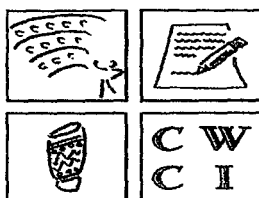
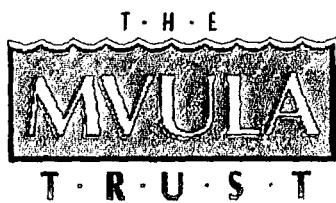


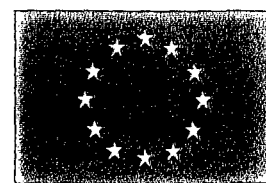


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7 August 2000

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Proceedings of
The Mvula Trust
Conference on Women,
Water and Sanitation

*International Convention Centre,
Durban, 7 August 2000*



Compiled for The Mvula Trust, Durban

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Proceedings of The Mvula Trust Conference on Women, Water and Sanitation

International Convention Centre, Durban, 7 August 2000

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Members of the EU delegation pose with other delegates, including the Zakhele Women's Group who performed a drama.

Speakers' Profiles

Councillor Mveli Mavundla, Deputy Mayor, Durban Metro Council

Mveli Mavundla trained with Telkom, has a diploma in Marketing Management, and worked as a sales representative for Metropolitan Life. He held many positions on POTWA (Post Office and Telecommunications Workers Association), the Metropolitan Life Staff Organisation, and the African National Congress. Since 1996 he has been a councillor for the Durban Metropolitan Council, where he serves on many Council Committees. At the end of 1999 Mr. Mavundla became the Deputy Mayor, Durban Metropolitan Council.



The Hon. Lionel Mtshali, Premier, KwaZulu-Natal

Lionel Mtshali's commitment to education is clear from his several degrees in education, as well as experience in the field. He has degrees from the universities of Rhodes, UNISA, Zululand the Free State. He has worked as a teacher and principal, Inspector, Circuit Inspector and Chief Inspector. He served as Minister of Education and Culture in the KwaZulu Government. His work demonstrates a strong commitment to educational upliftment of rural and illiterate communities. He is the Chair and Spokesperson of the IFP Education Study Group, and since 1996 was Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, until his appointment as premier of KwaZulu-Natal in 1999.



The Hon. Ronnie Kasrils, Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry

Ronnie Kasrils has served on the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) since 1987, and on the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party (SACP) since 1991. He joined the ANC in 1960, and was a founder member of Umkonto We Sizwe (MK) in 1961. He underwent military training in Russia, and served the ANC for 27 years in London, Luanda, Maputo, Swaziland, Botswana and Lusaka. He has held ministerial portfolios in the new democratic South African Government. He was Deputy Minister of Defence from 1994 to June 1999, when he was appointed Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry.



Councillor Nomusa Dube, Mayor, Durban North-Central Local Council

Ms Dube has worked as a Community Development Facilitator and a Trainer, specialising in Resource Centre Work as a Field Worker of the Natal Tuition Programme Project of (NECC). She has been being involved in Training as a Facilitator, has organised and run Winter Schools for Matric Students. She is a member of the University of Natal University Council and Senate, she has worked for the National Association of Democratic Lawyers as Provincial Administrator (NADEL), for the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) as Local Government KZN Co-ordinator. She is involved in a number of other National, Provincial and Local Committees within Local Government. Councillor Nomusa Dube was elected Mayor Durban North-Central Local Council on 24 June 1999.



Jeanne Gould, European Union (EU) Development Attaché

Ms Gould has been working in development for over 25 years, all of them with the European Commission. She has been linked to South Africa for the past five years, first on the SA desk in Brussels, and for the past two years in her current post in Pretoria. Ms Gould's topic is "The integration of Gender in EU-funded Water and Sanitation programmes."

**Kathy Eales, NaSCO**

Kathy Eales has worked with the National Sanitation Co-ordination Office (NaSCO) since early 1997. She is an historian by training and a generalist by choice. Before joining NaSCO, her work spanned many areas: water and sanitation sector research, land reform planning and implementation, infrastructure planning and policy research, socio-economic surveys, environmental and gender impact assessments, rural enterprise development, local government restructuring, urban development, housing and informal settlement policy - and journalism. All of these have proved essential training for working in the sanitation sector - as it straddles all of these, and more.

**Dr. Nozibele Mjoli, Research Manager, Water Research Commission**

Dr Nozibele Mjoli has a Ph.D in Microbiology

**Bolu Onabolu, Regional Health Manager: The Mvula Trust**

Ms Boluwaji Onabolu holds a Masters in Public Health degree (Environmental Health) from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research interest is alternative methods of water purification for community use with an emphasis on women's involvement in water management. In relation to this interest, she has designed a simple solar radiation chamber for drinking water disinfection and carried out a community-based project using pot chlorination as a water disinfection method. Presently her work as Regional Health Manager of the Mvula Trust includes management of an innovative water and sanitation project spanning 15 villages in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa.

**Shirin Motala, Rural Development Services Network**

Shirin Motala has an Honours Degree in Social Science, and a Masters Degree in Development. She works as a Development Facilitator, and for many years has been involved with rural development facilitation work through the Regional Consultative Forum on Rural Development in KZN. Shirin was one of a team of researchers who produced Rural Development Services Network's "Water for All" report. The RDSN is a network of over 8 non-governmental organisations across South Africa. The Network has been a key member of the initiative, which hosted the Rural Development Initiative in May 1999. Over 600 rural people attended that conference and a Rural People's Charter was launched there.



Filo Majozi, Zakhele Development Consortium

Filo Majozi has played a lead role in the Zakhele Women's Group, which started as a DANIDA pilot project. The results and findings of their work on Women and Rural Water Supply in KwaZulu-Natal, will be demonstrated in a drama performance by a group of 5 women of the Zakhele Women's Group. This Group started to work with rural women, in order to raise awareness, and empower women. They want to "expose" men and gender positions in traditional societies, and to try and change attitudes of both men and women.



Mr Lefa Mallane, Acting Executive Director, The Mvula Trust

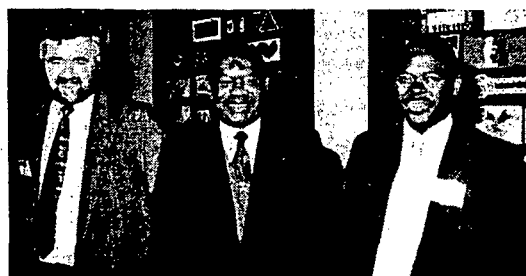
Mr Mallane holds a master's degree from Cornell University in the USA. His masters thesis was on "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Among Rural Women: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)". Before joining The Mvula Trust, Mr Mallane worked at the National Department of Housing working on the National Programme: Supporting Peoples Housing Process. In addition, he brings to the Trust experience on development issues that he worked on at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Mr Mallane is Operations Director at The Mvula Trust and is currently Acting Executive Director.



*Conference Organiser
Thoko Sigwaza of
The Mvula Trust*



*The Zakhele Women's Group perform
their drama for the delegates*



*The Mvula Trust's Martin Rall (left) and
Lefa Mallane (right) with KwaZulu-Natal
Premier Lionel Mtshali*



*(Left to right) Shirin Motala, Jeanne Gould, Dr Nozibele Mjoli,
Kathy Eales, Bolu Onabolu and Dr Stephen Knight*

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Martin Rall

The Mvula Trust

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this Conference on Women, Water and Sanitation.

Today is a day of celebration, our contribution as the rural water supply and sanitation sector to marking National Women's Day, and it is very gratifying and significant that so many of you have prioritised this event amongst so many others in your busy schedules. Women, and gender issues in general, are definitely on the agenda in South Africa today!

The attendance register is an impressive "who's who" of the water and sanitation sector in this province, and beyond its borders as well. It is living proof of the kinds of partnerships which government and NGOs like The Mvula Trust are promoting between government, civil society and business.

We have representatives from all spheres of government, and from a number of different provincial and national departments. Civil society is well represented, notably by NGOs and community based organisations. Parastatals, water boards and research institutions are here. The private sector, both big and small, local and international, has come to celebrate, contribute and learn with us. And a large number of bilateral and multilateral international development cooperation agencies are here to emphasise their commitment to the sector. The list is long, and you haven't come to hear me, so I will only mention a few by name.

I'm sure the very senior government political leaders and officials amongst us, and other distinguished participants, will excuse me if I start by welcoming the most important people here today, the women community leaders representing water and sanitation project committees and their communities from all over the province. Without their participation and insights, this conference could not achieve its full potential. Welcome also to their male colleagues from the same project committees.

Let's give them a specially warm welcome, please!

Let me now welcome our better known guests of honour, seated at the main table.

A very warm welcome, firstly, to our best known soldier turned politician, and now also learning about development, the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Honourable Mr Ronnie Kasrils, MP.

Closer to home, I would like to welcome the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Lionel Mtshali, and Ms Daphney Mtshali. It is an honour to have you with us today.

Even closer to home, we are also honoured to have with us the Deputy Mayor of the Durban Metro Council, Councillor Mveli Mavundla, representing His Worship the Mayor.

And, at the coal face of service delivery, Her Worship, the Mayor of the Durban North-Central Metro Local Council, Councillor Nomusa Dube.

And last, but not least, a special welcome to Jeanne Gould, Development Attache at the European Commission Delegation in South Africa. Special, not only because he represents the European Union, which is the biggest international supporter of the sector, but also because the EU has sponsored this conference. So, not only welcome, but thank you!

Welcome to you all. May you enrich and be enriched by what we have organised for you today.

As I said when I began, today is a day of celebration. In honour of Women's Day, we are celebrating the struggle of South African women for their political liberation, and the victory which they so richly contributed to. We are also celebrating the continuing struggle of women to attain their rightful place in society and in the economy, as the equals of men.

But the struggle of women cannot succeed unless men are liberated from their prejudices as well. The struggle is about changing gender relations in general, not just about women. As we listen to the contributions from speakers today, both on the podium this morning, and in the discussion groups this afternoon, as indicated in your programme, and as we make our own contributions, let us bear this in mind. We need to leave today with a clearer understanding of what the problems are, what needs to be done, and how each one of us can contribute.

In particular we need to focus on ways of ensuring that we all work together, whether as government departments, or between the different spheres of government, and between government, civil society and business.

Let us also remember that our focus on gender today, and on the role of women in the delivery and management of rural water supply and sanitation services, is not only about politics and ensuring that the rights afforded to women in our constitution are accorded to them. It is also about ensuring the sustainability of the services we are helping to install - without the active participation of empowered women in leadership roles, our efforts are unlikely to be successful.

Before I introduce our first speaker, just a few words of thanks to some of those who have made today possible. To Thoko and her team here in Mvula's Durban office, whose idea it was to host this conference, and who have put in an enormous amount of work, while attending to all their other duties, to ensure that today is a success - well done! To SANTAG and DWAF in Durban, for their encouragement and support, thank you. And, as I have already mentioned, a big thank you to the EU for sponsoring our initiative.

I would now like to get started with our programme for the day.

(Each speaker was then introduced, and thanked afterwards, usually with some comment on the content of the speech – see succeeding pages, below.)

