

REPORT FROM A WORKSHOP IN UGANDA

Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Development in the Lake Victoria Basin, East Africa

For the second year running CHEC has been able to support workshops on Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Management in countries around Lake Victoria. With greatly appreciated support from an activity grant made by the Commonwealth Foundation, the third workshop has just concluded in Kampala, Uganda under the leadership of Patricia Kabatabazi of the Community based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa (CIANEA). Following the two rewarding 2009 workshops in Uganda and Tanzania, this meeting brought back some of the 2009 trainees and had representatives from Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.



Patricia Kabatabazi: Workshop Leader

Patricia Kabatabazi, the co-ordinator of the workshops, is a professional environmentalist with a Master's degree in water resource management. She enjoys networking, lobbying and advocacy, and collaborative working to improve conditions for future generations.

She is an ambassador of the Gender and Water Alliance for Eastern Africa and a Coordinator of the Gender Mainstreaming Programme in Eastern Africa. In 2003, she spearheaded research around Lake Victoria on the role of gender in natural resource management, writing the Uganda chapter, the results of which are now being used in the Community headquarters for Eastern Africa in Arusha, Tanzania.

She has made presentations at World Water Week conferences in Stockholm in 2004 and 2005 and has engaged in training of trainers in Gender Mainstreaming in both Africa and India.

She is a dedicated campaigner and advocate with a deep grassroots concern for improving the lives of women in Africa. She brought the issues to CHEC's attention at the Commonwealth People's Forum prior to the 2007 CHOGM in Kampala Uganda and has worked closely with the CHEC team in London since then. Patricia is one of CHEC's two Ugandan Governing Board members.

The water and soil issues around Lake Victoria in Eastern Africa

The 251,000 km² Lake Victoria Basin (1° S and 32° E) contains the upper reaches of the Nile River Basin. The 60,000 km² Lake Victoria itself is the largest lake in Africa and is also the second widest freshwater body in the world. It is relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of 90 m. The bordering nations are all in the Commonwealth: Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya. Rwanda and Burundi occupy 18.6 per cent of the Lake Victoria Basin. The Basin supports some of the densest and poorest rural populations in the world, with densities of up to 1,200 persons per km² in parts of Kenya. An average annual population growth rate of 3% is exerting increasing pressures on the lake's natural resources.

The main freshwater concerns in the Lake Victoria basin are the flows in the rivers, particularly during dry seasons, and water quality, especially the washing of soil and chemicals from agricultural land. There is low investment in water supply infrastructure, poor exploration of groundwater potential and a high risk of waterborne diseases. Much factory effluent and urban sewage reaches the lake without treatment. Many factories have no waste water treatment.

The lake receives so much pollutant matter, that the high organic input encourages the rapid growth of water hyacinth which chokes harbours and reduces fishing activities. In addition to these local issues, there are all the problems associated with managing rivers that pass from one country to another, grouped together as the issue of Transboundary Water Resources Management.

Transboundary Water Resources Management (TWRM)

Almost 40 percent of the world's population lives in more than 200 river basins that are shared by more than two countries. Twenty-two countries around the world are heavily dependent upon the flow of water originating in other upstream nations for a large part of their supply. One of these river basins is the Nile, which has Lake Victoria in part of its headwaters. Shared watercourses, such as Lake Victoria inflowing streams and the Nile itself, need to be managed to resolve issues before they develop into conflicts. The resources for all users and riparian countries need to be managed, shared ecosystems maintained, and water productivity in agriculture improved.

Transboundary-related activities that are targeted at improving water resources management are normally consistent with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). These activities include regional frameworks for cooperation in river basins, increasing stakeholder awareness of river basin management issues, and strengthening the capacity of relevant regional river basin institutions.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated water resources management is the practice of making decisions and taking actions while considering multiple viewpoints of how water should be managed. These decisions and actions relate to situations such as river basin planning, organisation of task forces, planning of new capital facilities, controlling reservoir releases, regulating floodplains, and developing new laws and regulations. The need for multiple viewpoints is caused by competition for water and by complex institutional constraints. The decision-making process is often lengthy and involves many participants.

Integrated water management considers three aspects: dimensions of water (surface water and groundwater, and quantity and quality); interactions with land and environment; and interrelationships with social and economic development. One of the most important social aspects to be considered is that of the role of women in water use and in coping with the health risks associated with polluted or contaminated water. This concern has led to attention of gender mainstreaming in water resources development.

