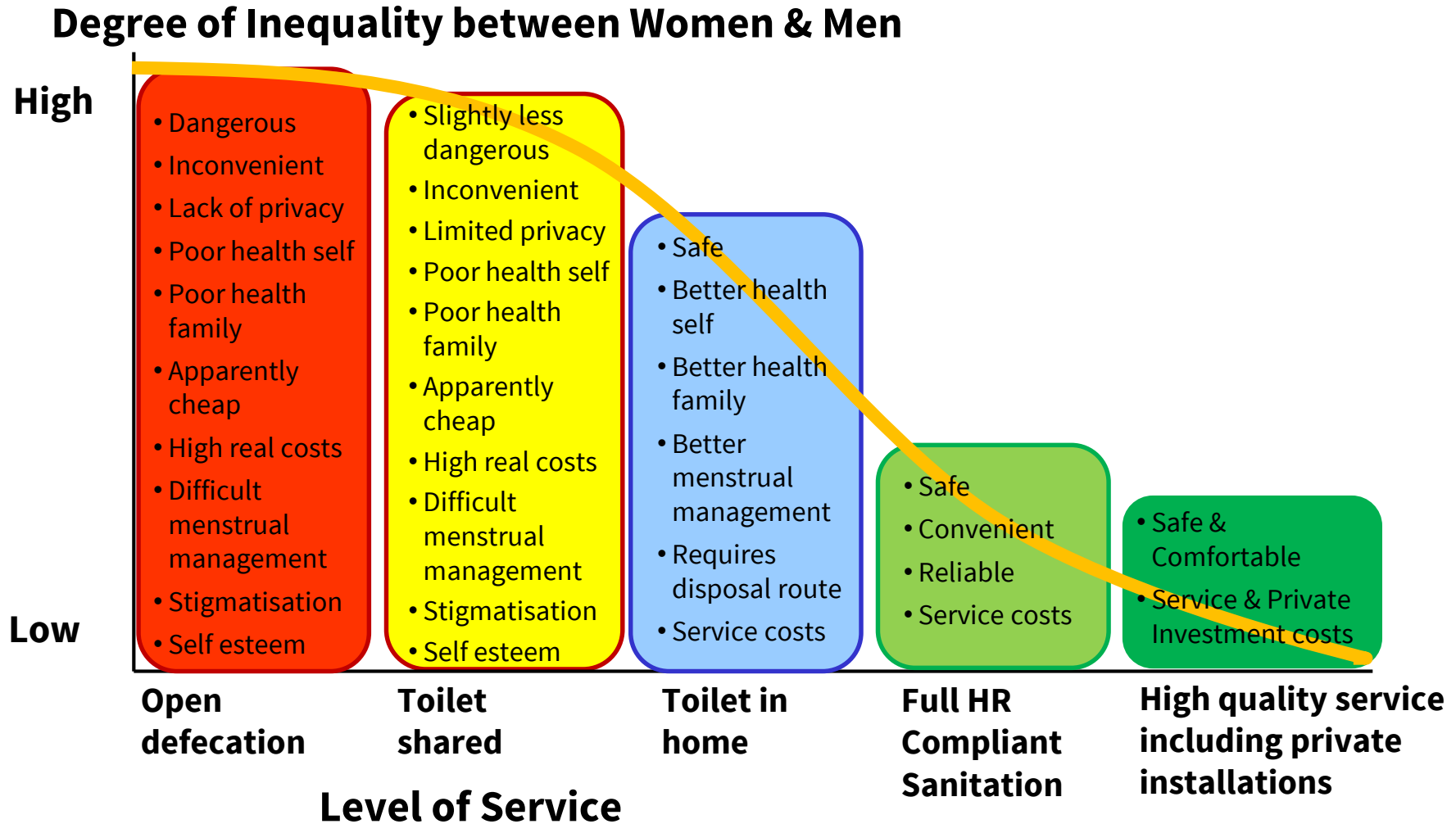
**OHCHR Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe
drinking water and sanitation**

