Experiences in Measuring Gender Issues in Water+

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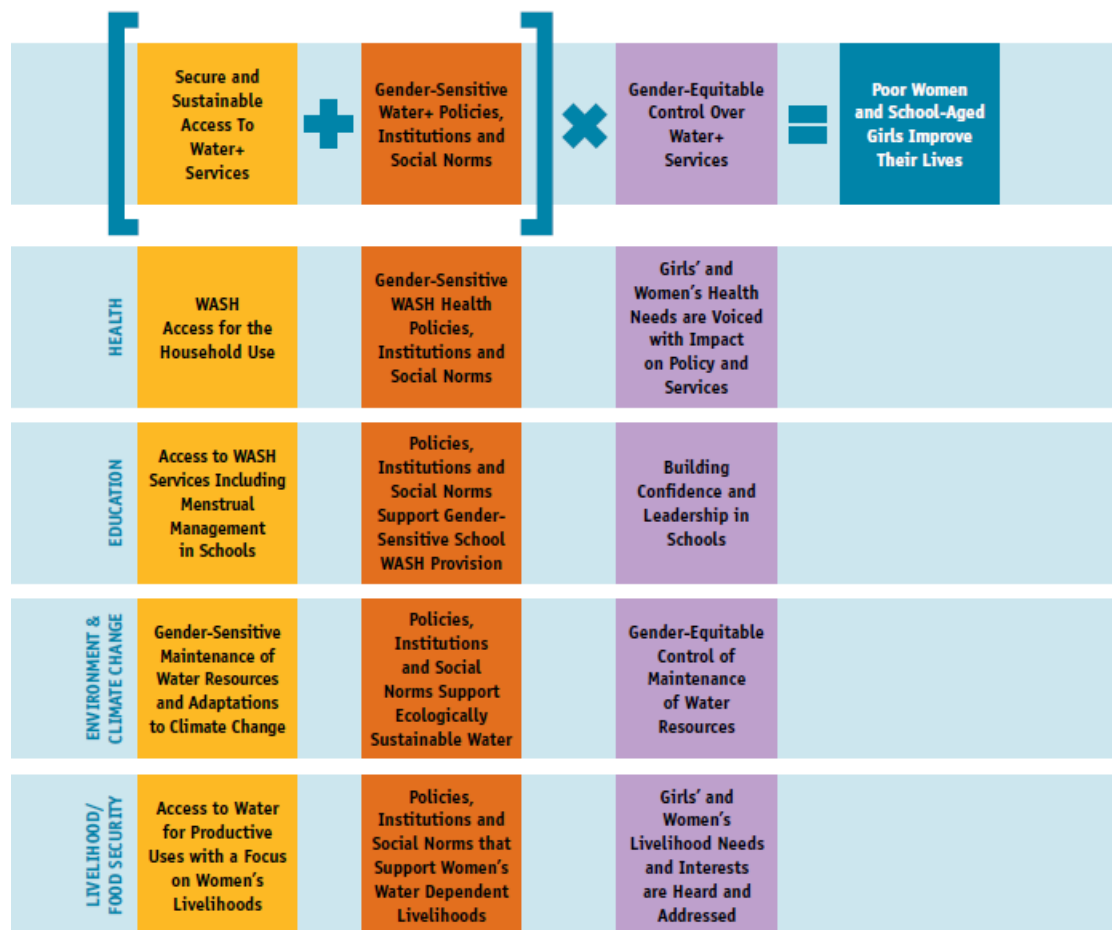
What is 'Water+'?

Water+ is shorthand for a programmatic approach that encompasses water supply, sanitation and hygiene **plus** local management of water for domestic, small-scale productive and environmental uses.

