

Gender Equality & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Report of the Expert Group Meeting

New York, New York
14-15 December 2017

* The views expressed in this document are those of the experts and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations.

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I. Background and objectives of the Expert Group Meeting

Access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene are fundamental preconditions for achieving gender equality. Yet, in 2015, **there were 844 million people (or 12%) who still lacked access to basic drinking water services; 2.3 billion people who did not have access to basic sanitation services and 892 million people still practiced open defecation.**¹ Global sanitation needs are vast and progress to date is slow: only 1 out of 10 countries below 95% coverage is on track to achieve universal basic sanitation by 2030.² In hygiene, in Least Developing Countries, just 27% of the population had basic facilities with soap and water available; most countries in Africa had less than 50% coverage with basic hand washing facilities.³

The achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 depends on the ability of national, regional and local government to deliver integrated, inclusive and sustainable development solutions for women and girls, men and boys. It also relies on creating more inclusive and gender-responsive institutions; changing the way that policies and programmes are designed, resources are allocated, and performance and results are monitored and measured to ensure that the needs of women and girls, men and boys are met in an equitable and equal manner.

Explicit attention to gender mainstreaming in the localization and implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensur[ing] availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all** is therefore critical for enhancing the synergistic linkages with and accelerating progress on key targets of Sustainable Development Goal 5. In this regard, UN Women convened an Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene on 14-15 December 2017. The two-fold objectives of the meeting were:

- To identify entry points for gender mainstreaming in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector by highlighting the intrinsic linkages between gender equality and water, sanitation and hygiene as well as to highlight good practices and lessons learned;
- To strengthen accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water, sanitation and hygiene public sectors through the introduction and validation of an institutional accountability framework.

The Expert Group Meeting brought together national experts from Liberia, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone as well as UN partners working at the intersection of gender equality and WASH. (See Annex I for List of Participants). Experts were invited to prepare and deliver presentations in their areas of expertise and address opportunities and challenges for ensuring the gender-responsive implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 in their country contexts. The following report represents a synthesis of experts' presentations and discussions.

II. Main Conclusions

The Expert Group Meeting identified key entry points for gender mainstreaming in water, sanitation and hygiene policies and programmes as well as discussed various strategies and approaches to strengthen

¹ Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2017, pgs. 3-4

² Ibid, pg. 14.

³ Ibid, pg. 5

accountability for gender equality results both programmatically and institutionally, including through a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

A. Entry points for mainstreaming a gender perspective in water, sanitation and hygiene policies and programmes

- Addressing social norms, stigma and discrimination, especially around women’s bodies, menstruation, and sanitation work, need to be a part of WASH policies, programmes and services. Additionally, adopting a life-cycle approach to infrastructure provision and service delivery can ensure that WASH interventions place “vulnerability” and “exclusion” at the centre of decision-making.⁴
- There are 1.8 billion women and girls of reproductive age. Menstrual hygiene management provides a practical entry point for integrating a gender perspective in WASH programming to respond to women and girls’ rights to water and sanitation as well as has far-reaching impacts on girls’, particularly vulnerable girls, ability to succeed in and out of school, and on women’s economic and public participation;
- Strengthening women’s leadership, voice and agency in the governance of water and sanitation. As the primary users, providers and household managers of water, engaging women and girls on issues that profoundly affect and shape their lives throughout programme design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including in contexts of crisis, strongly correlates with increased project effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Women’s meaningful participation in WASH sector interventions can contribute to improved health, increase their physical safety and dignity, create income-generating prospects and provide them with increased opportunities to engage in public spaces.
- Leveraging water as an asset for increasing women’s employment and access to economic opportunities. Women are significantly underrepresented in technical roles and over-represented in low paying, insecure and often stigmatized jobs. The WASH sector remains a male-dominated field. Through the right mix of investments and incentives in education and technical training, governments can increase women’s participation to meet the vast human resource needs in the water sector.
- Ensuring policy integration, coherence and coordination of WASH and other relevant sector and social policies (i.e. gender equality, health, education) can accelerate progress and reinforce synergies between gender-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 5.

B. Accountability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in water, sanitation and hygiene sector

Policy and Programmatic Accountability

- Closing data gaps on gender and other inequalities in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Significant investments are needed to disaggregate data by gender as well as population subgroups that are using safely managed water and sanitation services as well as in health and educational settings

⁴ Leave No One Behind: Voices of Adolescent Girls, Elderly and Disabled People, and Sanitation Workers. Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and Freshwater Action Network South Asia, 2017.

- Fostering evidence-informed and inclusive policies through further research on women's and girls' barriers in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services can support the progressive realization of their rights to water and sanitation.
- Direct advocacy with and capacity building of duty bearers at all levels on the human rights to water and sanitation and their intrinsic linkages with other human rights is essential for building political will, achieving policy change and generating ownership to ensure the sustainability of programme results.

Institutional Accountability

- The UN-System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) has been a transformative driver of change in advancing the accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women across the UN System.
- Bold leadership, commitment and ownership from senior leadership and decision-making bodies is key to the successful implementation of gender equality commitments; as well as breaking down the silos and enhancing intra-institutional collaboration and coordination between all institutional functions.
- Strengthening policies, staff capacities as well as institutional accountability mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women are key levers of change and progress for overall performance and improved institutional results.
- Identifying and setting clear targets for gender equality results provides non-gender personnel with a better understanding of actions and entry points required to successfully mainstream gender perspectives in programmes.
- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women can similarly support governments at national and local levels to benchmark and track their performance over time and report on progress in meeting the gender-related targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6; locate and systematically monitor their implementation progress of gender equality commitments in the governance and management of water and sanitation; and highlight area of strength as well as potential areas of improvement.

III. Gender Dimensions of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Women's and girl's access to water, sanitation and hygiene can produce transformative changes in and across multiple, and critical areas of women's and girls' lives: in health, education and economic opportunities.⁵ Yet, realizing the human rights to water and sanitation and achieving safely managed drinking water and sanitation services – key targets of the 2030 Agenda - remain a major challenge in many parts of the world.