**Combined AquaFed & Women for Water Partnership
contribution on questions for the report on Gender
Equality**

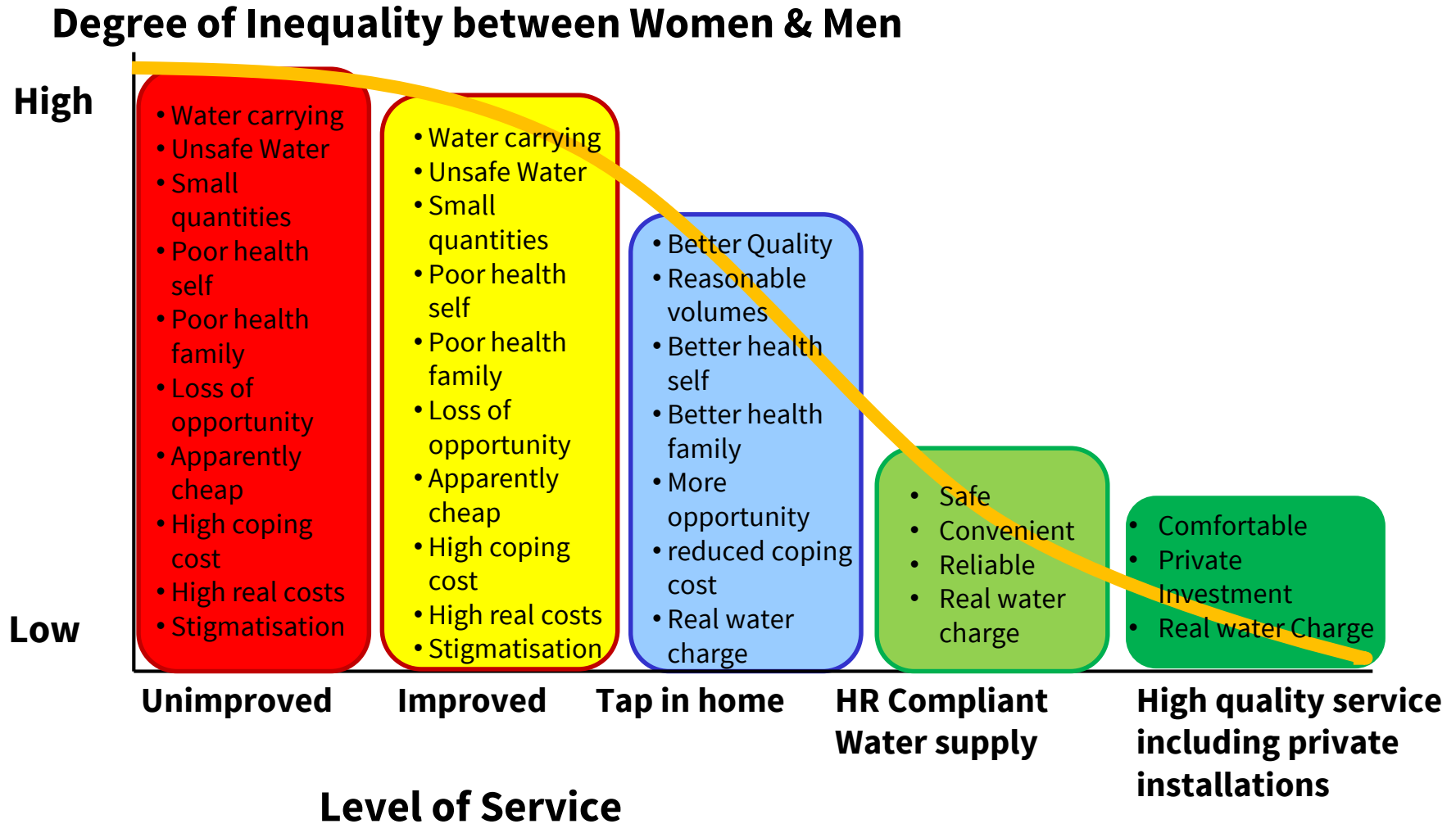
To Achieve Gender Equality

- Gender equality requires totally satisfactory water and sanitation for everyone, everywhere, at all times.
- When high quality, reliable, gender and culturally responsive services are available up to and including the internal installations of homes and workplaces there is no divergence in equality between the sexes.
- The more services and installations degrade from this the wider and more unfavourable the divergences become for women.

