



## Gender and Domestic work

### The facts

- › Women suffer the double burden of both household work and economic effort.
- › In Nepal, over 75% of women work in agriculture compared to 48% of men. In the home, women carry out all the domestic tasks in 99% of households and in 94%, they fetch the water for the family.
- › African and Asian women walk an average of 6km in order to fetch water. Indian women spend on average 2.2 hours per day in this activity.
- › Women are disadvantaged because they do not have adequate time for resting, time for their children and time for engaging in economic activities.

### Why water, sanitation and hygiene?

#### Distance and time to collect water

Providing local water sources gives women more time, takes away the need to carry heavy loads over long distance and makes their domestic chores less difficult.

## Gender and Education

### The facts

- › Of the 120 million school-age children not in school, the majority are girls. 41% of primary aged girls worldwide, not enrolled at school, are in South Asia, and 35% are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- › Where there are working and well-maintained sanitation facilities for girls, school enrolment increases.
- › In low and middle income countries the general trend towards equity in education is upwards.
- › Female illiteracy has fallen from 32.6% in 1998 to 29.9% in 2002. Nevertheless, two thirds of illiterates are women.
- › In rural Pakistan more than 50% of girls drop out of school in grade 2-3 because schools do not have latrines.
- › In 20 schools in Tajikistan all girls choose not to attend when they have their periods, as there are no facilities available.

### Why water, sanitation and hygiene?

#### In the community

When girls no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water, their school attendance increases.

#### In schools

Girls are less likely to go to school if there are not separate and private sanitation facilities for girls and boys.

#### Hygiene behaviour

It is essential to teach children sanitation-related behaviours such as handwashing, as they can then become agents of change in their families and communities, leading to health improvements and higher school attendance.

- › In Nigeria over two years, provision of water, sanitation and hygiene education increased hand washing by 95%. School attendance, especially amongst girls, had increased, as had the general health and nutritional status of the community.



Country classification	Ratio of female to male enrolments in primary and secondary school (%)	
	1990	2000
Low & middle income	83	97
East Asia & Pacific	79	95
Middle East/ N. Africa	68	79
South Asia	79	82
Sub-Saharan Africa		

Source: World Development Bank Report

## Gender and Health

## Gender and Income Generation

### The facts

- › Improved water supplies increase opportunities for women to improve their economic productivity.
- › Less time dedicated to fetching water frees up time for income generation and enterprise development.
- › Women can develop particular aspects of income generating work which depend on an adequate water supply.

### Why water, sanitation and hygiene?

#### Water availability

Women make direct use of improved water services.

**This Briefing Note presents evidence for the impact of water supply, sanitation and improved hygiene on the position of women and girls.**

### Key references

- › WaterAid (2001) Looking back: The long-term impacts of water and sanitation projects. WaterAid. London.
- › World Water Vision (1999) Mainstreaming gender in water resources management. World Water Vision Unit. France.
- › UNICEF (2004) Real Lives. [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nigeria\\_1468.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nigeria_1468.html)
- › WSSCC (2004) WSSCC Resource Pack on Water and Sanitation Millennium Development Goals

Full details of all the material used in support of this briefing note are available at [www.Lboro.ac.uk/well](http://www.Lboro.ac.uk/well)

There are six briefing notes in this series:

1. The Poverty Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do
2. The Education Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do
3. The Child Health Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do
4. The Gender Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do
5. The HIV/AIDS Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do
6. The Environmental Sustainability Millennium Development Goal: What water, sanitation and hygiene can do

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