Due to a combination of biological and cultural factors, women and girls are disproportionately affected by a lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene. In 8 out of 10 households where water is not available in the home, women and girls are responsible for household water collection and management for use in cooking, cleaning and personal and family hygiene.⁶ Water collection adds to women's and girls' time burden and unpaid care work: according to one survey, women, on average, spend almost triple the amount of time on unpaid domestic and care work than men do.⁷ Research demonstrates that time spent on unpaid housework and caregiving significantly undermines women's ability to attend school or to engage in productive and leisure activities. Water collection also increases women's and girls' physical and psychosocial stress (i.e. exhaustion, pain, discomfort, and musculo-skeletal damage). In a study conducted in India, women rated access to water, meeting their menstrual hygiene needs and open defecation as their top three stressors.

Water is essential not only for drinking but also for sanitation and hygiene. In this respect as well, women and girls also face gender-specific challenges. The absence of proper sanitation facilities and services denies women and girls their dignity. They are forced to use nighttime as privacy, thereby exposing them to the risk of physical attack and sexual violence. Additionally, ignoring their natural bodily functions out of fear not only causes discomfort but also increases their risk of developing health complications such as urinary tract infections, chronic constipation and mental stress. Women with disabilities are even more vulnerable if they are unable to access adequate WASH facilities and services.

Women and girls also lack access to accurate information about menstruation and encounter challenges in accessing clean and adequate sanitation facilities and products necessary for good menstrual hygiene management in public, work and school life. Poor access to latrines with facilities for appropriate menstrual hygiene management impedes the school attendance of adolescent girls and affects their educational outcomes. It is also one of the key reasons why parents do not send their daughters to school in many countries. Both the lack of awareness of and attention to women and adolescent girls' menstrual hygiene needs has far-reaching consequences for women's and girls' overall well-being and dignity, education, health and their ability to engage in and contribute to the economic, social and political lives of their communities.

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities is also critical to safeguarding maternal and newborn health. Each year nearly 500,000 million newborn deaths occur within the first month of life because of unhygienic birth conditions.⁸ Universal access to WASH can help make pregnancy safer,

⁵ Julie Fisher, Sue Cavill and Brian Reed (2017) Mainstreaming gender in the WASH sector: dilution or distillation? *Journal of Gender & Development*, 25:2, pg. 187.

⁶ Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2017, pg 11.

⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/TheSustainableDevelopmentGoalsReport2017.pdf>




⁸ WaterAid. 2016a. 'The first month of life: ensuring every child gets the water, sanitation and hygiene they need'. Available at: <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Healthy-Start.pdf?la=en>.

mothers healthier, and improve the long-term well-being of mothers and children. Improved WASH access in health-care settings can also positively influence the number of women choosing to give birth in delivery facilities, which is of particular importance when addressing maternal mortality.

IV. Inter-Linkages of Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 6

There are strong and mutually reinforcing synergies between the targets and indicators of SDG 6 and SDG 5 (See Table I). Achieving universal access to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services [6.1, 6.2] in homes, healthcare facilities, schools and workplaces directly supports a number of targets on gender equality. As discussed in previous section, the lives of women and girls would be especially improved by good WASH services. The reduction in time spent collecting water from distant sources would decrease time spent on unpaid care work [5.4] and facilitate school attendance or paid employment. Having WASH facilities at home instead of access to shared and public facilities can also reduce the risk of violence against women and girls [5.2]. Implementing WASH facilities in the public sphere, including facilities for menstrual hygiene management [6.2], supports effective participation of women and girls at all levels in educational, political, economic and public life [5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5]. It also promotes effective governance and institutions that break down barriers to social mobility and gender equality [5.5].⁹

Table I

Targets	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6
5.1, 5.2 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls ... / ... violence against all women and girls ...						
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work ...						
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities ... at all levels ... in political, economic and public life						

Source: UN Water. 2017. Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda.

Water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and service delivery on their own, however, will not reverse or eliminate the long-standing stigma, discrimination and subordination that women and girls, including LGBTI and other marginalized populations, encounter on a daily basis. In fact, a focus on service delivery as an end itself might result in perpetuating inequality.

The situation of women and girls in the WASH context lags considerably behind in the areas of data, women's leadership and representation, unpaid care and domestic work and harmful practices.¹⁰

- Until today, data on service delivery and progress in WASH sector is not sex-disaggregated. The largest global instruments for tracking and measuring progress do not disaggregate by gender.
- The WASH sector's engagement of women remains instrumentalist. Women usually serve as hygiene promotion agents, often unpaid, in communities. They seldom participate in design,

⁹ See UN Water, 2017. Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda; pgs.17-18.

¹⁰ "Making the Connection: Gender Equality and WASH." Presentation delivered by Archana Patkar, Head of Policy, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

planning, budgeting or decision-making processes where men are. Even within ministries, women occupy positions that often lack the power or authority to drive budgets or decisions or to challenge structural inequalities.

- WASH policy and programmes rarely address the sanitation and hygiene needs of women affected by harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation or their consequences (fistula). Because water, sanitation and hygiene are a universal and daily need, practical interventions/solutions in this sector can bring about profound change for women and girls. In the area of hygiene, for example, FGM and the incidence of fistula can be used as an entry point to question/raise awareness and eliminate harmful practices. This requires agencies working together rather than in silos to realize any measure of success.
- WASH policies and programmes fail to consider women’s WASH needs along their life cycle, especially beyond women’s reproductive years. As men and women age, the gender differentials with respect to WASH become even starker. One study found that older women were still responsible for carrying and collecting water for the men.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene sector fails to address socio-cultural norms, especially around sanitation and hygiene in policies and programmes, including the issue of women’s dignity.