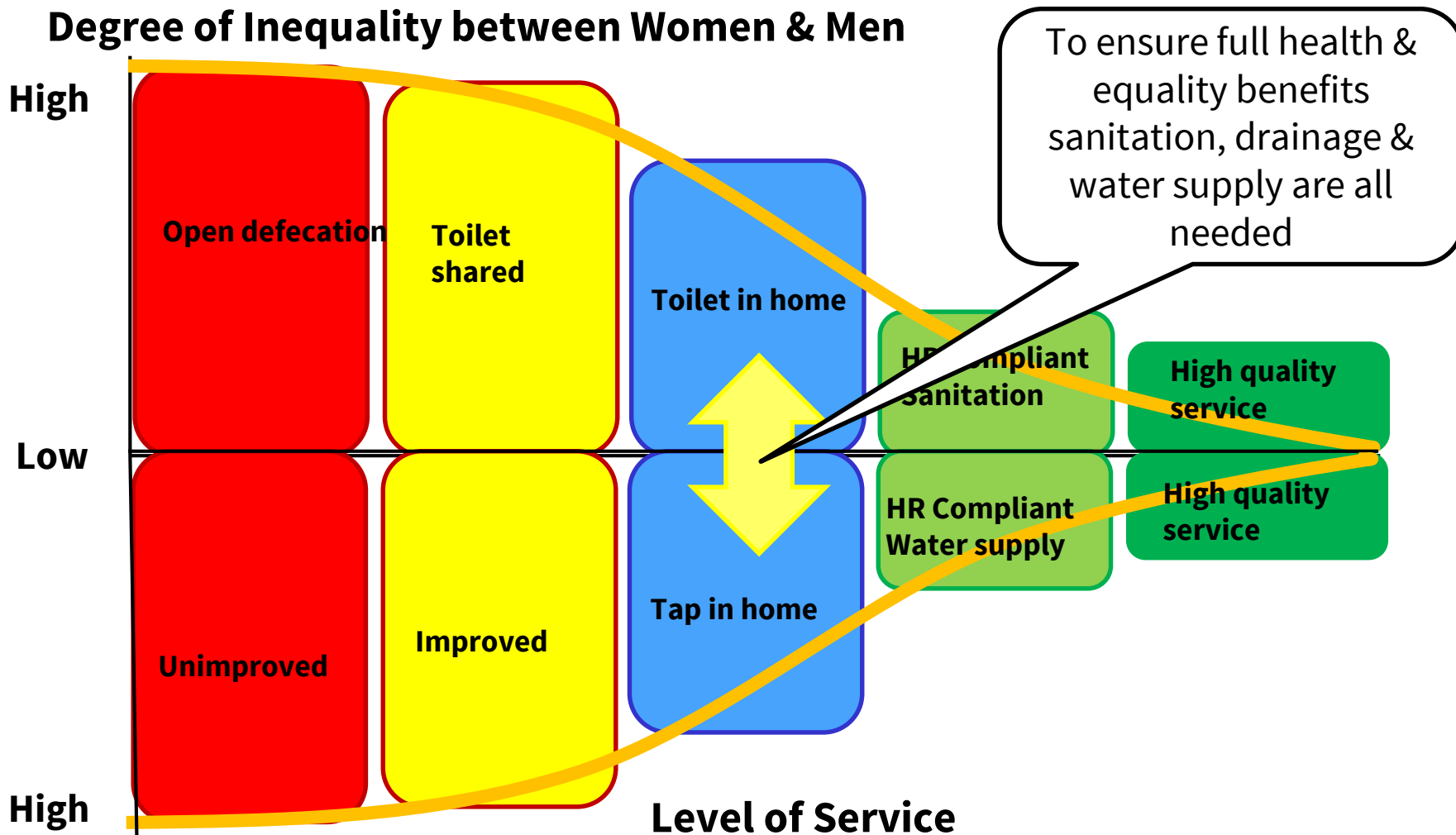
Gender Equality - Sanitation



Gender Equality - Water



Need for interconnection between sanitation & water



Quality Failures Impact Women Most - Examples

- The faeces of young children generally pose higher pathogenic risk than those of adults
 - Women as primary childminders and caregivers therefore face a higher risk of infection
 - Can give rise to a vicious circle of disease retransmission: Child – Mother – Child – Mother (Senile – Carer – Senile)
- Women generally have higher % of body fat than men
 - Heavy metals and persistent chemicals are retained in body fat and slowly secreted – longer exposure to women than men
- Sanitation in schools enhances girls' performance
 - for every 10% increase in female literacy, a country's economy can grow by 0.3%

Policies to Act are now Vital

- **Policies** are required at all levels to **set up** and **operate** appropriate **programmes** and **infrastructure** for water, wastewater, sanitation and pollution prevention
- **Policy** and **regulatory** environments must enable stakeholders to establish effective **governance** to manage, plan, fund, implement and coordinate improvements.
- SDGs 5 & 6 & the HRWS are important steps that require full **political prioritisation, support and integration**



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