

Gender integrated planning in water resources management in Afghanistan

10–13 March 2019
Kabul, Afghanistan

Background

Water scarcity has been cited as a major problem in Afghanistan. The issue is intricate and involves questions of availability, accessibility, affordability, and safety. Afghanistan's 2009 Water Law grants equitable right to water to all, but not everybody enjoys this right equally. The division of labour in conservative, rural areas is rigid, constituting several barriers to the equal participation of Afghan women. Given this situation, and in line with the goal of the Strengthening Water Resources Management in Afghanistan (SWaRMA) initiative of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a hands-on four-day workshop on Gender Integrated Planning in Water Resources Management was jointly organized by Kabul University and SWaRMA to build capacity in water resources management in Afghanistan. The workshop was conducted from 10–13 March 2019 in Kabul University for professionals, government officials, and academics working on water resources.

For promoting gender equality through a meaningful integration of women, it is important that gender issues should be reflected in the

way objectives and outcomes of a programme are defined, activities and inputs are developed as well as monitored and evaluated. The workshop was therefore designed to help the participants understand and apply the concepts and tools of gender analysis and learn how to address gender issues through a comprehensive gender responsive planning process.

The workshop was attended by 17 participants (eight women) from various partner organizations, including WRD/MEW, MAIL, MEW, NEPA, MRRD, AMD, Kabul University, Kabul Polytechnic University, as well as two HUC members – Eshraq University and Nangarhar University. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Senior Gender Specialist-Gender Lead, ICIMOD, and Dr. Suman Bisht, Senior Gender Specialist, ICIMOD, and supported by Prof. Mohammad Khalid Habibi, Head of Gender Unit, Kabul University.

The first day of the training focused on setting the context by helping the participants understand the key gender concepts and the role of gender in water resources management

The second day focused on understanding the key gender analysis methods and tools, and learning how to use the information generated through these tools to inform the different steps of the planning process for improved gender integration.

Day three of the workshop provided an opportunity to the participants to practise the use of gender analysis tools and learn how to integrate gender findings into goal setting. Given the security situation in Afghanistan, it was not possible to organize the practice session in a real-life context where the participants could go to the rural area and interview the community members. Hence, male and female students from the university (primarily from a rural background) were invited to the workshop as part of the exercise to collect study samples. The workshop participants used the gender analysis tools to gather information from the students in order to identify gender gaps and then develop and design project/programme objectives, activities, and inputs to overcome these gaps.

The fourth day focused on developing gender-sensitive indicators for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating.

An evaluation of the workshop at the end of the four days revealed that all the participants found the data collection tools and gender analysis methods, along with learning the different steps of the planning process, to be most useful. Many participants indicated that learning the gender concepts in detail was useful for them to better comprehend the tools and methods for gender analysis. They also found the workshop methodology of using group work and practice sessions as a tool for learning rather than the classroom-lecture mode to be much more useful.

1. Workshop on research methodology and tools for students, 14–15 March 2019

A study examining how and to what degree water resources management agencies consider gender and social inclusion in their policies, programmes, planning, and practice is being conducted by a Kabul University group comprising two professors/lecturers and four postgraduate and undergraduate students. The study will identify the challenges, constraints, and opportunities for integrating gender and social inclusion aspects. The findings of this study will guide SWaRMA activity and the design of capacity strengthening of the partners in integrating gender and social inclusion in integrated river basin management (IRBM) plans and activities. The findings of the study will also be useful for all actors and stakeholders in the sector as it could be a firm baseline data on this issue. The work assignment will involve reviewing the policies of institutions, interviews with staff, and field visits

to cite evidences and examples. This study will be carried out for MEW and MAIL regarding their policies and water-related programmes.

The scope of research will include examining the following questions:

- Do the policies of the institutions/organizations address gender and social inclusion concerns?
- If so, how are these done and in what ways (goals, objectives, human resources, programmes)?
- Are these also reflected on the ground in their programmes, projects, and practices?
- What are the gaps, challenges, and opportunities at the institutional level to address gender and social inclusion concerns?

