

Introduction to the Gender and WATSAN in South-Asia Resource E-book

What is this Resource e-book?

This Resource e-book is a digital document of collected resources from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam on gender and WATSAN. The goal of this e-book is to consolidate and share knowledge on available expertise and information on Gender and WATSAN in, and specific to these countries. It includes names of experts and organizations working in gender and WATSAN; references to available documents, tools and websites (some in the local languages), as well as presents some case studies on gender mainstreaming in WATSAN.

This e-book is meant to be used as a reference document by those involved the implementation of WATSAN projects and programmes in the region, and hopes to assist them in having a better understanding on the relevant issues in gender and WATSAN in their country.

The url-links in the document are valid by September 2011, however as they tend to keep changing, if possible, a digital copy of the accessed document is included on this CD.

Why was it developed?

In 2009 the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) started a cooperation with UN Habitat to mainstream gender in the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) programme in Nepal, and the Mekong Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) programme in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

Under this cooperation GWA facilitated eight national workshops in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Viet Nam and one finalising regional workshop. The objective of the national workshops was to develop, implement and evaluate action plans for gender mainstreaming at the implementation level. In the regional workshop the experiences of the national workshops were shared between the four countries. During the cooperation a dynamic and flexible gender and WATSAN framework for the region evolved, that is responsive to the continuously challenged gender relations.

This gender resource e-book was developed as part of aforementioned cooperation to consolidate the findings and to provide practitioners at implementation level with an information tool specific to their country.

For more information about this cooperation between GWA and UN-HABITAT, and the WAC and MEK-WATSAN programmes, please refer to the sections of both organizations on this CD. The workshop reports can be found in the section “Joint Programme Asia”.

What are its objectives?

The resource e-book is meant to:

- Facilitate access to available expertise and documents regarding gender and WATSAN specific for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam; and
- Improve understanding and awareness of gender and WATSAN issues in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam by consolidating the findings of the cooperation between GWA and UN-HABITAT.

How was it developed?

This resource e-book has been compiled as a final step in the cooperation between GWA and UN-HABITAT to mainstream gender in WAC and the MEK-WATSAN programmes. The gender and WATSAN issues identified specifically for the countries involved as well as the case studies have been developed as part of the programme. GWA involved four authors from the four different countries to add additional information and contacts to those already gathered during the cooperation. An extra effort was made to look for information in the local languages, as sometimes the English language forms a barrier. In doing so it has become evident that there is not much information available in local languages, and that this gap needs to be filled.

The information gathered by the authors of this e-book on experts and institutions, is based on information provided by the experts and representatives of the organisations themselves. Therefore the information gathered in this e-book does not necessarily represent the views of GWA or UN-Habitat.