

REPORT

OF THE GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 'TRAINING OF TRAINERS' EASTERN AFRICA REGION 2011-2012 WORKSHOP ENTEBBE, UGANDA 15-20 January 2012.

The Commonwealth Foundation kindly awarded CHEC a Special Grant for a major workshop to follow-up three previous events in the Lake Victoria, East Africa region over the past three years organised by Patricia Kabatabazi, Governing Board Member, on behalf of the Community based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa (CIANEA) in partnership with CHEC.

The mission of the event was to train trainers in gender mainstreaming in the integrated development of water resources and related environmental management. The theme of the workshop was: *WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE*, following the Commonwealth's theme for 2011-12. The meeting in Uganda was organized by Community based Impact Assessment Network for Eastern Africa (CIANEA) in partnership with CHEC. The 36 participants came from five countries, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, and included women, men, young women, young men with trainees who had attended earlier workshops and trainers from the five countries. They represented different cultures from around the Lake Victoria basin.



Part of Lake Victoria (Lake Nalubale) close to the outlet of the River Nile (Kiira) near Jinja, Uganda.

The picture shows the use of the lake for fishing, but also the use of the shores for human settlement, agriculture and forestry, changing the environment and reminded workshop participants that the target of their learning and collaboration was to promote and encourage regional stakeholders of all cultures to collectively work together to protect and conserve their regional water bodies.

Opening address

The workshop was opened by a woman member of the Uganda Parliament representing the Masindi District, the Hon. Bintu Jaoia Lukumu Abwooli who said:

“Dear Participants, this training should not be taken as any other training you have undergone, I know some of you are trainers, let this particular training therefore be a stepping stone to spread the gospel of gender, and eliminate all gender biases, especially if this message is delivered by gender conscious men that are present in this room.”

“The Government’s strategy is to empower communities in managing Natural Resources in a rational and sustainable manner. I am happy to note that the objective of this training is just in line with this.”

The Hon. M.P. Abwooli further argued that gender mainstreaming should always be an integral part of the development process in order to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of all. People will be able to assess the implications of programmes and policies across the social spectrum, for poor women, men, children and all other marginalised groups. Water resources and other aspects of the environment needed protection from further degradation due to climate change, which she believed to be the most critical issue we must all address:

“Any attempt to address problems on environment now must include climate change and strategies to address it”.

Involving all the participants

Participants stayed at the St. Johns Guest House, Bugolobi, Kampala where previous workshops had been held and the organisers quickly established that everyone was working on an equal footing, learning from each other. As one participant from Burundi said:

“We are on the same status in this training workshop that is gender equality”.



Opening case study

The workshop proceedings began with the examination of how water use in five rice-growing and livestock raising villages in Gogonya sub-county of Pallisa District, eastern Uganda had been reformed. The local population of 3,500 people had remained steadfastly rural, and relatively prosperous, despite the growing pressures on land and resources.

CIANEA Uganda was approached by the relevant authorities to plan a new integrated livestock/ agricultural management technology (Agro forestry) the project to promote animal use of crop residues, to develop neighbouring fallow land for grazing purposes, to use of manure to enhance soil structure in grazing areas, to establishing ways of water resource management, and to expand fencing to protect drinking water sources. An environmental assessment project was designed to diversify the local economy, and improve nutritional standards and safe water for drinking.

The livestock grazing had led to several environmental problems. The often uncontrolled grazing had taken an enormous toll on the vegetation of communal pastures and the surrounding wetland rice fields. On a few occasions, stray animals had contaminated drinking water sources. The growing amount of animal dung had begun to be a nuisance and a health hazard. In all villages, there was growing tension between strictly rice growing families and those now raising livestock.

The Gender Trainer and three colleagues who carried out the environmental analysis decided to concentrate on the livestock component. The initial interviews in Gogonya indicated that the project study would be complicated. Great concern was expressed over the safety of water sources. Meetings were held with many more families from the five villages so that they could express their views on the problems they face. She asked them to draw a historical timeline to explain their experiences with the environment in earlier years. She walked around the rice fields and grazing areas with farmers, sometimes making transects through the villages and spending more time listening to the women who were most concerned about safety of water supplies. She asked them to make sketches of what the place looked like before livestock numbers and rice growing increased, what it looked like today, and what had contributed to these changes.

A small but vocal group consisting mainly of rice growers felt wronged by the effects of livestock keeping. The Gender trainer established two groups of farmers, those against and those for the project, and gave each group the opportunity to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their positions. In a final exercise, the two groups were brought together to rank the wealth of each villager. Her previous experience had been that ownership of assets such as livestock could play an enormous role in determining villager's attitude. From this work, a general consensus a number of issues emerged in all villages.

A successful rice crop was still greatest indicator of status in the community. Villagers had no misgiving about how much livestock a family owned. Many saw livestock more as an intrusion and a nuisance than as a sign of wealth. In all five villages some farmers managed their livestock better than others. Generally successful farmers were less worried than the rest of the community about stray animals. All farmers were generally ignorant about livestock disease, causation, prevention and treatment. Those in mixed farming had some concerns about excessive use of agricultural chemicals by rice farmers. Women on both sides of the debate were highly critical of all farmers about poor protection of water sources from the impacts of farm chemicals and animals. The purpose of the new integrated farming and water management project was generally poorly understood.

The villagers attended a general meeting in large numbers and collectively worked to produce a map showing the state of natural resources in the sub-county, including the locations and numbers of livestock, the location of water sources, forests, available grazing lands and agriculture. This exercise helped to reduce tension among the participants. A second map that portrayed the natural resources situation five years earlier, before the heavy population of livestock increased. Through the participatory environmental analysis and the project planning process Gogonya community members gained a much better appreciation of how important livestock production was to their live hoods and their children's future, and also how fragile the local environment could be. They learned that the level of livestock production could be increased without creating problems for agriculture and water sources management.

