



“Share experience on the integration of gender in Water investments challenges and lessons learned”



9th RBOs gender Workshop session presentation

21 September 2021

LESOTHO



Introduction



The presentation is going to share experiences on the integration of gender in the following activities/ Water investments projects:

- Lesotho Lowlands Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project(LLRWSSP) that benefited 65,000 Population and supported by African Development Bank(AfDB)
- Engagement a Consultant to develop National guidelines on WASH in Schools that are disability – inclusive.

The LLRWSSP has been complete in February 2020 while the development of the guidelines is still in progress



Description of the LLRWSSP



- The purpose of the project was to increase the coverage of water supply and sanitation in the rural areas of the two districts namely; Maseru and Berea. The project was intended to benefit 65,000 population in water supply.
- The project had 4 components and this presentation is going to focus on component 2 which was about Hygiene and Sanitation. The latter Component was addressing:
 - Sanitation facilities (toilets and hand washing facilities) were provided to vulnerable people and public institutions.
 - Promotion of hygiene education was also conducted for the communities as well as public institutions within the project areas.



Enhancement of gender and social inclusion issues in LLRWSSP



To address gender issues in this project sanitation facilities as well as hand washing facilities for schools were constructed. Below is the disaggregated data:

- Berea – Elderly – 12 toilets
People with disability – 2
Public Institutions – 122 and hand washing facilities in schools - 4
- Maseru – Elderly – 53
People with disability – 5
Public Institutions – 162 and hand washing facilities in schools - 14.



Description of the development of WASH guidelines in schools that include people with disability



- Having realised that water supply and sanitation services in schools do not take into consideration the needs of people with disability, the WASH Technical Working Group of the Water Sector decided to develop the guidelines to address this issue.



Development of WASH guidelines in schools that take into consideration the needs of people with disability



- The Consultant through the support of UNICEF is already engaged to develop this guidelines, she is at the initial stage and the assignment expected to be completed in six Months.



Challenges and Solutions

- There is no legal framework that guides gender mainstreaming in the Water Sector.
- The solution is to develop a gender strategy for the Water Sector and also to nationalise the SADC gender action plan
- Another challenge is the lack/ limited gender buy-in from the Water Sector decision makers
- Gender mainstreaming is mostly donor driven issue



Lesson Learned



- The lesson that is that the issue of mainstreaming gender in the Water Sector can not be entrusted to Gender Focal Point alone, they need the support to change the mind-set of decision makers for the buy in.
- Fortunately many Corporate Partners now of late they take the social issues as a binding requirement tied in the support they are providing, though it is not sustainable as the initiative has to come from the Sector.