

**The incorporation of the gender perspective in the Joint Programme of  
Water and Sanitation (JPWS) and its contributions  
to promote equality and the MDGs for water and sanitation in rural and  
urban areas of Mexico**

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## **Contents**

Presentation	<b>3</b>
Acronyms and institutional references	<b>4</b>
Methodology	<b>5</b>
Background of the Joint Programme Water and Sanitation (JPWS)	<b>7</b>
The JPWS and gender	<b>8</b>
Water Information: Gender-Diagnostics. Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz	<b>10</b>
Management and Protection: Institutionalization and mainstreaming gender into public actions.	<b>18</b>
Stewardship and effective participation: Capacity building of women and civil society organizations for governance on water issues locally	<b>25</b>
Final thoughts	<b>35</b>
Bibliography	<b>36</b>

## **Presentation**

This paper systematizes the experiences of intervention in gender issues are of great importance to promote the design and operation of the shares of public institutions of different levels of government, local organizations and international agencies. This knowledge enables the strengths are recognized and playable.

The United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) with funding from the Spanish Fund for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals proposed to systematize the experience of the Joint Programme Water and Sanitation (JPWS) in order to know how they were carried out actions considered relevant, especially those that had the participation of women or that generated favorable aspects in their status or position and also those interventions where there was convergence of different actors in the life cycle of the program.

In the following pages we present the results of the document review and field work were raised to systematize the actions undertaken to incorporate the gender component in JPWS. Reconstruction through these two mechanisms allowed knowing how they were carried out. It is hoped that the results may be considered by decision-makers in government interventions and recognition that are holding inputs and contribute to the planning of actions to create conditions of equality between women and men.

## **Acronyms and institutional references**

**CAEV** Water Commission of the State of Veracruz

**CEDECO** Community Development Center (Chiapas)

**ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**CEAS** State Commission on Water and Sanitation (Tabasco)

**FAO** of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture

**IVM** Veracruz Institute of Women

**WHO** World Health Organization

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development

**UN-Habitat** United Nations Habitat

**JPWS** Joint Programme Water and Sanitation

**UNDP** United Nations Program for Development

**UNESCO** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

**UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Methodology

The main purpose of this work is to identify, analyze and collect relevant information specifically JPWS interventions in mainstreaming gender component in order to provide information that can be shared between different actors involved the design and operation of projects and programs to promote gender equality actions in water management and sanitation.

To systematize JPWS information and how the gender component was integrated into the some activities to be scheduled, we used a quantitative and qualitative methodology that would enable the design, operation and performance of the program in question. The methodology chosen was content analysis, which was considered useful as a "... research technique for making inferences, identifying systematic and objective specific characteristics within a text", between the potential of the method are: the ability to retrieve information and data from different sources, including data that are not necessarily structured to organize but to identify information gaps and can be supplemented with information gathered in the field in which you can use collection instruments information such as interviews. This method can take up large amounts of information that are systematized using predefined categories of analysis that are based on the research question.

The categories considered for the systematic analysis of JPWS were: water information, management and protection and stewardship and effective participation. Developed on these three related subcategories relevant results from each of the cases documented.

1. **Water Information: Gender-Diagnostics. Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz. Identifying the needs of women.** Blue Agenda women and challenges in the management and access to water.
2. **Management and protection. Institutionalization and mainstreaming gender into public actions. Institutions that perform actions on water and risk protection. Water roundtable, gender and risk of Veracruz.** Water and disasters with the gender component and participation of women in management.
3. **Stewardship and effective participation. Capacity building of women and civil society organizations for governance on water issues locally. Community Calendar water management with a gender focus in (Cunduacán, Tabasco), water disinfection system of**

**Sitalá, Chiapas and "Albarrada" in SCC. Women in the construction of the water agenda.**

Effects of women's participation in the activities of water disinfection and novel elements: description, potential or strengths.

The systematization of information JPWS work was done through office and field, secondary sources were consulted documentary units on the design, operation and results JPWS and records and controls of the same: Toolbox containing different printed materials were designed within the framework of the program, reports interim and final evaluations, working papers on water Information, management and protection, stewardship and effective participation in Sitalá, Chiapas; Cunduacán, Tabasco, and Xalapa, Veracruz .

Primary sources consulted were seven people as part of safe water committees and were recipients of the services provided through planned activities in the JPWS and specifically on gender and ethnicity related, twelve representatives of institutions representatives of government and civil organizations involved in the design, operation and monitoring. To interview them took into account the time of intervention and its origin. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain utterances that describe and deepen allow the incorporation of the gender perspective in the activities of JPWS.

Finally, we integrated the information from the two sources in describing the actions on gender, identifying its main features.

**Limitations of the systematization process**

It was not possible to interview different agents for their part in the design and operation of gender actions JPWS would provide information relevant to this work, as was the case with representatives of the Department of Civil Protection of the State of Veracruz, Sitalá of midwives, Chiapas, as well as some people who collaborated to provide consulting services on gender issues in the three entities in which the program was developed.

## **Background of the Joint Programme Water and Sanitation (JPWS)**

The main purpose was JPWS strengthen democratic and effective management of water and sanitation in Mexico to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) specifically designed to affect four of them: fighting poverty, gender equity, environmental sustainability, infant mortality. Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz were chosen for implementation, this will take into account that: they have the highest levels of social and economic deprivation, they have a significant proportion of indigenous populations also they have a high vulnerability to the phenomena weather. In each of the three municipalities were selected entities which are characterized by high marginalization and water and sanitation services are inefficient.

The JPWS was funded by the Government of Spain, through the Fund specifically for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Its operation began in late 2008 and was scheduled activities completed in the first half of 2012.

