

WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

www.hydroaid.it

Statement for the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Summary

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls is a top development priority and a complex challenge for all countries. Hydroaid's strategy focuses on integrated approaches for achieving multi-objective goals and ensuring long-lasting effects.

Statement

Gender-based violence has been recognized by the UN as “the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world” and up to date one third of the women worldwide have experienced emotional harassment, isolation, intimidation, physical or sexual violence at least once in their life. Violence against women occurs both in the public and in the private sphere, across all societies, with women particularly at risk in developing countries. Good development plans must therefore include violence prevention goals as the safety and security of women is crucial to set up the necessary conditions for ensuring a peaceful existence, raising life quality standards and supporting self and community improvement processes.

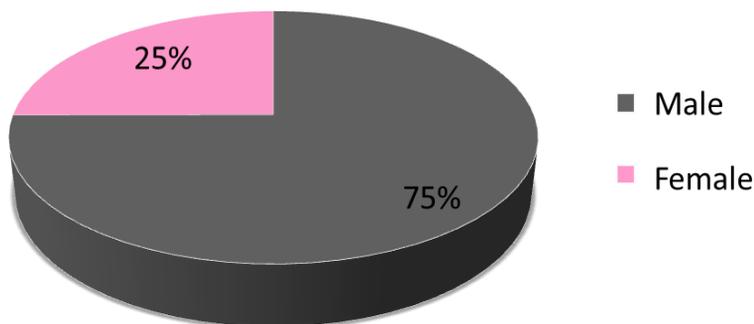
Fostering education is probably the most effective and widespread strategy for achieving these goals because as female education rises, women acquire skills and possibilities to negotiate their conditions as well as options and choices for their personal safety and well-being, while not educated women are unable to claim their own rights and continue to live in abusive relationships, with limited opportunities and scarce access to justice and services. However, education alone is not enough to sustain full, long lasting development processes and we believe more successful actions could be implemented within an integrated approach.

Hydroaid acknowledges the importance of women's role in the society and strives to enhance their opportunities by promoting and facilitating their access to vocational training in the field of natural resources management. Our focus area, the water resource management, is indeed fundamental in the establishing of development loops and best practices and women are traditionally deeply involved in it. In this perspective we consider women's empowerment an investment for the future and the heart of a sound development agenda. While encouraging equal sharing of responsibilities and access to opportunities, Hydroaid also contributes to the achievement of MDG 3 about gender equality and focuses on the promotion of women's participation as key strategy for guaranteeing awareness and long lasting effects.



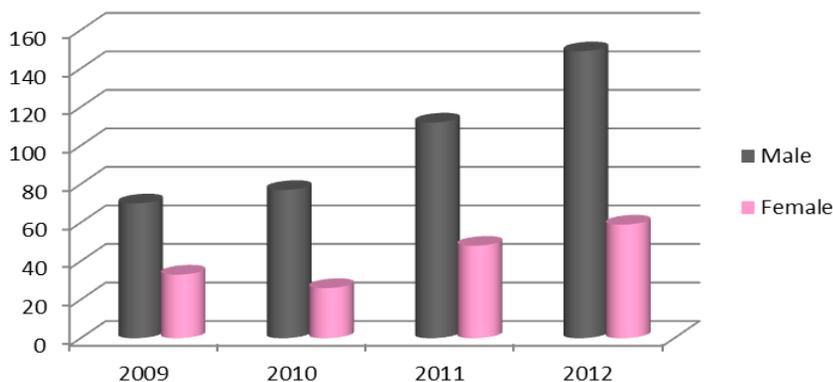
In all our programs we employ an integrated approach combining solid vocational training, equal opportunities treatment and women's participation support that eventually reinforces the international women's empowerment efforts.

Participants' gender distribution in Hydroaid training courses



Women's participation remains a critical issue in most societies and in our opinion there is no doubt it is essential to promote comprehensive cultural and economic policies as well as to achieve real social justice.

Women's participation growth In Hydroaid training courses



In conclusion, we believe that increasing investments in education for women and girls is to be considered a top priority and that it should be accomplished in accordance with integrated development programs including (i) enforcement of appropriate legislation for gender based violence prevention and equal employment opportunities, (ii) involvement of women in development and policy dialogues and (iii) support actions for the victims and the most vulnerable subjects through adequate assistance services.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



CITTA' DI TORINO

