



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ADVANCING GENDER IN THE ENVIRONMENT: GENDER AND URBAN SERVICES

AGENT Urban Brief | 2019



Published by

International Union for Conservation of Nature

This publication has been made possible in part by funding from USAID.

The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Copyright

© 2019 International Union for Conservation of Nature with

© 2019 United States Agency for International Development

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holders.

Author

A.E. Boyer (IUCN)

Acknowledgements

Corinne Hart (USAID)

Kevin M. Nelson (USAID)

Clare Romanik (USAID)

Silvia Petrova (USAID)

Cate Owren (IUCN)

Jamie Wen (IUCN)

Graphics designed by

Estudio Relativo

www.estudiorelativo.com

Photos by

Alamy

Available from

IUCN Global Programme on Governance and Rights (GPGR)

1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20009

genderandenvironment.org

iucn.org

gender@iucn.org

Disclaimer

Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT) is a ten-year Public International Organization (PIO) grant to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) that was established in 2014 and is managed by the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment's (E3) Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The purpose of the grant is to increase the effectiveness of USAID's environment programming through the robust integration of gender considerations, improving gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes in a broad range of environmental sectors.

The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government.

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

Rapid urbanization shifts social, economic, and political dynamics, with particular impacts on women's empowerment and gender equality. Expanding cities offer a range of urban development opportunities for eradicating poverty and building inclusive, sustainable communities. However, higher population densities, sprawling informal settlements, rural to urban migration, and displacement present pressing urban development and environmental challenges as cities struggle to keep up with the needs and demands of growing populations.

Unsafe or insufficient infrastructure, limited access to basic services, natural disasters, inadequate governance structures, and lack of integration of nature in urban planning and development all hinder the realization of urban opportunities. These challenges disproportionately affect already marginalized populations with limited adaptive capacity, which most commonly includes women, children, and those living in the deepest levels of poverty. Integrating gender considerations into urban programming is essential to ensuring that existing inequities and poverty are not exacerbated and that well-planned, inclusive initiatives meet the needs of, and produce benefits and opportunities for, both women and men.

This brief focuses on gender gaps and gender-responsive opportunities for urban development as part of the Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT) program. AGENT is a ten-year program launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2014 and implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The purpose of the partnership is to increase the effectiveness of USAID's environment programming through robust gender integration and improve gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes in a broad range of environmental sectors. Recognizing women as agents of change, and the value of diverse knowledge, experiences and capacities of women and men alike, AGENT envisions a world that approaches environmental work at all levels with gender-responsive policy and action. AGENT drives transformation toward a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

This brief also aligns with US Government priorities and policies. Established as a Presidential Memorandum in 2019, the *Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)* advances more prosperous and peaceful communities by empowering women to participate fully in civic and economic life.¹ It focuses on investing in gender equality and women's empowerment towards eradicating extreme poverty, building vibrant economies, and unlocking human potential on a transformative scale. Additionally, the US Government recently adopted the *Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act (WEEE)*, which likewise calls for the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, mandating gender analyses, gender indicators, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms towards implementation.² Across USAID, the *Agency's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy* defines gender equality and female empowerment as core development objectives, fundamental for the realization of human rights.³

IN THIS BRIEF

While healthcare, education, and housing services are also sometimes included in urban service delivery discussions, this brief provides an overview of gender issues related to the delivery and use of four basic urban services related to the environment:

1. Water and sanitation
2. Waste management
3. Energy
4. Transportation and mobility

The brief provides an overview of key gender issues related to these urban services, including:

- Illustrative gender strategies with corresponding examples
- Best practices and lessons learned from USAID projects and activities
- Gender and urban resources and further reading recommendations

KEY GENDER TERMS

Gender is the socially defined set of roles, rights, responsibilities, entitlements, and obligations of females and males in societies. The social definitions of what it means to be female or male vary among cultures and change over time. Gender identity is an individual's internal, personal sense of being male or female. For transgender people, their birth-assigned sex and their own internal sense of gender identity do not match.

Gender equality concerns women and men, and it involves working with men and boys, women and girls to bring about changes in attitudes, behaviors, roles and responsibilities at home, in the workplace, and in the community. Genuine equality means more than parity in numbers or laws on the books; it means expanding freedoms and improving overall quality of life so that equality is achieved without sacrificing gains for males or females.

Gender integration involves identifying, and then addressing, gender inequalities during strategy and project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Since the roles and power relations between men and women affect how an activity is implemented, it is essential that project managers address these issues on an ongoing basis.

Gender-based violence is violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life.

Sex is the classification of people as male or female. At birth, infants are assigned a sex based on a combination of bodily characteristics including: chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs, and genitalia.

