



Strategy and Action Plan



Mainstreaming Gender WATER AND SANITATION



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Acknowledgements

This Gender Mainstreaming Strategy has been developed under the supervision of Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, Water for Cities Programmes, Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch of UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, and Dr. Kulwant Singh, CTA, Water for Asian Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT, New Delhi. Mahila Chetna Manch (MCM), an NGO based in Bhopal, M.P. India, prepared the strategy which was based on a rapid gender assessment of the cities of Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, India.

The development of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and an Action Plan owes a great deal to many individuals. UN-HABITAT would like to acknowledge significant contribution of Mrs. Nirjala Buch, Chairperson, MCM for leading the effort of developing the strategy and action plan for its implementation and the team of MCM Professionals including Ms. Rashmi Saraswat, Mr. M.L. Sharma, Mr. Raghuraj Singh as well as Usha Rajeev, Rakesh and Annapurna.

The Strategy document has also benefited from the invaluable ideas and experiences of the Corporators and Staff of the Municipal Corporation of the project cities and the recommendations made by Mr. Sunil Sood, Mayor of Bhopal city, Mr. Vivek Shejwalkar, Mayor of Gwalior city, Dr. (Mrs) Uma Shashi Sharma, Mayor of Indore city and Mrs. Sushila Singh, Mayor of Jabalpur city.

The Strategy and Action Plan also gained new and innovative ideas from the constructive suggestions made by Mr. P. D. Meena, Principal Secretary and Mr. Malay Shrivastava, Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Department of Urban Administration and Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Gulshan Bamra, Project Director, UWSEIMP, Bhopal and Mr. Aniruddhe Mukerjee, CTA, Water for Asian Cities Programme, India, UN-HABITAT, Bhopal.



FOREWORD

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Asian Development Bank initiated the Water for Asian Cities Programme with the objective of achieving Millennium Development Goal 7 Targets 10 and 11 aimed at reducing the number of people without water and basic sanitation facilities by half by 2015, and improving the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. In India the Programme is being implemented in the four cities of Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The programme is specially focused on promoting pro-poor urban water and sanitation governance, improving environmental sanitation, water demand management and capacity building of various stakeholders. The Programme seeks to address the concerns and needs of all sections of population, particularly of women who constitute half the population. Gender mainstreaming is therefore an important cross cutting issue of concern in all aspects of policy making, programme planning and project design.

UN-HABITAT requested Mahila Chetna Manch, a non-governmental organization based in Bhopal, to formulate a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Water for Asian Cities Programme to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated in water and sanitation related policies, programmes and projects. A Rapid Gender Assessment informed the gender mainstreaming strategy and captured the voices of women, particularly in the slum areas. The proposed strategy was also discussed in a Stakeholders' Workshop in Bhopal in March 2006.

I am pleased to present the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy not only as a tool for incorporating women's concerns and needs in development, but also as a means of empowering women by giving them an effective voice in decisions affecting their livelihoods and by promoting their role and contribution as agents of change within their respective communities.

The Strategy emphasizes the benefits of entrusting the responsibility to groups of women and men of taking control of solving their water and sanitation problems at the local level, particularly slums which are highly deficient in water and sanitation services. It highlights the need for capacity building at different levels, from head offices to the grassroots level, to apply gender sensitive budgeting, impact analysis and monitoring and evaluation.

This strategy document is being adapted and used by policy makers, programme managers and implementing agencies in the Water for Asian Cities Programme. I believe that it will also help other actors in the water and sanitation industry to gain a better understanding of the critical linkages between gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna K. Tibaijuka".

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director
UN-HABITAT



MESSAGE

Government of Madhya Pradesh is deeply committed to improving the quality of life of the people. We firmly believe development strategies must transform the institutions based on the principle of equal rights, equal opportunity and equal voice for women and men. While the great inertia and difficulty in change pose a challenge to meet our goals, transformations are always a possibility. The Gender mainstreaming strategy evolved under UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme by programme partner Mahila Chetna Manch, as a result of various consultations and need assessment can be optimistically seen as a tool to strengthen the institutional mechanism and make local governance more gender sensitive and responsive.

Water for Asian Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT and the ADB supported Urban Slum Environment Improvement Project and also the recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission aims at harnessing the potential of reform in urban infrastructure. An engendered approach to reforms will not only catalyze investment in urban infrastructure but also ensure that the voices of the marginalized population, especially the women is heard and adhered to. While several reform initiatives have been taken e.g. the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and model municipal law, there is a potential for further reform-oriented steps in order to meet the development objectives.

I hope that this publication will contribute to both better policy and better practice in the field along with an engendered outlook towards efficiency in urban infrastructure and service delivery mechanisms, participation of men and women and accountability of urban local bodies. The state government will be leading the efforts at its implementation.

Jayant Kumar Malaiya
MINISTER
Urban Administration & Development
Housing & Environment
Government of Madhya Pradesh



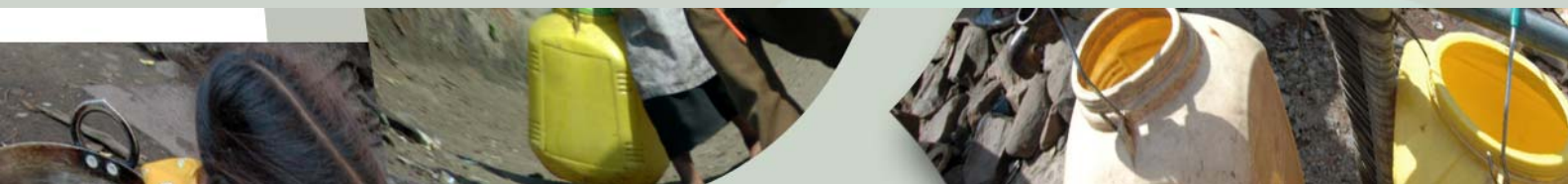
MESSAGE

Gender equality and equity are indispensable to realization of Millennium Development Goals especially relating to water and sanitation. We are aware that the problem of water and sanitation is faced more by women as compared to men. In this context we appreciate the endeavour of Mahila Chetna Manch to prepare the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy supported by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank under its Water for Asian Cities Programme.

This strategy recognizes women's concerns and perspectives in water and sanitation services and paves way for enlisting active participation of men and women to share the responsibility for handling the services. The state of Madhya Pradesh is committed to the implementation of this strategy.

I hope that with the effective implementation of the strategy and its action plan, local bodies will have enhanced capacity and responsiveness to provide water and sanitation services with equity and efficiency.

Prabhu Dayal Meena
Principal Secretary
Urban Administration &
Development Department
Government of Madhya Pradesh





MESSAGE

Gender Mainstreaming strategy is a blue print to centre stage gender in all development initiatives. However, the understanding of the concept of gender mainstreaming and the skills to implement it at local and organizational level still has a long way to go. In this pursuit, this document will definitely enable local governance organisation to encourage the promotion and use of gender-sensitive approach in the water and sanitation programmes.

I am hopeful that this Gender Mainstreaming strategy developed under Water from Asian Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT will help in meeting the critical demands of generating gender disaggregated data in water and sanitation services along with gender sensitive indicators and thereby form a basis for the successful implementation of water and sanitation policies and strategies. The action plan set out in the document will enable the Municipal Corporations and the department to become gender inclusive and sensitive not only in their approach but also in their procedures, rules and regulations.

I am sure that the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and action plan set out will enhance the capacities of the local bodies to enable them to provide thrust on the conduction of local services and governance in a manner that is transparent and accountable to both men and women.

Malay Shrivastava
Commissioner
Urban Administration &
Development Department
Government of Madhya Pradesh

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