The United Nations system was represented by eight of its agencies, they provided different inputs or resources program: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in regulatory advised on water and sanitation, the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) contributed information of water, sanitation and agriculture Organization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) participated in the implementation of the test methodology of micro, small and medium enterprises in the municipal, the United Nations Habitat (UN-Habitat) collaborated in activities related to vulnerability to hydro meteorological phenomena in urban areas and the integration of groups that contribute to the monitoring of actions in water and sanitation, for its part, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO) participated in the development of diagnostic health, healthy housing construction, design plans and safe water digging wells, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) contributed in education and training, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided on the issue of transparency and accountability in the subject matter of JPWS and the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) provided expertise in gender and ethnicity.

Also some departments of state governments and municipal governments which implemented the JPWS worked in coordination under the supervision of different areas that were created to meet

program objectives, as was a national coordination, coordination state each entity, one administrative and one monitoring and evaluation.

Their results have been documented at different times and there is information of goods and services provided and processes that were generated during implementation. Also, there is information on the participation of people from different levels of responsibility are involved, the role of the program's target population. Moreover, the experience has been documented from different angles and has two assessments, one in the middle of the program and one at the end of the program.

### **JPWS and gender component**

The Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) includes as one of its goals to halve the proportion of people without water, this means that the UN system and its member countries committed themselves in 2000 to meet that goal. Ten years after taking the slogan, was established as a universal right to water and sanitation should be given to everyone and especially to those groups for their social, economic, ethnic or gender have been limited in the enjoyment of that prerogative.

Mexico as part of the UN system signed the MDGs, to comply with the committed have undertaken several actions to ensure access to safe water and sanitation. One such action is the inclusion of the different policy instruments such as the case of women, who by their gender have been assigned the task of meeting the water needs of the household and family care.

In 2006, Mexico enacted the General Act on Equality between Women and Men (LGIMH), which is based on the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as General Act, the LGIMH has applicability in the three levels of government, which means that the federal government and state and local governments should incorporate the principles of equality between men and women in each of the programmed actions.

The Act also reflected in the National Development Plan of Mexico (2007-2012) specifically in Chapter 3. In this proposed different strategies that the Mexican government should schedule to eliminate differences that have traditionally marked the development of men and women. The document also comprises, in Chapter 4, the issue of water and sanitation as a priority issue which raises one target increasing the coverage of potable water and sanitation in the country. So also in the National



Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD) (INMUJERES 2009) which are defined in different purposes to reduce the gaps between women and men. State Development Plans of Chiapas and Tabasco (2007-2012) established that gender equality is promoted in some public interventions both social and economic, while the Veracruz Plan Development (2011-29016) of Veracruz is established gender mainstreaming in the public sector.

In this regulatory framework was based on gender work done by UNDP, considering that is one of the agencies involved from the UN system and that their contributions would be the incorporation of the gender component in some activities scheduled in JPWS.

UNDP worked on gender issues at different times of JPWS highlighting the activities associated with the development of participatory assessments with a gender perspective in which they identify the needs of women and men in the field of water and sanitation. Also, emphasis was placed on promoting the inclusion of women in the different mechanisms of water management, where their contributions to family life and communities were identified and therefore could be part of decision making. As the lead agency on the issue, both within and outside the program, developed tools and educational materials with a gender perspective and translated into different languages, especially in the states of Chiapas and Tabasco.

Similarly, the planned activities were at the heart of democratic governance in addition to promoting the inclusion of the different sectors of the population will have the collaboration from the local who are responsible for water and sanitation activities and meant that were different agencies and civil society organizations that based on regulatory powers contribute information and experience.

## **Water Information: Gender-Diagnostics. Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz.**

### **Water and development. Municipal agenda for gender equality**

Below are a description and analysis water diagnostics and development. Municipal agenda for gender equality that were part of the results of activities related to gender issues within the JSW developed.

Data analysis was resumed the following analytical categories: the description of the documents, the institutional linkage with those counted, strategies and considerations to contribute to gender equality. Some documents that were reviewed for their relevance theoretical, methodological and contextual categories mentioned would meet and transcripts of interviews with key informants were selected based on their profile and their participation in the projects.

#### **Description of documents.**

There are three documents which focuses on the topic of water and gender. Were conducted in the three states where it operated the JPWS, Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz. In each of the states are shown from the three municipalities chosen for the activities scheduled as part of the program. The publications were the responsibility of UNDP and for processing different agents involved acted as counterparts during JPWS operation. Each diagnosis is considered as a result of the work of the program and its realization was framed by the some activities in the areas of water, sanitation and gender. At the beginning of each of the documents presented on a background of the importance of water, sanitation as a human right and therefore universal law, however, women are among the groups with difficulties in accessing it.

**Information.**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Water and Development Diagnostics. Municipal agenda for gender equality</b>
<b>Topics</b>	Water, sanitation, gender and ethnicity
<b>Agency</b>	UNDP
<b>Instance funding</b>	Fund for achieving the Millennium Development Goals issued by the government of Spain
<b>Date of publication</b>	April and May 2011

**General objective.**

**The three documents were general objective:**

"Contribute to quantitative and qualitative information from the gender and ethnicity of knowledge management on the water situation in the municipalities of Tuxtla Gutierrez, San Juan Cancuc and Sitalá Chiapas, Cunduacán, Jonuta and Tacotalpa, Tabasco and Tatahuicapa, Xalapa and Zongolica, Veracruz and also highlight the link between development and equal opportunities in these entities.

It justifies the creation of the document according the need to link the issues of water, sanitation and gender proposing as one of its potential to be a benchmark for planning public interventions.