Definitions from the [USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy \(2012\)](#) and the [United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally \(2012\)](#)

**“IF WE
PLAN THE
CITY FOR
A WOMAN,
WE PLAN
IT FOR
ALL.”**

– Maimunah Mohd Sharif,
Executive Director of
UN-Habitat⁶

GENDER AND URBAN SERVICES: ENSURING URBAN SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL

Access to basic services is essential for the health and wellbeing of people in urban areas. Cities often struggle to deliver these services due to unrelenting urban population growth, poor planning that does not integrate nature, unreliable service supply, and service delivery systems that are poorly maintained and unresponsive to user needs.

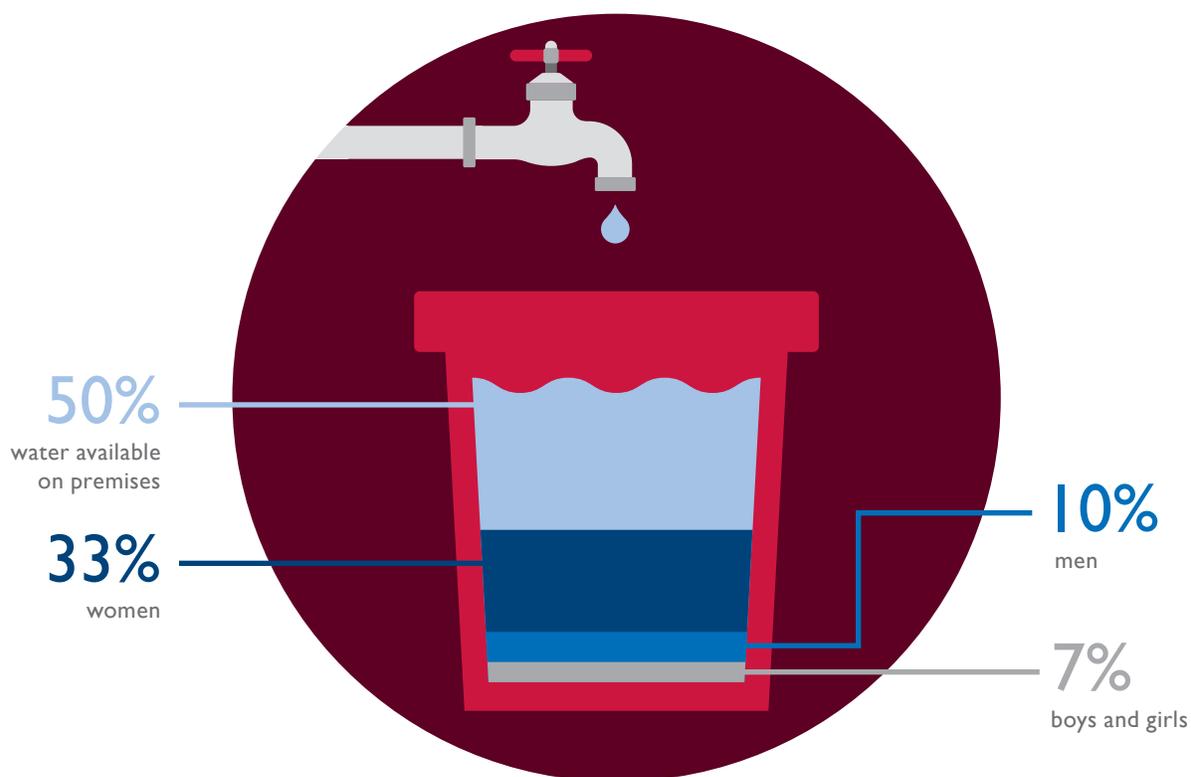
Unreliable, unsafe, and inaccessible urban services exacerbate threats related to displacement, violence, illness, malnutrition, and loss of livelihoods. This is especially evident for women and their families living in slums and informal areas. Moreover, especially compared to men, women in cities often face specific legal and societal restrictions that limit access to equal economic opportunities, property rights, healthcare, education, mobility, and decision making. This creates a significant barrier to accessing adequate urban services or benefitting from urban development interventions.

Women’s roles and responsibilities as household and community decision makers make them essential to formulating, leading, and participating in urban service delivery systems. Recognizing the ways in which gender shapes realities in cities and involving women in the design, implementation, and management of urban development and planning projects has wide-reaching benefits and makes cities more livable for women, men, and children.⁴ As illustrated by the examples throughout this brief and countless others around the world, gender-responsive urban planning can accelerate sustainable development outcomes that contribute to women’s empowerment and gender equality across communities, decision-making levels, and sectors.⁵

KEY DATA

- Over 55% of the global population live in urban areas—up from about 30% in 1950.⁷
- One in eight people—around one billion people—currently live in slum conditions.⁸
- Women head 40% of the poorest households in urban areas.⁹
- In the Tondo District, Philippines, in the largest urban slum in South East Asia, women make up 80% of the adult slum-dwellers.¹⁰

