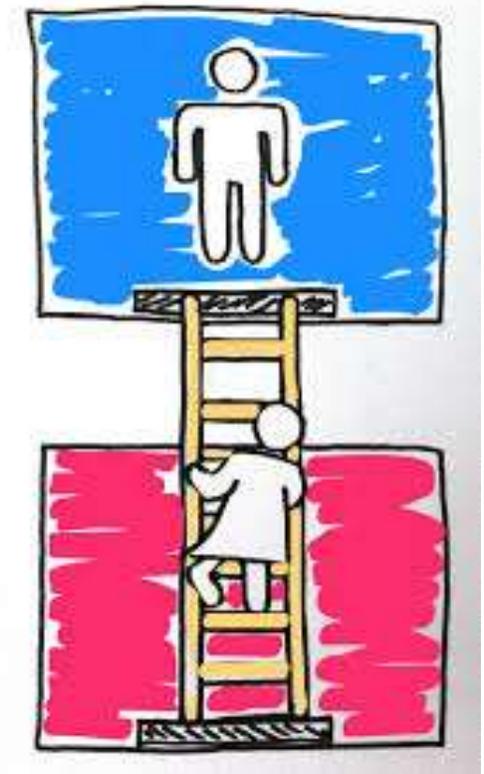


Woreda Experts Training
South Star Hotel, Hawassa
April 03, 2022

Meaza Kebede
Gender and Inclusion Specialist

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED IN COWASH IV GENDER EQUALITY/ WOMEN EMPOWERMENT RELATED

- Concept of “empowering women” is considered by the local people as “disempowering men” due to dominant patriarchal social system. Men of different age group need to be involved actively in the women empowerment process.
- Gender based differences from the point of access to and control over resources persist.
- In comparison, women are less educated than men so that illiteracy hampers them not to benefit from different opportunities (e.g. not selecting women to the leadership positions in WASH management structures).



CONT.

- Women are less mobile than men due to their childcare and household responsibilities, fear of physical and social violence and even because of socio-cultural norms that limit their mobility (so may not be able to attend trainings, meetings, etc. organized by gov't and dev't partners).
- Women have triple roles so that they are engaged for longer working hours in a day.
- Time and venue chosen for public meetings may not be suitable for women and persons with disabilities so that it limits their level of participation.



CONT.

- Women empowerment trainings are **usually given only for women** so that they will face problem to put what they learnt into practice. That will **not be helpful to remove social and institutional barriers**, including HTPs, that hinder women's empowerment.
- Women are heterogeneous so that their level of demand for water and sanitation may vary though water and sanitation facilities are highly needed by all women and girls.



CONT.

In some cases, women's presence in leadership position seems only a nominal representation due to:

- culture related problems (that devalue women in leadership positions),
- busyness of women with household chores (triple role),
- men's better capacity (gained due to experience)
- women's low approval by the community to hold leadership positions.



CONT

- Address issues like **gender-based violence/domestic violence, HTP and child abuse** to ensure achievement of women's empowerment and gender equality . Work aggressively to bring **behavioral change on these issues** needs attention.
- Lack of building capacity of women, to use the saved time from water collection for their livelihood improvement.



CONT.

COWASH population served with water	5.03 million
Female population served with water (50 %)	2.5 million
Number of women	1.5 million
Average collection time per person / day before improved water supply	170 minutes
Present average collection time/person/day	50 minutes
Collection time saved/person/day	120 minutes or 2 hours
Value of one working hour in rural area	10 Birr
Number of hours saved in water collection per day	3 million hours
Total value of work saved every day in COWASH	30 million Birr or 1 million Euro

- The table aside will help you to understand how the calculation for the **value of the time saved** was made. We can argue of selected parameters, but it does not change the fact that there **is a great value of the women work load saved in COWASH**

Source: Arto Suominen, Time Saved by Women and Girls in COWASH

Available at [https://www.cmpethiopia.org/media/time_saved_by_women_and_girls_in_cowash/\(language\)/eng-GB](https://www.cmpethiopia.org/media/time_saved_by_women_and_girls_in_cowash/(language)/eng-GB)

CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED IN COWASH IV DISABILITY INCLUSION / SOCIAL INCLUSION RELATED (BASED ON PHASE III EXPERIENCE)

- Despite extensive trainings that were given for water technicians /artisans of target woredas to apply inclusive design for WASH facilities construction, there is some misunderstanding on how an accessible water point/latrine might look & why it is important.
- Performance differences exist among COWASH woredas. Some have constructed all the water points with the new design, some few and some none.
- Some woredas have only used the new designs for new constructions, while some have made all rehabilitated water points accessible as well.