WELCOMING ADDRESS

Councillor Mveli Mavundla

Deputy Mayor, Durban Metro Council

Invited guests, respected dignitaries, Mvula Trust members, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Ngiyabonga Ukuba Nani Kulomcimbi Omkhulu Kangaka. It is my duty indeed to share with Mvula Trust their endeavours, success, expectations and inspirations. Ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome.

Today Mvula Trust reviews the impact of the current programmes, shares experiences and explores approaches that promote health improvements when implementing water and sanitation in the lives of rural women. In this conference Mvula Trust will also assess the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Women of all races, I believe are making a major contribution in developing Southern Africa. Their development is not only in the more traditional areas of education, health care and community development, but in the economy at large. However, black women are up against most of the many problems both internal and in the environment. The problems they have in common included restricted geographic mobility, lack of career-oriented training, social role expectations, dual role responsibilities, low self-esteem and gender discriminatory policies to mention a few. Despite their double trouble, they have made headway because of their special strengths.

Mvula Trust says commitment to work together for a better life for all does not stop at government levels. It requires all of us to dream, work and plan together in an effort to improve our daily lives. Mvula Trust knows that working together in rural communities is not strange. Rural women are used to working in teams voluntarily. Ngikhuluma Ngelima which brings you and pride to all participating members. I am certain that these efforts will bring positive pointers and promising trends that will create new opportunities for black women and also increase the recognition of women's role and contribution.

Community water supply and sanitation is the greatest challenge facing our rural women towards economic growth, development and social upliftment. To provide clean water close to place of use will perhaps promote health improvements, alleviate poverty and develop sustainable economic nodes in targeted areas. Durban Metro fully supports your endeavours and we are proud of you.

The Durban Metro Council has invested an enormous amount of money in educational programmes around the use of water and sanitation services, particularly amongst first time users. We have mounted an extensive educational programme, which has seen many stages of development, and has included a number of innovative educational interventions, that encourage interactive and participative learning. We have developed resource materials, including a curriculum guide for teachers and learners, as well as posters and classroom aids.

For communities, we have an on-going roadshow, and a street theatre performance, which has proved immensely popular. This roadshow provides an opportunity for councillors to demonstrate their active support for Durban Metro Water Services Education Campaign. The street theatre programme has served to reach out to a broad spectrum of the community, and the production reaches out to illustrate communities, who rely less on our posters and leaflets.

Whilst our educational programme is not targeted specially at women, it implicitly holds many benefits for women, and removes some of the burden from them regarding water and sanitation in their households. Durban Metro provides 200 kilolitres of water to every household, and has done a great deal to make water more accessible, by bringing it closer to the doorstep of most households. Our sanitary education programme aims to empower women and girls so that the quality of their lives can improve, and at the same time improved practices will decrease the blockages of our sewers. Much of our education programme occurs in the morning when housewives are at home, as we know that their influence in the communities is primary.

That demonstrates Metro Council's commitment to improving the lot of our communities and women in particular. The role of the Mvula Trust can never be over emphasised either than to say, indeed you are committed to a better life for all! Keep it up.

I wish this conference the best deliberations throughout.

OPENING ADDRESS

The Hon. Lionel Mtshali

Premier, KwaZulu-Natal

Mr Chairman, Honourable Minister Ronnie Kasrils and other national Ministers, colleagues in the provincial government, distinguished guests. It is a great pleasure to welcome you at this conference. It is also my pleasant duty to thank The Mvula Trust for taking the initiative to organize an event that has very great significance for development in our province.

We in South Africa are constantly reminded that, relative to our economy, we are significantly behind other countries in terms of our Human Development Index. The Human Development Index, as you know, is a multi-dimensional rating of factors that taken together determine the quality of human life.

Among the factors underlying the Human Development Index there is none as important as the availability and quality of water available to the poorest in the population. Water borne diseases have killed more babies in poor countries than the death roll in all of mankind's wars.

I need not tell you that women have borne the brunt of the pain that the death of millions of infants has caused in the world. In a broader sense, women have been the connection between water and the health, the quality of life and the general welfare communities. In the history of human settlement it has more often than not been women who have had the responsibility of providing families with water. Nowhere has this been more true than in our own country.

An enduring image of Africa is the woman gracefully balancing a container of water on her head as she walks back from the river to supply her family. It captures the woman's central role in providing life support. It is undoubtedly part of our culture.

It was during the daily water-gathering routine at the riverside that complicated rituals of courtship took place as young men intercepted the young women who caught their fancy.

There is nothing uniquely African about women carrying water. The Bible has accounts of women drawing water at the wells. Societies in Asia - indeed, all over the developing world - have this common feature where women, suppliers and safe keepers of the family, have the drawing of water as a daily chore, whether from a river, a well or a hand-operated pump.

It is not always quite as idyllic as it might appear. I recall a notorious spot on the Uphongolo River where the community had erected wooden palisades to protect the women where they drew water every evening, because several had been taken by crocodiles.

That was an extreme case. For all women involved in water fetching it was also huge daily drudgery which- coupled with the collecting of firewood - meant they had virtually nothing else with which they could take up their time, apart from cooking and washing. There was no room for education self-improvement, earning and income. The system - though it valued women for their role as providers and bearers and protectors of children - kept them permanently in a subordinate role. There was no escape.

Society has changed since those days - not just in Africa but in many developing countries. Partly it has been forced by a realization that rivers such as the Uphongolo contain pathogens that are far more dangerous than any crocodile. As population increases, it puts pressure on the environment's ability to absorb human and animal waste. Ideally, water now is pumped and purified to protect consumers from the dangerous bacteria it so often carries. Where such schemes are not in place, it is still the women who fetch and carry water.

Partly society has also changed with a growing sophistication and realization not only that women are entitled, as human beings, to equal treatment but also that their unique role in the family equips them to make sensible decisions that once were made only by men.

Yet what is it that we see when the old system of women carrying water is replaced by a modern one of pumping stations, reservoirs and standpipe? Do we see women working the pump stations? One does come across the occasional woman water bailiff. It is an extraordinary thing that, as water supply has modernized and become technological, men have almost totally displaced women from their traditional central role.

It is a great pity and it is something that needs to be addressed. Women should not be excluded in any way from their rightful role in family and community affairs. It is they who have a deep and instinctive understanding of the needs of their families and communities.

It is they who have traditionally imparted to new generations the principles of hygiene and sanitation, which is the basis of safe water supply. It is usually they who till the soil and use the water provided by irrigation schemes. They know what is needed. Why exclude them now?

This is not to suggest that men have no role to play in the provision of water and sanitation, in working out the strategies. In today's changing and more complex world, everybody has a role to play. But it should not be to the exclusion of women. Both genders need to play a full role in decision-making as to water and sanitation needs.

I might have sounded as if this problem is purely an Africa one. It is not. The literature makes clear that it is encountered in virtually every developing society.

The need for balance was encapsulated in a paper titled "Women's Promotion of Environmental Sanitation", presented to a Workshop in Pretoria.

"It is now necessary to promote gender role without exploring the contributions made by women. Women assume the leading role when technology is simple, but their participation declines when technology is complicated and expensive. Women must be empowered through participatory training, leadership and management seminars and

skills workshops to assume a greater involvement in the management of water supply and sanitation projects.

"Projects are more successful when training involves both gender groups as this promotes confidence and reduces mistrust, especially about ownership of finances for the project.

"It is essential to promote gender equality so that as women carry a bigger share of the responsibility for community water supply and sanitation, men do not adopt a lesser role in the sector. When projects are visited, women are found to have more information on aspects affecting their daily lives while men discuss more abstract things."

That, to my mind, captures the essence of what we are about when we discuss the proper role of women in water, health and sanitation. It has changed from the head-carrying days but it should still be central.

This has had a liberating effect for many women. No longer do they have to toil long hours in the sun, fetching water.

This is great progress. Women who once had to walk miles every day for water now walk a few paces to a standpipe. The water they draw from it is purified and safe for their children to drink. We should not lose sight of the fact that this ideal situation does not obtain in all rural area. We still face a mammoth task in this regard.

For all these reasons the government has correctly given special priority to provision of water among all our other development challenges. As you know, however, water service provision is problematic because the costs of the infrastructure and maintenance cannot be borne by government alone on an ongoing basis.

There is a need for a level of cost recovery that will allow government to devote available funds to other services as well and to the steady expansion of water services particularly in rural areas.

In this regard the high levels of non-payment for local services, including water services is retarding the ability of government to all tiers of authority to expand the availability of water services. This non-payment is substantially due to poverty among households, but not completely so. We have observed that it is not only those in grinding poverty who do not pay for services once introduced. In our communities there are many who are not in abject poverty who exploit the situation.

Our local, district, provincial and central authorities are all attempting to address the situation through improved service management and credit control measures, but the battle is far from won.

The issue is likely to become even more important as municipalities take over the servicing of wider areas in the future.

Because of this I would like to address an appeal to women and mothers in particular. Your intimate connection with children and family health gives you the best insight into the value of water for the household. I would appeal to you, on the basis of this insight, to encourage your households and other to pay reasonable charges that have to be

levied for water. Just as you assumed responsibility for collecting water in the past, as women and mothers you are in a good position to encourage community responsibility for water and service payment.

The bulk supplies of water should address the problem of escalating and unaffordable water tariffs.

Mr Chairman, I hope that everyone gathered here today appreciates the significance of the issue we are discussing and the importance of the role that women have played in water provision and family health in the past. I have no doubt that this conference will provide the insights necessary for the role of women in community services to be further deepened.

It is my pleasure, therefore, to welcome you as delegates and observes to this conference. May I wish you fruitful deliberations and a happy stay in our city.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Hon. Ronnie Kasrils

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

The image of a rural women carrying a pot of water on her head, while walking through the veld was an abiding image of South Africa, and one the government was determined to change with the provision of safe, clean water at homes and in villages.

Much had been achieved since 1994. The former Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Professor Kader Asmal, introduced revolutionary changes, particularly with regard to legislation. Before 1994, 12 million people had no access to safe water. That figure was now approaching the six million mark in terms of service. However, as a result of population growth, the Department estimated that over 8 million people had no access to a safe water supply. The Department had spent 3.5 billion in capital expenditure on various programmes. 500 projects had been implemented another 500 are being developed.

In 1994, 21 million people were without sanitation, mainly in the rural areas. Only R60 million had been earmarked for sanitation, and the Department had merely scratched the surface with regard to sanitation projects. It had recently taken a decision to dedicate 10% of its annual budget on sanitation from now on. The budget is about R800 million a year, leaving R80 million per annum for sanitation.

This means that it could take up to the year 2020 to deal with the unacceptable backlog in sanitation at the current rate of progress. Minister Kasrils had agreed with the Ministers of Finance and Local Government to set up a committee to see whether the estimated could be narrowed, and delivery speeded up.