**Methodology**

Its production documentary information was combined with information generated from participatory workshops in which questionnaires were administered in the homes in which they inquired about the main problems and proposals needs related to water and sanitation from the perspective of gender and ethnicity. For the realization of the workshops, the methodology proposed by the "Blue Book of Women" which is based on the principles of popular education and suggests that the generation of knowledge occurs through a collective in which in which takes up the information and knowledge of those involved. As a result of the workshops and documentary research developed a Community

Action Plan and public actions for each of the municipalities in which they have developed activities conducive to planning information.

## **Background.**

Under the premise that represents an urgent challenge to have municipal information disaggregated by sex and analyzed from a gender perspective was considered appropriate to develop diagnostics with the intention of having a document with current information on water dimensioned, gender and ethnicity.

The diagnostics are intended to be a tool for those involved in planning public actions related to water and gender and those interested in understanding the reality of the challenges in municipalities with water sanitation and gender. A key factor favoring the realization of diagnostics was the design and implementation with which resources are allocated to carry out activities related to the design and under the MDGs.

The documents are guided by a core set of references international legal framework, including:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979).

In the national policy framework was based on:

- The Constitution of the United Mexican States, Articles 3 and 4, the right to education and equality of men and women.
- The General Law on Equality between Men and Women.
- The National Development Plan 2007-2012.
- The National Program for Equality between Women and Men.

Actions performed.

Below are the steps that were considered for the preparation of these documents.

PHASE	ACTIVITIES
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General methodological design.</li> <li>- Definition content.</li> <li>- Selection of information sources.</li> <li>- Participatory design workshops.</li> </ul>
Analysis Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the available literature.</li> <li>- Participatory Workshops.</li> <li>- Conducting interviews.</li> </ul>
Gathering information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation database.</li> <li>- Analysis of the database.</li> <li>- Systematization of information generated during the participatory workshops and interviews.</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integration of documentary and participatory workshops.</li> <li>- Preparation final report.</li> </ul>
Posting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Printing and distribution of each of the diagnostics.</li> </ul>

The diagnostics can be considered representative in the area of the municipalities in which they performed and provide information on the status of water, sanitation, gender and ethnicity in each.

The target population consisted of women and men in the municipalities of:

- **Tuxtla Gutiérrez, San Juan Cancuc y Sitalá, Chiapas.**
- **Cunduacán, Jonuta y Tacotalpa, Tabasco.**
- **Tatahuicapa, Xalapa y Zongólica, Veracruz.**

Below are the results of the participatory workshops that were part of the qualitative information presented in each of the diagnostics.

### Number of workshops and participants by state

State	Number of workshops	Number of participants	Number of key informant interviews	Questionnaires
<b>Chiapas</b>	5	154	150	0
<b>Tabasco</b>	5	93	61	139
<b>Veracruz</b>	5	109	55	0

#### **Content.**

The documents offer targeted and meaningful information on the issues of water, sanitation, gender and ethnicity in the three states. To establish the theoretical framework was resumed the international legal framework, national and state, and a level of description that tells the water situation in the municipalities under analysis. To contextualize the diagnostics and specifically what is presented in each municipality provides information on specifying the number of localities that integrate and demographics. Also included sex disaggregated data and information on the water situation in urban and rural areas, their availability, their uses and the vulnerability and hydro meteorological hazards.

It also describes the different agencies that have an impact on the issue of water in each of the entities and agencies accountable to those situations involving prevention and weather risk. Regarding data describing the status of women in the municipalities include indicators related to marginalization and inequality, gender-based violence, maternal mortality, health, education. To refer the position of women at the local level include elements describing on economic participation and in the workplace, and their involvement in politics. At the end of each final diagnosis on reflections are described and analyzed.

#### **Design.**

As mentioned above, there are three documents; one for each state, the information is also presented for each of the municipalities in which they were conducted JPWS activities. To summarize, at the ends of the pages are summary tables on data considered outstanding or relevant. To identify some data are presented graphic illustrations and charts.

**Institutional linkage to the development of diagnostics.**

In the preparation of the documents involved a technical team composed of eight people for the diagnostics of Chiapas and Veracruz, and a six to Tabasco, UNDP staff and some agencies in the states:

Institution	Phase
UNDP	Developing terms of reference and Monitoring.
Equipment team	Overall coordination of the study, collection of documentary information, data analysis and final report writing.
Technical team	Design of the participatory workshops, questionnaires and lifting them.
Technical team institutions of state and local governments and UNDP	Conducting participatory workshops.
Analysis of the database and writing	Analysis of the database and writing.
UNDP	Review, design and careful editing.

## **Potential.**

Taking into account the contents of each of the diagnoses can be considered as experiences that open gaps in regards to having local data regarding the topics mentioned. His main contributions are the size the challenges to meet women's needs for water, sanitation and risk management.

The documents have quantitative information based on data from official institutions allowing deeper into the theme of water and its relation to the problems faced by women. Also include qualitative information that provides insight into the experience of closeness to local people, which was collected in the participatory workshops and interviews.

The papers intended to guide decision making. Based on information provided by the interviewees, the diagnostics have been distributed to those who are in that position should be within the different departments of the state governments in order is that publications are used as an instrument to propose and plan actions for water, sanitation, health and safety, gender and ethnicity.

During the fieldwork identified in Veracruz state has reproduced the methodology of participatory workshops, specifically the IVM is the instance that has been used. On the other hand, in the state of Tabasco has been a consultation by different agents and for the state of Chiapas was recognized that beyond its result, the relevance of diagnostics identified in its development, as involved the development of participatory workshops in which women and men engaged in different communities.

## **Sustainability.**

The diagnostics include current information that reveals the need to take action integral, effective and continuing to promote changes in the areas of water, sanitation, health and safety, gender and ethnicity, which allows them to be used in the years immediately as guidance for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public interventions. This would be necessary dissemination, institutional commitment and awareness on gender issues of public service personnel working in different government departments.