Water+ enables strong linkages to FLJ through agriculture, nutrition, livelihoods, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation.
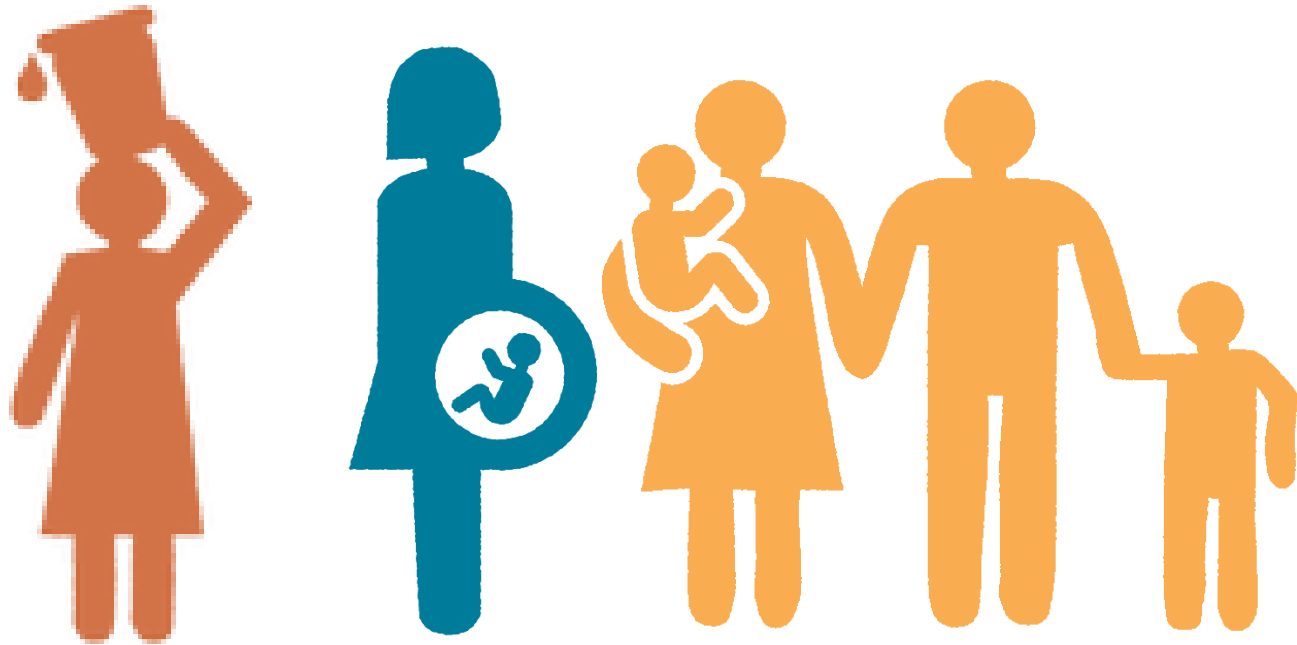
Our Theory of Change

How have projects/programs actually been doing so far in terms of our current ToC?

The Water+ Impact Report

Impact report reviewed project evaluations, final reports, case studies and other reports describing results
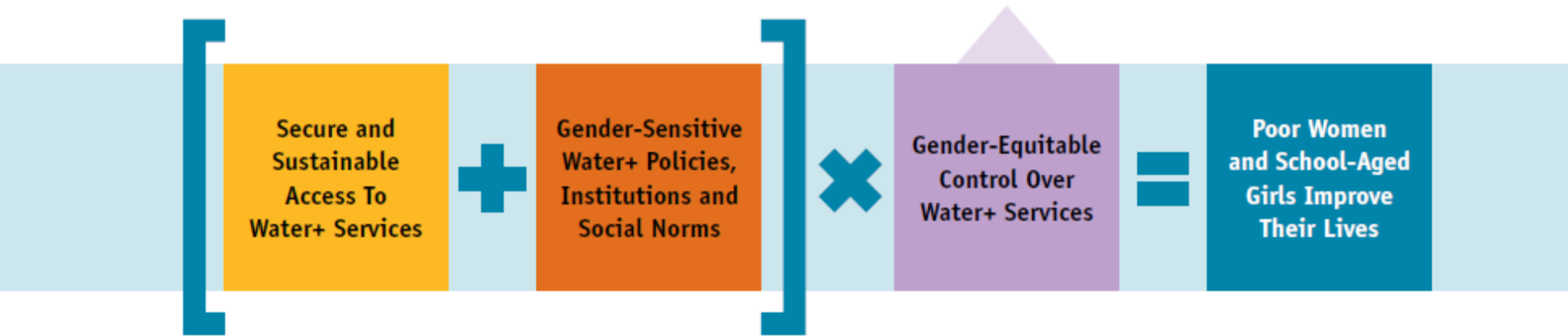
Reports were between 2006 and 2012 with programming sometimes concluding prior to 2006
 – 51 documents total from all regions

Methodology:

- Scoring tool used based on the water+ theory of change
- Each evaluation given an individual score per domain and scored later averaged for each domain

DOMAIN 3: GENDER-EQUITABLE CONTROL OVER WATER+ SERVICES

[Secure and Sustainable Access To Water+ Services **+** Gender-Sensitive Water+ Policies, Institutions and Social Norms] **×** Gender-Equitable Control Over Water+ Services **=** Poor Women and School-Aged Girls Improve Their Lives

- Water is very gendered; gender issues recognized throughout the ToC with explicit mentions in the second and third domain as well as the goal
- Loosely maps to women's empowerment framework
- Each of these domains is multi-sectoral, linking to health, education, environment and climate change and livelihood and food security areas.