It is therefore important to identify transformational entry points for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The 2030 Agenda is explicit about the essential role of gender mainstreaming in catalyzing and enabling progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals; including SDG 6. Gender mainstreaming can support governments to prioritize commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in national sustainable development and sectoral plans and strategies, particularly in critical sectors, such as WASH, where there has been chronic underinvestment. By doing so, governments can narrow persistent gender gaps, and ultimately, to change discriminatory institutions, laws, and social norms that limit women’s voices, choices, and opportunities.¹¹

V. Entry points for Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector

Experts highlighted strategic entry points and their current approaches for responding to the different needs and priorities of women and men, girls and boys in water, sanitation and hygiene policies, plans and programmes.

A. Addressing social norms, stigma and discrimination

Persistent and deep-seated taboos surrounding menstruation have created a culture of silence and perpetuated negative cultural attitudes associated with menstruation. The stigma manifests in various practices that include the seclusion of women and girls, reduced mobility, dietary restrictions, and/or women and girls being required to use different water sources or prohibited from preparing food for others during menstruation.¹² These practices reinforce unequal power relations and further marginalize women and girls from decision-making processes and access to resources and services.

¹¹ Financing the unfinished business of gender equality and women’s rights: priorities for the post-2015 framework.” OECD-DAC, 2014

¹² A/HRC/21/42. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation: Stigma and the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation.

The silence and stigma surrounding menstruation makes finding solutions for menstrual hygiene management a low priority for governments and donors alike. **Public** policies in the health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene sectors do not mention or explicitly address the issue of menstrual hygiene management in many parts of the world. The lack of policy/programme responses adversely impacts girls' school attendance, women's reproductive health as well as on their economic participation (workplace). Moreover, the lack of accurate information on the subject does not adequately prepare young girls for adolescence.

In Cameroon, Niger and Senegal, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and UN Women regional joint programme sought to break the silence on menstruation through various interventions. Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) Labs were one such intervention. Through approximately 60 MHM Labs held in high schools and in public places (i.e. markets and transport hubs), the joint programme equipped women and girls with information about menstruation; the different products available its management; and the safe reuse and/or disposal of these products. Women and girls, as a result, were able to regain control of fundamental part of their wellbeing and vitality.

In addition to the stigma associated with menstruation, there is stigma attached to sanitation work. Sanitation workers, many of whom are women, often experience extreme forms of exclusion because of the "impure" work that they do and usually because they are individuals on the lowest rung of class, caste and gender.¹³ They may be more vulnerable to physical abuse and violence, again because of the nature of their work, when attempting to access water and sanitation facilities. In India, the practice of manual scavenging, that is the manual cleaning, carrying, disposing or handling of human excreta from dry latrines and sewers, is not only caste-based; it is also primarily performed by women, who represent the poorest and most disadvantaged communities in India. Finally, WASH policies and programmes must not treat gender as binary; it includes LGBTI populations, especially transgender, who because of the stigma and discrimination they experience, often do not have or are denied access to sanitation because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

B. Menstrual hygiene management as an entry point to meet the practical and strategic needs of women and girls in water, sanitation and hygiene policies and programmes.

There are 1.8 billion women and girls of reproductive age for whom menstrual hygiene management is a major concern. Menstruating women and girls often lack private and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, the workplace or public facilities and buildings. Menstrual hygiene management can therefore be used as an entry point to address women and girls' rights and practical needs to water and sanitation as well as act as a gateway for creating wider changes in the lives of women and girls in health, education and economic empowerment.

The Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation used menstrual hygiene management as an entry point to address significant gender equality gaps in sanitation and hygiene policies and programmes. This approach resulted in integrating menstrual hygiene management in a number of key policy documents, including in Niger's National Gender Policy and the Sectoral Programme for Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (PROSEHA 2016-2030), which clearly distinguishes the different water, sanitation and hygiene needs of women and men. In Senegal, the joint programme has successfully integrated menstrual hygiene management in the sectoral policy letter of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, which now mandates that all investments in in WASH take into consideration women's needs, particularly menstrual

¹³ Towards Gender Equality through Sanitation Access. UN Women Discussion Paper (2016), pgs. 17-20.

hygiene management. Menstrual hygiene management has also been included in the “Code of Hygiene” of the Ministry of Health, the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy, as well as the Environment Code, which is currently under revision, and will also incorporate menstrual waste management in their Hygiene Policy Letter.¹⁴

C. Enhancing women’s leadership, voice and agency in the governance of water and sanitation.

Women and girls are the primary users, providers, and managers of water in their households, and through these roles have accumulated considerable knowledge about water resources, including location, quality and storage methods. Yet, they continue to be underrepresented in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, from community WASH committees to within ministries and international agencies despite long-standing normative principles and agreements on women’s central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.¹⁵ They are largely absent from decision-making about improving water resource management and expanding access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and are seldom consulted on the design and maintenance elements of water and sanitation facilities. As a result, existing WASH infrastructure in public spaces, markets, schools, health centers and transport hubs are seldom designed to meet the sanitation and hygiene needs of women and girls.

Policy and programme actions should strive to make the diversity of women’s and girls’ voices heard in both rural and urban areas and facilitate their leadership and influence in decision-making processes. Deliberate efforts are needed to address the social and traditional barriers that preclude women’s participation at all levels. Sector programmes must also target women in training and capacity building efforts. Involving women’s leadership and participation throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation projects, especially on issues that profoundly affect and shape their lives, strongly correlates with increased project effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. It also contributes to solutions in water and sanitation that can improve health, improve status, increase women’s safety, create opportunities for income generation, as well as provide them with other public roles.¹⁶

D. Leveraging water as an asset for increasing women’s employment and access to economic opportunities.

Water is important to many economic sectors and therefore intimately connected with jobs.¹⁷ Agriculture is the largest user of water, accounting for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals; it is also the largest employer of women, engaging one-fourth of all economically active women worldwide in 2015. In some regions, such as Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture engages over 60% of all employed women (ILO 2016). Despite their numbers, many rural women do not exercise control over water (asset) because they lack land rights, are largely absent from formal decision-making spaces that allocate water

¹⁴ “Case Study of the Gender, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme,” Presentation delivered by Mbarou Gassama Mbaye at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

¹⁵ Refer to Dublin Principle No. 3, UNGA Resolution on the International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development: [the] pivotal role of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the living environment has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources. Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women’s specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation, in ways defined by them.”

