Women for Water Partnership

Partners
from the margin
to the mainstream.
by
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Women for Water Partnership
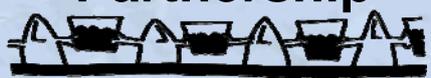
Unites 90 women's organizations & networks
(More than 2 million women)
on
gender-sensitive and pro-poor
Integrated Water Resource Management
www.womenforwater.org

partner of
sustainable
sanitation
alliance

World Water Council

WFW

- Women's organisations
- Working on poverty-water-sustainable development-gender nexus
- Adhering to the Dublin Principles for participatory gender sensitive IWRM
- rights based approach
- Functional Networking

WfW: network

international

national

local

professional background

advocacy

political affiliation

rural women

face and interest groups
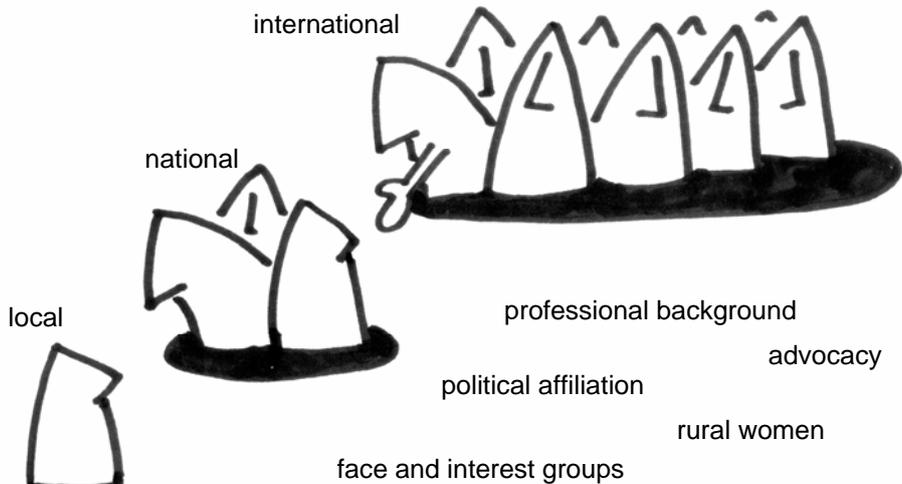
Identify constraints

Dublin Principles:
1. Fresh water is a **limited and vulnerable resource** and essential for life, development and the environment.

💧sustainability
💧rights based approach
💧pro-poor water management
Not just supply drinking water

Identify constraints

2. Development & management of water (and sanitation) should be based on a **participatory approach,** involving users, planners and policy makers **at the lowest appropriate level**
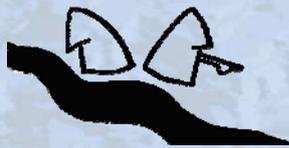
💧Not just supply drinking water
💧Not speaking the same language
💧 gender and cultural sensitive
💧 equity mainstreaming > equal footing
💧 demand based on informed choices

Identify constraints

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

- no place at the table -good intentions
- actors, but only seen as target group
- Division of roles – traditions
- Not recognized as experts / managers
- Not seen as capable to manage technology – the wrong people get trained
- No land – and water rights / safe tenure

Identify constraints

4. Water as an **economic good**.

- Focus on low investment,
- not on (low) exploitation cost / affordability
- Ownership
- Maintenance and management
- Large-scale infrastructure building
- Does not benefit the most needy
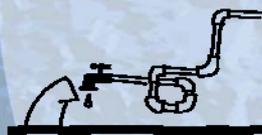
Create a paradigm shift from vulnerable group to partner

correct the imbalance

Create partnerships, join forces locally and globally

give local women a voice

provide enabling environment for implementation

give visibility

provide seed money to get started
Capacity development

Knowledge & experience sharing (exchange); complementary, not competing

influencing policy and "translating"

working conferences

- Capacity development
- Cases: zero, developing, up-scaling
- Experts, partners
- Functional networking
- Visibility
- "Translation": policy <> practice

Program / Project approach

- Women are "entry" point
- Organization & community development > enabling environment
- Self confidence & backing from partners
- Resources to develop projects and "take time" (process)
- No project without management -, organizational skill - and vocational training
- No project without (self) employment / local economy development

Why does this partnership work?

- Strength, not weakness is the starting point
- Take everybody serious
- Equal footing & ownership
- Functional networking
- Partner and community development
- Seed money
- Cooperation with others
- practical

Network or incrowd?