EXPLORING GENDER AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN THE DRC

Rafaramalala Volanarisoa, Jess MacArthur, James Quarshie, Nono Mahili, Luther Kumbusbo, Jonathan Ngeleka Kasongo, Theodore Yakalo

STUDY BACKGROUND

Women’s engagement in water governance is crucial for sustainable water provision. However, many initiatives focus only on the number of female participants or giving power to women in local committees, and studies have shown that these efforts have limited impact on the implementation of projects. This study explores the gender dynamics of Water Management Committees (WMCs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo to understand the barriers and facilitators to women’s participation.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

We purposively selected four WMCs to reflect different geographical locations and types of water infrastructure. In October 2022, a total of 26 individuals from these WMCs participated in eight focus groups (disaggregated by gender) and used pocket voting to assess their different experiences and perspectives. We conducted a realist evaluation framework to understand the gender dynamics of WMCs and explore the effectiveness of different facilitation and training methods.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

As a qualitative assessment, these results cannot be generalized to all WMCs. Further research can use a factorial approach to control for community and individual-level factors.

RESULTS

Functionality

- Women were less likely than men to agree on the functionality and effectiveness of the committee.
- Gender differences were seen in engagement aspects such as communication, meeting time, location, and seating arrangements.
- Women’s participation was seen as more cooperative, harmonious, and gender-sensitive.
- Men’s participation was found to be more assertive, competitive, and gender-insensitive.

Engagement

- In these four WMCs, Budikadidi had a good job of asking women who were in a life stage (without small children at home) to support the committee.
- The benefits of women’s participation were identified in improved problem-solving, community leadership, harmonious, gender-friendly, “good climate,” trust, and pride.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Participation

- Women had different responses in relation to the effectiveness of the committee.
- Gender differences were evident in community leadership, harmony, fairness, “good climate,” trust, and pride.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.

Engagement

- Women were more likely than men to support the committee.
- Women were more likely to support the committee than men.
- Women were trained to support the committee.
- Women were trained to support the committee.