## **Scope**

As described in the previous sections can identify elements that enable this experience to be considered positive influence for the betterment of the lives of women. The documents are a benchmark because they provide quantitative and qualitative information that allows for a comprehensive approach in the field of water, sanitation and gender. Timely information is presented



each of the entities, which means that those who are involved in water and sanitation issues and is not necessary consult different sources of information to program activities in these subjects. That is can rely on the contents of the diagnostics besides being recent, integrated data produced by some bodies and especially the views of those rescued from the community experiencing the specific needs in water, sanitation and gender.

## **Management and Protection: Institutionalization and mainstreaming gender into public actions.**

### **The roundtable water, gender and risks of Veracruz**

As part of the activities that relate to the JPWS and gender issues is the installation of the roundtable which was asked to provide a space intended for linking the some government ministries and agencies of the state of Veracruz involve actors from different sectors in the issue of gender, water and sanitation.

Below are the aspects linked to its origin, development, their potential, the challenges it has faced and will face and the opportunity areas that need addressing to be a sustainable practice and so contribute to promote gender-sensitive actions in the issue of water and sanitation in Veracruz. The information presented is supported by the analysis of reports documents, reports and individual interviews with key players involved and participate in the roundtable.

#### **Origin of the roundtable.**

From the literature review and based on the memorandum of understanding signed between the UN system and the IVM Units to strengthen democratic governance of water are identified aspects that were established specifically working mechanisms: namely water management protection and stewardship and effective participation.

The interviews highlighted its origins, it was specified that there was prior to a Council composed of the Veracruz Institute of Women (IVM), the Water Commission of the State of Veracruz (CAEV) and the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) was comprised of those who agreed that they needed a space to get more involved institutions and agencies which have among its responsibilities the provision of goods and services related to water and sanitation, which also involved the heads of these agencies, it was important to involve the people directly responsible for the secretariats of office.

Along with the emergence of the roundtable, within departments were established gender units that responded to the provisions of the Development Plan of Veracruz and the work performed by the IVM, these areas are characterized by having links representing dependencies in scheduled activities. On the relevance of the theme of water, sanitation and risks in Veracruz, the IVM created an environmental area including in its agenda the issue of water and sanitation, risk management and climate change, which were established as mandate state government, the idea of strengthening the efforts that were being generated and guide the work toward interventions at the municipal level.

Based on the referral from primary sources consulted, the beginning of the roundtable is also related to the activities carried out by UNDP, as the development of gender-sensitive diagnostics that were carried out almost simultaneously in the time when the IVM promoted the creation of a gender unit in each of the agencies or government departments with a responsible person and a budget to carry out activities to mainstream gender in its activities. So, with his creation of the roundtable was the possibility of starting with promoting gender actions on water, sanitation, risk management and environment in February 2011.

### **Institutions or organizations.**

Among the institutions that have stood out for their participation in the roundtable are the IVM, a body that has been monitoring the activities, based on who during operation JPWS served as the coordinator of the gender action developed by the UNDP also the Secretariat of Civil Protection of the state government has played a leading role within this collaborative mechanism. In the same vein, respondents agreed that the National Water Commission (CNA), Ministry of Development and Environment (SEDEMA), Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) state, Secretary of Agricultural Development, Rural and Fisheries (SEDARPA) have been consistently represented in scheduled activities.

Based on primary sources, different institutions have outstanding response to collaborate on the roundtable, those are still coordinating waiting for someone to attend to represent them, including the offices mentioned is the Water Commission of the State of Veracruz (CAEV) instance that has among its main functions ensure the water supply to the population. Not yet associated with that part within their organizational structure dominate men with the engineering profession and that the objectives of this institution are the development and maintenance of infrastructure and therefore the perception is that it will take time to involve them and accordingly plan their activities with a gender perspective.

Other institutions that have been summoned and until the writing of this paper was pending their participation was the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (CDI) and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) Delegation Veracruz. The general perception is that there are institutions of the state government in which more work is needed to raise awareness on gender issues for the same characteristics in the organizational and staff training. Similarly, in the roundtable is also pending collaboration of civil society organizations to which the start-up called them, however, there were difficulties in reconciling their work schedules with the proposed agenda on the roundtable.

### **Development of the activities of the roundtable.**

The start date of activities is recorded in 2011. For the integration of this document was not available the minutes of the meetings, however, responsible for making the call reported that the sessions were held each month. In June 2012 there had been about six. It was also explained that for reasons associated with the presidential elections in Mexico and in response to the mandate of the electoral shielding activities were suspended.

The coordination of the activities has the IVM and that during the operation was the coordinator JPWS by UNDP for gender activities. Interviewees confirmed that the goal is to create synergies for each sector from working the theme of water and gender, both topics are broad domain by who coordinate, even, there is a work plan and during the sessions insists that all meetings derivative work must focus on addressing gender issues and water.

Communication on the activities, call to join the roundtable, and other meetings are always have been made by the coordinator and the IVM. The information was sent by electronic mail.

### **Formal mechanisms that underpin the roundtable.**

Regarding formal mechanisms to support the activities of the roundtable, these have not materialized in agreements or letters of intent, however, if it has raised the need to carry them out. Different people interviewed explained that administrative and legal conditions of each institution are not favorable and therefore have been avoided and has chosen to base its existence in Veracruz Development Plan (PVD), which is specified on the gender issue and environmental issue.

For some respondents do not need to have formal mechanisms as those identified with PVD considered enough. One respondent felt that the proposal on the roundtable was presented at a public event involving the principal in the context IVM formalized JPWS attended the some secretaries and then there was a declaration of Civil Protection and responsible for CAEV, which also strengthened and gave formality. However, some people mentioned that it is necessary in the future to establish formal agreements as this will enable to increase the commitment to carry out the actions proposed in the roundtable.