WATER AND SANITATION



In sub-Saharan Africa, women are responsible for collecting water in 33% of urban households, men in 10% of these households, and boys and girls in 7%, and the rest of these urban households (50%) have water available on the premises.¹¹

In many poor urban households, women are primarily responsible for water collection to meet household drinking, hygiene, cooking, and cleaning needs,¹² and there is a hierarchy for water usage (i.e., drinking and hygiene before household tasks). When clean water is not accessible or affordable, women must spend time traveling to a clean water source, often making several trips a day. This additional time spent and distance traveled reduces time women have for education, employment, childcare, and rest, and can increase their risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

Women also bear the brunt of negative health impacts associated with contaminated water sources and exposure to unsafe wastewater disposal. Wastewater generation is a major challenge for natural ecosystems in and around urban areas and in slums that lack access to municipal wastewater disposal systems and accessible sanitation facilities, forcing people to rely on unsewered communal toilets or open defecation.¹³ Furthermore, latrines designed without user needs and safety in mind (e.g. facilities without lighting at night) fail to provide safe and sanitary conditions for whole communities.¹⁴

For women and adolescent girls, including especially school-age girls, unsanitary and unsafe sanitation conditions pose specific, significant risks to their personal health, hygiene, security, and dignity,¹⁵ impacting their ability and willingness to participate in social and economic activities, including education. In informal settlements, young women and girls’ participation and engagement in school suffers during menstruation if they do not have access to safe, private, clean latrines and appropriate products and disposal.¹⁶

Water and sanitation projects fail women and girls, and jeopardize interlinked sustainable development outcomes, if they do not address the roles, perspectives, needs and capacities of both women and men in design and implementation. Women are critical decision makers and an influential constituency in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects, and they can help lead and promote necessary behavior changes for healthier and safer communities.

ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE INTERVENTION FOR WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS	INTERVENTION IN ACTION
<p>Identify gender-related issues and barriers women and men face at each stage of the WASH program cycle and design interventions and opportunities to overcome them.</p>	<p><u>Gender-responsive water, sanitation and hygiene: Key elements for effective WASH programming</u></p>
<p>Ensure water access points and sanitation facilities are physically accessible, close to dwellings and schools, private, and well lit in order to reduce the time and labor burden on women and mitigate risks of GBV.</p>	<p><u>Gender-responsive sanitation solutions in urban India</u></p>
<p>Build cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder capacity on gender-responsive WASH planning, including through partnerships with municipal government agencies, women’s organizations, and community-based organizations.</p>	<p><u>Water and sanitation improvement through gender mainstreaming and capacity-building of local authorities in five cities of Pakistan [p. 46-49]</u></p>
<p>Promote equitable leadership and economic opportunities for women and men in the planning, design, construction, management, operation, and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, while sensitizing men to gender-related issues.</p>	<p><u>A gender-inclusive approach in practice: Communal sanitation in Mozambique and Kenya</u></p>

USAID IN ACTION: FACILITATING TRAININGS ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN WASH PROGRAMMING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN INDONESIA

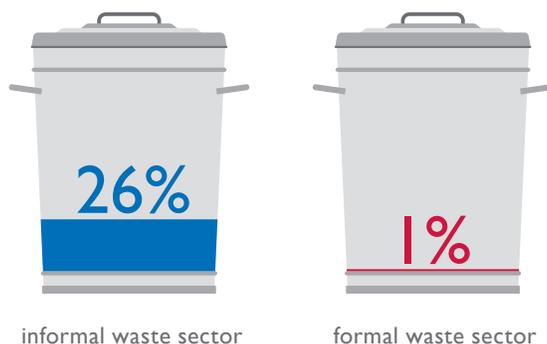
The Indonesia Urban WASH *Penyehatan Lingkungan untuk Semua* (IUWASH PLUS) project is a five-year initiative focused on assisting the Government of Indonesia in increasing access to safe drinking water supply and safely managed sanitation services, as well as improving key hygiene behaviors among the urban poor and most vulnerable populations. During the first year of implementation, the project conducted a WASH gender assessment that informed development of a gender-responsive project strategy to ensure gender was integrated throughout the project. The gender assessment identified a need to support local governments in developing Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (locally known as PPRG) strategies. USAID IUWASH PLUS held a series of trainings to build the capacity of local governments to develop and utilize PPRG tools that are needed to secure and obtain local budget for gender-responsive WASH programming. To date, the project has conducted activities on gender budgeting in nine cities, improving the enabling environment in local governments for integrating gender in WASH activities.