¹⁶ SIDA. 2015. Brief: Women, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

¹⁷ World Bank Group. 2017. The Rising Tide: A New Look at Water and Gender, pg. 19.

for irrigation; and/or lack access to credit, new technologies as well as training opportunities. In other water-related sectors, women tend to be concentrated in low-paying, insecure and stigmatized jobs.

Occupational segregation and wage differentiation also occurs in the water and sanitation sector. Women are significantly underrepresented in technical roles. Increasing women's participation in the water sector, through the right mix of investments and incentives in education and technical training, is critical for meeting the vast human resource needs in the sector. In West Africa alone, there are 75,000 vacancies in the water sector. As such, it offers a strategic entry point for generating critical job opportunities and empowering women economically.

In Sierra Leone, UN Women, as part of the post-Ebola recovery phase, used WASH as an entry point to rebuild women's livelihoods and restore community stability. It provided business/entrepreneurial skills development training to the Sierra Leone Market Women's Association, a collective of women-owned, small and medium enterprises, on operating and managing a water purification and production plant in Kono district. This support has not only improved the availability and accessibility of safe drinking water for the community, but also has created jobs for more than thirty women and increased household income.¹⁸

Women's greater engagement in technical roles can ensure the development and adaptation of water and sanitation infrastructure and services that meet their needs in private and public spaces. Measures to increase women's participation in water-related technical roles include introducing incentives to augment women's representation in STEM educational programs and jobs; adjusting working conditions to encourage women to pursue a career in the sector; adopting gender-sensitive recruitment and equal opportunity policies; addressing cultural barriers, social norms and gender stereotypes; increasing the awareness of private sector companies, utilities and local governments on the added value of women's involvement and investing in technical and vocational training of women.¹⁹

E. Ensuring policy coherence and integration

Since access to available and safe water and sanitation intersects with and enables progress towards other SDG goals and targets, strengthening links both horizontally among sectors and vertically among levels of government is needed to achieve the ambitious and comprehensive scope of the SDGs. Liberia, over the past ten years, has made important strides to align and achieve policy coherence in national WASH policies and strategies to accelerate the delivery of WASH services and to advance its economic and social development. Gender equality and WASH are linked and articulated in four, key policy documents that drive policy planning and implementation in the sector: a) the Water Supply and Sanitation Policy; b) the Liberia Sector Strategic Plan; c) the Liberia WASH Compact and the d) the National Gender Policy. These policies address gender equality as a cross-cutting issue and call for the engagement and participation of women and children in community-level planning and implementation.²⁰

¹⁸ "Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector: Opportunities and Challenges in Sierra Leone." Presentation by David Edward Lahai, Programme Specialist, UN Women at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

¹⁹ See World Water Development Report (2016), Water and Jobs.

²⁰ "Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector in Liberia: Opportunities and Challenges." Presentation by Abdul Koroma, National WASH Coordinator, National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Secretariat, Ministry of Public Works at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

In Niger, the WSSCC/UN Women joint programme supported the establishment of the **Inter-Ministerial Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation (CICSHA)** to improve coordination and coherence in the planning, data collection, monitoring and reporting among all ministries working on aspects of WASH, including menstrual hygiene management. By bringing relevant stakeholders across fifteen sectoral ministries together (i.e. health, education, water, environment, infrastructure, urban planning), the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism not only created awareness of menstrual hygiene management as an inter-sectoral issue but also helped to ensure programme coherence and convergence at the local level. Stakeholders identified entry points for the integration of menstrual hygiene management into policies and sectoral plans as well as introduced two SDG 6-aligned indicators on MHM in PROSEHA 2016-2030, particularly target 6.2 on *achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and ending open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by 2030*.²¹

Policymakers must also ensure that water and sanitation services are affordable to all, especially to urban populations and poor households living in informal settlements where, because of the insecurity of land tenure, the provision of legal WASH services is problematic.²² Absent connections to main water mains or sewage pipes, slum dwellers often rely on illegal water connections and private water vendors to meet their WASH needs. In Bangladesh, for example, UNICEF found that slum dwellers paid water vendors 5 to 7 times more than the government tariff for access to water. Disproportionate expenditures on meeting WASH needs can crowd out other basic necessities of poor households, such as such as housing, food or health services.

VI. Strengthening Policy and Programmatic Accountability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Key actions to enhance policy and programmatic accountability for improving the availability, access and affordability to and quality of WASH infrastructure services for women and girls include: closing the gender data gap; filling knowledge gaps and fostering evidence-informed policies and engaging with duty bearers to promote the progressive realization of women's and girls' rights to water and sanitation.

A. Closing the data gap on gender and other inequalities.

Significant improvements in the availability and quality of data disaggregated by gender, geography, income and other factors are required for effective monitoring of inequalities in WASH services and to ensure that no one is left behind.²³ At global level, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) is responsible for tracking progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).²⁴ With the 2030 Agenda's strong focus on inequalities, Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets, specifically

²¹ "Mainstreaming gender in the WASH Sector in Niger: Opportunities and Challenges." Presentation by Labo Madougou, Director, Ministry of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (Niger) at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

²² "Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector: Opportunities and Challenges." Presentation by Lizette Burgers, Senior WASH Advisor/UNICEF at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

²³ Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2017, pg. 9.

²⁴ In addition to SDG 6 targets, other WASH targets include SDG target 1.4 (SDG 1) on universal access to basic services; SDG target 3.9 on the disease burden from inadequate WASH, and SDG target 4a on basic WASH in schools.

