



Women in Water Decision-Making



The OECD estimates that water demand will increase by 55% by 2050 due to growing demand from manufacturing, thermal electricity generation and domestic use. According to the UN, currently, 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services, 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services, and 3 billion lack basic handwashing facilities.

Women in Water Decision-Making: Why does it matter?

Managing and securing access to water for all is not only a question of money, but equally a matter of good governance, which encompasses diversity and the promotion of multi-stakeholder engagement. Women and girls are the primary providers, managers, and users of water; however, women make up less than 17% of the water, sanitation, and hygiene labour force in developing economies and a fraction of the policymakers, regulators, management, and technical experts, according to IWA.

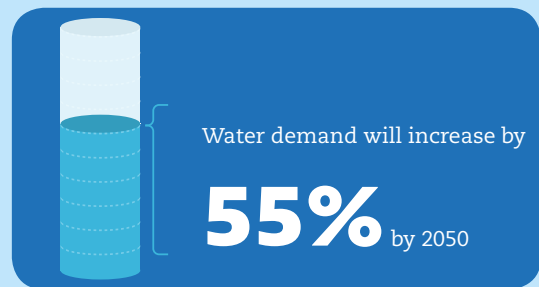
Initial evidence from the water sector suggests that women's involvement in the management of water resources and water infrastructure improves efficiency and effectiveness, enhances outputs and improves sustainability.

However, despite evidence pointing to benefits of more women in decision-making in the water sector, insufficient evidence exists about their specific roles, capacity and impact on the water sector.

Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life is a fundamental target in order to achieve SDG 5 on Gender Equality, as well as an integral factor for the achievement of SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation.



Did you know?



Water demand will increase by **55%** by 2050

Source: OECD



17% of the water and hygiene labour force in developing economies are women.



Source: IWA



2 out of 5 people lack basic handwashing facilities



2.2 billion people lack access to safe water.

Source: UN data

The Women in Water Decision-Making Project



The OECD Water Governance Programme, the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ) are joining forces to develop women-inclusive governance guidelines for the water sector.

Objectives

The women in water decision-making project will generate evidence on how the engagement of women can support good water governance and increase efficiency and sustainability of water management processes. The outcomes will ultimately provide guidance for concrete actions in the public and private realms of the water sector to increasingly include women as partners, experts and agents of change.

Tools

The project will provide qualitative and quantitative insight into the state of play of women in decision-making in the water sector by:

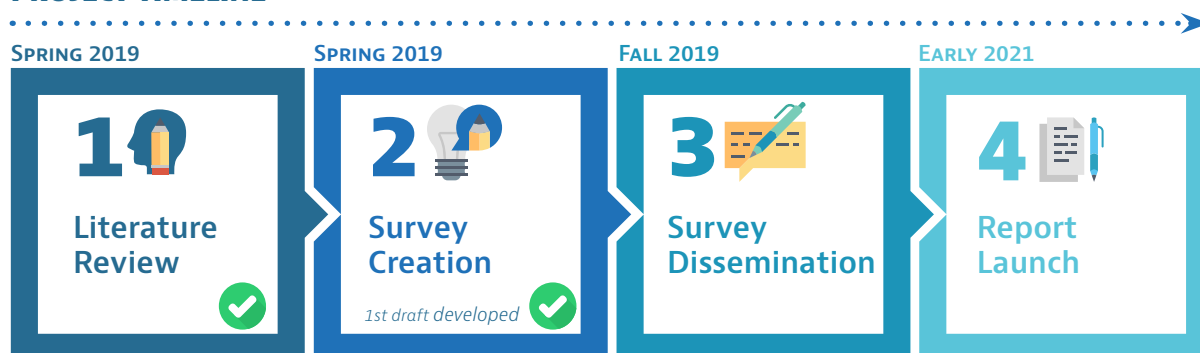
- Reviewing the available literature on the subject.

- Detecting the gaps and opportunities in women-inclusive governance in the water sector in at least 50-60 countries.
- Developing policy guidance to work towards closing those gaps.

Methodology

The project collects information on the state of play of women's involvement in decision-making in the water sector to form the ground for the creation of a Survey that will bring to light new, robust and analytical sources of data on women in water management processes. The survey will then be disseminated to public, private and non-for profit members of the water sector at all administrative and territorial levels. A final report containing women-inclusive governance guidelines for the water sector will be published in early 2021.

PROJECT TIMELINE



CONTACT

If you are interested in participating in the creation and implementation of the Survey, please contact:

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About the OECD Water Governance Programme

The OECD Water Governance Programme advises governments at all levels on how to design and implement better water policies for better lives. It relies on multi-stakeholder engagement and bottom-up processes to produce policy analysis, policy dialogues, policy standards and a policy forum. Since its creation in 2009, it has produced evidence-based analysis, benchmarks and peer reviews.

🌐 Website: oe.cd/water-governance

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