



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 46 March 8, 2012 | **Gender Considerations for WASH and IAP**

Thursday, March 8th is International Women's Day. This issue of the *WASHplus Weekly* contains recent resources that discuss gender issues related to water, sanitation and hygiene and the prevention of indoor air pollution. Also included are more general resources such as the recently published World Bank Development Report 2012 on gender and equity and the March 2012 USAID Gender Policy Paper.

Please let WASHplus know at any time if you have resources to share for future issues of WASHplus Weekly or if you have suggestions for future topics. An [archive](#) of past Weekly issues is available on the WASHplus website.

WASH

- **2012 Cartoon Calendar: Gender and Water/Sanitation/Hygiene.** Water and Sanitation Program. [\(Full-text\)](#) (In English, French and Spanish)
This year, the World Bank/Water and Sanitation Program's calendar depicts water and sanitation challenges from a gender perspective to call attention to some of the social norms that result from, and reinforce poor service quality.
- **Gender and Community-Led Total Sanitation: A Case Study of Ekiti State, Nigeria, 2011.** A Adeyeye, MEM. [\(Full-text\)](#)
This report examines the role "gender mainstreaming" plays in the progress of Ekiti State CLTS projects. Interviews with CLTS facilitators, community leaders, and individual households indicate that WaterAid Nigeria focuses on equal representation of men and women within the Water and Sanitation Committees and as Volunteer Health Promoters. However, equal representation does not always translate to equal decision-making power. Without clearly delineated roles within the committees, the committees' foci naturally turn to issues with which men are most familiar, as men are more vocal than women in public spaces. As a result, issues with which women are more familiar can be overlooked to the detriment of the entire community.
- **Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy: USAID Policy Paper, 2012.**

USAID. ([Full-text](#))|([Executive Summary](#))

The goal of this policy is to improve the lives of citizens around the world by advancing equality between females and males, and empowering women and girls to participate fully in and benefit from the development of their societies. In order to achieve this goal, USAID investments are aimed at three overarching outcomes: reduce gender disparities in access to, control over and benefit from resources, wealth, opportunities and services - economic, social, political, and cultural; reduce gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects on individuals; and increase capability of women and girls to realize their rights, determine their life outcomes, and influence decision-making in households, communities, and societies.

- **Impact of Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting Technology on Women's Well-being in Hilly and Fragile Areas: Evidence from Pakistan**, 2011. A Ahmed, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. ([Full-text](#))

This study assessed the impact of rain water harvesting with special reference to women's health in the hilly and earth quake affected areas of Bagh and Battagram villages of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan. The results reveal that rain water harvesting technology is viable, profitable and a sustainable source of water supply, especially in the earthquake prone, hilly, and rural areas that are receiving high levels of rainfall in Pakistan.

- **Safe Access to Safe Water in Low Income Countries: Water Fetching in Current Times**, *Soc Sci & Med*, Apr 2011. S Sorenson, University of Pennsylvania. ([Full-text](#))

Women and children are the most common water carriers, and they spend considerable time (many trips take more than an hour) supplying water to their households. Time is but one measure of the cost of fetching water; caloric expenditures, particularly during droughts, and other measures that affect health and quality of life must be considered. The full costs of fetching water must be considered when measuring progress toward two Millennium Development Goals—increasing access to safe drinking water and seeking an end to poverty.

- **Women and the Long Road to Water**, *Global Waters*, May 2011. USAID. ([Full-text](#))
This issue has features on USAID water projects in the Gambia and Nigeria that have successful gender components.

- **Women, Water and the Ugly Global Crisis We're Not Talking About**, *Washington Post Innovations*, Feb 2012. A Rinne, Water.org. ([Full-text](#))

Imagine you're a young woman in an urban slum, perhaps Nairobi or Mumbai. You spend several hours each day waiting for water to arrive on a truck. When that truck arrives, the driver charges a price that he alone sets. People whose only option is to purchase water from trucks operated by the local "water mafia" pay an average of 5-to-15 times more per liter than people with dedicated municipal connections.