Findings

The overall score given for the CARE's impact in the third domain of change was 4 out of 10. Factors influencing the scoring:

- Whether the program addressed gender equity
- Whether it built individuals' (both male and female) ability to manage their water resources for both productive and domestic purposes
- Whether it empowered people to articulate their water+ needs and aspirations

Findings

- Very few indicators used for gender; most progress reported anecdotally
- Most programs reviewed contributed to the criteria through forming community groups' training sessions on organization, decision-making, governance and financial management—these can be said to be empowering.
- Several evaluations noted gender-equity results favorable to women and girls, including

  - a decreased burden of fetching water thus more time for chores and socialization;

  - girls' increased attendance in school;

  - a cleaner personal appearance;

  - and women having more authority in the community.

Examples of How Change was Reported

All interviewed women had expressed that the continuous access to improved water supply had directly reduced the burden of ensuring the availability of water inside the household for daily needs.

Improvements mentioned included:

- ***Completing all needed household tasks early and having extra time for the usually postponed tasks.***

- ***Increase of the available time for socialization and visiting neighbors.***

-- (Egypt, Right to Drinking Water)

Secondary impact indicator:

Women's Associations are successfully managing water quality maintenance.

--Yemen (Improved Health through Clean Water Project)

An Exception

Engaging men and boys – CWASA in Rwanda

- Trained hygiene focal points (both male and female) to promote WASH and gender equity using PHAST

- The recruitment strategy focused on men who were already exhibiting signs of assisting their wives with household chores, along with men who were less supportive or were uninterested in changing negative habits

- "Engaged men" more involved in cooking, food preparation, fetching water, etc.

Sample Indicators from CWASA

- Percent increase in women leadership of established/rejuvenated and equipped functional <u>Water Management Committees</u> (WMC).
- Percentage of women reporting that their interests and priorities are prioritized by water management committees/cooperatives.
- Percent increase in men sharing water, sanitation, health and hygiene tasks with women an
- Number of positive male role models identified, trained and those demonstrating behavioral change.
- Number of discussions held by positive male role models with other men.

Conclusions

Though there was good awareness of the gender dimensions to water+ few of the initiatives surveyed in the impact report:
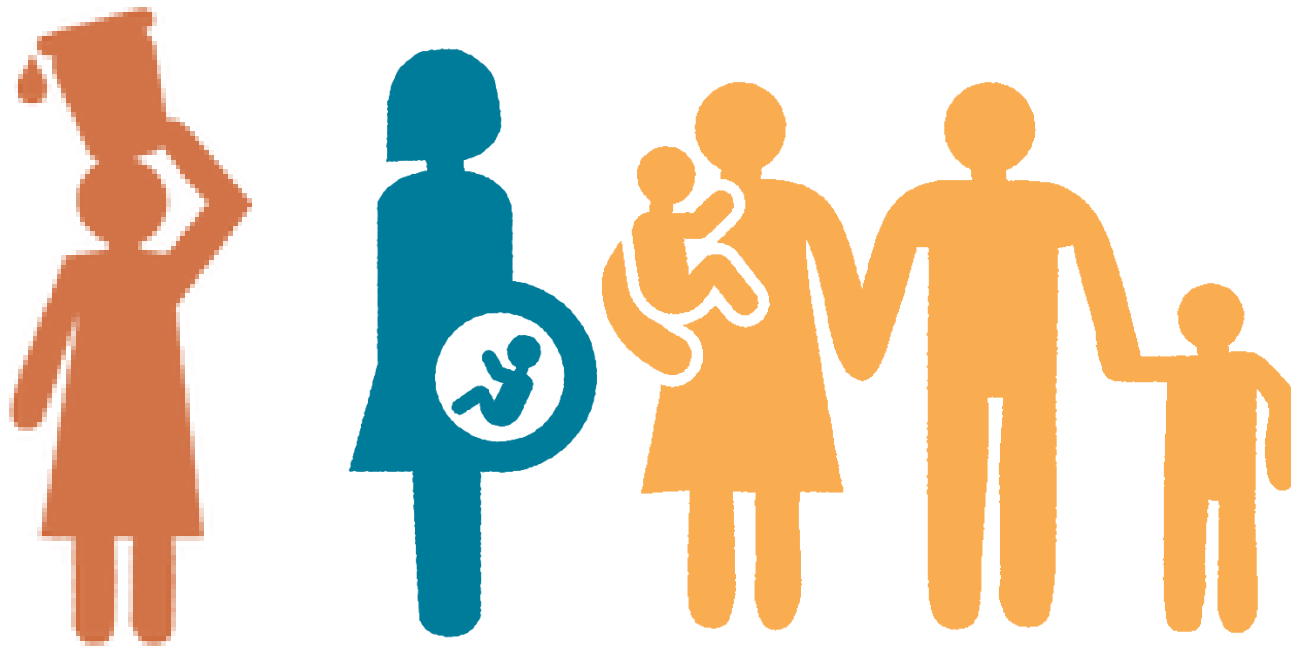- used tools for analyzing social structures and power relations or disaggregated the benefits of services
- employed empowerment methodologies