The European Union has indicated that it will give R300 million to KwaZulu-Natal for the delivery of water and sanitation in the province. The EU had given funds to other provinces in the past, specifically R150 million to the Eastern Cape three years ago, and R240 million to the Northern Province. No funds were forthcoming to KwaZulu-Natal because of violence and instability in the province. Minister Kasrils pointed out to Mr. Michael Laidler, the EU ambassador to South Africa, that there was now peace and stability in the province. The development of water projects, the provision of safe, clean water and hygienic sanitation projects, would add to this peace and stability. It has since been indicated to the Minister, that the EU had agreed in Brussels to provide about R300 million to the province for water and sanitation delivery.

In order to deliver water and sanitation services adequately, four pillars of Strategy and Delivery must be observed:

1. Affordability
2. Sustainability
3. Innovation
4. Partnership

1. Affordability

The rural poor are paying 2-3 times more than those who can afford services in urban centres. In some cases, rural people pay 50 times more than urban people. The dealers make a profit.

Water must be affordable, and possibly free for those who cannot pay. Urban areas are subsidising those who can't afford. With cross subsidising - those who consume more pay more, and subsidise those who can't afford services, and the adequately serviced urban areas should subsidise the under-serviced in the rural areas.

Durban Metro had provided a model for other local governments. Durban Metro was able to provide 6 k/ of water free to each household each month. The Durban model has shown that communities can be supported and subsidised. The government was studying the Durban model with a view to copying it nationally. The metro's cross-subsidisation model could be expanded to other cities. Further cross subsidisation is called for from urban to rural areas, because in urban areas - mines, industries and businesses can afford to subsidise the poorest of the poor.

2. Sustainability

Sustainability is the most challenging area:

The equitable share - capacity must be built up at local government level - local government must take over the responsibility of sustained services.

3. Innovation

The Mvula Trust is an inspiration in terms of water and sanitation projects. Schemes must be sustainable and appropriate. More use should be made of ground water (although in the Northern Cape and North West province the water is very brackish). The harvesting of mountain mist is being investigated, as is done in the Andes in South America. In the eastern Drakensberg, enterprising locals were selling the harvested water to laboratories. It was particularly valuable because of its high level of purity.

4. Partnership

Range of partnerships must include the community. Partnerships are happening, e.g. with European Union. Water projects create stability - skills, empowerment, women's participation etc.

Mobilise private sector funds: but public interest must be protected - no excessive profit should be made out of these projects. Efficiency and provision, especially in rural areas are essential.

Key to partnerships lies with community participation. NGOs play major role in this regard.

Conclusion

Gender equality and eradication of discrimination

Greater delivery of water and Health and Hygiene are vital. Ensure that women become experts in this sector. Women's expertise must be retained.

30% of those employed at DWAF should be women - (only 23% at present are women).

WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR RURAL WOMEN: ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Councillor Nomsa Dube

Mayor, Durban North-Central Local Council

Over the past few years we have seen profound changes in the delivery of water and sanitation in our country. These changes have confirmed the promise that our government has made to ensure a better life for all the citizens of our land.

As representatives of the local sphere of government, we take pride in what we have achieved. But we also are cognisant of the many challenges ahead.

The project of a better life for all has to succeed if only to secure our ideal of a stable, democratic and non-racial society. But we want more than that. Don't we? We want a society that is non-sexist, humane and caring, a society that contributes positively to the forward march of all humanity. We want to be an example of the true and full celebration of the liberation of the human spirit. We truly want to make the world a better place!

I believe that to date the water and sanitation programme of the government has served over 5.6 million people with water - 2.6 million to RDP standards - at a total expenditure of around R3.6 billion. Despite this really enormous and commendable progress, we have to face the fact that there are still probably over 8 million people in our rural areas who do not have access to clean water. People, mainly women, who have to trek every day in search of a few buckets of water and carry it home on their heads. In the absence of formal supply systems, opportunists take advantage of people's desperation and sell water at twenty times the price.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that over 20 million rural people still have no acceptable sanitation. This is a figure I have been given from a reliable source, but the minister can correct me if I am wrong. Although the Department and NGOs like the Mvula Trust have established some very useful pilot projects, we must acknowledge that seemingly little headway has been made since 1994.

Commitment to working together for a better life for all, does not stop at government. It requires all of us, each and every community member, to dream, to plan, to make real, to work and to harvest together in an effort to improve our everyday lives. Every step that we take in realising an aspiration, even if it is something that we hope will benefit our children, is a step in the right direction for our entire country.

In our new democratic South Africa, we all need a new focus on a redefined future for our children and ourselves.

The legacy of the past is evident throughout the Province. Of particular concern is that most of these requests for water and sanitation projects come from rural communities in areas where there has been virtually no water, no sanitation, no health service. Another striking feature is the fact that the majority of these people are unemployed and cannot afford private sector services.

Perhaps they were going to be left to perish with no one noticing. This shows how the destructive policies of the past governments were. There are communities especially in this region that have never even seen a flushing toilet or a shiny tap or a nurse before. These are not people who are backward or the so-called mystery tribes of the Amazon Rain Forests. These are the people who appear on government's books as taxpayers. These are the people who the Amakhosi have stood for them for years, yet their voices, their outcries fell on deaf ears. They were never on the previous government's agenda. I believe that the previous government didn't consider them human at all.

Next to water provision and sanitation the next priority is healthcare. Our Government's philosophy of Primary Health Care can never be functional unless the very buildings they keep on erecting are fully equipped and accessible. Water, electricity, roads and communication infrastructure, staffing and all the necessary equipment are a basic condition for the functioning of the clinics that are built. There are many clinics in this region, that do not have electricity, or water and some are not accessible. As a result of this most of the programmes have not met the required standards.

The delivery of water and sanitation cannot be achieved by central government acting on its own. The private sector, NGO's, local government have a major role to play. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mvula Trust for being sensitive to the needs of this community and responding accordingly, especially here in KwaZulu-Natal where the need is so great.

So, you ask if we are making progress? And although earlier on I said we have not come very far, I have to answer: yes we are. But then, I also have to add: But not fast enough. This is not for want of trying by those involved, but I believe we urgently need to get more people involved. We need to rope in more communities and empower them to manage their own water and sanitation requirements.

People on the ground must be educated on how to look after their water systems - to manage, monitor and maintain them. And this can only be achieved by close consultation with the community from the beginning.

After all, our Constitution promises access to water supply and sanitation to all the people of our country, but more important, it promises the right to dignity to everyone, man, woman and child.

Thank you.

THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER IN EU FUNDED WATER & SANITATION PROGRAMMES

Jeanne Gould

Development Attaché, European Union, Pretoria



Guidelines

- The guidelines emphasise that many issues relating to water resources management, especially basic water supply and sanitation services and agricultural water use, have special gender connotations. Gender analysis will help to identify them.
- European Council Resolution on gender mainstreaming in development co-operation
- Guidelines for Gender incorporated in Implementation Manual
- Guidelines developed by the European Commission for gender analysis within water resources management and use
- Gender sensitivity within existing water projects

EU Council Resolution

Main aims:

- To ensure equality of participation by women and men in the development process and equality in terms of benefits obtained
- To integrate gender analysis throughout the project cycle i.e. in identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Implementation Manual

Key principles in integrating gender into Project Cycle Management:

- Project formulation:

- Undertake a socio-economic and gender analysis of beneficiaries and other actors
- Ensure that the problem analysis is comprehensive, and include the specific problems of men and women
- Ensure knowledge of gender issues and analysis in studies
- Project design:
 - Sustainable benefits to beneficiaries, women and men
 - Elaborate indicators for monitoring and evaluating gender
 - Ensure sufficient activities and means
- Project documentation
 - Ensure attention to gender issues throughout all project documentation

EU Guidelines for incorporation of gender issues in water and sanitation programmes

- The guidelines highlight the importance of building participatory structures in a given programme or activity and that gender equity is obtained.
- Within participatory management structures, the role of women in household water and food security needs to be recognised, and special attention paid to involving them at all decision-making levels.
- The guidelines provide a structure for analysis of gender differences.

Participatory actions could include:

- establishment of user groups, ensuring that there are female as well as male members and that they play a full part in decision making
- gender-awareness training for personnel at all levels
- basic education and technical training at the lowest stakeholder level
- focus on local indigenous water management techniques and build on and legitimise sound local practice

Gender equality within existing water projects funded by EU

It is clear that both DWAF and EU have got well-defined gender policies.

However, how successful are we in implementing the objectives of our policies?

Evaluations of the EU Support to DWAF in Eastern Cape Province and the Northern Province have just been completed.

Both looked at issues regarding participation and gender.

The evaluations reveal that:

- Gender policy has not been adequately discussed or addressed at provincial level
- There is a need to bring gender into the project cycle
- Gender policy is easily marginalised if appropriate mechanisms for 'mainstreaming' are not established
- On the positive side, at project level, the 30% DWAF quota of women on local water committees is complied with.
- Findings in some areas indicate that the 30% DWAF quota of women's representation has been taken as a maximum rather than a minimum. And experience shows that, unless women make up 50% of a group, their opinions are rarely heard.

- Thus, although women take their place on the committees, this does not necessarily lead to their participation in decision-making and their needs and interests are not automatically assured.

The reasons for this are numerous:

- Women experience difficulty in making the time to attend meetings because of their home and child care responsibilities
- When they are able to attend meetings, they often have difficulty in getting their points across because of prevailing attitudes
- Women often lack information and exposure to life beyond the village
- Women often have more confidence in men as leaders

Recommendations from the evaluations

- To continue with the quota system, but to give serious consideration to recommending stronger representation of women
- Broaden the approach to gender at project level
- Identify obstacles women experience in attending meetings and in making effective contributions and implement measures to overcome these
- Gender-awareness training should be introduced at all levels (DWAF, PIA, local government, communities)
- The log-frame and DWAF institutional guidelines should make explicit reference to the gender objectives
- Consultants should be required to consult with women on design and other key aspects that fall within women's division of labour and knowledge
- Emphasis should be given to utilising gender-based M&E in the management of the project
- A specific gender study should investigate the dynamics of male and female relationships in the water supply and sanitation sector
- The Commission on Gender Equality should comment and advise on the gender aspects of the BOTT programme
- A final recommendation to DWAF is to set up a gender unit within the Water Services Chief Directorate, to ensure that gender policy is effectively implemented.
- This unit is in fact already foreseen in the new water sector support programme which is currently under approval.



WOMEN AND SANITATION: IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN POLITICS

Kathy Eales

National Sanitation Co-ordination Office

What is Sanitation?

- The interface between people and safe waste management
- Physical infrastructure just one aspect of this
- Hygiene awareness and behaviour which breaks the cycle of disease
- Fundamentally about people, not just facilities

Why sanitation matters

Rights issue -

- Human dignity
 - a core value informing the Constitution
 - Bill of Rights Clause 10
- Healthy environment
 - Bill of Rights Clause 24

Health -

- Hygiene and sanitation interventions have more impact on health than water alone

Health impacts of poor sanitation

Oral faecal diseases

- diarrhoea kills 50 000 SA children p.a.
- HIV mothers need safe alternatives to breastmilk

Parasite infestations

- worms stunt children's development

Undermines immunity to disease

- Leading cause of progression from HIV to AIDS
- Quality of life of people with AIDS

Sanitation and poverty

- Poor sanitation is both a symptom of poverty and a cause
- Poor sanitation feeds the cycle of poverty, poor health and future poverty
- 'Tackling the causes of infectious diseases has a major impact on reducing inequity as it is the poor who are mostly affected'
- Poorest households are headed by women

Women and sanitation

- Privacy and dignity
- Empowerment
- Schooling
- Safety and security
- Health - care-givers
 - down time
- Poverty cycle

Whose responsibility?