- **Women's Rights and Access to Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities: Key Findings**, 2011. International Development Research Centre (IDRC). ([Full-text](#))
 This research raises significant gender and rights issues about the design of the infrastructure and service provision in community settlements and points to a clear need to deepen an understanding of the gender gaps in services. How can a deeper understanding influence the negotiations and designs of future re-location colonies? What can be done to ensure low income women's voices, needs, and priorities are part of the planning and governance process?
- **World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development**. World Bank. ([Full-text](#))
 This year's World Development Report: Gender Equality and Development argues that gender equality is a core development objective in its own right. It is also smart economics. Greater gender equality can enhance productivity, improve development outcomes for the next generation, and make institutions more representative.

IAP INTERVENTIONS

- **The Changing Climate of Household Energy: Determinants of Cooking Fuel Choice in Domestic Settings in Axim, Ghana**, 2011. N Manyo-Plange. ([Full-text](#))
 In sub-Saharan Africa it is assumed that women's cooking fuel choices are constrained by their economic circumstances. The purpose of this study is to understand how different factors influence cooking fuel choice in Ghana. A survey was administered to 100 adult female participants in Axim, Ghana. The study identifies five key factors that contribute to fuel choice, indicating a more complex decision-making strategy than previously thought. It finds that many women are not passive victims of poverty, but that they actively prepare for energy-related hazards by building diverse energy portfolios.
- **Energy Affordability and Household Energy Security: Discussion Note 9**, 2011. UNESCAP. ([Full-text](#))
 A non-technical issue that plays a significant role in household energy security is "gender." In non-monetized fuel markets, where biomass is within "easy reach" of the home, household energy security is generally women's responsibility. However, as biomass becomes scarce, and its sourcing takes longer, there is a shift towards men's involvement in fuel collection, particularly where the use of mechanized transport is required or where there are social restrictions on women's movement outside of the household. Measures taken to improve household energy security therefore need to consider men.
- **Energy, Gender and Development: What Are the Linkages? Where Is the Evidence?** 2011. G Kohlin, Goteborg University. ([Full-text](#))
 This report reviews the literature on the links between energy access, welfare, and

gender in order to provide evidence on where gender considerations in the energy sector matter and how they might be addressed. The report's main finding is that energy interventions can have significant gender benefits, in particular how women's preferences, opportunity cost of time, and welfare are reflected in household energy decisions. There is thus a clear need for studies to evaluate interventions and identify key design elements for gender-sensitive project design.

- **Gender Equity in Access to and Benefits from Modern Energy and Improved Energy Technologies**, 2012. J Clancy, University of Twente. ([Full-text](#))

This paper focuses on the socio-cultural dimensions that influence and shape gender equity in terms of access to and benefits from access to modern energy and improved energy technologies. Gender equity recognises that women and men have different needs and interests, and that to achieve equality in life outcomes, a redistribution of power and resources is required.

- **Global Gender and Climate Alliance Policy Brief**, 2011. UNDP. ([Full-text](#))

Mainstreaming gender in energy programming and policy is good social policy and would enhance the efficiency of energy policies. Incorporating gender perspectives in energy projects, policy and planning is critical to ensure the effectiveness of not just energy programs and policies, but all development activities that involve energy use.

- **Intra-Household Externalities and Low Demand for a New Technology: Experimental Evidence on Improved Cookstoves**, November 2011. G Miller, Stanford University. ([Full-text](#))

This paper studies the behavioral underpinnings of low demand for a technology with substantial implications for population health and the environment: improved cookstoves. It found that women—who bear disproportionate cooking costs—have stronger preference for improved stoves, especially health-saving stoves, but lack the authority to make purchases.

WEBSITES

- International Women's Day - ([Website](#))
- United Nations: Women Watch - ([Website](#))
- USAID Gender Equality & Empowering Women - ([Website](#))

Each *WASHplus Weekly* highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus knowledge resources specialist, at dacampbell@fhi360.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or email: contact@washplus.org.

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