6.1 and 6.2, raise the level of ambition above its predecessor MDG target 7c, which sought to halve the proportion of the population without access to water and sanitation by 2015, in three significant ways. The SDG 6 targets call for universal and equitable access *for all*, which implies eliminating inequalities in service levels. They draw explicit attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. For the first time, the targets include hygiene.

Accordingly, the associated SDG 6 global indicators set new norms and define new indicators for **safely managed** drinking water and sanitation services.²⁵ These new norms have been incorporated in the JMP service ladders, which are used to benchmark and compare service levels across countries and facilitate enhanced global monitoring of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. While these associated SDG 6 indicators are gender-relevant, current data can rarely be disaggregated by gender because it is usually collected at the household rather than the individual level. Recent methodological developments, however, will improve the JMP's ability to better measure women's and girls' access to WASH facilities and services. In collaboration with the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys team, new questions have been developed on menstrual hygiene to take into account whether women have access to a private place to wash and change, including the location of sanitation facilities (i.e. WASH in schools and health facilities); their use of different of hygiene materials; and whether they have been excluded from activities during menstruation, such as attending school, paid work or participating in social activities. These questions have become standard questions in the women's questionnaire and have also been adopted by other survey programmes, such as Performance Monitoring Accountability (PMA) 2020.²⁶

To better measure the burden of water collection, including how it is distributed among members of the household, and what the implications are for not having water available on the premises, the JMP has made adjustments to existing questions so that it is now possible to estimate the amount of time spent by the person(s) responsible for water collection and relate this to individual characteristics beyond just broad age ranges and gender. At present, surveys tend to collect data on the primary person responsible for water collection and the round-trip time to water source. What the surveys do not account for (and should) is that it is not just the primary person who might be involved in water collection and households make more than one trip to satisfy household water and sanitation needs.

In addition to sex-disaggregation, WASH actors also need to consider ways of disaggregating WASH data spatially (urban vs. rural, rich vs. poor) in order to understand the "story" the numbers are telling. For example, a UNICEF-commissioned Water & Sanitation Sector Equity Analysis in Ghana found that across rural and urban contexts, both men and women mostly relied on shared sanitation facilities, with urban populations having greater access overall. In urban areas, women tended to rely more on shared sanitation facilities and had less access to a basic/private service than men. For women, a reliance on shared sanitation facilities poses certain safety risks, such as exposure to physical and sexual violence. When looking at equity across income levels (from poorest to richest), the study found that for a majority of households across poor, middle, rich and richest households rely on limited/shared sanitation facilities; while 64% of the *poorest* households have no sanitation and practice open defecation.

²⁵ Safely managed drinking water refers to water that is at home, available, and safe; whereas safely managed sanitation refers to the population using an improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households, and where excreta are disposed of in situ or transported and treated off-site. See *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines*. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2017

²⁶ PMA2020 supports the overarching goals of FP2020 and its working group on performance, monitoring and accountability. FP2020 is a global partnership that supports the rights of women and girls to decide, freely and for themselves, whether, when, and how many children they want to have.

While it is possible to aggregate data related to inequalities in basic sanitation at a global, regional and country level, the reliance on averages conceals big inequalities. In 2017, the JMP baseline report, for the first time, included new dis-aggregations revealing **subnational inequalities** with respect to access to basic drinking water, basic sanitation, basic hygiene and open defecation as well as inequalities in access between urban vs. rural areas and richest vs. poorest households. Such data is critical for informing decisions on what populations need to be surveyed and reached by services.

In 2018, the Joint Monitoring Programming aims to establish new global baseline estimates for WASH in schools (SDG 4a) and health care facilities. In 2016, Liberia undertook an in-depth survey of schools, which underscored the substantial difference between boys' and girls' access to sanitation facilities. The survey found that only about 37 per cent of schools had functional latrines that incorporated menstrual hygiene components. Of the functional toilets, female toilets made up almost a quarter of all cubicles, compared to the 75% allotted to males, even though there are almost equal numbers of female and male students. The results of the study further reinforce the importance of collecting gender specific information.

The JMP has also developed specific questions for birthing settings. Birthing settings present a significant risk to women and young children. A recent research study found, that in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, **less than half** of the delivery facilities had improved water, or improved water and sanitation in the childbirth environment.²⁷

B. Fostering evidence-informed and inclusive policies.

For the progressive realization of women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation, governments need to develop and formulate evidence-based and inclusive policies. Towards this end, the WSSCC/UN Women joint programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation commissioned several research studies on menstrual hygiene practices in West and Central Africa and drew the attention of policymakers to women's and girls' barriers in accessing sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. The studies also documented the total exclusion of women and girls from design, planning, and decision-making in WASH, the absence of adequate and appropriate sanitation facilities in private dwellings, schools, health centers, workplaces and markets (where women are present in large numbers).

C. Engaging duty bearers to strengthen political will and commitment.

Advocacy with and capacity building of duty bearers at all levels on the human rights to water and sanitation and their intrinsic linkages with other human rights is essential for achieving policy change and generating ownership to ensure the sustainability of programme results. As key agents of change, the WSSCC/UN Women joint programme in Cameroon, Niger, and Senegal advocated with parliamentarians, especially women representatives, and key ministries, such as the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Health and the Environment to name a few, for including the sanitation and menstrual hygiene considerations of women and girls in policymaking. Parliamentarians were specifically targeted because of their role and influence in driving policy change at a political level.²⁸ The programme also invested in building the capacity of stakeholders on menstrual hygiene management at the local level, including

²⁷ Who Delivers without Water? A Multi Country Analysis of Water and Sanitation in the Childbirth Environment <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0160572>

²⁸ "Best Practices of the Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation," UN Women and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, 2016, p. 6.

locally elected representatives as well as religious and community leaders. In Cameroon, the joint programme engaged three Mayors in the mainstreaming of menstrual hygiene in the 2017 municipal budgets.²⁹

VII. Strengthening Institutional Accountability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Institutional accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women is important for building commitment; propelling improved performance and achieving stronger results. Changing the way that institutions design policies and programmes; allocate resources; and monitor and measure performance to meet the different needs of women and girls, men and boys is an important aspect of gender mainstreaming.