- Households
- In partnership with government, NGOs, CBOs, private sector etc
- National govt: policy framework
- Provincial and local government - implementation of programmes
- Local govt - sanitation services
- Govt policy is to prioritise the needs of the poor

Assessing progress

- No coherent national framework
- Policy still in draft form
- No national strategy
- Sanitation is a low priority in govt
- Poor relation in the water sector
- Badly neglected by Health and Education
- Major benchmark is spending, not outcomes
- Emphasis on toilet building, not broad health improvement

Do programmes reach poor households?

- DWAF R600 subsidy not really reaching the rural poor
- Need better social marketing
- Need consistent grant funding approaches
- Housing subsidy and C-MIP tend to deliver high level services
- Evidence that many can't afford to live in 'RDP houses' - services too expensive
- Need to rethink support to poor households

Political realism

- Flush toilets for all not possible in the medium term
 - Basic water needs have not been met
 - Not affordable
- Emphasis on flush toilets undermines acceptance of more affordable alternatives
- Unaffordable services make the poverty of poor households more expensive
- Intermediate technologies

Where to from here?

- Finalise national policy and set priorities
- Allocate resources - money, staff, priority
- Consistency in govt. grand funding
- Local decision-making
- Informed choice and decision-making by users of facilities
- Assist women to influence decision-making
- Ensure women can access programme opportunities - builders, health promoters etc

First priority?

- Sanitation in schools
- Focus of broader programming
- Ensure girls don't drop out of high schools
- Break the cycle of poor sanitation, poverty and poor sanitation

WOMEN AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Dr Nozibele Mjoli

Research Manager, Water Research Commission

Introduction

Women comprise more than 50% of the world's population, therefore, it is critical that they contribute to the sustainable development and management of natural resources. Most of the available literature emphasizes the role of women as providers and users of water at household and community levels. It is equally important to focus on the important roles women could play as decision makers, planners, managers and research scientists in making sustainable water resources development and management possible throughout the world.

In South Africa, we are fortunate to have a government that is committed to gender equity. Gender equity as a right for all is guaranteed by the Constitution. To further promote this commitment, the government has set up institutions such as Gender Commission and the Office on the Status of Women. However, the effectiveness of these institutions in ensuring progress in the achievement of gender equity remains to be seen.

The question is why are women so poorly represented in senior positions where decisions on water resources management are made? How can we make gender equity a reality within the water sector?

Constraints to women's participation in Water Resources Management

A SIDA study done in Botswana in 1991 identified the following constraints:

- Traditional attitudes dictate a strong correlation between work and gender, e.g. technical work is seen as men's work while clerical jobs are seen as more suitable for women.
- Women's interest in technical careers is usually not encouraged.
- Very few women are employed in senior technical positions, thus there are very few role models for women.
- Women usually have low self-esteem and self confidence and do not recognise their potential and worth.
- When women take on new roles and responsibilities, they are usually not given the status and authority associated with the position, they are usually expected to report to a higher authority figure who is usually a male.
- The work burden of women increases when women are expected to take on new responsibilities, as well as maintain their traditional responsibilities in the home and community. This burden is due to lack of support from men who resent women in traditional male roles.

Other constraints include the following:

- Gender-linked distortions in the labour market contribute to unequal wages for women and men. High status and high income occupations tend to be disproportionately occupied by men. Typical women's occupation are extensions of their domestic roles or are at lower income jobs.
- Women's labour mobility is constrained by their high level of participation in unpaid labour. Their wages are often too low to pay for substitutes for their unpaid work. This limits women's ability to respond to opportunities that occur with changing market situations.

Why should women be involved in water resources management?

- Gender equity is not only a matter of social justice but of good economics as gender inequalities hamper social and economic development. According to the UK, Department for International Development (DFID) White Paper of 1997, women constitute 70% of the poorest worldwide, in South Africa we face a similar situation. Therefore, empowerment of women within water resources management is the pre-requisite for the achievement of the RDP goal of poverty alleviation.
- Equal representation of women at higher levels of planning and decision making on water resources management will not only ensure that the interests of half of the population are represented at higher levels, it will also positively influence the reinforcement of gender equity, the breakdown of gender stereotypes, the promotion of education and employment of women, and the optimal use of female intelligence.
- Achievement of sustainable water service delivery: Involvement of women at all levels on decision making on water service delivery is key to sustainable service delivery because women as primary providers and users of water within households have a vested interest in ensuring reliable water supply services. Louiza Duncker of CSIR undertook a study to investigate the impact of gender on willingness to pay for services. This work was done in Mdantsane, East London. Both men and women representing different socio-economic levels were asked to prioritise the expenditure of their income. The results of the study showed that where women earned and controlled their income, payment for water services and electricity was prioritised. This trend was the same for all socio-economic levels. However, the men had different priorities, payment for water services and electricity was not a priority. The unexpected finding was that men in low socio-economic groups tended to prioritise entertainment over services.

This study shows that cost recovery cannot be achieved unless steps are taken to empower women economically so that they can afford to pay. Because of traditional roles, men are not responsible for the provision of these services, therefore, payment for services is not their primary concern.

Gender stereotypes that disempower women

- Women's hidden fear of independence, fear of ending up alone, unloved and uncared for.
- Women's limited history of career advancement and creation of wealth.

- ❑ Romance myth - how women get side tracked from the goal of independence. Women have to overcome the conflict resulting from wanting to hang on to domestic security and the desire to be independent and self-fulfilling.

Steps necessary for achieving gender equity at all levels of water resources management

- ❑ There is a need to critically review the legal position of women concerning access and control of resources.
- ❑ Support must be provided for national, regional and local advocacy groups that aim to enhance and enforce the legal position of women.
- ❑ Men and women should be made aware of benefits of gender-balanced approach in water resources management
- ❑ Efforts must be made to ensure that girls/women receive vocational guidance that points them towards non-traditional professions such as engineering.
- ❑ There is a need for special capacity building programmes that target women so that they can develop the skills necessary to participate meaningfully at all levels of water resources management.
- ❑ There is a need for change in attitudes among women and men and they must learn new forms of relationships in the work place, mutual respect between the sexes; this can only be possible through appropriate gender awareness programmes for women and men.
- ❑ The process of incorporating women into different positions can be made possible through institutional democratization, recognition of women's contribution and involving them in the decision making process.

Conclusion

I believe that gender equity is key to the achievement of sustainable water resources management. However, women must undergo a major paradigm shift in the way they perceive themselves and their abilities. Women have the same responsibility as men of ensuring that natural resources are managed for the benefit of current and future generations. We should all work towards a world where sex discrimination is non-existent, where each individual is allowed to develop and contribute to her or his full potential as a human being. Let us commit ourselves to a vision for a gender equitable society by 2025. By 2025, conferences that focus on problems of women in the work place and general society should be a thing of the past.

WOMEN: BENEFICIARIES OR MANAGERS? – A NIGERIAN CASE STUDY

Bolu Onabolu

The Mvula Trust

This paper attempts to revisit the role of women in water and sanitation projects with particular reference to rural/urban poor women involvement in community based projects. It uses as a case study a community based project in an urban poor area of Nigeria.

The role of women in water and sanitation particularly in the last decade has been a topical one in the sector. The realization of the need to involve women in water and sanitation delivery and the attempt to do so was initially addressed from the perspective of women being prime beneficiaries of water and sanitation improvements with reductions in water and sanitation related diseases and savings in time and energy. (Unicef 1994; Unicef 1995; Bulajich 1992).

Those who played a leading role in the attempt to sensitise the sector to the importance of women involvement in water and sanitation delivery must be praised as pioneers of a message that serves as a building block for their colleagues.

It must however be noted that the sector has subtly shifted focus from the initial message of women being active agents in water and sanitation delivery to one where their roles are limited to being recipients and targets of ready made projects.

The kernel of the initial message was " women are primary beneficiaries of water and sanitation improvement and are therefore a key resource with valuable contributions to make to policy, provision of resources, design and implementation of innovations and dissemination of information" (Hoffman, 1992; Bulajich 1992).

Related to these enforced limitations in her roles as a result of the sector's perception of a woman being only a beneficiary of water is the definition of a woman's need for water as related only to domestic use. Her possible need for water for economic activities remains largely unexplored and unacknowledged. Her involvement is therefore seen as social work and is not given any economic value by project managers or funders. This imperceptibly but definitely impacts negatively on the sector's formalisation of her involvement in projects.

Roles in a small community water project especially if it uses an integrated approach often revolve around:

- Community mobilisation and organisation
- Appropriation of technology
- Health education and promotion
- Training
- Income generation and

- Operation and maintenance.

More often than not women are only involved in health education and promotion and usually not at a decision making level. Rather, they are involved as recipients of information, which they must disseminate. They are rarely involved in drawing up the action plans or deciding the methodology used in this health promotion .

There is clearly a need for the sector to:

- Formally support women in playing managerial roles which allow for decision making and which
- Recognise the need for access to water not only for household responsibilities but also for work with direct economic benefits for themselves, their families and communities.

This case study briefly describes how a community through the participation of women in key roles in a small community based project, organised themselves to improve water quality, sanitation and income generation by utilisation of drainage water for community farming. The community was supported through laboratory backing in assessing the quality of water after their intervention and the adoption of these practices.

The study was carried out in Ibadan the largest and most populous city in West Africa and the capital of Oyo State, Nigeria. The community , an urban slum with a population of 20 938 is located in the Koloko – Aiyekale area under the North Eastern Local Government occupying an area of 0.9km². They engage mostly in trading, farming while some work in the civil service and teaching professions. Shallow wells were their main water source supplemented by rain, tap and other commercial sources. Sanitation is poor, characterized by spread of wastewater on streets and unkempt open drains and streets littered with refuse and animal dung.

An intervention study covering a period of over 18 months was undertaken involving 324 women to improve water quality, lay a hygienic drainage system and to use the wastewater for back yard farming or community farming. Simple storage of water for prolonged periods, solar radiation of stored water and pot chlorination of wells was tried for the improvement of water quality. The merits of these methods were assessed and related to the community perceptions, knowledge attitudes and practices. The women were part of a ten member water committee and examined various feasible solutions. Solar radiation for water quality improvement, drainage improvement through digging deeper and periodic cleansing and community farming using the drainage water were finally adopted and practiced. The produce obtained from the farming activities improved their income generation, nutritional needs, and general sustainability.

Stage One

This stage consisted of

1. Obtaining baseline information on demographic characteristics, and the knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of the women concerning water sources, use, sanitary features of the sources, health related risks, perceived personal hygiene and information on water treatment methods practiced by them;
2. Assessing the chemical and bacteriological quality of well waters used by the community; and

3. Optimisation of solar radiation and Pot chlorination techniques in the field and laboratory using the coliform index. Standard methods were used (Acra et al., 1990; American Public Health Association, 1991).

