Gender Equality and Water
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Gender equality and water

Gender equality in accessing water and toilet services:
Women and men, girls and boys have equal access to water for domestic and productive uses and that they have equal access to toilets and hygiene services that meet their respective needs at home, school and work.

At SIWI, we also look beyond just access and we work to ensure that both women and men, girls and boys have equal say in how water and toilet resources and services should be implemented and managed.
200 million hours
Why we need more gender equality in decision making

• Need for more women's voices in public spaces
• Though women are the primary managers of water in the home and in communities they are often excluded from decision making forums. This is true at the local, national and international level - missing from ministries and technical forums
• Decisions about water resources management, locations of pumps or toilets, etc may be made in the absence of women entirely, even though they are the ones that have the best knowledge of what is needed.
Why we need more gender equality in decision making

- Women offer differentiated knowledge and a different set of priorities and perspectives
- By not including women we are missing more than half the story.
- A study of 44 water projects by UNDP showed that when both men and women are involved in the development of water policies and institutions, water use is more sustainable.
We need more data

• Many of our experiences of what women bring to water management are anecdotal, and this is a huge barrier in driving policy and conditions that put more women in influential positions.

• Data on water and toilet access is rarely gender segregated. So we may get overall numbers of 65% of the community are now using toilets. Missing out on how women are using and experiencing the toilets - do they feel safe? Are they suitable for women and children?
Thank you!

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