

GENDER DISPARITIES IN SANITATION POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY [SADC] COUNTRIES

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Imagine yourself with nowhere to go to the toilet!!!!

- *The conditions here are terrible. There is sewage everywhere. It pollutes our water. Most people use buckets and plastic bags for toilets. Our children suffer all the time from diarrhea and other diseases because it is so filthy.* Mary Akinyi, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya [UNDP 2006]



Imagine yourself with nowhere to go to the toilet!!!!

- 2.6 billion people lack access to sanitation and this figure constitutes 50% of the developing world population with the majority being women
- an increased levels of deaths among the under five population estimated to be 5 000 deaths a day
- girl children losing an estimated total of 443 hours each year due poor or lack of sanitation facilities
- more than 660 million people without sanitation live on less than USD2 per day



Policy framework in three countries:
Gender Policies and Sanitation

- All three countries have gender policies which focus on water
- Only Zambia Gender policy addresses sanitation in detail
- South Africa gender policy makes passing reference to sanitation
- Zimbabwe gender policy is silent on sanitation



Policy framework in three countries:
water and sanitation policies

- The two of the countries have sanitation policies while Zimbabwe is in the process of developing one
- Fragmented policy framework governing sanitation
- Policy at national level not in conformity with the IHRI



Institutional arrangements for sanitation provision in the three countries

- More than one ministry responsible for sanitation: sanitation does not have a home--- everybody's baby and no body's baby THEREFORE
 - **Sanitation is an ORPHAN**
- Lack of coordination among the different depts. dealing with sanitation
- Low political status afforded to sanitation
- Lack of political will by policy makers



Sanitation resource base

- Low political status means low resource allocation compared to water
- Sanitation ends up as a
 - 'POOR COUSIN TO WATER'



Sanitation is more than just building toilets: It's developmental issue

- Sanitation is fundamental to the achievement of the MDGs
- It has implications on education, health, economic development and environment management
 - Therefore
- Sanitation needs to be put high on the political agenda
- Need to ensure that the policy governing its implementation is harmonised and address the needs of the beneficiaries more so women



Sanitation is more than just building toilets: It's developmental issue [Cont'd]

- Sanitation needs to be linked to land tenure as without secure tenure communities will not invest
- Governments need to allocate more funding to sanitation
- This will ensure that every toilet becomes a wanted toilet
- The dignity of the users will be promoted



How to address sanitation issues

- UN-Habitat Rapid Gender Assessment of its programmes whose findings were:
- Strengthening of by laws
- Female headed households require decent toilets but cannot afford them due to poor resource base
- Need for communal toilets in highly populated slum areas with provision of operation and maintenance services



How to address sanitation issues

- Regional and country level workshops to develop action plans to address issues raised in the rapid gender assessment
- Un-HABITAT is promoting the construction of gender friendly sanitation facilities



Conclusions

- Governments should design separate policies for sanitation and the policies should be translated into law for accountability
- Gender national machineries should ensure that national sanitation policies are gender sensitive by participating fully in the policy formulation process
- Need to develop monitoring tools at national levels to ensure that gender is fully mainstreamed into the policy framework
- Governments should provide a conducive environment to allow the participation of private sector in the provision of sanitation



Conclusions

- Clear institutional arrangements should be developed with active participation of the intended beneficiaries at all levels from the design to implementation levels
- Resource allocation should be done through a gender lens
- The needs of vulnerable groups especially the disabled, elderly and pregnant women and girl children should be considered in policy formulation and implementation