Stage Two

1. Use of baseline data and transfer of findings to the community by
2. Trial of water treatment methods by 3 groups of 10 women (pot chlorination of wells, solar radiation of stored water and simple storage).

Stage Three

1. Setting up of a 10 member water committee in a 1: 1 women to men ratio
2. Training of 20 women as peer educators in water management including pollution control and water treatment
3. Training local artisans in sanitary construction of wells and drains
4. Assisting the community in providing drainage by digging and maintaining drains and diverting the wastewater to a women owned community farm developed as part of the project
5. Sale of the proceeds to augment the women's income and improve the nutritional status of the family.

The study described here is common in urban slums of any developing tropical country, the type of population, questionable drinking water sources, open drains and insanitary conditions. The uniqueness of this community based intervention study is that women played a pivotal role in organising themselves to address integrated water management.

- Community mobilisation and organisation

They were part of the water committee and were involved in planning and implementing the project. They met weekly and investigators were invited to their meetings.

- Health Education and Promotion

The committee selected peer educators, a strong resource group of 20 women.

- Appropriation of Technology

The women were involved in decisions around finding low skilled, low finance and women-friendly water treatment methods. They tried three methods and appreciated the simple method of solar radiation which was also novel to the community and:

Concerning sanitation technology, the wastewater in the drains had posed problems in polluting wells, promoting mosquito breeding and giving an unsightly appearance to visitors and the people living in the vicinity. With collective guidance, planning and guidance from peer educators, the community was convinced of the need for improvement of their immediate environment, though they needed resources to supplement their efforts.

- Training and O&M

The peer educators' training and expected role was not limited to health and hygiene issues but was broader water and sanitation management. E.g. water pollution control. They were involved in focus group discussions about well digging and drain construction.

Prior to the training, the knowledge of the women on water and sanitation was fair with a scoring rate of 52.4% on a rating scale of 10 – 36, however they lacked the financial empowerment to put into practice their knowledge. This further underlined the need for a means of fund generation within the project.

- Income generation

This was addressed by the community owned farm with the potential benefits of being a source of funds from the sale of the produce and bringing about an improvement in the nutritional status of the women and children.

In relation to community mobilisation and organisation, the farm was a component perceived by the community as visible and immediately beneficial. It served as:

- ✓ a rallying point for mobilisation and
- ✓ building block for team work through the resolution of conflicts and necessary improvisation.
- ✓ tool for empowerment as the women becoming increasingly empowered particularly when the farm was divided into plots which were given to the women to own and cultivate.

Interestingly, though the men and women played their roles in water and sanitation delivery, the women provided the steam that kept the project going. They were more likely to proffer cost reducing solutions and mobilized the men and the children to do intensive laborious work such as digging of the drains. The women were also quick to see benefits that were not necessarily monetary but led to an improvement in health status of their households.

As the sector moves away from mere community participation towards community management, there is a need to revisit the role of rural/urban poor women in water and sanitation delivery. Participants or managers? Beneficiaries or deliverers? targets or active agents? The roles women play and could play depend on the environment in which they work. A large part of that is defined by the support they receive from the water and sanitation sector. There is a need for the sector to work towards providing an enabling environment for water and sanitation management by women through stimulation of debates, building capacity and formulation of supporting policies.

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Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of the women participating in the study (n=24)

Characteristic	Frequency	%
Age Distribution:		
<30	54	16.7
30-39	108	33.3
40-49	92	28.4
50-59	35	10.8
60-69	25	7.7
>70	10	3.8
Marital Status:		
Married	295	91.1
Widowed	21	6.5
Separated/Divorced	5	1.5
No Response		0.9
Religious affiliation		
Muslim	196	60.5
Christian	121	37.4
Traditional/other	7	2.1
Educational level:		
None	96	29.6
Primary	82	25.3
Secondary	52	16.1
Tertiary	5	1.5
Other (Arabic adult)	89	27.5
Occupation:		
Low income (unskilled)	273	84.3
Low income (skilled)	12	3.7
unemployed (nonspecific)	11	3.4

Note: Mean Monthly income reported was N1253 (approximately US\$ 15)

Table 2. Features that promote effective solar disinfection (5 l samples kept in plastic containers were tested)

Features for solar disinfection	Degree of efficacy % reduction of coliform counts
Colour of Container*	
White	97.9
Brown	95.0
Blue	82.0
Green	93.8
Black	98.4
Colour of the cover*	
White	100.0
Brown	99.8
Blue	100.0
Green	99.9
Black	97.7
Hours of Exposure:	
One	51.9
Two	85.5
Four	80.2
Five	92.5
Six	99.3
Eight	99.9
Nine	100.0

Note: * Exposed for eight hours

WATER FOR ALL

Shirin Motala

Rural Development Services Network

RDSN WATER FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

Introduction

Greetings to the Conference from the Rural Development Services Network which is in the forefront of a campaign to ensure rural communities have access to affordable water. It is important that we locate the campaign for affordable water within a context of the legal and policy imperatives which are supposed to inform the delivery of water services to rural South Africa but also in terms of the current crisis that we face in meeting our developmental mandates with respect to water.

Rural Charter - voice of rural communities

In proceeding it needs to be noted that the call for a lifeline tariff system which will ensure "*water for all*" is not something which researchers working in NGOs have simply come up with but emanates from the demands made by rural communities across South Africa during a historic gathering of 600 rural community leaders in Bloemfontein in April 1999. A rural charter bears testimony to this call and in support of this demand the Rural Development Services Network commissioned research to support advocacy efforts. The findings we are sharing with you today arise from that research.

Rural Development Services Network

Perhaps it is important at this stage to introduce the Rural Development Services Network. The Network has been in existence for over 8 years and has a membership of 16 organisations from across South Africa all concerned directly with rural development.

Context for this Campaign

In order to understand what informs the campaign we need to look to very briefly to three issues namely, the constitutional imperatives which must shape the way services are delivered and then look at what the reality on the ground is in terms of actual delivery and finally how the state is prioritising its budgetary allocations in respect of social spending in general and water in particular.

Constitutional Imperatives

South Africans are very proud of their constitution and rightfully so as it has been heralded as among the most progressive constitutions in the world today. Most importantly what gives this high regard is the Chapter 2 Bill of Rights which sets out clearly what the state's obligation is in relation to access to basic needs, the right to dignity and to gender equality, the rights of children and so on.

It is accepted that developing countries cannot overnight begin to fulfill their responsibilities and so the constitution also includes a clause which recognises that the state will work towards the "*progressive realisation of these rights*", which basically means that the state will ensure that it is working towards that goal.

Our constitutional responsibilities are further enhanced by the fact that South Africa is a signatory to several international human rights instruments such as the Human Rights Convention, the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

I would like to draw your attention to an important article of CEDAW below:

"state parties shall eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women that they enjoy adequate living conditions particularly in relation to water supply"

*United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDAW, 1979*

A Crisis In Meeting Our Developmental Mandates

A few quick points to draw your attention to the development crisis we face in South Africa today.

- South Africa is the second most economically unequal country in the world after Brazil. The wealthiest 2,4 million income earners accounted for 40 % consumption, while the poorest 21 million accounted for under 10 %.
- The distribution and consumption of water in South Africa is even more unequal. Only about 12% of available water is consumed by households of which about 1% is consumed by rural households. About half of the available domestic water is used in garden maintenance and suburban swimming pools.
- South Africa is one of the 12 most lethal countries in the world for children because of our infant mortality rate, largely due to water borne diseases. 18 000 people in South Africa die from diarrhoea or dysentery every year. It costs the country R4billion every year to treat and cope with the effects of these two water borne diseases.

Crisis of Affordability and Delivery

High levels of poverty, especially in rural areas means that people are unable and unwilling to pay for services. The story quoted by the Minister Kasrils about the poor rural women who was unable to pay the R 10 for potable water bears testimony to this issue. Research conducted by RDSN in the Mtunzini region found that in many communities the people who were paying for water were the pensioners and in a sense they were subsidising the water costs for others in the community to poor to pay. So what we see here is the REDISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY !!!!

Disconnections of water supply as a result of payment defaulting has been in the media in recent times. Most recently we heard of the community marching on the Mayor of Glencoe and right here in Durban the Metropolitan Government has been taken to court by Mrs Manqele (a mother of 7 children) for her right to a lifeline supply of water at no cost.

The Manqele case follows closely on the Grootboom case in Cape Town, which is now at the Constitutional Court for determination on whether a group of squatters with children is entitled to shelter in terms of the Constitution. Manqele's case is a test case taken up by lawyers who are hoping to determine the

constitutional rights of other water users whose supply has been disconnected. It comes in the wake of the disconnection of more than 10000 Umlazi residents whose water supply was stopped this week after non-payment.

The advocate for the Council argued that since the regulations in terms of the Water Services Act for a "basic water supply" had not yet been drawn up by the National Ministry, the Council's hands were tied. However, Manqele's constitutional challenge was that she had a right to sufficient water and that her children had the right to adequate nutrition which involved access to water. In the absence of promulgated water regulations, the Constitution provided for "sufficient" water as the right of every citizen. "Sufficient water is more than no water at all. As the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, the concept of sufficient water has to be used in place of the absent regulations to define a basic water supply".

For Manqele and her children, it was argued that to deny them access to water because there were no means to ensure that only a basic supply was consumed was but to reinvoke a limitation of rights where the Constitution did not allow limitation in respect of the rights of children.

It remains an open question as to whether water redistribution will occur along socially-just lines, from rich to poor, or according to the already-wealthy securing and consuming greater supplies of water, thus amplifying the problems of the already-poor, whose water supplies (if they have any at all) are increasingly being cut off on grounds of non-payment. Although the legitimacy of water-cut-offs has yet to be tested in the Constitutional Court, the responsibility of the Minister of Water Affairs includes assuring all people the right to water access - the current practice of municipal water cut-offs are therefore possibly unconstitutional. Moreover, a common perception is that the cut-offs have been undertaken in a desperate and ad hoc manner in many areas, and at a scale unprecedented in South Africa's history. The large numbers of disconnections of water supply are set to continue as local government tries to maintain fiscal discipline and these disconnections are a recipe for conflict and litigation, both of which we cannot afford.

In 1998, DWAF indicated that it had served 3 million of the 18 million people, mainly in rural areas, who were without a basic water supply. However it assumes that all the delivery has been sustainable. Report on research conducted in the Eastern Cape indicate the opposite namely that of 19 projects implemented only 4 of the projects a year later were found to in working order.

Myth of Privatisation

Beginning in 1996, DWAF's Community Water Supply and Sanitation programme commissioned several dozen small-scale, rural PPPs, known as Build-Operate-Train-and-Transfer (BOTT) contracts, involving NGOs and some private firms. But such serious problems soon emerged that by 1999, the concept was in many areas evaluated as a "failure".

These contracts have emphasised

- the speed of project implementation rather than the long-term management and sustainability of rural water systems.
- taken longer project implementation time,
- has been more expensive.

