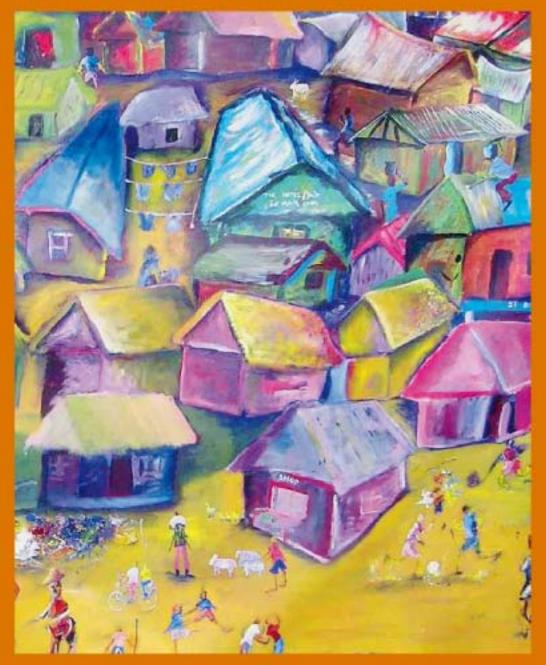
# Gender in Local Government A Sourcebook for Trainers



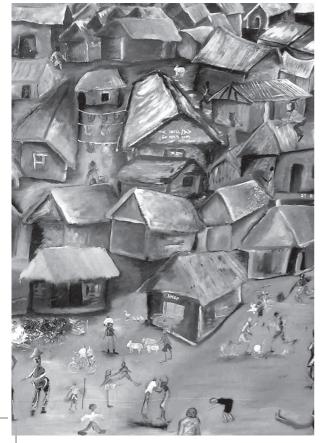


TAT UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

# **Gender in Local Government**

A Sourcebook for Trainers

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### Gender in Local Government

#### A Sourcebook for Trainers

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## Foreword



Good local governance cannot work if due attention is not given to gender equality and women's empowerment. This is why UN-HABITAT is making sustained efforts to incorporate gender both internally and in its work with partners.

UN-HABITAT has recently published a number of training tools which aim to build the capacities of local governments in areas such as local governance, general and financial management as well as local economic development. A strong gender dimension has been incorporated into these tools and in ongoing training activities in order to further support UN-HABITAT gender policies.

Despite these efforts, many local government training institutes which use these tools are neither adequately equipped to provide specific training on gender in local government, nor have they been able to integrate the gender dimension into their day-to-day training programmes.

This manual, 'Gender in Local Government: A Sourcebook for Trainers', is designed to assist training institutions in mainstreaming gender concerns in local government capacity-building and in training related to human settlements as conducted by Habitat Agenda partners.

My thanks for supporting this project go to the Government of The Netherlands for funding the initial research and development, to the Government of Norway for funding an Expert Group Meeting and the field-testing of the sourcebook, and to the Government of Spain for funding printing and translation.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the committee of experts who provided invaluable contributions, the UN-HABITAT team, and the principal author, Ms. Prabha Khosla.

And type lo Gibergenter

Anna Tibaijuka Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General

## Preface

This Sourcebook was developed in response to the difficulties encountered by local government trainers when addressing gender relations in local governance. The Sourcebook is rooted in UN-HABITAT's conviction that human settlement development cannot be gender-neutral, and that the equitable participation of women is essential at all levels of decision-making in towns and cities. One entry point for UN-HABITAT is to ensure that its training materials and training programmes can assist local governments to understand the likely impact of decisions on gender equality and equity, and further to convince them of the importance of involving women in decision-making processes on an equal basis with men.

This Sourcebook aims at providing local governments with the tools to better understand the importance of gender in the decision-making process and to reach better solutions for the communities they serve. For this publication the following key issues of local governance have been selected:

- participation in local government,
- □ land rights,
- urban planning,
- □ service provision,
- local government financing,
- violence against women and
- □ local economic development.

Each of these issues is introduced by a brief gender analysis. Numerous case studies illustrate what local governments can do. Reflection questions and training exercises help trainers to develop successful training events.

This Sourcebook can be used as a stand-alone tool to design gender training for local governments. However, it is primarily designed as a companion to a number of existing UN-HABITAT training tools. As such, it is hoped that it will provide valuable insights and resources for trainers and training institutions to improve their wide-ranging training courses, by introducing gender.

As it is assumed that many local government trainers are not experienced gender trainers, the Sourcebook provides an extensive overview of gender concepts and tools. It also gives guidelines and tips for running gender training events and for integrating gender into traditional local government training.

The development of the 'Gender in Local Government: A Sourcebook for Trainers' manual has benefited from the contributions of many individuals and partner organizations. The first draft was shared with a group of experts in the fields of gender and local government training who provided valuable contributions to all aspects of this publication. Some of the experts contributed actively to the case studies used to illustrate the issues at hand. An Expert Group Meeting, held in Kampala in May 2007, brought together the following participants: Ms. Olilvia Baciu, Mr. Nfally Badiane, Ms. Grace Bantebya, Ms. Nadia Batool, Ms. Doaa Mahmoud El-Sherif, Ms. Kwanele Muriel Jirira, Ms. Peace Musiimenta, Ms. Paola Jirón, Ms. Christine Giibwa Musisi, Mr. Kamla Kant Pandey, Ms. Olabisi

Ibijoke Olateru-Olagbegi, Ms. Lowie Rosales, Ms. Muchimba Sikumba-Dils, Ms. Tabitha Mulyamfiti, Ms. Hilda Tadria , Mr. Eric Tumwesigye and Mr. Julian Walker. Large parts of the draft were field-tested in three locations in Uganda where councillors and local government staff provided valuable inputs to the training exercises. Initial research was provided by Yvette Abrahams. This Sourcebook benefited immensely from the initiative, support and guidance of numerous officers in all UN-HABITAT departments. Their contributions to the chapters of particular relevance to their field of work are highly recognized.

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