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The allocation of human and financial resources for gender mainstreaming in the water sector - The case of Cameroon

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INTRODUCTION

- **The idea of developing the AMCOW Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa appeared at the first Africa Water Week in Tunis in 2008.**
- **AMCOW then appeared as a suitable solution for a better understanding and address of Gender issues by states, development banks, and partners.**
- **In 2011, forty African countries had endorsed the AMCOW initiative.**
- **The development of a regional water policy and its implementation are now deemed necessary by the member countries of the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS),**
 - **For the objectives of development (poverty reduction, strengthening of food security , promotion of socio -economic development and Protection of vital ecosystems),**
 - **To deal with problems, challenges and current issues specific to water (fight against floods, mitigation of drought, access to drinking water, hygiene education, housing and sanitation, fight against the rising competition for and water scarcity in the sub-region in general.**

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Our objectives are to assess :
- The situation of the allocation of human and financial resources to achieve the objectives of the policy and strategy of AMCOW for gender mainstreaming in the water sector in Cameroon,
- Whether conditions for gender mainstreaming have been established at a level that allows the development of an initial budget, and that can serve as a basis for resources mobilization,
- **Whether human and financial resources are mobilized to achieve the objectives of the policy and strategy of AMCOW,**
- **If the technical capacity of stakeholders who are committed to gender mainstreaming has been ensured,**
- Another objective of our study is, taking the shortcomings into account, to propose solutions that are likely to improve the situation.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

- **The gender budgeting is based (inspired) on international agreements such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action, but also Millennium Development Goals. The first of such budget was developed by the federal government in Australia in 1984 .**
- **In Cameroon :**
- **To accelerate the reduction of gender inequality in the country, the Head of State gave instructions for the integration of gender in a circular letter so as to ensure better planning and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB),**
- **Several departments are committed to reducing gender gaps within their department as MINFI, MINEPAT MINPROFF and Ministry of Health (MOH) at the institutional level, and MINTAD at regional and local authority's level.**
- **We should note the existence of a National Gender Policy to guide development initiatives for reducing inequalities between men & women,**
- **We should also note the existence of Gender Focal Point in every Ministry in Cameroon**

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

- **In Cameroon, the following actions were taken:**
- **The Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF) with the support of (UNIFEM) Launched a Program of awareness seminars & training for government agencies, the Gender Focal Points of the Ministries, the national parliament, local authorities, organizations of civil society and the private sector on the subject,**
- **In 2005, UNIFEM, in partnership with the MINPROFF, UNDP and UNFPA launched an advocacy initiative for gender budgeting in Cameroon. It has sensitized some ministers and served as a catalyst for the future,**
- **As concrete results of these awareness (seminars and training), some departments of Ministries have granted budget lines for the development of activities in favor of women. Ex : the Ministry of Commerce has planned a budget allocation in Budget 2008 to support women involved in informal cross-border trade in Cameroon.**

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

- **According to the National Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PANGIRE), the water sector is mainly financed by external resources.**
- **The water sector in general and rural water supply in particular is mainly financed by external resources (loans or grants to the State);**
- **Out of 37.9 billion CFA Francs on investments in Village water from 1997 to 2003, 68% came from external funding. Other resources are mobilized to finance the sub-sector like contributions from beneficiaries.**

CONCLUSION

- ***We have seen that at the level of the mobilization of human resources :***
Decree No. 2001/161/PM of 08 May 2001 has established a National Water Committee to consider and propose to the Government any measures or actions aimed at ensuring the conservation, the protection and the use of water and issue opinions on questions or problems relating to water following any demand made by the Government, to make to the Government any proposals or recommendations contributing to the rational water management,
- ***We have seen that as far as the mobilization of financial resources is concerned :***
the water sector is mainly financed by external resources (loans or grants to the State).
- We have also seen that there is existence of the weaknesses in the financing of water including the lack of taking into account of water at the political level as a strategic sector from the economic and social development,
- The fact that the special account is not operational, conduct to the low rate of implementation of the investment budget, the non-fulfillment of commitments, particularly regarding the urban water and the lack of a mechanism for taking into account all aspect of the management (Gender)

CONCLUSION (Continuation)

- We have found that the financial resources injected into the rural water sector are mainly endogenous resources from the public investment budget and resources provided by international cooperation (international donors and non-governmental funds) and the urban water supply is managed by private sector (CAMWATER and CDE), and that it receives its resources from the exploitation of these two structures,
- We have also noted the contribution of other stakeholders, including municipalities, and the support of several national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious missions, the local private sector and certain associations in the environment for the satisfaction of the needs of the populations with regard to water and sanitation populations.

CONCLUSION (Continuation)

- We have noted that the strategic approach adopted by Cameroon is amongst others to liberalize the sector of education and training, to enhance the emergence of the private sector, to promote free education in the primary education; to involve all stakeholders in the establishment of environmental awareness process, while putting emphasis on the gender approach.
- In this perspective, governments, political parties, policy makers, the private sector, trade unions , non-governmental organizations, traditional structures, etc. are all actors and targets;
- We have seen regarding the ensuring of the technical capacity of the stakeholders involved in gender mainstreaming that Cameroon has strengthened the capacity of national staff in planning and Gender responsive budgeting through awareness and training seminars (stage of awareness)

SUGGESTIONS

- For a better allocation of human and financial resources for gender mainstreaming in the water sector, Cameroon should :
- At the level of the conditions of gender mainstreaming, the experience of the GRB must go beyond the stage of awareness;
- The initiatives that the Ministry of Commerce has allocated a budget line to support the fight against gender gaps in its program budget; and that some municipalities which have started the application of the GRB at the local level should be extended to the gender mainstreaming in the water sector;
- At the level of the mobilization of human resources, the National Water Committee established by Decree No. 2001/161/PM of 8 May 2001 should work hard to achieve that goal by studying and proposing to the Government any measures or actions in that connection;
- It would be advisable for this Committee to seek the contributions of any person may be considered able to make major contributions

SUGGESTIONS (continuation)

- **At the level of the mobilization of financial resources, water should be placed at the center of the economic and social development that the special fund should be made operational,**
- **The mobilization of financial resources can rely on the tax legislation on the funding and the development of water and sanitation, namely the sanitation tax, the levy fees and the value added tax,**
- **For a better allocation of human resources to gender mainstreaming in the water sector, it is desirable that the actions initiated to ensure the technical capacity of stakeholders involved in this integration including awareness and training seminars be pursued, especially for the newly elected MPs, mayors and councilors.**

THANKS YOU

