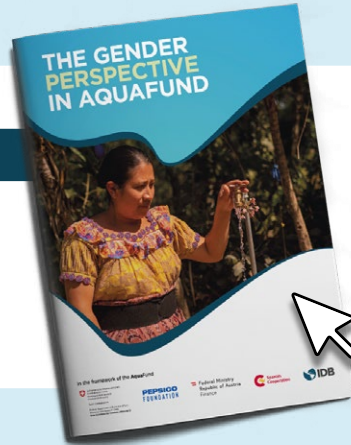


# GENDER AND WATER IN AQUAFUND

READ MORE HERE:

THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN AQUAFUND



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## 1 WATER & SANITATION, AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

**AquaFund** The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) main non-reimbursable multi-donor water fund was created in 2008 and focuses on:



Implementing Water Supply and Sanitation (WAS), Technical Cooperations (TCs), Water Resources Management and Climate Change TCs, Solid Waste Management TCs and Sanitation only TCs



Strengthening water institutions and capacity building



Generating innovative research, Knowledge Products and dissemination



Advancing human rights to WAS, gender diversity and climate action agendas



Generating knowledge on emerging topics, such as circular economy, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, efficient service provision, and transboundary waters management

### Gender Strategy

Revised and approved by the IDB's Water and Sanitation Division (INE/WSA) in 2019, it now integrates gender as a cross-cutting issue in the design and implementation of projects across four priority areas:



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



BEHAVIORAL CHANGE



GOVERNANCE



PRODUCTIVE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

## Gender Roles and Relations

Gender norms influence how women and girls engage with water and sanitation services differently from men and boys. For instance:



When water access is limited, women and girls are generally assigned the role of fetching water for domestic use. This gives them a deep familiarity with existing water sources, including their quality, reliability and any usage restrictions.



Women contribute nearly half of the agricultural labor in low- and middle-income countries, yet their productivity is considerably lower than that of male farmers.



Although women play a crucial role as users and managers of water, they are seldom included in decision-making bodies.

## Changing the Approach

Studies in the sector have demonstrated that equal participation of men and women is positively linked to:

- Improved sustainability of water supplies.
- Improved transparency and governance in management.

Therefore, women should be recognized not only as beneficiaries and users but also as:

- Active participants in decision-making bodies like water committees, as well as in roles as water and sanitation operators.
- Workers in infrastructure projects.



## 2 THE GENDER FRAMEWORK FOR WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS AT THE IDB



### Gender Action Plan for Operations (GAP)

A key instrument designed to fulfill IDB's commitments to gender equality and empowerment



### Gender Infrastructure Tool

IDB's online guide for incorporating a gender perspective into the design of sector operations. It includes specific guidelines for the Energy, Water and Sanitation, Transport, and Mining, Geothermal and Hydrocarbons



### Water and Sanitation Guidelines

This division developed its own gender guidelines, focusing on equal opportunities, women's leadership and participation (Governance), productive local development and behavioral change

**100%** of WSA projects screened for gender mainstreaming opportunities

# 3 ANALYSIS: GENDER IN AQUAFUND PROJECTS (2018-2021)

## Sample

This document's Annex includes a sample of 40 projects that showcase how the gender perspective has been integrated into AquaFund projects.

## Highlighted Projects

### The Region

Promotion of Sustainable Financial and Operational Recovery post COVID-19 of the Water and Sanitation Operators and Solid Waste, and Job Generation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)



### Guatemala

Multi-Year Execution Plan of the Pilot Program for Potable Water and Sanitation in Dispersed Rural Communities



### Honduras

Gender Action Plan for the emerging Municipal Potable Water and Sanitation Unit (UMAPS, by its Spanish acronym)



### Mexico

Program for the Comprehensive Development of Water Operating Organizations and Sanitation II (PRODI-II, by its Spanish acronym)



### Suriname

The Suriname Water Company (SWM) Modernization Program and Sanitation Improvement



## Designing Products and Services with a Gender Perspective

After understanding how gender interacts with the water and sanitation sectors, every intervention design should incorporate these considerations. Essentially, integrating gender becomes standard practice as it enhances outputs and outcomes.



## Knowledge Products

Several key Knowledge Products have been developed under the frame of the project Addressing the Inequalities in Water and Sanitation Services through a Human Rights Approach.



# 4 MOVING FORWARD

AquaFund partners, the Water and Sanitation Division, and the entire IDB Group are committed to incorporating a gender perspective into their operations to achieve fairer, more equitable and sustainable results. This commitment is reflected in the present analysis of AquaFund Technical Cooperations (TCs) and their supported projects.

## Key Results



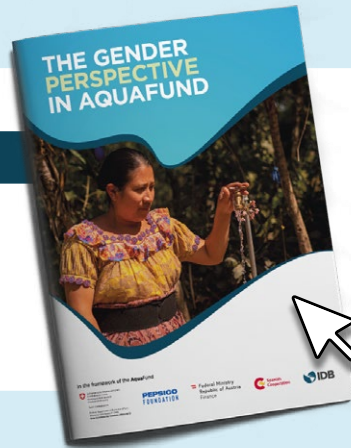
Since early 2022, the division has been collaborating with a gender specialist to help teams identify opportunities for integrating gender considerations.

# 33%

of AquaFund's portfolio for half of 2022 and 2023 showed potential alignment with IDB's gender strategy, as of this analysis.

READ MORE HERE:

## THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN AQUAFUND



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This document has been financed through the AquaFund Multi-Donor Fund, a fund of the Inter-American Development Bank for water and sanitation supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID, by its Spanish acronym), the Austrian Ministry of Finance, the Swiss Cooperation through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE), and the PepsiCo Foundation.

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