The importance of Gender Mainstreaming

In July 1997 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) defined the concept of Gender mainstreaming as follows:

"Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality."

Mainstreaming is not just about adding a "woman's component" or a "men's component". It goes beyond that and means bringing the experience, knowledge and interest of women and men to bear on the development agenda.

On the Internet there is much information available. UN sites such as www.un.org/women, www.ilo.org, www.undp.org/women/mainstream can be searched for both practical advice on procedures and for case studies. www.IWRM.org is dedicated to integrated water resource management, but there are many websites that give examples on good practice.

Summary of the CIANEA Evaluation report of the workshop held at the St. John's Guest House, Bugolobi-Kampala Uganda on 21st-24th September, 2010

The workshop comprised six modules:

1. Gender Mainstreaming and Integrated Water Resource Management

Conducted by Kabatabazi Patricia and Ssejjemba Godfrey

The module sets the platform for a common understanding of basic concepts that relate to gender, gender mainstreaming and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). It facilitates a better understanding of gender issues within the IWRM framework through a case study and discusses general strategies for promoting IWRM at different levels-policy-making, institutional and grass-roots.

2. Gender-Sensitive Training Skills-

Conducted by Musinguzi Jane and Kizibaziba Carol

This module sets the platform for a common understanding of basic concepts that relate to gender. Gender sensitivity facilitates a better understanding of gender issues within project framework activities. The module illustrates key issues through a case-study and discusses general strategies for promoting the target at different levels: policy-making, institutional and grass-roots.

3. Mainstreaming Gender in the project cycle-

Conducted by Balinda Alfred, Kabatabazi Patricia and Byekwaso Steven

Different IWRM projects are being developed to respond to both the practical and strategic needs of women and men. Through a hands-on experiential learning approach, this module of gender mainstreaming provides checklists and suggests strategies to enhance better design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects with a gender perspective. The module further explores collection of sex-disaggregated data and other strategies to generate gender analytical information within the project cycle

4. Gender Mainstreaming Tools –

Conducted by Kabatabazi Patricia, Lukanga Editrudith and Atugonza Margaret

The module aims to assist those intending to mainstream gender within their projects with practical tools for institutional assessment, analysis and planning. It demonstrates simple, learner-centred, gender and poverty-sensitive participatory tools that can be used within the policy, program and project levels.

5. Gender Mainstreaming in Organisations and Policy Process-

Conducted by Balinda Alfred, Ssejjemba Godfrey and Kizibaziba Carol

An enabling environment is necessary to make gender and poverty-sensitive perspective a norm for different types of organisations. This module therefore looks at tools for formulating policies and designing or influencing organisations to be gender sensitive. It also introduces the new Gender and Water Alliance Policy Development Manual. A tool recommended for all its organisations as a starting point for gender mainstreaming within organisations.

6. Planning Training of Trainers Workshop-

Conducted by Musinguzi Jane, Lukanga Editrudith and Atugonza Margaret

This module provides the participants with a space to contribute their insights on how to organise regional and national Training of Trainers` workshops including a complete course programme. The module also suggests criteria for the selection of training hosts, clarification of responsibilities of various interest groups, indicating timeframes and action points for next steps to be taken.

Workshop objectives and achievements

The training set out to evaluate our previous trainees and to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills required to design and conduct practical training courses in mainstreaming gender into Transboundary Water Resources Management.



Workshop participants in Kampala



A poem on the challenges of Gender Mainstreaming

Activities within the training went well and all participants were knowledgeable according to the organisations invited to send representatives. The trainees from the previous workshops were assessed on their performance and achieved grades of 60 - 70 %. They are improving as they gain experience through practice. At future workshops these trainees will become part of the CIANEA teams training others in their respective countries.

Future plans

CIANEA is intending to carry on the Training of Trainers' (TOT) evaluation through community workshops. This will help CIANEA to evaluate the training of trainer's performance. It will be a sustainable project if our donors can give us more funds because it is very hard to carry out training without money. Participants encouraged us to plan for other training events since we are the host for Eastern Africa in Uganda. CIANEA wanted to include at least one Member of Parliament in this workshop but unfortunately it was campaign time for political parties, and the MPs were in their Districts. We hope to involve them next time.

CIANEA would like to extend our sincere heartfelt thanks to Ian Douglas of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council for his coordination of fund raising for the TOT Regional programme. We are grateful and please may we continue to endeavour to network and work with you.