### **Incentives to participate in the roundtable.**

Because it was recently the mandate of PVD and gender units in their offices were newly created, respondents reported that the main incentive provided were personal conviction, the sensitivity of the issue of gender and the possibility of influencing in water and gender issues.

For JPWS coordinator who was his experience and knowledge on the subject has been the main motivation since it belongs to the Network on Gender and Environment (REGEMA), an organization that has national recognition for their impact on these issues. For those who came from the academy, and have motivated them collaborate closer to the way we develop bonding processes that are involved in public service personnel in subject as water and gender.

It was also reported that at the offices to which they belong will have a budget to work on gender issues, so it has been difficult to propose actions, plus it is hard to be cash at the proposed work as there is little evidence of those who were appointed to the roundtable. Participating institutions have involved different people, that knowledge and therefore the commitments arising from work are not timely monitoring. In addition, representatives of the rotation on the roundtable by the institutions, there has been the need to integrate for the first time someone will have to explain the objectives and operating mechanisms of the roundtable which has caused delays in the plan working.

### **Training and / or gender training processes in the roundtable.**

One of the activities planned in the roundtable were the training processes of which it was not possible to review records or reports, however, in different fieldwork interviewees mentioned that were planned but not achieved consolidated, alluded that was due to the election ban unbound. However, it was mentioned that during meetings coordinator gave information and reiterated on the link between gender issues, water and sanitation.

In that sense, it was reported that there have been difficulties for training activities are consolidated as the fact that people do not attend and therefore be suspended. No specific issues which needed to be trained, however, for some people it was important to continue strengthening on gender, water and environment, as they say there are some concepts that are unknown and when not working on them understanding is incomplete.

### **Consolidation of the roundtable.**

Interviewees reported that from its inception to the time of the interviews were in the process of involving more institutions to participate, an advantage is that for the call are based on the Law of the State Development and Plan Development however and gender issue is new and is considered as a process that is under construction.

A strength is that to develop the activities of the roundtable has the backing of IVM, which is the body responsible for promoting the gender perspective is incorporated into the actions of the different government sectors. The IVM is doing work that is related to the issue and supports people who are involved in the roundtable.

Beyond working with different government agencies, it should be emphasized is noteworthy reflection of a respondent who believes that policies remain only when done with people who are benefiting from the actions, it helps to consolidate the actions, because things change in institutions, staff changes, but not locally. So in your opinion is important to continue working with people, keep involving them in participatory processes for decision making.

### **Potential.**

When asked about the potential expresses the roundtable those informants expressed that from its inception it is possible to think of projects to intervene in municipalities, especially if you continue the work that has been promoted by the IVM, an institution that has adopted issue and has positioned and created an agenda, placing the environmental issue and creating workspaces to link with water, risk management and gender.

Meanwhile, institutions like SEDEMA are starting with sectorial agendas of climate change and the intention of who represents this dependency in the roundtable is that the knowledge generated in the same serves to strengthen the secretariat referred agenda. In that sense it would be important to link the issues of water, gender and climate change, working with local councils and environmental advisory councils at the regional environment. Another way to strengthen sector stocks across the board is that it should be recognized that the issue of environment is much easier to mainstream gender as it is clearly shown that women are responsible for managing natural resources.

Among other possibilities, some people identified that the roundtable is a swap between secretaries who do not have other areas of state government, which is a multidisciplinary vision and agenda that

builds and decided jointly. Furthermore, they allow people to reflect and form in water and gender issues for public actions have a more holistic view especially when it comes to issues such as gender, that warrant changes in behaviors, perceptions regarding the form of relationships between women and men. The knowledge generated from the activities desk can help inform local projects which promote the participation of the different actors and especially the people of the communities.

Another strength is that those who are participating in activities of interest shown in the roundtable and they have commitment issues. This is valuable to the extent that it is difficult to break with the forms of action that are inherited, but is a good start that those involved are able to influence from their position on issues related to the topics under the roundtable. This common interest has taken time, year and a half, but confirmed that incorporate gender issues in the outbuildings is a slow process.

### **Sustainability.**

Based on what those who participated in the interviews, the board is an important reference for continuing it is to have people with commitment, experience and knowledge on gender, water, sanitation, and risk management environment. There was a consensus in the interviews about the role the coordinator and promoter of the actions of the board who is credited with its operation and who also make an award for his perseverance and commitment.

### **Balance of activities.**

In voice of those who participated in the interviews has been up and down the roundtable, because the level of participation of the institutions is not equal, call it as an imbalance by the degree of involvement of some and others, because it is assumed that everything with water only has to do with infrastructure and not with women, or with the right to access it.

On the other hand, means a challenge that people who work have different degrees of knowledge and involvement in the matter which makes arrangements have limited scope and not binding to the activities of the institutions they represent. In that sense it is important to consider the role of the agencies that spend hardly human, technical and financial resources to revisit the issue of gender and that is attributed to that has yet to know the regulations regarding the rights of women on particularly by decision makers.

A steadily resumed element was that the roundtable is not without political, a fact described was that the activities of government in the state to stop for more than five months when an election is on target.

He mentioned that to enhance the activities of the board is necessary to work directly with people in the towns and in the state of Veracruz is necessary because institutions do not work with people, engage only deliver goods and services, so it is not recognized that people who have knowledge are either suffering from the effects caused by disasters associated with hydro meteorological phenomena or lack of water, this means that those in public service should promote community participation.

### **Improvements**

Interviewees identified certain mechanisms that could strengthen or improve the operation of the roundtable taking into account that the compression of the link between water and gender issues is complex and warrants investment of time, plus it is required to involve institutions that are not yet sensitized.