For more information visit: <https://www.iuwashplus.or.id/?lang=en>

USAID IN ACTION: WASH COORDINATION PROJECT (WCP) - CONDUCTING A GENDER ANALYSIS ON ACCESS TO URBAN WASH SERVICES IN BAUCHI AND KADUNA STATES, NIGERIA

In 2016, USAID launched the WASH Coordination Project (WCP) to collect data essential to the development of urban WASH programming. WCP's design recognizes that the causes of poor sanitation extend beyond inadequate infrastructure, and uses the data and information collected to address financing, institutional and technical issues. Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming gender in WASH development activities, as emphasized in the [USAID Water and Development Strategy 2013-2018](#), the project team conducted a gender analysis to gain a better understanding of the specific socio-cultural, economic, and political challenges that limit women's access to and participation in the WASH sector, with particular emphasis on Bauchi and Kaduna States in Nigeria. The analysis used various methods to collect information, including key informant interviews, a literature review, an analysis of policies related to gender and WASH, focus group discussions, case studies, and [transect walks](#) with local communities. The findings from the gender analysis resulted in several recommendations to integrate gender in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of WCP activities, including strengthening women's participation, oversight, and leadership; mainstreaming gender in urban WASH management and state policies and plans in Bauchi and Kaduna; creating gender-sensitive communication and education campaigns for local communities around the WASH sector; and collecting sex-disaggregated data.

WASTE MANAGEMENT



In a study of informal waste sectors in six cities, researchers found that women in Cairo, Egypt represent 26% of workers in the informal waste sector and only 1% of workers in the better paid formal waste sector.¹⁷

Improper household waste disposal is a growing environmental and health concern in urban areas. Rapidly growing cities may lack a formal infrastructure to handle massive waste accumulation especially in hard to access, densely populated areas and informal slums, relying instead on an informal waste collection sector, which includes collecting, sorting, recycling, and selling materials.¹⁸ Waste collectors contribute to local economies but work in unhealthy, perilous, and hazardous circumstances and risk exposure to dangerous chemicals to collect, sort, recycle, and sell materials from municipal waste, diverting a significant amount of material from the waste stream at no cost to the city government. While this section focuses on gender issues for waste collectors, gender disparities exist in all areas of informal and formal waste management. For more information on gender issues throughout the waste recycling sector, please see the [Women's Economic Empowerment and Equality in Waste Management and Recycling Assessment and Fact Sheet](#).

While women and men are both involved in informal waste collecting, women tend to make less money than their male counterparts.¹⁹ Additionally, data on the informal waste sector tend to under-represent the role of women who support their male relatives in waste collection or are not considered primary livelihood earners for the household.²⁰ Work in the informal waste sector requires no education or specialized equipment, little training, and has flexible work hours, making it especially accessible to women who are primary caretakers in their household and do not have access to financial capital for equipment such as carts and baling machines.²¹

Despite their important role and contribution to municipal livelihoods, women and men in this informal sector suffer from extreme poverty, low societal status, harassment from police, and little to no official recognition or legal protections.²² Even with unfavorable conditions, this work is often the only source of income for many women waste collectors living in urban areas.²³ Because women represent a low percentage of formal waste collectors, limiting informal sector activities through privatization or formalization of waste collection risks women's income and threatens their livelihoods if not done in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.²⁴ Accounting for gender differentiated needs and preferences is essential to safe and sustainable waste management systems that recognize the dignity and immense contribution of waste collectors.

ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE INTERVENTION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Collect sex-disaggregated data, including through focus groups with women and men waste collectors, to identify and acknowledge gender-differentiated needs to improve understanding of the roles and contributions of women and men involved in the sector.

Strengthen policy protections and labor conditions for women and men in this sector, including by advocating for inclusive payment models and formation of worker cooperatives, unions, or associations. Options may include provisions for gender-responsive training opportunities, employment, and leadership positions.

Reduce the labor burden on women and men waste collectors, along with exposure to harmful waste, by exploring use of separated curbside waste collection, door-to-door pick up, and drop-off points for channeling municipal waste streams—ensuring the priorities and needs for both women and men are considered when it comes to location and modality of waste collection.

Improve women's and men's livelihoods by addressing differentiated priorities, responsibilities, and labor roles in informal waste management, as well as the barriers to women's formal employment in waste disposal initiatives.

INTERVENTION IN ACTION

[Waste and gender: Rethinking relations for empowerment](#)

[Recovering resources, creating opportunities: Integrating the informal sector into solid waste management](#)

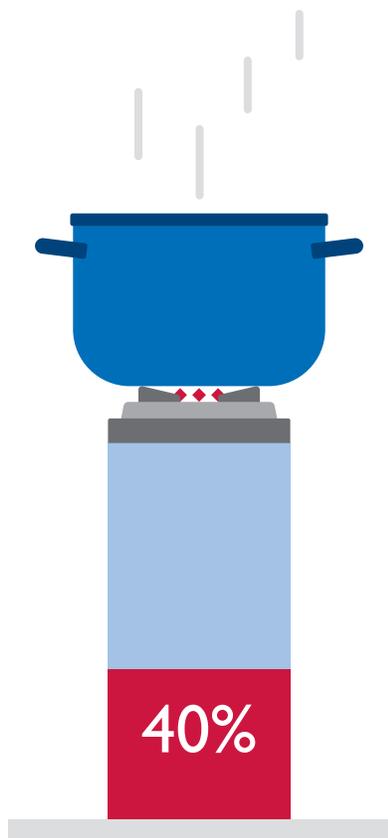
[Recycling in Belo Horizonte, Brazil: An overview of inclusive programming](#)