Activities to address gender equity issues were conservative and clustered primarily around the model of facilitating women's involvement in water-user committees and in some cases in savings groups.

This lack of deliberate integration of gendered-sensitive approaches within the programming was mirrored in the evaluations with almost no explicit objectives related to gender and thus few indicators.

What are the relationships between water+ and women's empowerment?

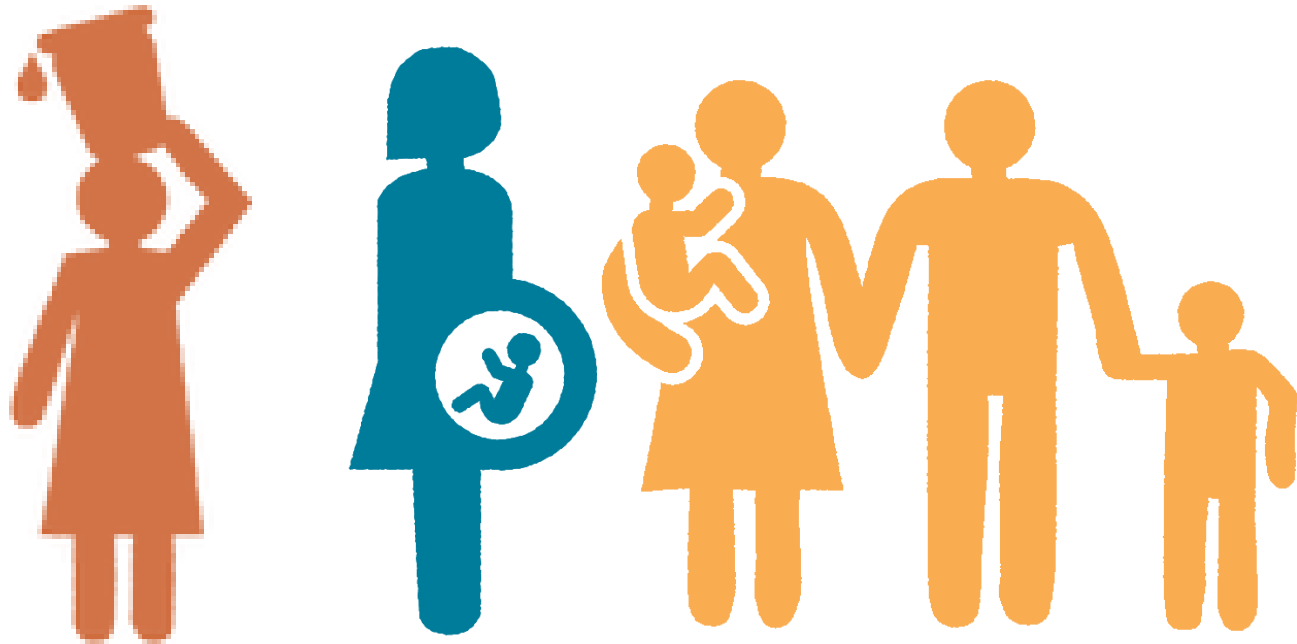In a study conducted by CARE Ethiopia in 2010 on women's empowerment,

- **67 percent of the women responding reported feeling more equal,**

- **68 percent reported a greater sense of control over household resources, and,**

- **67 percent reported increased feelings of respect or dignity.**

- **Women that found a role in WASH committees members or in income-generation opportunities reported the most significant changes**