CONT.



- **Lack of monitoring** of implementation (for construction of institutional latrines using inclusive design) - students/teachers and patients with disabilities may experience any form of difficulty in the process of relieving themselves.
- Due to **attitudinal barriers at different levels**, both many women and many persons with disabilities themselves have fear of rejection / unacceptance /discrimination to take up leadership positions in WASH management.
- COWASH III has been working with people with disabilities and disabled people's organizations intensively but not much with **other disadvantaged groups like the children, elderly people, and unemployed youth.**

CONT.



BARRIERS TO WATER ACCESS



BARRIERS TO SANITATION



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING IN WASH (STRATEGY)

- Historical development of concept of gender – from early 1970s till now: Women in development; Women & Development; Gender & development.
- GAD challenges the notion of women as passive beneficiaries of dev't and focuses on unequal power relations between men and women.
- Two terms to be considered in COWASH IV implementation include **practical gender needs** and **strategic gender interests**.
- Practical gender needs are the needs of women or men that relate to responsibilities and **tasks associated with their traditional gender roles** or to **immediate perceived necessity** identified within a specific context.
- Strategic gender interests concern **the position of women and men in relation to each other in a given society that relate to gender division of labor, access to and control over resources and decision-making power at household and community level**

CONT.

- WASH interventions affect women and men on both practical and strategic levels.
- WASH interventions closer to home meet practical needs of women related to:
 - Menstrual Hygiene Management/ Menstrual Health and Hygiene
 - Reproductive and maternal health
 - Ease their traditional role in care economy
 - Reduce their risk of vulnerability to violence that could happen when collecting water from distance and practice open defecation.



CONT.

- Gender transformative WASH programming aim to transform the **power structures** that underlie **unequal gender power relations** and norms through:
 - Empowering marginalized women and girls to come into public domain
 - Share their perspectives and make their voices heard
 - Take on leadership roles and be effective in discharging their responsibilities
 - Address related to intra-household inequalities.
- It addresses the **root causes of gender inequality** and promotes the value of women and girls goes beyond improving their condition. It seeks to improve their social position.
- **Working with men and boys as allies and champions of change** is vital in order to challenge and transform dominant social, economic and political structures that perpetuate gender inequality. **AWRAMBA COMMUNITY : A ROLE MODEL COMMUNITY**

CONT.



A man making injera, a traditional Ethiopian bread, in Awra Amba. Cooking is traditionally a woman's job in Ethiopia. —Courtesy Salem Mekuria



