



**GENDER AND YOUTH POLICIES AND STRATEGIES
HOW CAN THESE HELP TRANSITIONS TOWARDS INNOVATIVE AND
EVIDENCE-BASED WATER INITIATIVES IN AFRICA?**

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A sub-committee of the African Union specialized technical committee
on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

BACKGROUND

- One woman out of 3 in the world is exposed to diseases, shame, harassment or abuse due to lack of access to toilet (JMP, 2019)
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 71% of water collection task is left for women (2020 Water Barometer)
- Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related disease, majority of them women and children
- Women and girls spend about 770 million hours weekly collecting water (JMP 2019)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) accounts for nearly 50% of the costs of achieving basic access, and 39% of the global costs of achieving safely managed sanitation (UNICEF 2020)

CONTINENTAL COMMITMENTS TO GENDER AND YOUTH INITIATIVES

- Africa Agenda 2063 and AU cross cutting Aspirations (3 and 6)
- Sharm El Sheik 2008
- Ngor Commitments 2015
- SDGs 2030 (1, 3, 5, 6)
- African Union 2015 Year of Women Empowerment
- The 2003 Maputo Protocol for human and peoples rights
- AMCOW Gender Policy and Strategy (2011) and Youth Strategy (2013)

GENDER AND YOUTH STRATEGIES

HOW CAN THESE HELP TRANSITIONS TOWARDS INNOVATIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED WATER INITIATIVES IN AFRICA?

- Provides solid foundations for gender and youth policy planning and mainstreaming into WASH
- Provides foundations for disaggregated data collection for policy formulation and evidenced advocacy
- The strategies also presents opportunities for innovative financing and capacity building
- Strategies also provides opportunities for holding high level decision makers accountable
- Opportunities for research and application of science and technology to WASH solutions
- Gender and youth recognition as Human rights issues

INNOVATIVE GENDER AND YOUTH INITIATIVES IN AFRICA

- **Young Water Solutions:** Rainwater Harvesting in Hakibale in Uganda.
- **Young Water Solutions:** Integrated Water/Food Security for Wara, BF.
- **UNESCO GenderInSITE:** Promoting women initiatives in the sciences.
- **Football for WASH in Africa:** Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique
- **WSUP:** Building capacities of young Artisans and Entrepreneurs
- **WASH awards by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS)**
 - ✓ University of Witwatersrand: Software to alert Women where to find a safe latrine in cities
 - ✓ Digital Water Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), Uganda
 - ✓ AMREF One stop Sanitation Solutions Centre, Uganda
 - ✓ Duzi Umngeni Conservation Trust: Use ICT to monitor pollution in South Africa

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate sex disaggregated data for policy formulation and planning
- Lack of innovative youth and gender initiatives for WASH
- Inadequate capacity and skills to deliver gender and youth sensitive WASH initiatives
- Lack of initiative and self-confidence on women and youth
- GBV and Discrimination, harassment and social stigma associated with some occupations
- Inadequate funding for gender and youth sensitive WASH initiatives

CALL TO ACTION

1. **Heads of State:** To recognise the essential role of women and youth initiatives in the formulation and Roll Out of Policies i.e the ASPG
2. **Member States:** Formulate youth and gender sensitive WASH policies
3. **AU/AMCOW:** Creation and or strengthen existing platforms for regional and continental dialogues, coordination and cooperation
4. **African CSOs:** To undertake Youth and Gender focused institutional and Individual capacity buildings
5. **AfDB:** To support the financing of innovative WASH start-ups by youth
6. **ANew:** To lead the formation of African Women Platform for Champions and Change Agents
7. **AMCOW:** Establish E-learning Platforms for learning and sharing
8. **Academia:** Gender and youth research to generate real time data for planning
9. **AU:** To create space for women and youth to participate at high level decision making platforms for WASH



THANK YOU

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