Findings from the SWASH+ project showed:

- **An up to 58% reduction in girls' absence or an average reduction of six days per year per girl (controlling for grade and age)**

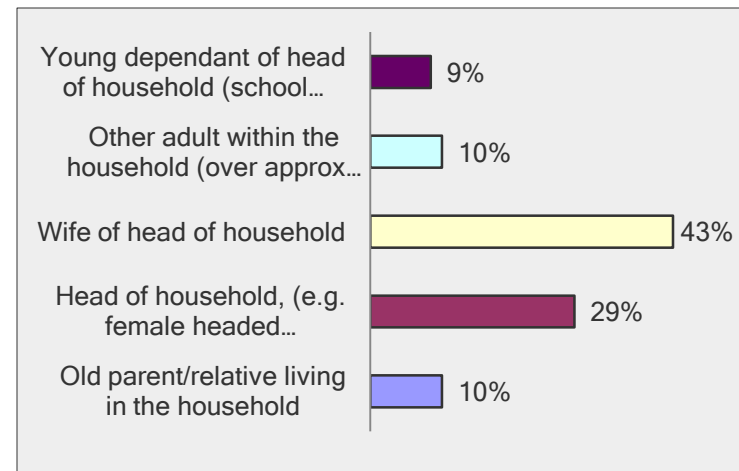# What are the differentiated results of our programs within various categories of women and girls?

Water+ initiatives often report benefits to women as a whole, easy to get data affirming this

But women's experiences are mediated by age, position in the household, wealth, disability etc. How do these factors affect how women experience water+ intervention and how effective it is?

Women's Experiences Snapshot

- The **Women's Experience Snapshot Tool** was administered to 191 women in GWI EA WASH intervention areas (Ethiopia, Kenya,Tanzania,and Uganda), in 2012.
- Primarily a **quantitative feedback mechanism** but allows for additional comments
- The majority of the women were married 53%, 22% were single, 18% widowed and 7% divorced.

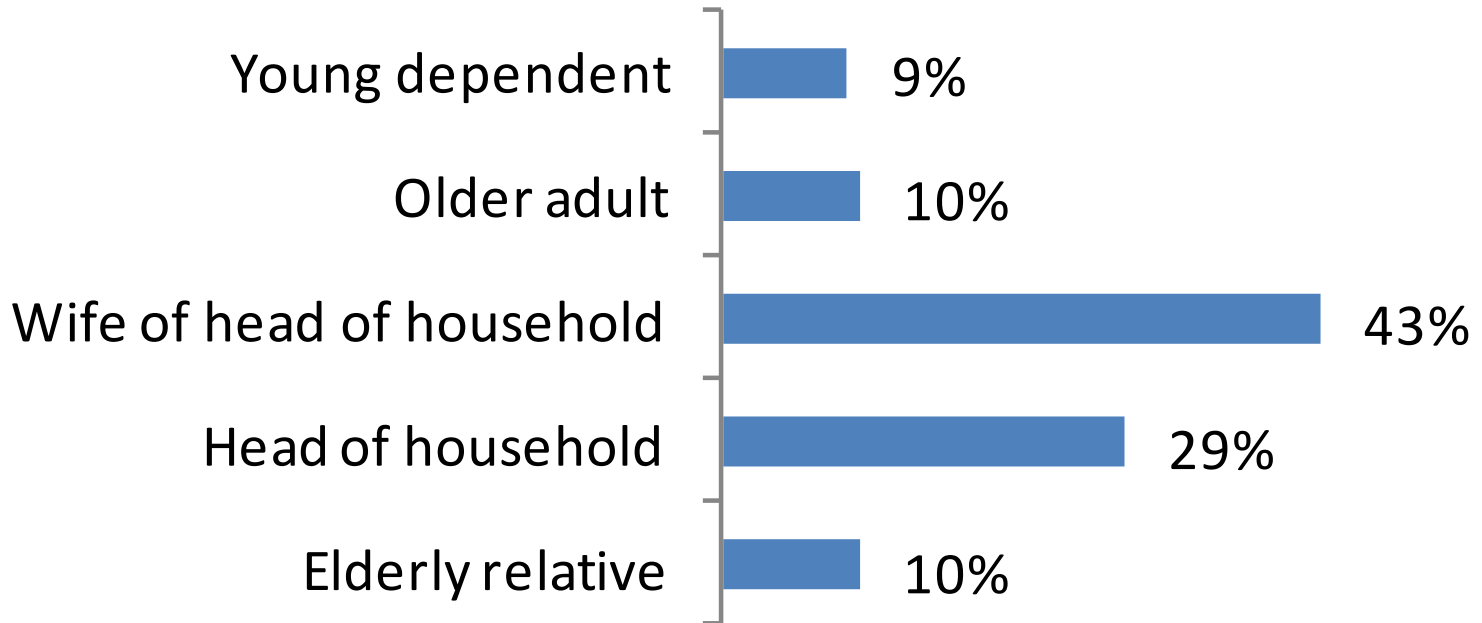| Category	Percent
Young dependant of head of household (school…	9%
Other adult within the household (over approx…	10%
Wife of head of household	43%
Head of household, (e.g. female headed…	29%
Old parent/relative living in the household	10%