BOTT is not regarded as a genuine public-private partnership because the private sector provides none of its own investment and takes no risk as all its costs are met by DWAF. BOTT draws resources away from developing the capacity of rural local government.

A review conducted by DWAF consultants in 1998 concluded that

- the BOTT had failed to accelerate the delivery of projects;
- had offered very inadequate or non-existent training Institutional and Social Development (ISD) and operations and maintenance;
- the quality of work was deemed as so poor, that Regional Councils involved in the BOTT programme have demanded that the ISD be reworked at no additional cost to DWAF and the Councils;
- no plans were in place to transfer completed projects to the relevant local authorities.

The World Bank study of the BOTT programme also revealed serious problems and misgivings:

"Whoever or whatever is to blame, BOTT and DWAF have failed the community and should be made to account for this unhappy state of affairs."

Government Spending on Water

Lets look first at spending patterns related to water and some other budget items since 1995. It is clear that water holds a low priority in the national allocation of resources and that the allocation to water has begun to drop since 1999.

Budget Item	Amount Spent 95/96	% of Budget 95/96	Amount Spent 99/00	% of Budget 99/00	Amount 00/01	% of Budget 00/01
Water	R0,9 B	0,6 %	R2,9B	1,1%	R2,6B	1,1%
Security	R21 B	13,5 %	R 35,5 B	15,1 %	R 37,9 B	15,9 %
Transport	R3 B	1,9 %	R3,5 B	1,6 %	R 4,1 B	1,8 %
Interest on Debt	R 28 B	25,5 %	R 48,2 B	22,2 %	R46,5 B	19,9 %
Total Govt Expenditure	R 153 B		R 205 B		R233,5B	

What does the 2000/2001 Budget tell us?

Sector	Impact of the Budget
Water	Decrease by 7,7 %
Security	Increase by 5,3 %
Transport	Increase by 8, 1 %
Other basic needs	
Housing	Decrease by 14,2 %
Education	Decrease by 1,6 %
Pensions	Decrease by 1,5%
Health	No change 0 %

Crisis of Affordability and Delivery

- Inability to pay - High levels of poverty mean that people are unable and unwilling to pay for services. Poor are supporting the poorer - REDISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY!

- ❑ Disconnections - Large numbers of disconnections of water supply daily - a recipe for conflict - Open to litigation - Manqele Case
- ❑ Unsustainable connections - of 19 projects in the Eastern Cape only 4 were found to be working a year later.

Rural Water Privatisation

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RDSN's Water Campaign

- ❑ To actively campaign for a free lifeline of 50 litres of potable water per person per day through a yard connection to be included in all policy formulations of government
- ❑ To reject any attempts to decrease the minimum basic supply
- ❑ To struggle for a national cross-subsidisation programme and a progressive block tariff on high consumers to finance the supply of 50 litre free lifeline supply
- ❑ To reject privatisation in all its forms
- ❑ To lobby national government to increase the equitable share allocation to local government.

WOMEN AND RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Filo Majozi

Zakhele Development Consortium

OBJECTIVES OF THE PILOT

- To review literature on issues related to women's participation in rural water supply.
- To assess women and various stakeholders perceptions on women's participation
- To identify factors promoting and hindering women's participation
- To conduct women's time use study
- to make recommendations to DANIDA.

METHODOLOGY

- Focus Group discussions with:
 - Women, Men Tribal Authority, Water Committee.
- Household Survey:
 - 50 household visited and interviewed

Analysis of Records and Literature

- Observation of ONE DAY OF A Woman's Life in Rural Area.

FINDINGS

FACTORS HINDERING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION:

- Time Constraint.
- Women Shy by Nature.
- Women Not Supportive of Each Other.
- Dependency on Husband's Income.
- Upbringing and Socialisation of Men.
- Traditional Women Roles:
- Women Role Models in Development
- Women as Good Wives :
 - Respect of Husbands
- Women's Successful Initiatives:
 - Income Generating Activities

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON WOMEN IN QADI AREA

- HAS THE PROJECT DECREASED WORKLOAD OF WOMEN WITH REGARD TO WATER COLLECTION?

- Coverage problematic particularly in Mabedlana: No clean water.
- Walking distances reduced in some parts but other parts still walk longer distances.

- HAS THE PROJECT INCREASED LEVEL OF WOMEN OCCUPYING IMPORTANT POSITIONS?

- No Women Employed On Operations & Maintenance
- Few Women (About 30%) On Decision Making Level.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Gender sensitization of Stakeholders involved in the Water Project.
- Increase women's self esteem through economic activities.
- Support Women to have Cleaned Piped Water Supply.
- Organise Women around issues to improve their social status.
- Identify Training Programmes that will make women financially independent.

LEARNINGS

- Majority of Rural Women are poor.
- Women are involved in a range of other activities-time constraints.
- Traditional structures are suspicious of projects to address women's issues.
- Majority of women do not see themselves as being oppressed.
- Old aged women promote male domination.
- Women are regarded as shy by nature.
- Assertiveness is not seen as good for women.

CONSTRAINTS

- Permission to conduct the study was difficult to obtain - Delays.
- High expectations generated by the study.
 - Employment
- Women's Time Constraints
- Tensions due to coming elections.
- Traditional barriers : Gender issues

CHANGING THE CONCEPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT: THE NEW GENDER REALITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Lefa Mallane

Acting Executive Director, The Mvula Trust

Master of Ceremony, the honourable Premier Lionel Mtshali, Minister Ronnie Kasrils, Jeanne Gould (European Union), distinguished councillors, your excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates, colleagues at Mvula Trust and ladies and gentlemen.

On August 9th, throughout the country we shall be celebrating and commemorating the National Women's Day. This has been declared a public holiday so that we can pay tribute to the contribution that women of this country have made to our struggle for democracy and equality. We should use this day to evaluate the position of women in the workplace and at home, praise ourselves on our achievement and recommit ourselves to the advancement of women in the world of work and indeed in every sphere of life in our country.

South Africa is not the only country restructuring its approach to water and sanitation provision. Neither is it alone in search for ways to enhance the possibility for meaningful community and gender participation in projects. This is important because no development policies and strategies will succeed unless they put people first- as planners and implementers, not just objects to be moved from one piece of land to another to give ways to so called "development". Hence we recognise that the biggest development challenge facing South Africa is eradicating the backlog of basic human services. For the water and sanitation sector alone, there are approximately eight to ten million people in rural areas without access to appropriate water and sanitation. We at Mvula further recognise that our constitution gives municipalities an important role in providing most basic human services.

For this reason it is useful to introduce this theme: Changing the conceptions of Development: The new gender realities in South Africa by first and foremost sharing important lessons for the democratic South Africa.

Lessons for the Democratic South Africa

1. The change of government from white to democratic rule does not by itself deliver democracy and development. Fundamentally changing power relations in society so that ordinary people have much greater say in taking decisions that affect their immediate lives is important;
2. The lack of sufficiently organised civil society (people's institutions) at independence leads to derailment of the struggle for national development and to corruption of leadership;

3. Political independence is interdependent with economic independence. One cannot exist without the other. Colonial legacies can only be overcome by political, social and economic transformation; Progressively increasing ordinary peoples access to basic material goods and services improves their lives and restores people's dignity as they need to live;
4. Destroying people's organisations undermines their initiatives, retards their creativity and commitment to maximise their productive capacities; Development cannot be achieved by destroying the initiative of the marginalised to organise themselves. No people will ever release its creative capacity for productivity and development without real participation in the democratic process designed to promote development and self reliance.
5. Our people are our main assets. Development must be planned and implemented with them and not for them by others; We need to invest in people and focus on where people live, not in city centres only;
6. Our development policies and strategies in South Africa must be human centred and give due emphasis to the rural sector. All of the above must happen in the context of sustainable political democracy which is stable, has clear sets of rules governing institutions and takes place in an environmentally sustainable process of economic growth.

None of these aspects should be emphasised at the expense of the others and they must be seen as part of a single process. The development of society cannot occur without development of its constituent parts.

Introduction

Our democratic government in South Africa finds itself responsible for the efficient utilisation of scarce national resources in order to satisfy the needs of its citizens. In order to survive and be productive people will need housing and access to land and they will need services such as water and electricity, roads, clinics, hospitals, and schools. In order to address these needs, the government has been deciding upon priorities, taking account of competing demands, balancing the books, raising loans and ensuring that they repay those loans.

Within the home it is invariably the woman who carries out these responsibilities. She above all, is aware of the conflicting demands upon her time and resources, of the need to balance the budget, for careful investment and the avoidance of waste, the importance of good management and keeping debts to a minimum. Indeed, it must also be stated that it is women whose resourcefulness ensured the survival of communities throughout the country during the dark days of apartheid.

Like it or loathe it, we all know that apartheid and its Separate Development paradigm introduced into South Africa a grossly distorted view of what development means. Development was something the state did for others - for disadvantaged subordinates who were located in Native reserves, later homelands. The regime made decisions for other people, especially in a range of matters, where we could live, who you should choose to be your partner, who should be your friend or enemy and how to do business.

As a result, we still have to deal with four of its legacies:

This approach of deciding for people perpetuated inequalities and the master-servant relationship and it also produced straightforward lack of understanding, on the part of all of us, of what democracy means, what development means, and what is demanded of us. Government as a servant of people was not known let alone understood. That people should be active in shaping their own lives. That people should feel free to try experiments, take risks, and openly assess the results. That no one is killed for making a mistake. That people feel they are doing something that matters – to them personally and to the society as a whole.

The Four Legacies of Apartheid

1. The "Big Brother will decide for you"
2. Government makes the pie for us to put our fingers in it;
3. A lack of understanding about democracy and development . The fact that both demand engagement, action, interest, loud voices and participation
4. A lack of tolerance of other views.

The new vocabulary in government is about: the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Water Services Development Plans (WSDP) etc.

This shows that at the moment the country recognises that the one who fails to plan, plans to fail. IDPs are at the heart of sustainable service provision within the current paradigm.

Indeed development must be seen as a challenge requiring the restructuring of society and the empowerment of the deprived majority so that new resources are provided not as hand outs but as real allocations from our democratic government. This means tackling not only the huge inequalities of income and wealth but also the hidden subsidy system that enables a minority to flourish while the majority struggles to survive.

What about the Gender Realities?

Women and water - breaking the barriers to participation

When the new government took over in 1994, 12 million people did not have access to potable (drinking) water. Majority of rural women had to walk more than five kilometres every day to get to a source of water, and then there was no guarantee that it was clean or suitable for consumption. About Nineteen million people did not have access to adequate sanitation.

To begin to address this desperate need, Mvula was set up in 1993 as an independent trust. With support from the Independent Development Trust, the DBSA and Kagiso Trust as its founders, to create a water and sanitation service provider - especially to impoverished communities in the former homeland areas who have been neglected or ignored under the previous dispensation. Mvula played an important role, that of a vehicle to assist in overcoming the backlog of water and sanitation services for rural and peri-urban communities.