The broad purpose of the workshop was to guide the Kabul University research team on the research process, methods, and tools as well as to help them better understand the gender and social inclusion context. An additional objective was to build their capacity in gender research.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Senior Gender Specialist-Gender Lead from ICIMOD.

The workshop was attended by six participants from Kabul University – two lecturers and four students. The two lecturers were men, while from the students, two were women and two men

The agenda for the meeting and workshop was as follows:

DAY 1

Morning: Discussion on the details of the study and the research questions

Afternoon: Understanding the context:

- Gender and social inclusion
- Why gender and social inclusion in environment, water, agriculture, and irrigation (the sectors that the institutions which are being looked into are in charge of)?

DAY 2

Morning: Framework and methods of gender analysis of policies, programmes/projects, and practice

Afternoon: Interview techniques and dos and don'ts

At the end of the workshop, it was agreed that two or three days could be set aside for a write-shop to finalize the report.

Annexes

Annex I: Workshop agenda

DAY 1 – 10 MARCH

SETTING THE CONTEXT: GENDER AND IDENTITIES, GENDER CONCEPTS, AND GENDER IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Time	Programme
08:30–10:00	Opening session Opening remarks by the representative of MEW (15 minutes) Opening remarks by the representative of MAIL (15 minutes) Opening remarks by the representative of Kabul University (15 minutes) Opening remarks by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich (15 minutes) Progress of SWaRMA by Ayub Shinwari, Programme Officer, SWaRMA (15 minutes)
10:00–10:45	Tea and group photo
10:45–12:00	Session 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants' self-Introductions – led by the facilitators• Expectations – led by the facilitators• Setting objectives – led by the facilitators
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–14:30	Session 2: Setting the context <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender and Identities• Gender and social dynamics in Afghanistan (by Professor Habibi)
14:30–15:15	Session 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why gender in water resources management
15:15–15:30	Tea break
15:30–16:30	Session 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project cycle

DAY 2 – 11 MARCH

PLANNING CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORKS; GENDER ANALYSIS TOOLS

08:30–08:45	Recap of Day 1
08:45–10:00	Session 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mainstreaming gender in water resources management programming and in the project cycle
10:00–10:15	Coffee/Tea Break
10:15–12:00	Session 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the four modules on gender integrated planning
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–15:15	Session 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of gender analysis tools for data collection
15:15–15:30	Tea break
15:30–16:30	Practice of use of tools among themselves (group exercise)

DAY 3 – 12 MARCH

GENDER ANALYSIS METHODS AND TOOLS + MOCK FIELD PRACTICE

08:30–09:00	Recap of Day 2
09:00–10:00	Preparing for practice with student groups
10:00–10:15	Coffee/tea break
10:15–12:30	Practice of gender analysis tools with students (in groups)
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30–14:15	Feedback/sharing of experience of practice
14:15–15:00	Session 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to setting objectives from a gender perspective (impacts and outcomes)
15:00–15:15	Tea break
15:15–16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using data from the exercise with student groups to begin setting objectives (group exercise)• Presentation of objectives by groups

DAY 4 – 13 MARCH

DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES (THIS INCLUDES INDICATORS AND TIME SCHEDULE FOR M&E)

8:30–9:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of Day 4
8:45–9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise objectives based on feedback + presentation
9:30–10:15	Session 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to developing gender-sensitive indicators for M&E
10:15–12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Based on the objectives) develop indicators (group exercise + presentation) (working coffee/tea in between)• Developing action plans and activities; identifying inputs for activities
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–15:00	Developing action plans and activities; identifying inputs for activities
15:00–15:15	Coffee/tea break
15:15–16:00	Presentation of action plans by groups
16:00–16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation

Annex II: Workshop agenda

	Name	Organization	Job title	Email
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