The Tool

- The tool differentiates by marital status, position in the household, number and age bracket of children living in the household, level of education, income level, disability or not.

- Other indicators regarding benefits include differences in time taken to collect water and amount of water used, changes in hygiene and sanitation practices and health, involvement in income generation and environmental activities and personal development, household (including sexual) relationships, changes in leisure time and voice.

Position in Household

Position	Percentage
Young dependent	9%
Older adult	10%
Wife of head of household	43%
Head of household	29%
Elderly relative	10%

Examples of Differences

Dignity: (86%) Heads of households rather than elderly relatives, young dependents or other adults in the household were more likely to report increases in respect/dignity

Leisure Time: (74%), **time for socializing** (77%). Relatively poor women more likely to report improvements compared to women in the middle income status

Equality: (80%), Disabled women were more likely to report greater equality compared to non-disabled women

B. Examples of differences (cont)

Committees: Married women in particular but also **widows** were more likely than single women to take on these roles.
Women with young and old children were more likely than women with no children

❖ But if there are all these differences in how women engage in/report on services, what does that mean in terms of equity ?
❖ **From an effectiveness point of view** are we involving those who can best serve the schemes?
❖ **From an equity or even a transformational agenda** are we ensuring that those could can benefit the most are involved?

Lessons Learned from Applying the Tool?

- The same tool can provide both the simplistic good news (x% of women reported benefits in terms of reduced time collecting water) but also more interesting ones (y% reported changes in household or community voice) and more complex ones (z are the women most/least likely to benefit)

- We were testing out ideas, did it on the cheap/small scale, without addressing issues of statistical sampling or enough piloting of actual questions, (e.g. ways of not introducing positive bias)

- Need to embed gendered research more systematically in projects/programs and strengthen methodology

Ongoing studies

What approaches can we take to promote women's and girls empowerment? ──New Research

Upcoming research in Ghana/Burkina Faso

1) Gender equity as a determinant of Water+ effectiveness and sustainability
2) Successful approaches for promoting gender equity within Water+ project

Methodology:

2 quantitative tools for FGDs: 1) gender analysis based on 5 areas (water and sanitation, household decision-making, access to public spaces and services, women's empowerment) + 2) a water point governance, finance and functionality survey

Qualitative tool for FGDs probing further on water+, access to public spaces and services, women's empowerment and menstrual hygiene

Overall Conclusions

- **We need to show that Water+ programming supports women's empowerment** through a myriad of inter-connected ways including reduced drudgery and increased health, dignity, gender equality, financial and personal security, reduced stress, and opportunities for greater voice within households and within communities–

- **Gender-specific objectives need** to be top-line within results frameworks along with **specific gender-related indicators**. We must learn **how to better promote empowerment and gender equity** within Water+ programs including through cultivating, testing and sharing the results of various methodologies.
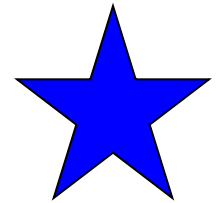
Overall Conclusions.. cont

- However, **women's experiences are not homogeneous**. As well as the obvious differences in relative wealth and disabilities, the position in and composition of households have an impact

- We should embed even the most basic/simple research into programming/policy work in ways that can feedback into improved programming.

- Importance of developing 'golden' common indicators – for the basics but also for these issues of voice, etc.

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For more information

- Google CARE Water Wiki and visit the "Women and Water" Page

http://water.care2share.wikispaces.net/

The water team would like to support:

- **Country programs to develop more integrated and gendered water+programming/policy influence**

- **Learning on the links between water+ women's empowerment,**

- **Developing common ways of measuring impact and indicators on water+ for CARE reflecting lessons so far**

Do get in touch with us if interested ☺