With few models to follow, there was no government rural water supply and sanitation policy or programme at that time. Rural community services had been the responsibility

of the former homelands. When homelands merged with new municipal boundaries, the differences and backlogs in services became clear. Mvula adopted a distinctive "demand-responsive" approach to development that will benefit rural communities. Communities developed their own water committees and approached the Trust for assistance. To date we have implemented over 400 water and sanitation projects estimated at nearly R300 million benefiting nearly 1.5 million people. This has been made possible by a number of different stake-holders notably, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department of Health, the Eastern Cape Premier's Office, the European Union, the Australian Aid, Irish Aid, and DANIDA.

Mvula is piloting a "Strengthening Sustainability Initiative" to evaluate completed projects to learn lessons. Mvula has continued to make considerable impact on the rural water and sanitation sector. Mvula Trust offers currently the following services:

- Policy development and analysis;
- Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Training;
- Sanitation, Health and Hygiene promotion; and
- Facilitating Municipal Community Partnerships and Water Services Development Plans

A Demand Responsive Approach

The demand responsive approach was developed in the light of critical lessons learnt during the united nations 'international drinking water and sanitation decade' spanning the 1980s. The lessons were sobering. By the early 1990s the world seemed no closer to universal delivery of water and sanitation services. A staggering 40% of rural people in the developing world still lacked an adequate water supply and 60% were without sanitation.

It was clear that universal access to water and sanitation services would not be possible if governments in the 'developing' world - which face severe economic problems - rely solely on their own resources and those provided by donors. Communities would have to carry some of the cost of service provision.

A further conclusion was that new water systems were failing due to inadequate maintenance and poor management on the part of governments and their agencies. Communities need to be empowered to take responsibility for these services.

In order to promote sustainability in water projects, i would like to argue, that communities should cease to be passive recipients of water projects, and should play an integral part in such projects from their inception. At the very least, communities should help to determine the type of service which is provided, and should be in position to monitor and evaluate the performance of the service provider. Unless this is done, communities are unlikely to develop a sense of ownership of water projects, and there is little to motivate them to take responsibility for such programmes.

The experience of traditional, top-down, development projects across the world suggest that unless community ownership and the various components of demand led-development are assured up-front, the promotion of sustainability becomes almost impossible. Thus it is of little use simply putting money and effort into technical components of a water project, unless one is able, first to develop an appropriate and

supportive environment within which such development can take place. This is one of the key lessons to be learnt in the water sector.

Mvula has adopted the core principles of the demand responsive approach, but adapted it to south african circumstances. Mvula is supportive of government's commitment to provide the infrastructure costs of projects. The trust believes strongly in supporting the building of the capacity of local government to play a key role in service delivery. We insist, however, that communities initiate and make informed choices about service options, based on their willingness to pay for the service and acceptance of responsibilities for subsequent operations and maintenance. Mvula is campaigning for community-public partnerships to ensure effective, sustainable service delivery.

Women's Role

Rural people, and rural women in particular, bear the largest burden of poverty in South Africa. If we can change the inequalities and inefficiencies of the past, rural areas will become productive and sustainable. The Government is committed to an integrated rural development strategy which aims to eliminate poverty in rural South Africa. The Rural Development Strategy sets out the mechanisms by which rural people and their elected representatives on rural District Councils and Local Councils can take charge of the development process in their own areas.

One of the key principles of the demand responsive approach is that women should take the lead in the management of water. International experience shows that women are central to the long term sustainability of projects. Women are the primary collectors, managers and users of water and the primary providers of health care to the family. They have the best information on availability, reliability and purity of water sources. They are also less likely to leave the community, taking their skills and experience with them.

In 1995, Mvula adopted a quota system. It was decided that women must comprise 30% of all water committees. By 1997, problems had begun to emerge. Field workers did not always stick to the quota. In projects where it was implemented, the women who were elected did not seem to be involved in critical decisions - it was common to find them cleaning meeting venues and/or making tea for visitors and male committee members!

We need to be looking for alternative policies that will lead to a widening of the economy to embrace those that have been marginalised, that will make real inroads into discrimination and unemployment and address the problems of low wages and poor education. People do not want welfare, most are capable of gainful work. As resources are redirected from luxury former white suburbs towards the black townships and the rural areas so that infrastructure, housing, social services can begin to redress the present inequalities.

In South Africa, local labour and community enterprises should be engaged in laying pipes, building homes and roads, collecting refuse, providing school meals and childcare facilities. If women are to enter the labour market on equal footing with men they need equal access to public services such as water, electricity, sanitation, public transport, health care and education. They also need access to land, bank loans, workshops, training facilities, and professional advisory services. These are some of

the ways in which the burden of women's unpaid labour can be lightened and they can acquire skills and enter the public arena as independents and as equals.

Research project

Mvula decided to do an in-depth evaluation of women's role on the water committees. One of the main objectives was to see whether these committees had the potential to enhance women's empowerment.

The study set out to assess:

- the ways in which women interact in their communities with each other and with men.
- how women perform in community structures – particularly water committees - as members and in leadership positions.
- the appropriateness of a quota system to promote women's empowerment.

The Trust managed to secure from Irish Aid. DRA/development (a research agency) was contracted to conduct the research. The researchers worked closely with the Trust's field staff.

To ensure a holistic perspective, the researchers adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches. To create a context for the project, a number of women in influential positions in development organisations and government were interviewed. This was supplemented with a literature review on women's involvement in development in general - and in water projects in particular.

The heart of the project consisted of 16 in-depth studies of water and sanitation committees in different rural villages in the Eastern Cape, Northern Province, KwaZulu/Natal and Mpumalanga. These studies involved a major survey of community attitudes. Fifty interviews were conducted in each community. The final sample comprised 806 questionnaires. Forty nine percent of the interviewees were men and 51% were women.

The researchers spent five days with each community. The survey was supplemented with the findings from focus groups run with the water committees as a whole and then with the female members alone. Informal interviews were also conducted with community members.

Barriers

The research unearthed five major barriers to women's participation in development projects and in water projects specifically. These are:

- insecurities on the part of the women themselves
- impediments created by men
- community barriers
- cultural barriers
- barriers created by external development agencies.

These categories obviously overlap.

Insecurities

The research indicated that rural women were more shy and inexperienced than their male colleagues due to their socialisation. This resulted in a lack of faith in their own abilities.

Women perceived men to be skilled public speakers. They claimed that good public speaking was necessary to "make sound decisions quickly". They felt that these skills are essential at community meetings, where most of the important decisions regarding water projects are taken. Only 33% of female respondents, compared with 58% of male respondents, had ever spoken in a community meeting.

A small but significant group of women (11% of the survey respondents) felt that when men spoke they were respected for their insight and knowledge, but that women lacked this ability. The qualitative analysis revealed a strong perception on the part of women that men had more worthwhile inputs to make than women.

Women also stated that they were not technically minded and that men acquired these skills 'naturally'. Technical skills are obviously a key component of the package of skills required to run a successful water project, particularly in the operational and maintenance phases.

A number of women stated that men could quite adequately represent their interests and that there was, therefore, no need for them to attend community meetings or be represented on any formal water structures.

The researcher report concluded that women's lack of education and limited contact with the outside world probably accentuated their feelings of inferiority. The male respondents had higher levels of education than the females interviewed. Amongst the female respondents, 22% had received no formal schooling. Only 15% of the male respondents had never attended school. Twenty eight percent of the male respondents had successfully completed matric, compared with 18% of the women.

Women in the rural areas are far less mobile than men. This makes them far more apprehensive about dealing with outside project workers and consultants.

Impediments Created by Men

The research revealed that men reinforce women's feelings of inferiority. The men who were interviewed said that women gossip and fight amongst themselves. This makes them unsuitable candidates for development/water committees. Men also claimed that women are slower and more contemplative than men, and therefore less able to make decisions.

One of the most startling findings was men's opinion of female operators' and their performance on water projects. While there were very few female operators to start with, the male respondents felt that only 39% were performing well. In contrast, 75% of women felt that the selfsame female operators were doing an efficient job.

The reasons for this discrepancy lie in gender bias. Men evaluate the female operators on the basis of their gender rather than performance. They claimed that women are "not

technically minded", that "they are erratic and cannot be relied upon to operate the system" and that women "are breaking their cultural heritage by taking up positions of leadership in the community". No concrete evidence was offered to support the claims of inefficiency or ineffectiveness. The report concluded that certain men appeared to be threatened by the prospect of women's empowerment.

Cultural Barriers

The research uncovered a number of cultural barriers to women's participation. A number of the women interviewed had cut short their education because it is not considered appropriate for women to receive education beyond a particular minimum point.

Both men and women emphasised women's role in child rearing and domestic responsibilities. These duties make it very difficult for women to get involved in community activities.

Certain activities were considered 'inappropriate' for women. One example suffices: community liaison is a key function of the water committee. Yet a number of respondents felt that women should not perform this job, as they will "make a spectacle of themselves."

Community Barriers

Community barriers are closely tied to cultural barriers. The water projects are generally run by a few high profile individuals. In rural communities, these individuals are usually men. Meeting times and venues do not take women's domestic responsibilities into account.

External Agents

Mvula works with a number of external agents, including engineers and training agents. These agents, and Mvula staff themselves, naturally want to get the job done as fast and efficiently as possible. The people who have the power to get things done in the community are men. The agents tend to reinforce women's inferior role by choosing to deal with the men on the water committees.

Counter Trends

The research also revealed significant counter trends. These came through particularly strongly in the qualitative analyses. A number of the women, and some of the male respondents said that the number of women on the water committees should increase. They pointed to the fact that women are directly involved in water provision. They suffer the most through not having convenient access to water. Others said that women should express their ideas at water committee and community meetings so as to encourage each other to participate more widely. Community members said that if there were more women on the committees, women would have a chance to prove their ability to the community.

Perceptions notwithstanding, the quantitative analyses revealed that female members of the community were actually more involved in the water projects than men. Being

involved was defined as contributing money or labour and/or attending meetings. Sixty six percent of all the women interviewed were involved at some level of the project, compared with 61% of men. Women contributed money and their labour towards the project. When labour was paid, however, the participation of men and women was perceived equal.

The 1998 Mvula Workshop Findings

In September 1998 Mvula held a workshop to discuss the research findings and to make recommendations

The following are some of the major recommendations that were discussed:

- Mvula's objective is not to oust men from the water projects, but to ensure more equal participation of women. Separate workshops must be held with men, where this point is emphasised.
- Women's critical role in water provision should be emphasised in separate workshops with men and women.
- Women should take up one of the three key decision making roles on water committees - i.e. the chair, deputy chair or treasurer.
- Women should be given the appropriate training to enable them to participate in all the technical aspects of the water projects.
- Meeting times and venues must accommodate the needs of women.
- External agents working on Mvula projects will be required to show that they have a clear gender policy in place. They should also be encouraged to attend gender awareness training courses. Mvula project staff should also attend these courses.

While it was agreed that the 30% quota should remain, this should be part of a package of empowerment tools that include capacity building, training etc. The quota will be applied at all levels of the project, for example, the water committee, all training courses and so on.

