

National WASH Multi-Stakeholder Forum 8

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COMMUNITY-BASED WATER MANAGEMENT AND GENDER

**Comparative case study on women's role and
inclusion in water management in three
COWASH regions**

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Outline of the presentation

- Background and objective of the case study
- Scope and methodology of the study
- Main findings
- Conclusions and recommendations



Introduction – COWASH

- Community-led Accelerated WASH (COWASH)
 - 5 regions, 76 woredas
 - Jointly funded by Government of Finland and Ethiopia
 - Duration: 2011-2019
 - Implementation modality: CMP
Community Managed Project approach



Introduction – COWASH and gender

- COWASH instruments for gender equality:
 - 50% quota of women in WASHCOs
 - Encouraging women to take up leadership positions in WASHCOs
 - 25% of the artisans trained to be women
 - Capacity building for women affairs offices
 - Support for gender mainstreaming trainings
 - Gender mainstreaming guideline and checklist used during the project implementation



Objective of the case study

Analyse the **role and inclusion of women** to water management in their communities as

1. WASHCO members
2. Community members



Scope and methodology

- Comparative case study conducted in 2016
 - Assessment of the performance of the WASHCOs against performance indicators such as: community participation and awareness of water management related issues; water point operation and maintenance, tariff collection and use
- 20 purposively selected sites from Tigray, SNNPR and Amhara
 - 3 focus group discussions per site (women, men and WASHCO)



Major findings

Inclusion and awareness of women in water management was not found to be at adequate level

The quota system alone has not been able to secure sufficient female inclusion to WASHCOs



Women in communities

Participation and inclusion:

- Strong participation and inclusion during the construction of the scheme (CMP approach!), but then weakening

Information gap:

- Women community members have a clear information gap compared to the male community members
- Women have not been included to the meetings where the water management related issues such as tariff levels, O&M needs etc. have been discussed and agreed



Serious inclusion issue but also a sustainability issue



Women in WASHCOs

WASHCO membership:

- In less than 50% of the WASHCOs visited, 50% of the WASHCO members were women (national proclamation, GTP II target)

WASHCO selection:

- Women elected as a chair or as a cashier mainly due to woreda direction
- Women considered more trustworthy to handle money than men
- In some cases selection of women as a chair person in the WASHCO was just symbolic. Actually WASHCO was led by her husband



Women in WASHCOs

Women not considered suitable for leadership positions:

- In **more than** 50 % of the water points visited, community members explained that they didn't consider women for the leadership position of the WASHCO due to cultural reasons and beliefs such as
 - Men are stronger in leading and managing development activities
 - Women not able manage the water project or travel woreda center as they are expected to take care of the household

Role of woreda and kebele women affairs offices:

- Involvement of woreda women affairs office and kebele women affairs representative was minimal. Not involved in WASH during the construction or after



Conclusions

- **Quota based system is not enough to create women leadership and empowerment**
- Awareness raising and capacity building needed are needed at all levels
- Achieving gender equality is a slow process that requires continuous support and follow up at all fronts
 1. Community, kebele and woreda level awareness raising
 2. Encouragement of women in their communities
 3. Setting example and presenting the stories of women champions
 4. Including women to MSE development and artisan training
 5. Involvement of woreda women affairs structures in WASH



Thank you



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