[Self-Employed Women's Association \(SEWA\) Gitanjali Cooperative: A social enterprise in the making](#)

USAID IN ACTION: MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM (MWRP) - INVOLVING WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES AND ENCOURAGE BEHAVIOR CHANGE AROUND COMMUNITY WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT

The MWRP provides funding for women-led or youth-led organizations, private sector companies, associations cooperatives, and academic institutions in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam that can implement municipal waste recycling solutions with a focus on reducing plastic pollution in marine environments. The MWRP focuses on projects that promote inclusive and innovative approaches and effectively engages underrepresented groups, including women, youth, and informal waste collectors. One of the funded projects through MWRP is in the coastal city of Da Nang, Vietnam with the Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR). This project works with women's organizations, including the Women's Union, to support solid waste management improvements and recycling goals as laid out in the Da Nang Solid Waste Management Strategy, *Toward 2030*. Committees from the Women's Union collaborate at every stage of the project, and with support from CECR, plan to pilot community education and plastic recycling in Sontra District and replicate the model in Thanhkhe District. This approach motivates households, fishing boat owners, markets, restaurants, and hotels to separate recyclable materials at the source and commit to end direct waste dumping into the ocean. Additionally, the system developed by this project is starting to produce a steady source of income for waste collectors and community members.

For more information visit: http://urban-links.org/mwrp_info/



In Nigeria, 40% of urban households rely on kerosene for cooking, causing household air pollution that negatively impacts the health of all members of the household, especially women and children who are disproportionately responsible for cooking.²⁵

ENERGY

Increasing access to affordable, reliable, clean, and efficient energy is a top priority for improving the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of people living in urban areas. The energy demands in many poor urban communities remain unmet due to infrastructure and affordability barriers, which negatively affect women's and girls' health, and their ability to complete household tasks, further their education, and participate in energy-reliant income-generating opportunities.

Access to electricity in poor urban areas is often obtained through illegal hookups to nearby power lines that are unsafe and deliver poor quality power that damages appliances. Power utilities are confronted with a number of challenges to serving slum areas, such as lack of land tenure, poor housing construction, and limited ability to pay for service.²⁶ Furthermore, women and undocumented people living in slums often do not have a physical address or official documentation, such as a birth certificate or identification card, needed to create an account with the electricity utility.²⁷ Women and girls face particular risks due to lack of legal and reliable electricity, such as increased vulnerability to GBV when street lighting is inadequate.²⁸ Illegal service providers may control illegitimate connections and charge users, who have no other options for electricity, exorbitant prices for unreliable, unsafe connections.²⁹

Without access to modern energy services, like electricity and liquified petroleum gas (LPG), households spend more on inefficient, harmful energy sources, such as kerosene for lighting and charcoal and firewood for cooking and heating.³⁰ Reliance on biomass results in high rates of household air pollution, which leads to negative health consequences, particularly for women and children who are primarily responsible for household cooking.³¹ LPG is a promising fuel to increase clean energy access to people, especially in urban areas; however, lack of convenient collection points and infrastructure, as well as affordability concerns, are limiting factors to full LPG uptake in urban areas.³²

Because of their social influence in communities and responsibility over household energy use for cooking, heating, and lighting, women are well positioned to identify and champion energy solutions.³³ Women, women's cooperatives, and women-led enterprises are powerful agents of change for improved and sustainable energy solutions, with benefits for whole urban communities.

ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE INTERVENTION FOR URBAN ENERGY PROJECTS

INTERVENTION IN ACTION

Include women in interviews and community discussions to understand their perspectives on concerns related to energy use and its impact on health, time poverty, overall wellbeing, etc., and identify their specific needs and ideas for more impactful, innovative solutions.

Promote women's involvement in energy entrepreneurship and employment to increase use of energy efficient and clean cooking, lighting and offgrid solutions.

Involve local women directly in learning about energy conservation and efficiency and how to better manage their household energy consumption to reduce bills and acting as community liaisons for the utility to identify problems, negotiate solutions and help improve bill collection in their communities.