While inside the roundtable there is a work plan is important to be punctual in their purpose, in that setting goals is important to plan a route drawn to consolidate the proposals arising from the meetings.

A concrete proposal emerged from one of the interviews is to include the issue of environment in the Commission's gender equity Veracruz State Congress, especially as it is significant that the issue of water in Veracruz. It was mentioned that many of the Commission's efforts have focused on the issue of violence, however has yet to include on its agenda other important issues such as water and sanitation.



## **Stewardship and effective participation. Capacity building of women and civil society organizations for governance on water issues locally**

The following are aspects of water management in Tabasco, specifically in the suburbs Francisco J. Mujica and Cumuapa belonging to the municipality of Cunduacán. We explored how people facing situations of lack of drinking water, the role assumed the role for the management of safe water system in Tabasco and how experienced the activities related to gender, water and sanitation. They describe elements related to the process of organization and management of women in the municipalities to deliver safe water systems that were installed as part of JPWS.

### **Water situation before the program.**

In his description of the interviewees about the water situation before the operation safe water system noted that people of the community lived several problems mainly during the flood season as it was not possible to have clean water and they had was the poor quality or was contaminated due to the breaking of the pipes. Also, due to lack of communication was difficult for purification provides clean water when there was any natural disaster. Another difficulty to access to drinking water was related to walking long distances so the families were in the need to buy bottled water which they meant a major expense.

### **The water system involvement and women.**

#### **Ejido Francisco J. Mujica**

In field work identified in the operation of the water system secure the role of women has been important, the system works with the work of a committee that is composed of six people, five women and a man, who basically supports washing in water tanks of the system. The committee chair has knowledge about the mechanism of operation of the system, allocates time to organize activities such as administration of the revenues and expenditures related primarily to the purchase of inputs to ensure maintenance.

Among other activities, also promotes meetings with the rest of the committee members, who voluntarily assist in flushing water tanks to store water to be purified through the system. Other

functions that have as president is to organize hours of sale, proposes community meetings to report on the accounts of all the inputs that are purchased. To ensure system performance, it encourages each member count on a log in which you write the activities for the sale of water.

The committee has established a mechanism for accountability to the community about the operation of the system in safe water. The committee also recommended the care of water, asking people to bring their jugs clean because there is no water to wash them because each person buying must take your jug, however, occasionally whoever is responsible for the sale must wash carboys before filling. To transport the bottles opt for the use of a motorcycle, called pochimovil, which favors the people carry bottles of water in their homes.

From these activities the committee members are not paid, the incentive to be part of it is that week are entitled to have two bottles of water for free. If you require more, should pay for them. Based on the statement made by the respondent, is notable for its sensitivity to the need that people have potable water and recognizes that someone has to get the project and all the work of a community as a benefit for families part of the ejido.

For it is an advantage to have the support of some men (their husbands) especially when there are problems associated with the operation of the system, however, also have the support of mothers who bring their children to the kindergarten who help cleanse the system voluntarily. This approach has allowed the organization that obtains water system allows them to share in festivities and celebrations of the community school or religious activities

### **Ejido Cumuapa**

The person who provided information in the field said that before the installation of the water system was purchased with the installation of the system was no longer necessary. For its operation the committee began work in coordination. It consisted of eight women who collaborated together, thought and made decisions. As in the other community, the committee members took turns for the sale of water, this mechanism was considered appropriate because they must engage in other activities such as caring for their families and the needs of their homes or who also had had to work outside the home as was the case with the interviewee who worked in a packing of bananas from Monday to Saturday from six in the morning at six o'clock.

In this community reported that because of the well hose always had problems and was often broke, at the time of the interview was six months without work. Therefore, the committee considered

pertinent to cooperation to fix the flaw, which was attached to an electrical problem that also mean an outlay of money that did not count. Also, the interviewee said that family problems and had not continued with the call for meetings of reinstalling the system, however, the committee members if they were interested in continuing with the project, since it represented benefits for families and community at large and ensure clean water for consumption by girls and children attending kindergarten, school, or people who attend religious events to church or to the community at large in an emergency or a situation delicate like a funeral. The respondent expressed concern that according to the experience and the approaching flood calendar and the biggest problem is water, so we felt it was necessary to have safe water system.

### **The link with the institutions.**

Interviewees mentioned that different problems have bitted nature as the breakdown of the water pump and not having enough money to fix it, however, resort to the support of church leaders who have supported them systematically, also received support from the civil organization Cántaro Azul which in addition to providing technical advice on the safe water system did different activities to promote the participation of people in the community.

To tell the committee chair Francisco J. Mujica, she along with the rest of the members have organized and resolve all issues related to safe water system, so have avoided seek cooperation from authorities and the community delegates who convened the meetings but not attending and only showed interest when he learned that the system was generating revenue. In the case of the respondent Cumuapa ejido that two delegates reported what had caused division within the community specifically for system operation as none of them had shown interest and only one was involved but to explore the possibility of marketing water on his own committee purchasing water at a low price.

Regarding the relationship with state committee representatives said they have avoided solicit their support for the operation of the system and specified that problems associated with the system is sought from the State Water Commission (CEAS) however no were supported and therefore had chosen to resolve it from the committee.

For its part, the CEAS interviewee mentioned that that instance works with seventeen local governments, which has been a recent, engage people in the issues of water has not been easy because it was a new form of work and is a different process spaces to promote citizen participation.

However, in his opinion, Tabasco has been transformed by the floods that have occurred since 2007. Since then he has taken the idea of working together with people of the communities that has meant for the same institution a change of attitude. In addition to that institution has meant training in new issues such as the gender that is not easy to address since the issue of water and sanitation infrastructure alone is associated with. To tell the interviewee, the scope of work with communities that instance are determined by political and religious ideologies.