Independent evaluation of the workshop compiled by 'The Networker' from the Gender, Labour and Social Development Department, Uganda

Generally the six modules of this workshop were structured well whereby participants were first given with the definitions of terms. This encouraged wider understanding and active contributions by participants thus creating a lively environment, because the workshop was participatory appraisal method. This helped participants to enjoy the training and wish that the workshop extended for three more days.

Facilitators were tactful in all ways: by coming in to help trainees whenever there was any need and by taking control of the session whenever commotion arose out of participant's excitement. This assisted the trainers in equipping the participants with the skill of controlling such cases should they arise during their own implementation of lessons and ideas learnt in the workshop. It was the most exciting action for us.

However, the workshop was too short. The topics are wide-ranging and they need more time to be grasped thoroughly. At times the facilitators would be forced to rush without adequate explanation, discussion, ice-breakers or energizers. The most widely affected topic, that of gender mainstreaming in the project cycle, needed more time, perhaps two days, because of it is crucial at all stages of a project and the participants to understand it more completely.

As for the meals, the guest house was always punctual, the meals were good, and the rooms were always very clean. It was a good environment for carrying out the training sessions.

Proposal

Participants from the four countries suggested that the organisers / facilitators should arrange more such workshops for empowering the community in the stream of gender mainstreaming.

List of Organisations sending representatives and their country of origin:

Organisation	Country
Environmental Management and Economic Development Organisations	Tanzania
Water Resource Management Authority	Kenya
Lake Kivu Conservation Management	Rwanda
Ndejje University	Uganda
Makerere University	Uganda
Pan Africa Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)	Uganda
Rural Development Media and Communication	Uganda
UPDF Widows & Orphans Association	Uganda
Buganda Kingdom	Uganda
Entebbe District Wildlife Association	Uganda
Uganda Red Cross Society	Uganda
Community based organisation / Kinyonyi Kibi	Uganda
African 2000 Network	Uganda
Rural Communication Environmental Advocacy	Uganda
Uganda Wetland Youth Forum	Uganda
Community based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa	Uganda

There were three trainers and five co-trainers (people who had been trained in the previous workshops), one from Tanzania and four from Uganda. The ten participants attending for the first-time included representatives from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Comments on the workshop by the trainees themselves

From the very beginning, the mobilisation was made through formal letters to our organisations, the internet messages and different phone reminders made us turn up in large numbers as expected. On our arrival at the hotel, we received a warm welcome from CIANEA staff and hotel staff.

During the workshop, presentations were made by the CIANEA team using many facilitating methodologies, such as lecture methods, general discovery through formulation of different groups, and participant involvement. Many teaching aids were applied for interests of the workshop modules



Patricia leading a discussion



Mealtime at the workshop

The trainers knew what they were doing and had the subject matter of what they were presenting. This therefore made us active in our objectives. Generally the participatory method dominated.

Accommodation was excellent (self contained) accompanied by a good balance of meals.

We benefited a lot from the workshop in terms of skills, knowledge as now TOT (Trainers of Trainers) we pledge to use the things we learnt, including that team work is the best way to advocate for gender mainstreaming, and as Trainers of trainers with acquired skills to spread the gospel of Gender Mainstreaming across all areas.

Allowances in terms of transport cost refunds to and from were given to us. We appreciate and keep it on. Our morale was kept high.

Among the challenges, time allocated for the workshop was not enough to synthesise the modules. It needed at least a full week. There was a need for audio visual tools to quicken presentation rather than use flip charts.

We therefore recommend that for other workshops/ training events, more time should be allocated, a few audio-visual materials be considered, and the number of participants be increased.

In conclusion, we send our sincere appreciation to the CIANEA team and all the sponsors, for considering us (former trainees) for an evaluation workshop. Indeed we have benefited and we ask that you keep us networked.

Compiled by
Byekwajo Stephen
Atugonza T.Margaret
CM
Ssejjenba Godfrey Ssonko
M.C.N. Kizibaaba

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Latest news: As a direct outcome of the workshop in September 2010, Patricia Kabatabazi has been asked to facilitate another workshop on Gender Mainstreaming at Ndejje University in Kampala.

CHEC
Church House Newton Road London W2 5LS UK
Tel: +44 (0)207 792 5934 Fax: +44 (0)207 792 5948
E-mail: chec@btopenworld.com Website: www.checinternational.org
Registered Charity No. 272018