Address energy affordability issues for women through micro-finance mechanisms and awareness raising on energy efficiency initiatives

[Public health risks in urban slums: Findings of the qualitative 'Healthy Kitchens Healthy Cities' study in Kathmandu, Nepal](#)

[Sustainable Energy for All: Empowering women](#)

[The army of women battling India's \\$10 billion power problem](#)

[Safe and legal connections for consumers in slum communities: A case in New Delhi \[p. 51-60\]](#)

USAID IN ACTION: ENGENDERING UTILITIES - ENGAGING WOMEN BEYOND LOCAL-LEVEL SOLUTIONS AND PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND SKILLS BUILDING IN THE POWER SECTOR

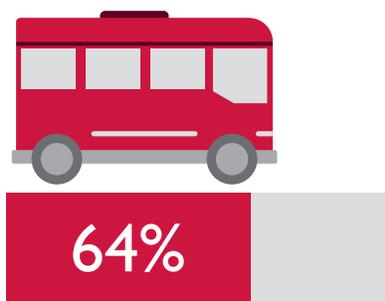
Engendering Utilities aims to strengthen the power sector and effectiveness of utilities by increasing the participation and leadership of women in electric utilities. Engendering Utilities gathered evidence to better understand the role of women and existing gender disparities in power distribution companies and subsequently worked with seven electric distribution companies in five countries—Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Macedonia, and Nigeria—to implement gender equity interventions, such as mentorship programs, university and school outreach, and unconscious bias training. These interventions contributed to an increase of female employees in all seven companies. Additionally, most companies had more women participating in employee training programs, leading to more female trainees hired, women interviewed, and women participating in internship programs. To build on the success, Engendering Utilities is now focused on systemic gender issues across the employee lifecycle—from outreach and recruitment to separation and retirement policies. The program also offers a Gender Equity Executive Leadership Program to build capacity among utilities to effectively integrate gender equity initiatives within corporate structures. Their framework of gender equity best practices along the employee lifecycle provides concrete guidance on how to implement gender interventions that can increase women's participation, employment, and leadership in the power sector.

For more information visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/energy/engendering-utilities>

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY



In the rapidly growing city of Santiago, Chile, 40% of women and 30% of men primarily travel by foot to meet their mobility needs.³⁴



A study of 15 major metropolitan areas found that 64% of women in Mexico City have experienced some type of physical harassment on public transportation.³⁹

Mobility is essential for people to access goods, services, schools, employment, and other activities that connect individuals to the larger urban community.³⁵ Mobility comprises more than travel-related infrastructure and relates to the behaviors, social stigma, physical and financial accessibility, and safety of that infrastructure for different people.³⁶ Women and men have substantially different mobility needs, and in many sprawling urban areas, unreliable or insufficient public transportation, sidewalks, and roads fail to meet those needs, especially for those living in slums.

Public transportation is a key part of increasing mobility for urban residents and contributes to efficient and sustainable cities. However, women face significant barriers to accessing public transportation because of high costs, limited route options, and social stigma. Women's unpaid care work responsibilities, on top of their paid employment, create differentiated transport and mobility needs. Very often women rely on public transportation to get to work, take children to school, go to the market, and access medical services when their families are sick.³⁷ These responsibilities usually require several trips a day and frequent stops on public transportation. This can increase transportation costs if additional fare is required when switching modes of transport.³⁸

Personal safety related to transportation and mobility is also a major concern for women and girls. Poor street lighting and dark transportation stops threaten women's safety when traveling to and waiting for buses or trains. Also, crowded buses and trains increase fear of harassment and other forms of GBV among women when they are forced to be in close proximity with unfamiliar men.⁴⁰ Fear of harassment reduces women's mobility and access to resources, and affects their willingness and ability to participate in school, work, and public life. Inadequate or unsafe roads and sidewalks that limit access to transport and mobility is another concern for both women and men, posing increased risk of traffic accidents or death especially among young men.⁴¹ Ensuring that differentiated needs of urban individuals inform inclusive transport and mobility planning can dramatically improve equitable sustainable development outcomes.

ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE INTERVENTION FOR URBAN MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

INTERVENTION IN ACTION

Consult with diverse groups of women and men to gain insight into gender-differentiated transportation use, preferences, and mobility patterns.

Identify culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive training and employment opportunities for women and men in planning, construction, and management of transportation operations, including as drivers and traffic enforcement officers, as well as small-scale commerce operators in transportation hubs and along long-distance transportation routes.

Focus on women's safety as a priority for public transportation, including by performing safety audits, promoting anti-harassment awareness building campaigns, designating separate rail cars or sections for women, and implementing policies for buses to make stops between stations after a certain hour at night.

Design streets that are safe for all members of the community, including by promoting good walking environments and facilitating cycling and public transportation accessibility.