In this regard, another interviewee stressed the importance of the involvement of the institutions, which must recognize that community water systems are making government bodies must adapt their processes to the dynamics of the towns, it stood as an example happens in the town of Tacoltapa in which there is a more active community participation and further characterized by having a high proportion of indigenous population and the decisions are taken by the community.

## **Potential.**

### **Leadership of the presidents of the committees of safe water**

In the view of those who participated as a consultant on gender issues in the state of Tabasco in community responsibilities vested in a small group, in the case of ejidos are cited strong leadership from women who have taken the initiative and commitment have assumed the operation of the water system safe.

Note that in both cases, the two chairpersons of the committees already had a significant career in the community in terms of participation is concerned, since both had assumed responsibilities of different types within their respective communities for example, be organizing religious events, presidents of the committees in the schools their children, among other charges related to community life.

In the opinion of the responsible committees in CEAS Units Sustainable Water Development (UDESAS) involving women and recognizing their role as it has been identified that when they are protagonists there is more transparency and enable better resource management. Also in your opinion you have to follow up on all actions related to public participation, because in the case of JPWS important thing is that communities and system were appropriate and not rely on governments and are autonomous and management capacity.

### **Institutional linkage.**

UNDP recognizes their technical contributions and working tools for gender issues within communities, where even with contingencies for hydro meteorological phenomena were continued planned activities. It also identifies an instance with its features can help neutralize the conflicts that still exist for the operation of the systems. It was suggested that one way to do this is through timely follow.

### **Challenges in the areas of water, sanitation and gender.**

According to the state government public servant, when women are involved in the management processes the results are different because they have the organizational capacity. However, this strength is not the free face or solves outstanding contingencies to ensure the operation of the system or ensure the provision to families. For example, you mentioned the importance of having a tricycle to distribute the water or that the system has a roof to protect it and also to those who operate and come to him to buy water. Those remaining associated with the operation of the system, also attached aspects linked to the ecological conditions such as the oil spill that occurs near the system, which means that the committee should make representations to the same community as collecting signatures for a taking of the sample well and continuously monitor for the analysis to be made to identify if there are alterations in the quality of water.

For Cumuapa due to community problems and the uncertainty of the position of the respondent delegate envisioned that problems persist and their main concern was because times were approaching rain and therefore a high potential for flooding, which already said that during these major problems is the scarcity of water. Also, it was important to consider that in your little town people is willing to cooperate and engage in issues and community life was lonely to face that fact. In this regard, it is pertinent reflection resume that community problems are different, that not only deal with the dynamics within, if not other external factors such as the problems associated with the trash because there are places that there is no collection systems, or health problems because people do not have toilets in their homes, both factors of pollution of rivers that are directly associated with the issue of drinking water. Also, water leaks that prevent people water available for human consumption.

On the other hand, noted that coordination between agencies was complicated because each brought different themed activities and that meant people were called to diversity workshops represented them time investment without any clear objectives. According to some people is a challenge that future

projects should improve the mechanisms of communication between agencies, and not only for the activities but to rescue the experiences of the same as there were organisms that were implemented only draw their products but there was no follow up with people who enthusiastically contributed time and participation. It is therefore essential that agencies give continuity to the actions.

At the level of institutionalization of gender within the theme of water, there are still processes that are not yet designed to incorporate that perspective in institutional activities.

### **Scope**

In the review of documents and field work emphasizes that safe water systems and how to organize women have contributed to the two communities have visited Tabasco drinking water supply. Emphasizes organizational capacity of women who not only know the actual specific needs of the community are those who are willing to invest their time and effort to ensure drinking water to families. Her leadership and commitment is present in each of the processes that make the operation of water systems. Furthermore, their thoughts and actions allow them to continue with a view to ensure improvements in managing community life.

### **La Albarra San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas.**

#### **Before JPWS**

We describe the problems people faced on water. During fieldwork sought the views of the committee who are responsible for the operation of the water system safe. Among the shared reflections situation was resumed water and sanitation before JPWS and mentioned that the state of Chiapas is characterized by different natural sources of water suppliers, however, people do not have mechanisms that favor the reorganization For example, the alternative was unknown to capture rainwater and use it to meet the household needs to know the mechanisms knowing when clean and when not. This lack of knowledge has been instrumental limitations that people have to have water.

On how women experienced a lack of water, one of the interviewees reported that before safe water systems had to walk long distances, up to three kilometers to fetch two buckets of water was also low quality but that was the only potable water option. On the other hand, who could have access to bottled water distributed in the market, they paid between sixteen and seventeen dollars, although there were also cases of households had a water filter.

### **JPWS Development and gender activities**

The project was conducted in two municipalities of the twenty-eight low human development in the state of Chiapas. With the intervention has promoted community organization as was the introduction of a culture of payment for water with the water system, which means having a fast access resource and cheaply.

As for the activities related to the integration of the gender perspective in fieldwork in Chiapas was talk about building the water agenda in which women were considered as protagonists of the activities, which was a change in community dynamics since previously only attended men and women when they did they were not considered when making decisions agendas water. They began to make arrangements to have a tank. With the work done through the workshops there were changes, especially taking into account that indigenous social roles are important and it is common for women are associated with household activities and men with whom perform beyond.

In Albarrada committee organization was different from the popular suburbs in the state of Tabasco because of the context in which the system operates as safe water is within the Community Development Center (CEDECO) which provides services to the community in emergency situations such as extreme weather events, as a result, members of the committee who have gone through different processes of organization in which women have been incorporated and the experience of safe water system they have a role in which also form part of the decision making work collaboratively with the men on the committee.

