SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, PRIVATE AND NEARBY:
INVOLVING WOMEN IN IMPROVING WATER AND SANITATION
THE KEY TO MEET THE MDG WATER AND SANITATION TARGET

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De National’s Women’s Movement Suriname, specializes in:

- Capacity strengthening
- Economic strengthening
Suriname Interior

- Rural
- Forested
- Isolated
- 80% of countries surface
- Indigenous and Maroons
- Small communities
- Traditional inherited position
Public services

Extremely scarce:

- Education, health care, potable water, sanitation
- Electricity, communication, transport, infrastructure
Economic activities

- Agriculture
- Hunting
- Fishing
Access to water

- Urban areas 92.6%
- Interior 20.0%
- Sipaliwini district 6.9%
Collection and storage of rain water

- Small scale (household level)
- Not structured
- Primitive
- Poor information on storage and treatment
Access to sanitation

- Urban areas 92.6%
- Interior 30.5%
- Sipaliwini district 23.1%
Position of Women

- Vicious circle of heavy daily physical labour, poverty and low chances for development
- 14% no income at all
- Majority: very low incomes
- Income generating activities other than agriculture are scarce
- Incomes from agriculture are low
- Sources for additional support are scarce
Position of Women

- Women’s capacity of accessing to basic needs (education, health, water, sanitation) is low

- Lack of basic facilities hampers their possibilities to reach a basic level of welfare
Position of women related to water and sanitation

- Primary responsibility for fetching water (sick, pregnant, elderly women!)
- Primary responsibility to wash dishes and clothes in the rivers, distances to cover
- Long distances to the rivers over clay/muddy soil
- Extra daily work load in addition to food production and food preparation
- Girls assist mothers and often miss school classes
Approach NVB: safe drinking water and sanitation for interior Sustainable development

Poverty eradication/economic strengthening

- Agric. productivity: food production/commercial agriculture/irrigation
- Income generation: alternative sources of income
- Village credit systems
Approach NVB: safe drinking water and sanitation for interior Sustainable development

**Sustainability**

- Establish local w + s authorities/committees
- Train and empower local w+s committees
  - technical/vocational
  - health, environment, quality control
  - orga & management
  - networking
  - negotiating
  - gender and development, related to w+s
Approach NVB: safe drinking water and sanitation for interior Sustainable development

- Provide technical assistance and coaching to w+s committees
- Help define + formalize roles and responsibilities of all local stakeholders, incl. local and national government
- Coach w+s committees in order to reach ownership (tariffs, micro enterprises, credit systems)
Integrated approach:

One long term programme:
- Drinking water
- Sanitation/hygiene
- Production/irrigation
- Waste water treatment
- Environment protection
- Gender equality
Participatory

- Involvement of local population and traditional authority in every stage

- Implementation in stages, according to absorption and management capability local community
Multi-stakeholder partnership

- Involve all stakeholders in planning, implementation, evaluation
- Stakeholders: government agencies, NGO’s/CBO’s, service clubs, private sector, internat. agencies, donors
- Define roles and responsibilities
Multi donor partnership

- Involve various donors
- Define roles and responsibilities of donor agencies
- Sensitize on
  - Gender equality needs
  - Capacity strengthening needs
Gender based

Practical level

- Access (drinking) water close to the homes: decrease time spent to fetch water, women and girls.
- Facilitate easy access of women to sanitation facilities.
- Implement irrigation activities for women’s agricultural plots.
Gender based

Strategic level

- women involved in planning and design of programme and in planning and design of w+s facilities
  - National level
  - Village level
- women’s participation in meetings at all levels facilitated and encouraged
Gender based

Strategic level:

- trainers team composition: proportionally female (both vocational and non-vocational training programmes);
- trainers team: gender sensitized
- training activities: women local level access to training and information general; to W+S and health; women involved in vocational training related to W+S
Gender based

Strategic level

- women’s access to credit facilities, employment, micro-business facilitated

- national and local government and local authorities sensitized on gender related to w+s and health
Gender based- Strategic Level ctd

- women proportionally represented in w+s committees and other local organizations and bodies of importance
- gender analysis and gender impact as tool for implem., evaluation, monitoring
- influence nat. govt. policy
  - Gender Network
  - Network of NGO’s operating in the Interior
  - National Network of NGO’s
Key issues and lessons learned

- Participation from day one of the local community and especially the women is crucial.
- Capacity strengthening and empowerment of the local community and women groups leads to sustainable projects.
- Without this process and funding for the process only short term problems will be solved.
Thank you very much

Nat. Women’s Movement Suriname (NGO)

Women for Water Partnership (WfWfW)