



UNESCO WWAP: Water and Gender Activities

WWAP contributes to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the water sector with the following activities:

- Methodologies, Guidelines and Tools
- Capacity Development Programmes
- Advocacy and Outreach
- Projects

WWAP Gender Publications include:

- Toolkit on Sex-disaggregated Water Data
- Technical Reports
- Policy Briefs
- Regional Publications

ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, whereas SDG6 commits to clean water and sanitation for all. Due to water's crosscutting nature, and women's central role therein, progress in both is indispensable for the achievement of the other SDGs and overall sustainable development. However, **progress falls short** with respect to promises made, and significant gender inequalities in the use and management of water persist. An urgent need exists to improve the understanding of gender issues and to close the **gap of sex-disaggregated water data**.

To address these challenges, UNESCO WWAP has developed unique methodologies and practical tools with own **gender-responsive indicators** for the collection of sex-disaggregated data. WWAP also develops tailored water and gender **capacity development programmes**, and leads multi-stakeholder advocacy actions to accelerate gender equality in the water domain.



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Analyse, act, transform

Accelerating Gender Equality
in the Water Sector

WATER AND GENDER

Water plays a crucial role in our societies as ‘connector’ of the diverse dimensions of sustainable development. Water access, distribution, management and governance are shaped by social factors, including gender norms and social power relations. Women are still **underrepresented** in the water-related decision-making processes, despite the increasing recognition and acceptance of their **central role** in the provision, management and safeguarding of water. To understand and overcome these inequalities, data, capacity development and multi-stakeholders commitment are crucial.

TOOLKIT ON SEX-DISAGGREGATED WATER DATA

In 2019, WWAP released the second edition of the Toolkit on sex-disaggregated water data. The Tool consists of **105 gender-responsive indicators**, a methodology and guidelines for the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated water data; it helps close the **water and gender data gap** and provide scientific evidence on gender inequalities in the water domain. The Toolkit builds on the 2015 edition that formed the first **global standard** for gender-responsive water assessment, monitoring and reporting, and has been officially recognized and endorsed by the Member States of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) Council (Resolution XXIII-2, June 2018). These tools help decision-makers adopt data-driven, gender-transformative water policies and programmes, and monitor progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda from a gender equality perspective.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Why?

One of the main goals of UNESCO WWAP is to help overcome the gap in water and gender data and set the basis to accelerate knowledge and understanding of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the water sector.

What?

The WWAP capacity development programme is based on modular content that covers a wide range of topics. It equips trainees with knowledge on the **conceptual basis** of gender, water management and governance, as well as interlinked themes such as human rights, climate change, migration, education and work. The training moreover instructs on the WWAP Toolkit for the collection and analysis of **sex-disaggregated water data**, and finally provides the foundation for carrying out contextualised **gender analyses** and effective integration of gender into the water sector.

How?

The training duration may vary according to the needs of the recipient, from a recommended 5 days for the complete training course, to an introductory version of 2 days, or extended “on-demand” trainings. The trainings are tailored to the specific requirements of countries and regions, and designed to be delivered in both **face-to-face and virtual** formats. Participants will receive the UNESCO WWAP Certificate of Attendance at successful completion.

Who?

The training activities fit the needs of a wide range of users: governmental staff, policy-makers, researchers, students, non-governmental entities, regional organizations including river basins and transboundary commissions, and community organizations.

CALL FOR ACTION

UNESCO WWAP is facilitating a coordinated Call for Action to **accelerate** the achievement of **gender equality** in the water domain, together with a multi-stakeholder coalition composed by UN agencies, international and regional organizations, NGOs, ODAs, Member States institutions, private sector and civil society.

WWAP welcomes the support of Member States and other interested partners in this **global advocacy initiative**, and encourages to join its **multi-stakeholder platform** to advocate the development and implementation of gender-inclusive strategies, and sustain concrete actions.

In 2020, the global community celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the five-year milestone towards the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. In view of this pivotal year for women and girls worldwide, WWAP conducted a comprehensive assessment of gender-related achievements in the water sector since 1995. The outcomes of the ‘Taking Stock of Gender Equality Progress in the Water Domain’ assessment show that **significant challenges remain** in view of achieving the 2030 Agenda, and notably SDG6 and SDG5, are clearly not on track.

Aligned with these findings, a Position Policy Paper containing a Call for Action with **concrete recommendations** is formulated on behalf of the multi-stakeholder coalition. Now, more than ever, we must call attention to the persistent gender inequalities in the water domain, and importantly, move to **action now**.



**Accelerating
Gender Equality
in the Water Domain**

A Multi-stakeholder Call for Action