

Is Wastewater a She?

Linking SDG 6.3 (wastewater) and SDG 5 (gender)

Conclusions
and
Recommendations



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**What would the sector look like
if 85% of wastewater professionals
were women?**

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Main take-home messages

There is no gender equality when it comes to wastewater.

Women are very much affected by the lack of sufficient wastewater treatment.

Due to their role in societies and their families, women are critically exposed to unsafe water and wastewater as main caretaker of domestic waters and users of polluted waters for domestic use.

Women do most of the unpaid work, while men then take on the paid work in the sector.

Despite being much affected, women have very little to say on how wastewater is managed and how services and infrastructures are designed/managed.

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Decision- Making & Governance

- A gender-sensitive approach must be included in the management of water resources that enhances and strengthens the important role women play in the acquisition, conservation and use of water
- Women need to be included in decision-making of wastewater management and -services
- At national and local level, all government structures need to bring forward a gendered lens in policy decision making
- Provide effective voices to women in meaningful participation mechanisms
- Integral gender policies vary in each community but should integrate both women's and men's points of view

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Jobs

Support women to become leaders in the water sector by

- Apply human resource and employment policies to women's work with wastewater as with any profession or career
 - ...so by including gender sensitive approaches in employment policies and decision making
- Adjust working conditions and atmosphere in such a way that it is encouraging for women to pursue a career – adhere to and implement the Women Empowerment Principles (UN)
- Recognize the (paid, unpaid and voluntary) work done by women
 - ...and formalize it by turning it into paid and formal jobs and attractive professional careers

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Capacity Development & Awareness

- Capacity development for women on safe wastewater reuse is needed
- At grassroots levels, conversations and social marketing campaigns aiming to increase women participation in certain sectors, like wastewater reuse and comparing industries, are needed and to be focused on the household and community-level.
- *Increase awareness of private companies, utilities, and local government on the various added values of women's involvement and vocational training for women.*

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Gaps

- Emerging pollutants not measured on their (different) impact on men and women
- Address the lack of sex-disaggregated data on how men and women use utilities and access water/wastewater infrastructure
 - to ensure that policy and investment decisions include a gender dimension
- Develop a robust business case for water/wastewater service providers
 - showing the economic contribution that gender equality can make in terms of benefits recorded

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Thank You!

If you have further questions:

AquaFed - Ulrike Kelm ulrike.kelm@aquafed.org

BORDA – Maren Heuvels heuvels@borda.de

Women for Water Partnership – Annemiek Jenniskens exd@womenforwater.org

International Labour Organization – Carlos Carrion-Crespo carrion-crespo@ilo.org