

HISAAR FOUNDATION, WOMEN AND THE WEF NEXUS

BY
SANAA BAXAMOOSA
26TH NOVEMBER 2019

4th Karachi International
Water Conference



Water·Energy·Food
N E X U S



Hisaar Foundation
a foundation for water, food and livelihood security

Agenda for the 21st Century

Women and Water

- The supply and collection of water is exclusively considered “women’s work”
- Women are responsible for growing food crops and caring for livestock
- Women are responsible for the health and well being of their children and family – the quality and access of water has a direct impact on health



Women are the **primary** users and **managers** of water but have no control over **decision making**

Women and Sectors of Water Management



What is Gender Mainstreaming?

- Gender mainstreaming involves the integration of a **gender** perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, legislation and programmes
- Gender approaches use methodologies, tools and strategies to examine and address the relations between men and women, differences in levels of power, needs, constraints and opportunities and the impact of these differences on their lives
- In the context of IWRM it means that the opportunities and benefits arising from water sector interventions will be equally available to women and to men.

Why Gender Matters in IWRM

- **Economic Efficiency**

- Women are responsible for providing drinking water. In areas where water is supplied for a price, the burden of fetching water is higher

- **Environmental Sustainability**

- Poor people pollute on a household level but the greatest polluters are industries which pollute water sources which directly impact women
- Women are at highest risk in times of droughts and floods as they lack means to cope

- **Social Equity**

- Women and children fetch water and are most susceptible to water borne diseases
- Women are the first to cut back on their consumption of food and water to provide for their children

- **Water Governance**

- Water planners choose amongst competing uses. Women don't have a formal voice in the sector therefore domestic use is given least priority
- Often irrigation schemes are conducted with landowners therefore women are left out of the equation

WOMEN AND WATER IN ACTION

Initiatives of Hisaar Foundation



Women and Water Networks

Hisaar Foundation is the host organization of WWN Pakistan since 2001. WWNs are designed to bring in women from all sectors of society, such that their voice can be effectively channeled into mainstream policies, discussions and actions relating to water, food and livelihood issues.

- WWN Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town (pilot/model town)
- 13 WWNs at Union Council Level in Gulshan-e-Iqbal
- WWN Lyari Town
- WWN Landhi Town
- WWN Jamshed Town
- WWN Gulberg Town
- WWN Keamari Town
- WWN Bin Qasim Town
- WWN Saddar Town
- WWN Lahore
- WWN Islamabad
- WWN Peshawar
- WWN Quetta



Women and Water Networks



Kitchen Gardening

- Activists trained to grow fresh nutritious vegetables in their homes through judicious use of water in recycled tires and pots to ensure both food and water security
- Over 100,000 kitchen gardening and food security activists trained



Saving Thar Project: Urban women of Karachi supporting Rural women of Thar

- Urban Women – Old Associates of Kinnaird Society Karachi Chapter raise funds to implement interventions in Thar through Hisaar Foundation
- OAKS and Hisaar Foundation partnership achievements:
 - New wells constructed
 - Old wells rehabilitated
 - Village adoption projects
 - Goats distribution
 - Solar panels on households
 - Kitchen gardening trainings
 - Ber grafting
 - Fodder tree plantations



Urban Women helping Rural Women



Women and Water in Central and South Asia





Avoiding “manels” at Karachi International Water Conference



Facilitating Exchange of Junior Experts

- Wein Janos Foundation, Hungary and Hisaar Foundation have initiated a junior expert transfer programme
- 2 women have been selected from Pakistan for a three month internship programme in Hungary to learn from Hungarian water sector and apply their learning to Pakistan



WAY FORWARD

National Water Policy

National Water Policy and Mainstreaming of Women

- The political leadership signed the ‘Pakistan Water Charter’ that demonstrated consensus and political will, and Pakistan’s first National Water Policy (NWP) came out on April 24th, 2018
- Women remain largely **invisible** in the water institutions of the country, water-related ministries and department, water NGOs and water businesses
- They are seen mostly as ‘**affectees**’ of the water crisis and climate change and therefore are bracketed as part of the problem **instead of the solution**

National Water Policy and Mainstreaming of Women

- Women account for 48.76 per cent of the population of the country
- **However**, women have been referred to only **once** in the National Water Policy
- In the context of stakeholder participation in section 18.3 of the policy document where ‘women population will be promoted in domestic water supply and water hygiene’
- This shows that in spite of Pakistan’s agriculture-based economy — an economy heavily dependent on water and the work of women — the policy only takes into account women’s participation as domestic users of water

Recommendations

- Accept women as a legitimate group to engage along with other water stakeholders
- Currently, women are not recognized as a party to the current debate in the country on dams, water infrastructure, water distribution, irrigation, agriculture and competing demands for use of water
- Combining Pakistan's gender equity and equality commitments with water-related goals can give a solid boost to gender mainstreaming in the water sector in Pakistan

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the potential to combine and build synergies to put women squarely in the middle of water development, conservation and management
- Pakistan must invest in women as drivers of water management and conservation, agricultural growth and food security, and not just as beneficiaries
- Need to promote collective action among women and cultivate women's orientation to income, rather than subsistence-only initiatives
- Build equitable measures into the provincial water policies and in the implementation framework of the National Water Policy.

THANK YOU