Weaving is a vital part of Awra Amba's economy. —Courtesy Salem Mekuria

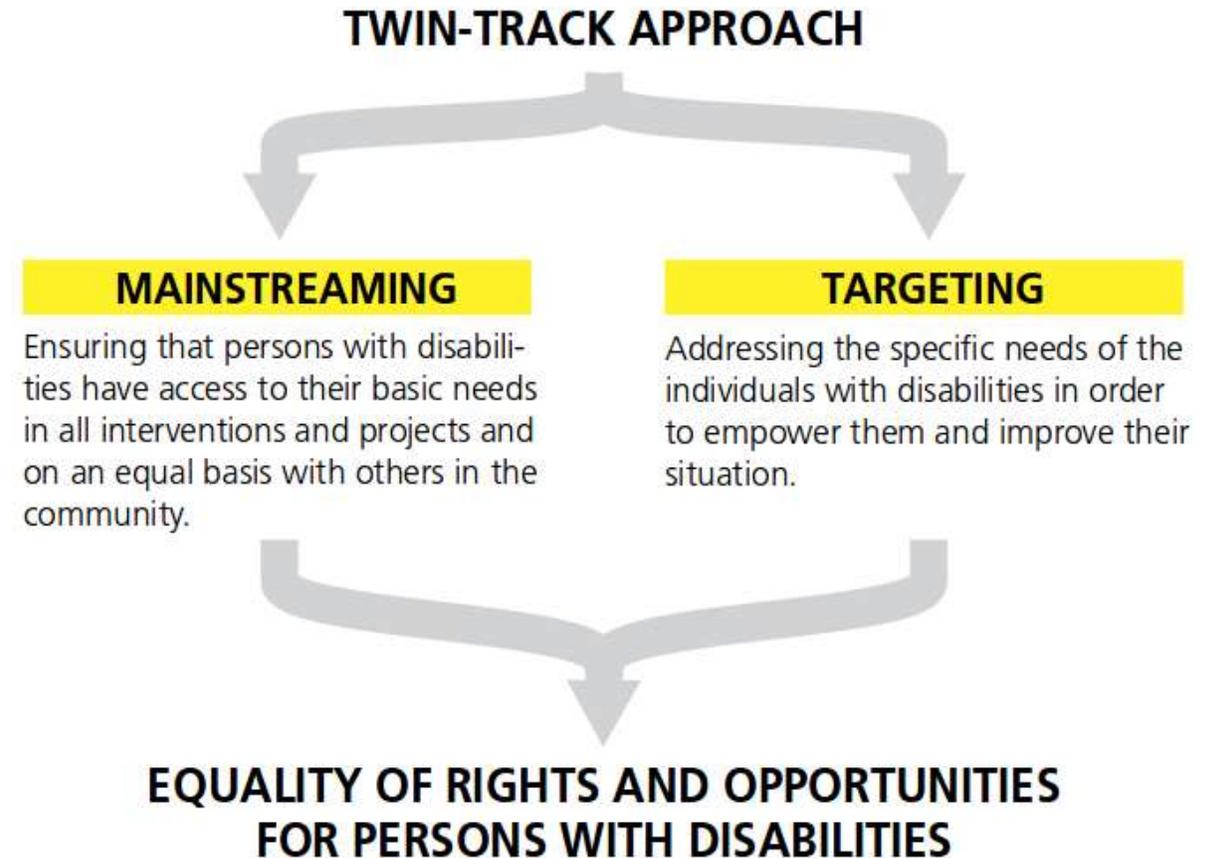


DISABILITY INCLUSION / SOCIAL INCLUSION IN WASH (STRATEGY)

- PWDs face barriers to accessing WASH services and facilities that fully meet their needs. **Women and girls with disabilities** experience **double discrimination**, and placing them at higher risk of violence, exclusion, and exploitation.
- **Inclusion in WASH** means that **everyone has access to safe WASH facilities and the needs of all members of a given community**, regardless of who they are and their circumstances, are fully addressed in the design, planning and implementation of WASH services. Everyone benefits from inclusive WASH.

CONT.

- COWASH IV adopts a **twin track approach**
- Other marginalized groups who may **be excluded** include: Elderly people, small children, pregnant women, people living with long term illness including HIV/AIDS, IDPs
- COWASH IV **targets these marginalized groups** in the provision of WASH facilities and services to make them benefit equally and make their voices heard in the planning, implementation and post construction period.



STRATEGIC UNDERTAKINGS OF THE STRATEGY

- **Staff assignment and sharing of responsibilities**
- **Using Allies and Champions of Change**
- **Equity and inclusion in decision making of WASH implementation & WASH services management**

Capacity development / strengthening

- **Equal access to and control over WASH services**

Promoting Accessible WASH Facilities

Promoting Improved Sanitation and Hygiene –

- **Promote Menstrual Hygiene Management/Menstrual Health and Hygiene**
- **Partnership, networking and advocacy**
- **Research on Gender and Inclusion in WASH**
- **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**



Thank
you!!