

Foreword

I am pleased to share this resource e-book, and I believe that it will assist policy makers, especially those working in the water and sanitation sector to mainstream gender. We are hopeful that this resource book will be catalytic for equitable distribution of the benefits and quality service delivery demonstrating gender responsive mechanisms.

UN-HABITAT's Water Sanitation and Trust Fund's (WSTF) objective is aligned with the United Nations Millennium Declaration Goals, particularly the goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The WSTF was established in 2003 in recognition of the need for a programmatic approach to address the challenge of inadequate access for the poor to water supply and basic sanitation.

Under the aegis of WSTF, in Asia, the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) programme and Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN) are operational in several countries in South and South-East Asia. The overall objective of WAC and MEKWATSAN is to support the participating countries achieve the water and sanitation MDG targets focusing on poor with gender responsive priorities.

As Gender Mainstreaming is one of the major components of these programmes, this resource book has been developed to enhance awareness about gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation sector. This resource book aims to provide guidance in mainstreaming gender in the sector. I am hopeful that this resource book will be a valuable tool since it is based on practical experiences gained through our project implementation and stems from rigorous consultative process at country levels.

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