In the following general discussion, families participating in the livestock project admitted that they had been careless. However, they stressed how their lives had been improved by it, and non-participating families came to recognise this. Many had wanted to buy more livestock but were afraid to add to the tension in their village. The gender officer had the farmers explain some of their more successful techniques for controlling the animals. Also, it was agreed that the chemicals were not having the effects they once had in boosting crop production, and that the rice did not taste as good as before. Through this participatory environmental analysis and the project planning process Gogonya community members gained a much better appreciation of how important livestock production was to their livelihoods and their children's future, and also how fragile the local environment could be. They learned that the level of livestock production could be increased without creating problems for agriculture and water sources management.

This case study then formed the basis for a role-playing exercise by the workshop participants in which they put into practice the type of discussions and debates that had actually happened in Gogonya. This first day ended with a restatement of the key principles:

- Gender is the relationship between women and men and their roles and responsibilities in the project and the way behaviours and identities are determined through the process of socialization
- Gender Mainstreaming is:
 - The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes in all areas and at all levels.
 - A strategy for making women's as well as men's concern and experiences an integral dimension 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 is to achieve gender equality by transforming the mainstream.

Gender-mainstreaming is needed to maximize the use of scarce resources; maximize the capacities of women and men; harness the capacities of women and men; and ensure project success.

Integrated Water Resource Management is a process promoting the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic benefits and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems

Gender Mainstreaming in project planning and execution should take into account activities, resources, benefits and participation. It asks who does what; who has access, control, ownership and decision-making responsibilities about the resources; what factors control access to benefits; and how and when men and women participate in realizing the benefits that they may, or may not, have or control. Project development should recognize differences between women and men in terms of legal and traditional rights; control, access, ownership and decision-making about resources; allocation of tasks and time within the project; priorities and goals; and what is going to be needed at what time.



Adult Learning, Gender-mainstreaming and participatory development

The workshop involved understanding the process of adult learning, including different approaches, teaching methods and ways of gaining new knowledge. Positive learning comes from experienced trainers who can pass on their own learning experiences. It is important to learn how to use icebreakers and energizers effectively. When considering gender-mainstreaming, certain difficulties have to be overcome and strategies for dealing with them have to be developed. Gender training encounters emotions and resistance among adult learners. Abusive letters and words may be used. Tensions sometimes develop. Participants may try to stop the trainer talking. Participatory Development Theory is about involving everyone at all levels and creating awareness. The workshop recommended using JOHARI'S WINDOW (Fig.1) to help demonstrate how the project worker relates to the community and how that person assesses, believes, thinks, develops the community work.

A Blind	B Hidden
C Open unknown	D Unknown

Groups were formulated for case studies and revealed:

- The villagers are not willing to reveal information: case study in Kenya (-hidden and blind).
- Villagers view a developer as a betrayal or pretender: Case study in Tanzania (hidden).
- Villagers view developers as a savoir: case in Uganda(open) in rural areas
- Villagers can be receptive: case study of water project in Uganda (open)
- Villagers look at developer as an enemy: case of Rwanda (blind)
- In Karamoja (Uganda) case of pit latrine is not welcomed because of culture(blind)
- Gender issues are related to western and hence people are not welcoming
- Sometimes, developer may be despised by elders - Burundi.(unknown)

Networking is the most important in community work to solve the above situation.

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

Participants' opinions of the workshop:

Keen on gender and the law

- Networking is the way of protecting environment and sharing responsibilities around water bodies. Culture has to go hand in hand with gender

Women attending recommended:

Recommendation for future action: With vast experience in Gender issues by CIANEA we strongly recommend.

- That more women be involved in the participation of issues in relation to gender such as trainings (capacity building).
- That women network should be given support through CIANEA to organize such trainings and sensitization campaigns in their respective communities.

Youth attending recommended:

Therefore our recommendations as youth we do here by request funders to support CIANEA because our people in different countries - in Eastern Africa need workshops like this training so that they can achieve / improve standards of living and protect the surroundings that is environment especially corruption, gender violence, tree degradation, water pollution which are the main diseases eating our environment in Eastern Africa as a whole.

Men attending recommended:

CIANEA managed time keeping very well on top of exhibiting a very high degree of team synergy among her facilitators / trainers.

We commend CIANEA for tactfully probing methods of involving all participants throughout the training, and involving trainees to be co-trainers and their trainers to be trainers with them. This is very high type of the sustainable training.

CIANEA thank you so much.

Recommendation: If the funds can allow, Give funds CIANEA to do follow up NGOs evaluation in the field in each country so that even that country can benefit by having many trainers.

The trainers present wrote:

- CIANEA has done a lot to guide and help, the community improve on their environment as far as Transboundary water resource management is concerned.
- CIANEA has trained participants from communities to plan for projects necessary to suit their communities especially on water resource management.
- CIANEA has actually awakened very many community members to be active in the positive development of their environment.
- To take Transboundary water resource management as a matter of importance.
- Various projects have been set up in communities using the knowledge and skills acquired from CIANEA.
- We therefore thank and appreciate CHEC and CIANEA in partnership for having trained us to reach at the level of trainers.
- We have also been able to facilitate and train other participants during the workshop.

CHEC gratefully acknowledges the support of the Commonwealth Foundation that has made this work in East Africa possible.



**Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
(CHEC)
4, Hurlingham Studios,
Ranelagh Gardens
London SW6 3PA
www.checininternational.org**