In this form of organization, there is no difference between men and women, the relationship has been of help and support each other and them. It was mentioned that the activities that were traditionally assigned to women have been assigned to men and in the operation of the program involved both for it is clear that the system itself is a common good. Decisions are made collectively and to designate the charges you opt for the vote. At the time of the interviews it was reported that the person who chairs the Committee is a woman who has had much experience in organizing activities to promote improvements in the CEDECO.

To tell the people who make up the committee for its management has ensured that there is gender equity, ie that there is participation of women and men as they were aimed at breaking with the tradition that was built just for men and chaired by one of them.

## **Sitalá, Chiapas**

In field work experience mentioned Sitalá Township in which a group of midwives were the protagonists in the management and operation of the water system, for his work and needs related to it have been prioritized in clean water to care for women giving birth.

Since installing the system, women invest less time and physical energy in getting water, there is less consumption of firewood to boil water, which contributes to the reduction of the presence of respiratory diseases and also save time by collecting firewood.

In Sitalá settled fifteen individual safe water systems, called "Mesitas azules" that are placed in the homes of midwives and used for domestic consumption and for the development of the work they have to attend births.

For the operation had the cooperation of the Clinic for Comprehensive Services, part of the Sanitary District of Ocosingo and the Casa Materna. According to monitoring reports, in this county was possible coordination group of midwives with the municipal authorities and with what some extent which allows the project's sustainability and continued coordination by the group of women. The Committees have internal regulations and work from specific responsibilities allocated by ballot. The charges are president / e, secretary / or treasurer / or vocal. Participated in training midwives who spoke some Spanish and collaborated in the translation into the language Tzelzal that is spoken in that locality.

As in the Albarrada, Cántaro Azul reports have established close ties with the group of women who were responsible Sitalá water system, it also helped that already had infrastructure in the head and that favored the installation of a committee municipal management.

### **Workshops on gender and water.**

From activities for water and interviewees identified gender workshops in which subjects retook the right of women to make decisions for the UNDP, which had a guide with a gender perspective in which suggests the participation of women in decision-making. In that sense, some people also mention the gender workshops reported receiving trainings by some institutions, in his opinion all were good, and however, it was not possible to describe a specific experience on gender issues.



### **Linkage with institutions.**

People who attended the meeting mentioned that identify the responsible conduct gender that was hired by UNDP to schedule and conduct workshops related to water, sanitation, gender and ethnicity. They also identified the Secretariat for Development and Empowerment of Women (SEDEM) which helped conduct workshops, the State System of Civil Protection and the Ministry of Health. In your opinion is Cántaro Azul organization which has had an attitude of solidarity with the committee and the operation of the system, the organization is what has given close and constant monitoring. They want to continue working with their staff, supporting them in case it is necessary to install a committee can help to replicate the system, even mentioned that he had worked at the facility Sitalá system.

They also confirmed that they are organized so that the efforts associated with the operation and maintenance of the water system can carry out on their own without having to request the intervention of other instances.

### **Potential.**

One idea is to build capacity of the local system and perception of those who participated in the interviews in The Albarrada if people did because now manages goods and services to ensure their operation. Also described something similar happened in her mother's house where midwives Sitalá operating system Mesitas Azules are those with leadership in the community, in addition to administering it through an organized structure that ensures the operation and both have potable water supply.

### **Sustainability.**

For the committee Albarrada, safe water system and its internal organization and they can continue to work, plus it is an advantage that it is within the CEDECO. According to decision makers on water in the state of Chiapas, the actions that link water and gender goals continue even with the change of administration because recently made a change in the law of state waters in which include a gender perspective. There are so-called water agendas that are scheduled to ten years. Also, it was mentioned that it is promoting the participation of women within the water boards that exist in smaller communities and for that we have created working groups that will monitor the interventions initiated.

Also, he referred to the fact that it has promoted the creation of gender units within the premises which will allow that actions can be continued.

## **Challenges**

It was mentioned that for the implementation of activities related to a program like JPWS and gender and ethnicity is necessary to take into account the differences in the communities as there may be some that have a lot of organizational capacity and others that require further support for efforts. He also mentioned the need to consider their times and their dynamics.

Among the thoughts that were shared in interviews that highlight the themes of gender as a generational change is necessary because of the dependencies within the government is again as with the water sector in which they are conceived only men who have an impact on the subject to be operated by professionals of the branch of engineering.

The informants and participating in fieldwork agree that safe water system has helped improve the lives of women and communities to promote spaces for participation in decision-making. It is also understood the importance of this in the changes that occur in communities.

## **Final reflexions.**

This paper presented three experiences about water management, protection and stewardship and effective participation and its link to the issue of gender and ethnicity. The data reveal that the incorporation of the gender component played an important role in the operation of the Joint Programme Water and Sanitation that the United Nations System through eight of its agencies is designed and implemented with the purpose and contribute the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The inclusion of a gender perspective in the activities planned in the JPWS were not only relevant for being one of the central themes that guided but because today the inclusion of women in decision-making and as beneficiaries of development is a priority if they are to contribute to the reduction of gender inequality. The actions show that it is possible to open gaps on issues such as water and sanitation and gender locally, however, requires that the agencies responsible for providing goods and services to the people are those who consolidate, taking into account those who are protagonists in communities, women and men. Without their participation hardly generate development options that are expected for both women and men. In some of these examples could be identified that there are challenges to mainstream gender in the activities related to water and sanitation, but it is conceivable that when there is a connection between the target groups, particularly women and girls, committees, authorities municipal and state interventions are sustainable and can generate changes.

The gender issue also conceived as something new, by their size and operational means new learning, which not only related to the generation of action on the part of institutions, but also means a change of attitude and compression decision makers and those responsible for providing services to the population. No doubt the latter results in a systematic policy changes involving cultural and social. To this must be added that those in charge of state and local public agencies must include in its institutional issues of participation and take into account the times and the specific dynamics of communities.

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