WATER

L Anathea Brooks, Anahit Hovsepyan, Anjal Prakash, Isabel Riboldi, Bruce Stewart
• Main Foci:

– Strengthening women’s role in the water sector.
– Ensuring climate information reaches women users.
– Empowering women to participate in water science and policy.
• Main Issues:

– The Climate, Weather and Water nexus is MULTI-FACETTED;
– We must address GENDER DIFFERENTIAL needs;
– But, ONE SINGLE BLANKET CANNOT BE USED when dealing with women who are socio-economically diverse;
Main Issues:

- Women have LIMITED TIME and in many instances are overburdened;
- Weather and climate information is often delivered late, hardly understandable and not addressing the REAL NEEDS of the end users;
- People must be given a RESPONSE/ACTION along with information;
- Water and PEACE are strongly linked.
• Main issues where gender matters:

  – Gender inequality is EMBEDDED IN SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT and gendered expectations;
  – This DICTATES WOMEN’S CAREER choice and how science is viewed;
  – Retention of women in scientific careers; and
  – Need WOMEN’S VOICES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL for local policy.
• Top Recommendations:
  – TARGET INTERVENTIONS at all levels from children, to youth to adults (in all capacities);
  – Empower those at HIGH LEVELS to gain influence – AMCOMET;
  – Compile gender disaggregated indicators – UN Water WWAP activity;
  – Target those at GREATEST RISK – poor and disadvantaged – understand their perspective and needs – Bangladesh extension work.
CONFERENCE ON THE
GENDER DIMENSIONS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES

• Top Recommendations:
  – Develop PARTNERSHIPS and improve COORDINATION among different stakeholders and different (especially already existing) projects
  – Disseminate information through the most appropriate MEANS of COMMUNICATION (personal meeting, television, radio, infographics, etc.), keeping the message BRIEF and SIMPLE
  – Information must be MADE TO MEASURE (in local languages) – needed and received
  – Include INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE together with Scientific Understanding – build trust – Uganda example
Top Recommendations:

– Schools should have HANDS-ON ACCESS to water and weather facilities, e.g. a weather station, visits and career talks
– Societal VALUE OF SCIENTIFIC CAREERS should be emphasized
– NETWORKS of young women in water professions should be created and maintained – Kenya example
– POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION in hiring and promotion of equally qualified candidates is just a start
– FAMILY LEAVE for both mothers and fathers
– Scan all policies and programmes through a GENDER LENS
• Top challenges to implementing change:
  – Patriarchal structure at family, institutional and policy level
  – Need to attract and retain girls interested in physical sciences and keep them in the scientific workforce,
  – How to raise young children, while maintaining your career,
  – Breaking glass ceiling and creating cohort of women in high level positions,
  – “Gender spaces”, lack of safety and infrastructure for women
We can co-create the future we want!