Taking Gender Seriously

It is critical that development organisations, such as Mvula, take the issue of gender seriously. The long-term sustainability of projects depends on such an approach. We are convinced that when people are responsible for sustainability, they will discuss the nature of the problems, decide on solutions and expert advice needed and be committed to successful implementation of projects. Mvula has taken one significant step towards this goal. The research has now been conducted. The barriers to women's participation have been exposed. However, the most difficult part - breaking down of these barriers - remains a challenge that still lies ahead.

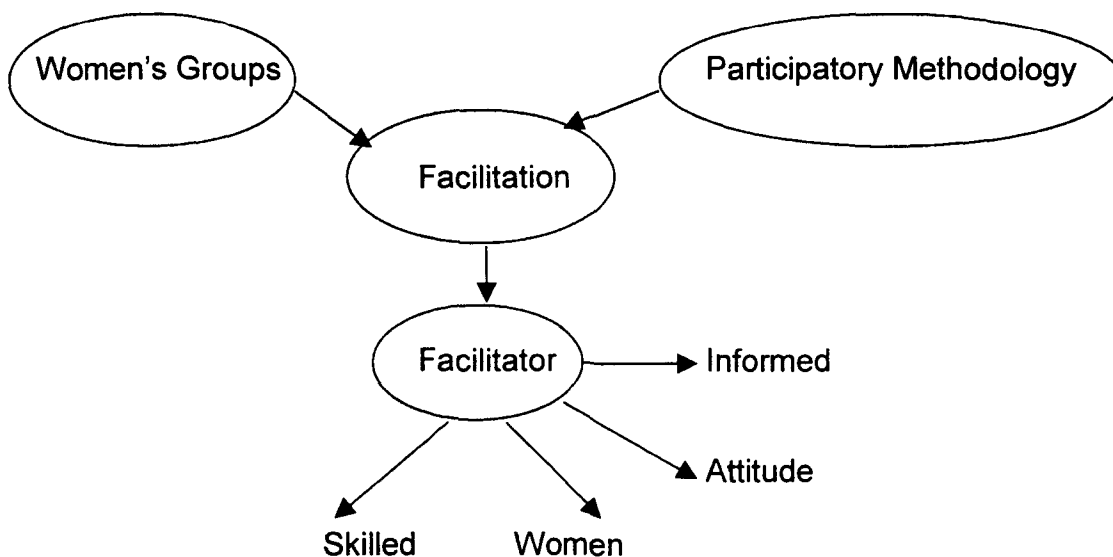
GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Group 1

Facilitator : Alana Potter (The Mvula Trust)

Topic : Factors enabling women's participation in water and sanitation projects

- Numbers (quota necessary, at least 50%)
- Government and Donor Policies must be enabling
- Role Modes (Champions)
- Training & Facilitation
 - Confidence – building
 - Competence – building
- Income Generating Projects (women only, since money is power)
- Jargon (water sector is loaded with alienating / isolating)
- Local / Home Language
- Demystifying
- Training for Men
- Information
- Position and Recognition (not only in terms of numbers)



There is buy-in, but no-one knows how to make it happen:

- Tools for practitioners
- Entry Method
- Monitoring tools for women to see their own progress
- Networking
- Learning Lessons (constantly opened)

Group 2**Facilitator : Siphokazi Mpahla (The Mvula Trust)****Topic : Ensuring women's participation in traditional communities**

Traditional Communities are defined, not by their geographical location, but by their attitudes, their level of knowledge and their practices.

Issues raised:

- Community participation is important
Communities must be consulted
Programmes must be contextualised and their objectives understood.
- Women are not confident
Women who have some knowledge especially are not confident, for fear that they will be seen as superior.
- Women need to support each other, and form support groups.
- Tolerance is needed
- Government programmes must focus on women and their participation.
- Women must hold positions of leadership (especially amongst headmen and chiefs).
More women are needed in leadership roles.
- Language – more sensitivity needed. Business plans are in English

Key areas:

Training programmes must be aimed at both men and women

Group 3**Facilitator : Audrey Lubisi (The Mvula Trust)****Topic : Participation of women in development projects, obstacles and empowerment****Obstacles identified:**

1. Cultural beliefs - As a result of cultural beliefs, women are expected to cook, and play traditional roles.
2. Religious beliefs - some churches do not allow women to preach.
3. Lacks of information - rural women do not know that they have a right to stand up and be heard.
4. Jealousy - women do not support one another, if there is an active woman in their community, they tend to be so jealous saying that she needs recognition.
5. Illiteracy - A lot of women in rural areas are illiterate, some cannot even write their names nor read. Their male counterparts are much better hence women think that ONLY those who are educated can make a meaningful contribution to development initiatives.
6. Inadequate representation- women are not sufficiently represented in development structures, especially in the executive. Even if they are there, they only satisfy the quota system, they do not participate.
7. Time factor- women spend up to 16 hours a day doing home chores. They do not have enough time to attend to things like attending committee meetings.
8. Outsiders do not motivate women to participate.

Empowerment strategies:

Have a Gender Desk in the Local government office. This desk will assist in information dissemination and influencing women politically to take part in development work.

Conduct workshops with men and traditional authorities about the importance of women in water and sanitation projects.

Ensure that women are part of the executive and encourage them to participate.

Group 4**Facilitator : Bethuel Netshiswinzhe (The Mvula Trust)****Topic : Taking Women's Issues Forward in the Sector: Who? What? How? Where is the home for Gender issues in the Sector?**

How can issues be taken forward?

1. PARTNERSHIPS**Co-ordination of existing structures**

- Office of the Status of Women (OSW)
- Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)
- Gender Desks
- Civil society (NGOs)

Integrated strategy**Dissemination of information**

There is a lot of information, but it needs to be shared

2. MAINSTREAMING GENDER

Charity begins at home (policies around gender within each organisation)

Each programme should be gender focused

Each project should contain a position/policy about promoting gender equality

Teach gender equality within each family / at home

Demystify Gender

Gender is not about women only

Men should promote gender issues, and take action

Training on gender issues should be targeted at men.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Shift in Mindset is necessary

- Supportive Environment (e.g. engineers)
- Training for women
- Needs-based support
- Empower women in support agencies (IAs)

Group 5**Facilitator : Kerry Harris (DAAF)****Topic : Women, AIDS, Water & Sanitation.****The main issues:**

1. Coherent and integrated educational programme which links water, sanitation and HIV/AIDS
2. Nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS
3. Access to facilities

OBSTACLES to women's participation in water and sanitation

1. Culture, Tradition and Religion
2. Lack of knowledge
3. Socialisation
4. Gender stereotypes
5. Household commitments and chores
6. Lack of support government, men and women

EMPOWERMENT

Identify and enhance women's strong points (self-esteem)

Change approach of outsiders (need to be more aware)

Gender awareness training to women and men

Women to support each other

Contract to specify gender equality (not quota)

Local government to have Gender Desk

Need to intensify

- Research
- Resources
- Role-players
- Recipients / target groups
- Responsibilities
- Messages

Set Time Frame

Link of AIDS, water and sanitation to Poverty

THE WAY FORWARD

Gloria Kodzwa

UNICEF

Gender is not charity – it is about partnership.

What Do We Know Already About Women's Participation?

Survey Oct 1996:

- Women spend 4-6 hours per day collecting water/firewood.
- Potential of women on economic development
- 50% of the population are women and 70% live in rural communities managing households
- Studies have shown that sustainability is enhanced by greater involvement of women
- The role of women is underestimated
- Women are a resource in the sector

Gender consideration must occur in all aspects of Projects

- Appraisal
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Issues Emerging From Discussion Groups

- Women are not excluded, and their role is often mainstream
Project evaluation has shown that mainstreaming loses the focus on women.
- Clear linkages between vulnerability of girls/women to HIV/AIDS – water sanitation.
Orphans caring for the sick.
- In households where women have economic empowerment, payments for services are made.
- Socialisation of men and women within the sector
Gender about men and women
- Community capacity development
Capacity is there, how to develop it / get it focussed and consolidated within the sector
Common skills development

Report Back

- Tools
 1. List of emerging issues
 2. Report of 5 working groups
- Draft Report 30 September
- Feedback on draft report Mid October
- Stakeholders Meeting November 2001
 - Object of Meeting
 1. Endorse report
 2. Develop strategy/workplan

What Do We Need To Do?

- Consider whether our programmes are gender-sensitive?
- Consider whether our policies are gender-sensitive?
- Assess what support/resources we need to raise awareness?
- Give timely feedback on the draft report
- Learn as much as we can on gender issues

Gender is not about women – gender is about men and women

CLOSING REMARKS

Lefa Mallane

Acting Executive Director, The Mvula Trust

I would like to thank all of you for coming to this important event, Conference on Women, Water and Sanitation at the ICC Durban 7 August 2000. I have been looking around the room to see who may have fallen asleep and indeed no one, everyone has been awaké, thanks to the organisers for this wonderful venue.

I would like to thank my colleagues Kate Skinner and Dr Gloria Kodzwa for this last session that has been brief but to the point after we heard the report back and indicating the way forward after this conference. I thank them.

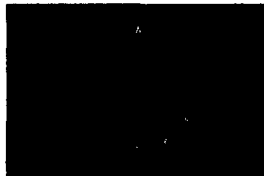
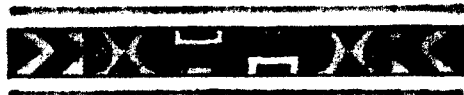
I would like to thank Dr Stephen Knight for a wonderful session that was addressed by dynamic speakers: Ms Jeane Gould from the European Union Development Attache, Ms Kathy Eales from NaSCO, Dr Nozibele Mjoli from the Water Research Commission, Ms bolu Onabolu from the Mvula Trust, Shirin Motala from the Rural Development Services Network, and the Drama presentation by the Zakhele Women's group. I would like to thank them for their time and effort in putting together their well thought out and provoking presentations regarding the gender issues that are affecting all of us. As we may restate that gender issues are not about women but they are about men and women.

We started this morning with a very good session chaired by my colleague Mr Martin Rall from the Mvula Trust. In the session we listened to the wisdom of our politician regarding how they see the issues affecting the Water and sanitation sector particularly as they affect women. I would like to thank Councillor Mveli Mavundla the Deputy Mayor of the Durban metropolitan Council, the honourable Premier of Kwazulu-Natal Mr Lionel Mtshali, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mr Ronnie Kasrils and Councillor Nomsa Dube for their wonderful presentations, we have eyes to see, ears to hear and we listened very enthusiastically to whatever they had to say and I thank all of them for spending their precious time with us this morning.

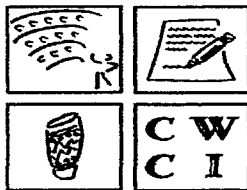
Ladies and Gentlemen, our democracy would like people who have the energy for action to become the agents of change, it requires to continue to engage with each other and network with one another, it needs us to work together to make it work. Our democracy needs people who have interest in development issues and who would like to address the inequalities and the legacies of the past. Our democratic dispensation needs us to continue to have loud voices as expressed through the different inputs at this conference on Women, water and Sanitation in Durban. Above all it requires people who are willing to participate in making it work for the better life for all.

Once again I would like to thank each one of you for coming to this event to make it successful. Will you give yourself a loud applause. I thank you all.

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