[Gender and public transport: Kathmandu, Nepal](#)

[Approaches for gender responsive urban mobility: Sustainable transport - A sourcebook for policy-makers in developing cities \[p. 29\]](#)

[Women's safety audit in public transport in Lahore](#)

[Access and gender: Sustainable urban mobility with a gender equality lens \[p. 18\]](#)

USAID IN ACTION: URBAN GENDER ANALYSIS TO INFORM PROJECT APPRAISAL DOCUMENT

In 2016, USAID prepared the Urban Gender Analysis and Strategy to accompany the Urban Office's Project Appraisal Document (PAD). The purpose of this gender analysis is to determine how USAID Urban Office activities can further understanding of gender-related issues and identify interventions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in urban programming. The gender analysis provides an overview of the roles of women and men in urban settings and examples of gender disparities in laws, policies, social norms, cultural beliefs, and institutional practices. While it is a general overview of gender issues in a wide-range of urban sectors, it provides a framework, recommendations, and additional resources for designing gender-informed urban interventions and conducting additional research to develop a gender analyses for specific activities, making it broadly applicable for all USAID projects in urban settings.

For more information visit: <https://urban-links.org/resources/support-urban-policy-soup-project-gender-analysis-strategy/>

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[UrbanLinks](#)

- USAID knowledge platform

The UrbanLinks Knowledge Sharing Platform provides resources on sustainable urban development and up-to-date information on current USAID urban projects and activities.

[IUCN Urban Conservation Strategies Specialist Group](#)

- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

This Specialist Group works to expand and improve management of urban conservation and protected areas by strengthening collaboration between the conservation community and urban people, places, and institutions.

[Building a safer world: Toolkit for integrating GBV prevention and response into USAID energy and infrastructure projects](#)

- USAID 2015

This toolkit outlines guidance and provides resources for USAID technical and program officers to prevent and respond to GBV in energy and infrastructure projects, including illustrative gender analysis questions, a safety audit tool, and USAID strategies and indicators.

[Women's Economic Empowerment and Equality in Waste Management and Recycling Assessment and Fact Sheet](#)

- USAID

This assessment outlines barriers and opportunities for women's economic empowerment and equality in waste management and recycling (WMR) with a particular focus on women workers in the WMR sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Online sourcebook: Integrating gender in climate change adaptation proposals - Section 7.9, Module I: Urbanization and cities](#)

- USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)

This living sourcebook is for individuals and teams preparing large-scale adaptation project proposals and provides strategies for incorporating gender considerations into proposals. Section 7.9, Module I outlines gender issues in urbanization and cities, the connection to climate change adaptation, potential gender entry points in urban projects, and examples of monitoring impacts.

[Gender responsive public services: Pathways to equitable economic growth in cities](#)

- Cities Alliance 2017

This paper presents six city case studies that examine how local interventions gender-responsive urban service delivery, and it outlines a framework and enabling conditions for assessing and improving the gender responsiveness of urban services.

[Gender-inclusive approaches in urban development](#)

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2013

This tip sheet outlines gender-responsive strategies in urban planning to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment.

[Gender-responsive urban basic services](#)

- UN-Habitat 2013

Part of the Gender Issue Guide series by UN-Habitat, this guide focuses on basic services in urban areas and how gender affects equal access to these services. It outlines gender-responsive interventions to strengthen urban basic service programming.

[A compendium of case studies on gender mainstreaming initiatives in UN- Habitat, 2008-2012](#)

- UN-Habitat 2013

This resource details gender issues, strategies, and lessons learned for projects implemented by UN-Habitat that address a wide-range of urban issues from various regions, serving as a comprehensive learning and resource tool.