This section turns to a discussion on the results and lessons learned from the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) and introduces a similar accountability framework, the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women** for validation and piloting.

A. UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP)

In 2012, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (the UN-SWAP) for adoption across the UN system. As an accountability framework for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment, the UN-SWAP, for the first time, provided UN entities with a set of fifteen common measures by which to measure their individual progress on gender mainstreaming across all its operations.

In its five years of implementation, the UN-SWAP has mobilized system-wide action, as evidenced by the fact that almost the entire U System reports annually on the UN-SWAP; promoted system-wide coherence and acted as an advocacy instrument for demonstrating how a focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women can lead substantive change in the way that policies and programmes are designed, resources are allocated, and performance and results are monitored and measured to meet the needs of women and girls, men and boys in an effective and equitable manner.

The UN-SWAP has brought about significant system-wide progress across all fifteen performance indicators. Thirty more entities have a gender policy and plan than in 2012 and an additional 48 entities now meet the performance indicator on Gender Responsive Auditing. An additional 38 entities meet or exceed requirements for the capacity development performance indicator; and 36 more entities meet or exceed requirements for the knowledge generation and communication indicator.

An analysis of the performance indicators and their correlations found, *inter alia*, that UN entities with a gender policy or plan meet or exceed requirements for twice the number of indicators of entities without a policy or plan. In addition, UN entities with gender policies and or plans as well as a mechanism in place to ensure accountability of senior managers are, on average, nine times more likely to exceed

²⁹ "Case Study of the Gender, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme," Presentation delivered by Mbarou Gassama Mbaye at UN Women Expert Group Meeting on Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, December 2017.

requirements for UN-SWAP indicators. It was also found that entities with mandatory gender training for all staff at all levels, including senior managers, met or exceeded 70 per cent more indicators than entities with none of the above in place. There are however areas, where the UN system continues to lag, namely in gender parity.

The UN-SWAP has harmonized, revitalized and systematized the work on bringing gender equality into the work of the UN and has yielded a clearer and more consistent picture of system-wide strengths and challenges. The success of the UN-SWAP as a model for increased accountability and cohesion is demonstrated through its replication and application to a wide variety of issues, including youth and indigenous peoples. The UN-SWAP has also succeeded in breaking intra-institutional silos by involving non-gender focal points and creating a system of business owners across functions, as well as in leveraging synergies and collaborations for gender mainstreaming at global and country levels.

UN-Habitat, UNFPA and UNIDO, for example, have benefited from the introduction of the UN-SWAP. For UN-Habitat, the UN-SWAP has served as a strong advocacy and capacity building tool that has caused an important shift in mind-set on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It has also resulted in the development and/or revision of their gender policies and plans. The gender marker which enables entities to track and report on allocations and expenditures for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment has been applied to each of UN-Habitat's projects at the inception phase. The successful use of the gender marker has led UN-Habitat to develop and implement a marker on youth, human rights and climate change. For UNFPA, making the requirements of UN-SWAP implementation mandatory has been one reason behind its traction in the UN system. UN Women's leadership and coordination role has also been key to driving engagement and providing consistent support to capacity building, communication and networking. In addition, applying gender markers have helped measure and monitor financial resources at different levels (outcome, output and activity).

Institutional arrangements have improved with the appointment of dedicated gender focal points at headquarters and in the field. The enhanced level of awareness of UN-SWAP performance standards across the organization has also produced an increased sense of solidarity, collaboration and motivation within UN-Habitat. Having clearly defined areas and performance standards in the UN-SWAP facilitated UNIDO's ability to address gender equality and women's empowerment priorities and identify areas for improvement. In this regard, the system-wide peer pressure has been a great driver for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women within UNIDO, as has the benefit of knowledge sharing and learning from the interagency exchange of participating UN-SWAP entities. Lack of financial and human resources for gender mainstreaming, as well as limited inclusion of the field perspective have been obstacles. Financial tracking has also been a challenge because project budgets are often not allocated by gender.

In 2018, the second generation UN-SWAP will be rolled out across the UN System. UN-SWAP 2.0 (2018-2022) builds on the lessons of its predecessor and is aligned to the gender equality targets of the 2030 Agenda as well as to the performance areas and indicators of the United Nations Country Team Gender Equality SWAP-Scorecard. UN-SWAP 2.0 will continue to promote system-wide gender mainstreaming in addition to tracking normative and development results. Through the introduction of three new indicators, UN-SWAP 2.0 will enable UN entities to better assess whether corporate-level investments in gender mainstreaming lead to anticipated/desired results on the ground.

B. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Given the success of the UN-SWAP, UN Women seeks to pilot an accountability framework for use by sectoral ministries to better support the localization and gender-responsive implementation of specific Sustainable Development Goals. UN Women has developed the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (the WASH-SWAP)** to support governments at national and local level introduce, plan and implement the necessary institutional changes required to mainstream gender perspectives in WASH organizational practices and processes as well as in policies and programmatic interventions. The WASH-SWAP can be used to: a) benchmark and track their own performance over time and report on progress in meeting the targets of SDG 6, particularly; b) locate and systematically monitor their progress in implementing gender equality commitments into their management of water and sanitation; and c) highlight their strengths and potential areas for improvement.

