

West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH)

USAID WA-WASH GENDER OVERVIEW

MAINSTREAMING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Gender will be considered in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the USAID WA-WASH program so that women, men and children benefit from the program and inequities are not perpetuated. The program will strive to fully integrate men and women into all activities. We will ensure that opportunities are given to women, girls, men and boys as we look at water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and climate change in the West African context.



OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Build capacity of staff and partners through joint development and implementation of the regional gender strategy.
- ◆ Embark on local level advocacy work, looking at constraints in policies, institutions and norms and how these can be more gender supportive.
- ◆ Develop concrete working examples of high impact gender-sensitive interventions/activities.
- ◆ Make women as well as men's concerns and experiences on integral dimension of the design and implementation of program interventions.

GENDER ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Ensure a gender sensitive enabling environment and modeling example at the national level.
- ◆ At the regional level, engage in strategy development. This consists of developing a USAID WA-WASH gender strategy that will guide country implementation approaches. USAID WA-WASH will also hold a regional women and WASH workshop pulling together lessons learned during the project with a synthesis document sharing lessons learned.

In northern Ghana, communities now agree to integrate women into MUS activities and let them have their portion of plots of land in gardens. This allows women to generate an income, which is used to pay for water services, benefitting the entire family. In Burkina Faso, our approach has permitted the integration of women into water management committees. Over time, people have come to understand that gender integration is beneficial to the entire community. For example, in Zinder, 43 waters users associations were established with more than 40% female members.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