CITATIONS

1. White House. (2019). "Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Women's Global Development and Prosperity". At: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-promoting-womens-global-development-prosperity/>
2. 115th Congress of the United States of America. (2018). "Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act." At: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3247/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S3247%22%5D%7D&r=I&s=I>
3. United States Agency for International Development (USAID). (2012). *Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy*. At: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/GenderEqualityPolicy_0.pdf
4. Zweynert, A. (2018, April 30). UN urban chief on mission to reform and make cities better for women. *Thomas Reuters Foundation News*. At: <http://news.trust.org/item/20180430220808-6mfew/>
5. Cities Alliance. (2017, October 19). *A gender-responsive urban environment can address inequality and foster equitable economic growth*. At: <http://www.citiesalliance.org/gender-eeg>
6. Zweynert, A. (2018, April 30). UN urban chief on mission to reform and make cities better for women. *Thomas Reuters Foundation News*. At: <http://news.trust.org/item/20180430220808-6mfew/>
7. UN DESA. (2018). *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*. At: <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-KeyFacts.pdf>
8. UN-Habitat. (2016). *Slum almanac 2015-2016: Tracking improvement in the lives of slum dwellers*. Nairobi: UNON.
9. UNDP. (2009). *Resource guide on gender and climate change*. At: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/downloads/Resource_Guide_English_FINAL.pdf
10. Alber, G. (2011). *Global report on human settlements: Gender, cities and climate change*. UN Habitat
11. UNDESA. (2015). *The world's women 2015: Trends and statistics*. United Nations: New York.
12. Muteshi-Strachan, J. (2013). *Gender issue guide: Gender responsive urban basic services*. Nairobi: UN Habitat
13. UN Water. (2017). *The United Nations world water development report 2017: Wastewater: The untapped resource*. Paris: UNESCO
14. UN-Habitat. (2013). *Gender issue guide: Gender-responsive urban basic services*. Nairobi: Author
15. UN Water. (2017). *The United Nations world water development report 2017: Wastewater: The untapped resource*. Paris: UNESCO
16. Sommer, M., Kwauk, C., & Fyles, N. (2018, January 28). *Gender sensitive sanitation: Opportunities for girl's education*. At: <http://womendeliver.org/2018/gender-sensitive-sanitation-opportunities-girls-education/>
17. Scheinberg, A., Simpson, M.H., Gupta, Y. et al (2010). *Economic aspects of the informal sector in solid waste*. Eschborn, Germany: GTZ (German Technical Cooperation)
18. UN-Habitat. (2010). *Solid waste management in the world's cities 2010*. At: https://thecitywasteproject.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/solid_waste_management_in_the_worlds-cities.pdf
19. de Brito, D. (2012). *Waste and gender: Rethinking relations for empowerment*. At: <http://www.wiego.org/informal-economy/waste-gender-rethinking-relations-empowerment>
20. Scheinberg, A., Simpson, M.H., Gupta, Y. et al (2010). *Economic aspects of the informal sector in solid waste*. Eschborn, Germany: GTZ (German Technical Cooperation)
21. WIEGO. (n.d.). *Waste pickers*. At: <http://www.wiego.org/informal-economy/occupational-groups/waste-pickers>
22. Ibid.
23. Martinez, C. (2010). Informal waste-pickers in Latin America: Sustainable and equitable solutions in the dumps. In J.A.F. Stoner & C. Wankel (Eds.) *Global sustainability as a business imperative* (pp. 199-217). New York, NY: Palgrave Sustainability through Business Series
24. Scheinberg, A., Simpson, M.H., Gupta, Y. et al (2010). *Economic aspects of the informal sector in solid waste*. Eschborn, Germany: GTZ (German Technical Cooperation)
25. International Energy Agency (IEA). (2017). *Energy access outlook 2017: From poverty to prosperity*.
26. Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). (2011). *Improving energy access to the urban poor in developing countries*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank
27. Putti, V.A. (2011, November 15). *Energy access for poor in urban and peri-urban areas - An emerging challenge* [Presentation]. Dakar, Senegal: The World Bank
28. USAID. (2012). *Toward gender equality in Europe and Eurasia: A toolkit for analysis*. Washington, D.C.: Author
29. UN-Habitat. (n.d.) *Enhanced energy access for urban poor: Best practice case book*.
30. Ibid.

31. Muteshi-Strachan, J. (2013). *Gender issue guide: Gender responsive urban basic services*. Nairobi: UN Habitat
32. UN-Habitat. (n.d.) *Enhanced energy access for urban poor: Best practice case book*.
33. Muteshi-Strachan, J. (2013). *Gender issue guide: Gender responsive urban basic services*. Nairobi: UN Habitat
34. Martínez, C.F. & Santibáñez, N.W. (2015). Women's mobility in Santiago, Chile: Reproduction of inequalities in the metropolis, neighbourhood, and public space. *Brasileira de Gestão Urbana Magazine*, 7(1)
35. UN-Habitat. (2016). *Urbanization and development: Emerging futures*. Nairobi: Author
36. Uteng, T.P. (2011). *Gendered bargains of daily mobility: Citing cases from both urban and rural settings*. World Bank
37. Muteshi-Strachan, J. (2013). *Gender issue guide: Gender responsive urban basic services*. Nairobi: UN Habitat
38. USAID. (2016). *Mexico energy efficiency assessment for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation*. Washington, D.C.: Author
39. Reuters. (2014, October 28). Exclusive-poll: Latin American cities have most dangerous transport for women, NYC best [Blog post]. At: <https://uk.reuters.com/article/women-poll/exclusive-poll-latin-american-cities-have-most-dangerous-transport-for-women-nyc-best-idUKL6N0S32MQ20141029>
40. Maqsood, F. (2017, June 9). Women's safety audit introduced in Pakistan to make public transport safe for women: UN. At: <https://www.brecorder.com/2017/06/09/353615/womens-safety-audit-introduced-in-pakistan-to-make-public-transport-safe-for-women-un/>
41. Babinard, J. (2011, July 3). *How to mainstream gender in transport? It should not be complicated for transport engineers* [Blog post]. At: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/transport/how-to-mainstream-gender-in-transport>



NICOLAS MARINO | ALAMY

IUCN

Cate Owren, Senior Gender Programme Manager
Global Programme on Governance and Rights
1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009
202-387-4826
gender@iucn.org

USAID

Corinne Hart, Senior Advisor for Gender
and Environment
Office for Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment
202-712-4030
cohart@usaid.gov