Similar to the UN-SWAP, the WASH-SWAP is defined around six broad, functional areas: results; oversight, accountability, financial and human resources; capacity; coherence, knowledge and communication - that are key drivers of institutional performance on gender mainstreaming. The framework is comprised of a set of eighteen common performance indicators (See Box 1).³⁰

Box 1

Key Performance Indicators: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

<p>A. Results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment to gender-related SDG results; 2. Reporting on gender-related results; 3. Programmatic results on gender equality and the empowerment of women; <p>B. Oversight</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Evaluation; 5. Audit <p>C. Accountability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Policy; 7. Leadership; 8. Partnerships & Participation; 9. Gender-responsive performance management; 	<p>D. Financial and Human Resources</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Financial resource tracking; 11. Financial resource allocation; 12. Gender architecture; 13. Equal representation of women; 14. Organizational culture; <p>E. Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Capacity assessment; 16. Capacity development; <p>F. Coherence, Knowledge & Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Knowledge and Communication; and 18. Coherence.
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National experts supported, in principle, the potential applicability of the WASH-SWAP as a framework to enhance institutional performance and accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of

³⁰ The WASH-SWAP framework takes on board all key performance indicators of UN-SWAP 2.0 as well as the indicator on “partnerships and participation” from the updated United Nations Country Team Gender Equality SWAP Scorecard.

women in the WASH sector. To strengthen the conceptual framework so that the WASH-SWAP responds to institutional and operational realities on the ground, experts made the following suggestions:

1. Better ensure that the framework responds to the practical WASH needs of women and girls;
2. Include the voice and participation of women in decision-making throughout;
3. Include separate indicators for water, sanitation and hygiene;
4. Require the disaggregation of data not only by gender but also by age, disability, points of vulnerability and life cycle. Women should not be viewed as homogenous as they often face different and intersectional challenges related to their ethnicity, age and/or other characteristics;
5. Simplify and adapt some of the rating requirements to the institutional / country context;
6. Simplify the scoring mechanism as well as language within indicators;

Experts also noted that it would be critical to showcase and promote the benefits of the framework to governments, so that it is not viewed as an external audit of the government's functions.

VIII. Conclusions and Next Steps

- Present a revised Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to a broader audience of government representatives at a regional conference in Senegal to be convened by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council in Spring 2018.
- Explore partnership opportunities with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council for introducing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in country-level programming that build on the success of its regional joint programme with UN Women on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation (2014-2017).
- Identify pilot countries for the implementation of the WASH-SWAP in 2018.
- Engage with national government counterparts to identify strategic opportunities for mainstreaming gender perspectives in upcoming WASH-related policy development or review processes.
- In coordination with the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, encourage and support national partners to close the gender data gaps by adopting methodological improvements in data collection for household and institutional settings.
- Participate in the preparatory processes of the 2018 High Level Political Forum, where progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 will be reviewed, to support national voluntary reviews reflect progress as well as gaps in meeting the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of women and girls in all their diversity.

Annex I: AGENDA

EXPERT GROUP MEETING GENDER EQUALTY AND WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) UN Women Headquarters, New York, 19th Floor Conference Room

The first day will focus on how water, sanitation and hygiene are fundamental to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and how gender mainstreaming can leverage synergies and accelerate progress on key targets of SDG 5 and SDG 6. Panelists will address current approaches in the WASH sector for responding to the different needs and priorities of women and men, girls and boys, highlighting strategic entry points for gender mainstreaming, challenges, and lessons learned.

The second day will introduce a sector-wide accountability framework for ensuring gender equality results for piloting by countries. It will highlight the UN System's successes and challenges with the adoption and implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan and what has been learned to date. It will also present the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**, a self-assessment and accountability framework that has been adapted for use by governments at national or local levels to enhance institutional performance and accountability for mainstreaming gender in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Through a facilitated discussion, participants will review and validate the appropriateness of the framework with a view to its implementation in their national/local contexts; and provide recommendations for strengthening the framework so that it better responds to institutional and operational realities on the ground.

Day 1, Thursday, 14 November 2017		Presenter(s)
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & Introductory Remarks 	Moderator: Sharon Taylor, UN Women Aparna Mehrotra Director, Coordination Division, UN Women
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Session 1: Making the Connection: Gender Equality (SDG 5) and WASH (SDG 6) Objective: To establish the linkages between gender equality, women’s empowerment, clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Plenary Discussion	Introduction: Ghada Jiha, UN Women Speaker: Archana Patkar Head of Policy, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
11.15 am – 11-30 am	Coffee Break	
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Session 2: Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector: Opportunities & Challenges Objective: To identify and discuss strategic entry points for gender-responsive WASH policies, programmes and budgets. Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What legal and/or policy measures are required to ensure universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030? What kind of institutional arrangements and/or mechanisms are needed to enhance integrated and gender-responsive approaches in the WASH sector and in WASH services? How can these arrangements propel action and monitor progress? What are the key challenges? What types of measures can ensure that gender equality considerations are integrated into the provision of WASH infrastructure and services so that women, girls, boys and men have non-discriminatory and equal access? How are governments/municipalities innovating in this regard? How are gender equality objectives informing resource and budget allocations? 	Moderator: Mary Okumu, UN Women Speakers: Mr. Abdul Hafiz Koroma, National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee Secretariat, Liberia Mr. Labo Madougou, Ministry of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Niger Ms. Marthe Khady Diallo, Louga District Council, Senegal Ms. Paulette Beat, UN Women, Cameroon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are national/local level governments collecting and using data to enhance WASH programming and monitor results? <p>Plenary Discussion</p>	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Session 2 (cont'd): Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector: Opportunities & Challenges</p> <p>Objective: To examine ways in which the UN System is and can better support gender responsive implementation of WASH policies, programmes and budgets, in the context of localizing SDG6 and enhancing synergies with SDG5.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How and in what ways can the UN System contribute its collective knowledge and expertise on integrating gender equality and the empowerment of women in national/local water, sanitation and hygiene policies and programmes? How can gender-related targets of SDG 5 and SDG 6 be strengthened? How are UN entities ensuring that gender equality considerations are integrated into WASH policies, programs and services, including infrastructure? What are the key challenges and how are has the UN addressed these challenges? What measures are being taken to improve the disaggregation of data and closing of gender data gaps in the WASH sector? In what ways are the capacities of national statistical systems being enhanced? What kind of institutional arrangements and/or mechanisms are needed to enhance integrated and gender-responsive approaches in the WASH sector and in WASH services? How can these arrangements propel action and monitor progress? What are the key challenges? <p>Plenary Discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Venge Nyirongo, UN Women</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Lizette Burgers/ UNICEF</p> <p>Leanne Burney/UN Water</p> <p>David Lahai/UN Women (Sierra Leone)</p>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Coffee Break	

