NBD Regional Nile Women’s Network
1st MONTHLY WENINAR
“WATERING WOMEN” 6TH JULY 2023
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TITLE : RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF GENDER IN WATER RESOURCE AND POLICY MANAGEMENT
Water resource and policy management is a tool that encompasses the policy making processes and legislation that affects the collection, preparation, use, disposal and protection of water resources.

It is also the process of planning, developing, and managing water resources in terms of both water quality and quantity across all water users.
Gender does not mean women only as considered by most people. It is the representative of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.
Importance's of acknowledging the existence of gender role in water resource and policy management

- It is important to understand how gender relations shape women’s and men’s lives is critical in water resources and policy management.

  This is because women’s and men’s have different roles, responsibilities, knowledge, different interests and access to resources influences how each will be affected by water scarcity and how they will cope with and recover from water crisis.
There is a census that both gender must be involved in water resource and policy management. If there is to be sustainable development. It would efficient, user focused financially viable and environmentally sustainable and economic production would improve.

Men are considered to have leadership skills while women are critical in responding to climate change with their local knowledge, they can lead their community in management of natural resources, food production and water governance.
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Social barriers for gender equality and equity

- Existence of barriers to women’s participation and leadership.
- Unequal and insecure rights over land.
- Gender based violence.
- Under representation in natural resource decision making and leadership.
- The many policies relating to mainstreaming gender in water have not been fine-tuned to ensure standards are advocated, accepted, fully implemented and enforced.
Recommendation

- Ensuring establishment of gender at work that is knowledge network working to build inclusive cultures and end discrimination against one gender.

- Achieving gender equality will require specific measures designed to eliminate gender inequities. Gender equity means fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits, power, resources and responsibilities between women and men.
Allocation adequate resources to programs enhancing gender mainstreaming.

Institution should promotes gender equality and women’s empowerment in all stages of project (i.e. planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

Reduce socialization by parents and other adults of girls and boys into traditional gender roles. Confront gender stereotyping by the popular and news media.
Public water agencies and NGO partnerships should aim to promote gender equality in water resources and policy management in countries by raising awareness and promoting knowledge exchange on gender issues among academic and experts communities across countries and transboundary.
The government of Kenya has been progressively addressing gender issues across sectors, including in the water sector, which provides a window for doing more in the coming years.

The Kenya water sector is highly engaged in reducing gender inequality and promoting the representation and empowerment of women.

Although achievements are gradual and the transition is slow, they have set a benchmark not only in Kenyan public policy but also in the water and environment sectors.
Efforts done by Kenya Nile Discourse Forum to promote women Empowerment

- Mobilize women from grassroots KNDF member women networks for meeting to enable them discuss on Gender and water issues, including flood and drought and cooperation in Nile in order to capture their voices in the subject of climate change.

- Promote the formation of local and regional network “Women for Climate-Resilient Network” to lobby for gender inclusivity in climate and disaster reduction policies (National Nile Women Network).

- Provide a platform for the identification and selection of women who will represent KNDF at the Regional Women’s Network.
A visit by Nile Basin women to keyo energy saving jikos self-help group
Metkei women group community dialogue meeting Eleyo Marakwet on climate change and its effects
Conlusion

- Women consider water as personal and their life as a female gender. They appreciate the importance of water because a norm in society they are expected to fetch water, cook, bath the children, offer water to livestock and ensure sanitation is sustained among other chores. This makes women have a unique understanding of natural resources around them.

- In Africa setup, water work is the responsibility of women, costing them time, energy and quality space, particularly depriving them opportunities i.e leisure time and exposing them to harm.

- Unfortunately women themselves are unaware of their potential value that are not included in water resource and policy management.

- We as local activists we should step in to ensure public water management bodies and water communities should remove such hindrances so as ensure their growth in management efforts.
Water policy programs are increasingly being advanced to ensure that the water sector becomes more gender aware through training programs for the community and other grassroots mobilizers in the field of water conservation and management.

With the advent of climate change being that ‘The New Normal’ many academic institutions are undertaking Research in the field of water conservation and related climate initiatives that intervene in favor of water management.

We envisage that following the resolutions of the Paris protocol of 2015, climate change finance should be dedicated to women organizations who champion water conservation and management initiatives as one of the positive climate justice approaches.
On local level teams will continue to pursue activities aimed at raising awareness, training and sharing inter boundaries knowledge among women going forward.

I pose to say that Africa cannot continue to neglect the valuable role of women that could play in bringing efficiency and sustainability in water resource and policy management.
THANK YOU