

# DATA INDICATORS: GENDER MAINSTREAMING

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
THE BAHAMAS



# Water Resource Management

## The Water and Sewage Corp.

- Caribbean Development Bank Gender Equality Policy and Operational Strategy

## Context

- Water improvement Project Field Findings
- CBD Strategy to gender mainstream in The Bahamian context

## Expectations

Intended Impacts of Gender Mainstreaming

# Preliminary Field Findings

## Survey Population

### Sample Size of 413 Households

1. New Providence
2. Eleuthera
3. Long Island
4. South Andros
5. Cat Island
6. Crooked Island
7. San Salvador

## Data Findings

- Water ranked as the highest priority for respondents above phone, internet, cable and roads
- Main use of water is Bathing, dish washing, cooking and personal use
- Water system at home: 57% private distribution, 48% private well, 24.7% water & sewerage, 0% rain water

- 69.4% surveyed that a male is the head of the household and 48.2% of households were single headed households

### Issues and Challenges:

- Low pressure
- Smell/odor
- Inconsistent service
- Salt water intrusion
- Unpleasant taste
- Rust
- Physical challenges/risk to health

# Revision: Caribbean Development Bank's Gender Equality Policy and Operational Strategy

Bahamas Water and Sewerage

## Conceptual Framework

Women in Development. it seeks to integrate women into development processes through programmes that target women as a special group distinguished by the equity approach, the anti-poverty approach and efficiency approach

Gender and Development. This concept considers gender as part of a broader framework of socioeconomic and political relationships that influence power, access to and benefits of development resources

## CBD highlights of gender issues in Caribbean region

**Gender and Education:** Females outpace males in educational attainment but it fails to impact on professional and income opportunities partly due to socially-determined labour market segmentation

**Gender and work:** increased rates of women in the labour force in some countries. On average males represent a higher proportion of workforce. Unemployment levels for women are higher than men. Labour market segmentation determines which sectors both sexes work and their hierarchical position. Males are dominated in ownership of enterprises and employers. Men earn up to 27% more than women (Barbados and Jamaica)

**Gender and Poverty:** Country Poverty Assessments show that female heads of households can be more susceptible to poverty

**Gender and the environment:** Inequalities in gender relations are reflected by how women and men cope with natural disasters and climate crises. The degree of access to financing to build resilient communities and homes and rebound after natural disasters are grounded in gender relations and its impact on economic investments and outlook

## Operational Strategy

<u>Pillar</u>	<u>Strategic Objective</u>
<b>Basic services for all</b>	Expand access to basic infrastructure and social services. Eg. CDB infrastructure intervention for renewable energy and energy efficiency
<b>Economic empowerment</b>	Increase financial literacy; tailor financial products to women's needs; provide business advisory services
<b>Human capital development</b>	Support gender responsive curriculum reform; parenting support for young mothers and fathers; re-entry systems for pregnant women
<b>Freedom from violence</b>	Support psychosocial services
<b>Disaster management &amp; climate change</b>	Increase gender-related investments to support the safety and security of all persons whose vulnerability would have been exacerbated by disasters
<b>Human Resource Management</b>	Formulate gender-responsive human resource policies that address recruitment, deployment, retention, performance management, training and development, anti-sexual harassment practices and work-life balance

# Disaster Risk Reduction

## Legislative Policies

- Bahamas National Gender Equality Policy (Draft)
- The Paris Agreement (2015)
- Climate Change Policy (2005)
- Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 2006
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan
- Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (2015)

## National Development Plan SDG Implementation (Draft)

**Purpose:** To integrate Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Policies

**Importance:** The Bahamas' vulnerability to climate change because of its geographic location. Consisting of 700 islands and Cays. 16 inhabitable islands all surrounded by a large body of water and susceptible to increasingly devastating hurricanes.

**Risk Assessment:**

1. Poor communication and coordination between various tiers of government
2. Inaccurate weather forecasts
3. Limited engagement of disaster agencies with communities pre and post disaster
4. Root causes of vulnerability are not being addressed through current formal adaptation efforts

## Existing Programmes

- Establishment of NEMA in 1996
- Establishment of new Disaster Ministry after hurricane Dorian
- University of The Bahamas Climate Change Initiative on climate induced displacement, migration and management for loss and damage
- Created a National Emergency Warning System in 2017: Alert by SMS, email and social media

## Actions, Outputs and Outcomes

<u>Action</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<p><b>Incorporate disaster risk management strategies for disaster response</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement CDEMA disaster management strategy</li> <li>2. Strengthen Emergency Operations Plan</li> <li>3. Implement ESCI's Hazard and Risk Reduction Strategy recommendations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clear identification of responsibilities of organisations and individuals</li> <li>2. Increased and sustained knowledge and management</li> <li>3. Personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies and other resources identified for emergency operations</li> </ol>
<p><b>Strengthen early warning and evacuation systems and procedures</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GIS based system for early warning and mapping for flood disasters acquired</li> <li>2. National Standard of Means Sea Level Established</li> <li>3. Automated Early Warning System implemented</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased accuracy and timelines of weather forecasts</li> <li>2. Sufficient powers provided to relevant authorities to deal with disasters including evacuations</li> <li>3. Safer and more prepared citizens</li> </ol>
<p><b>Strengthen conduct of post disaster assessments to better inform future policy decisions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy created that provides a comprehensive account of impacts by settlement and sector</li> <li>2. Additional technical experts recruited to EMA's reconstruction and repair unit to carry out post-disaster assessments</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Post disaster assessments used to analyze the comprehensive impacts of hurricanes and flooding and inform rebuilding</li> <li>2. Better informed disaster management policies</li> </ol>