<p>3:15 pm – 4:45 pm</p>	<p>Session 3: Promoting accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the WASH sector</p> <p>Objective: To highlight existing accountability measures as well as gaps for ensuring the gender-responsive implementation of WASH policies, programmes and budgets.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What internal measures have governments put in place to strengthen accountability for gender equality results? • What measures have governments put in place to strengthen accountability of implementing partners, including the private sector, for providing non-discriminatory, accessible, affordable and safe water and proper sanitation? How are districts/municipalities ensuring that partnerships align with human rights and gender equality principles? What are the key challenges? • How are municipalities/local governments engaging diverse stakeholders in the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of WASH programmes and services? What are good practice examples of such collaboration among communities, the private sector, women’s and other civil society organizations and/or other stakeholders? How have these partnerships strengthened accountability and contributed to better results? <p>Plenary Discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Archana Patkar, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mbarou Gassamambaye, Consultant (Senegal)</p> <p>Robert Bain, WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme</p> <p>Mary Okumu, UN Women, Sierra Leone</p> <p>Francoise Coupal, Evaluation Team Leader, UNW Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation in West and Central Africa</p>
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Day 2, Friday, 15 December 2017		
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Summary of Day 1 & Review of Day 2 Objectives and outcomes	Nicole Van Huyssteen, UN Women
9:15 am – 10:45 am	<p>Session 4: The UN System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: An Accountability Framework for Gender Mainstreaming</p> <p>Objective: To look at how individual UN Agencies have implemented the UN SWAP and to highlight both challenges and results in terms of strengthened institutional performance on and accountability for achieving gender equality results.</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the implementation of an institution-wide gender mainstreaming framework enhanced institutional performance and accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls? What systems and institutional arrangements have facilitated such processes? • What are some of the key drivers of this process? What has contributed to its uptake within the UN System? • What has been learned from the UN-SWAP experience? <p>Plenary Discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Aparna Mehrotra, UN Women</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Sara Callegari, UN Women</p> <p>Angela Mwai, UN-Habitat</p> <p>Hedda Femundsenden, UNIDO</p> <p>Tsovinar Harutyunyan, UNFPA</p>
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Coffee Break	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Session 5: Introducing a Sector-wide Action Plan for the WASH Sector: An Accountability Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector</p> <p>Objective: To introduce the draft WASH sector-wide Action Plan as a potential accountability tool/mechanism for enhancing institutional performance and accountability for achieving gender equality results in water, sanitation and hygiene.</p> <p>Plenary Discussion</p>	Presentation by: Priya Alvarez, UN Women
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Session 5 (cont'd): An Accountability Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector</p> <p>Objective: To review and validate the appropriateness and applicability of the WASH Sector-Wide Action Plan in national/municipal contexts and to generate recommendations for its refinement and piloting.</p> <p>Facilitated Discussion / Action Planning with participants</p>	Facilitator: Priya Alvarez, UN Women

<p>3:00 pm – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Closing session: Key takeaways and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are key recommendations for ensuring gender mainstreaming, and hence the gender-responsive implementation of SDG 6? • How can the WASH Sector-Wide Action Plan support districts and municipalities to mainstream gender in institutional systems, processes and operations? • How can stakeholder involvement, including UN System, best be leveraged to accelerate progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the WASH sector? 	<p>Aparna Mehrotra, UN Women</p>
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Annex II: List of Participants

Name	Title	Entity
Mr. Abdul Hafiz Koroma	National WASH Coordinator	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee Secretariat, Liberia
Ms. Archana Patkar	Head of Policy	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Mr. David Lahai	Partnerships and Coordination Specialist	UN Women, Sierra Leone
Mr. David Thomas	Safeguards Consultant, Gender Unit	UN-Habitat
Hon. George W. K. Yarngo	Assistant Minister/Ministerial lead on Water and Sanitation in Liberia	Ministry of Community Services, Liberia
Ms. Hedda Femundsden	Gender Coordinator	UNIDO
Mr. Labo Madougou	Director	Ministry of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Niger
Ms. Leanne Burney	Program Officer	UN DESA / UN Water
Ms. Lizette Burgers	Senior WASH Advisor	UNICEF
Ms. Marthe Eugune Khady Diallo	Representative	Louga District Council, Senegal
Ms. Mary Okumu	Country Representative	UN Women, Sierra Leone
Ms. Mbarou Gassama Mbaye	Regional Programme Coordinator	UN Women Joint Regional Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation in West and Central Africa
Ms. Naomi Parekh	Events and Protocol Manager	Sanitation and Water for All
Mr. Nelson Gomonda	WASH Specialist	Sanitation and Water for All
Mr. Robert Bain	Statistics and Monitoring Specialist	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme
Mr. Shadrach Toteh Wolo	Programs Director	National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee Secretariat (Liberia)

Name	Title	Entity
Ms. Aparna Mehrotra	Director	UN-Women
Ms. Carla Kraft	Policy Analyst	UN-Women
Ms. Ghada Jiha	Senior Consultant	UN-Women
Ms. Nicole Van Huyssteen	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist	UN-Women
Ms. Priya Alvarez	Evaluation Specialist	UN-Women
Ms. Sara Callegari	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist	UN-Women
Ms. Sharon Taylor	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist	UN-Women
Ms. Shivangi Shrivastava	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist	UN-Women
Ms. Vandinika Shukla	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist	UN-Women
Mr. Venge Nyirongo	Policy Specialist	UN-Women