



Applying a Social Inclusion Lens to the Transboundary Water Context Cooperation in International Waters in Africa Tool

Prepared by Ellen Hagerman, Senior Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor

OVERVIEW

At the core of the World Bank Group's development mandate is a commitment to protect those who are most vulnerable so that everyone – regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, or disability – can benefit from development. The Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) is a World Bank program that provides support to address constraints to cooperative management and development of transboundary waters in sub-Saharan Africa. CIWA is committed to fostering an inclusive approach to the programming it supports. Concretely, CIWA wants to ensure that stakeholders directly involved with CIWA projects have sufficient understanding and capacity to create opportunities to promote equality and inclusion for women and men in all their diversities and sources of vulnerability within the transboundary water context.

CIWA has therefore developed a tool kit specifically targeted to social development and related experts working to provide technical expertise on the development and implementation of CIWA programming at the institutional and project level. Working together with CIWA teams, it provides significant detail to assist experts to understand the critical steps they can take to facilitate the integration of social inclusion considerations throughout the project cycle. This note has been developed to provide an overview to CIWA staff members and partners of some of the main steps that can be taken so they can play a support role in the development and implementation of socially-inclusive programs within the transboundary water context at the project and institutional level.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Social Exclusion

Social exclusion is a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Social exclusion can lead to lower social standing, accompanied by lower outcomes in terms of income, human capital endowments, access to employment and services, and voice in national and local decision making.

Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion assumes that men and women are not homogeneous. Instead, they are stratified according to a diversity of identities and vulnerabilities. Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society by creating opportunities for all people and by addressing deep-rooted systemic inequalities.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Anticipate Challenges in Addressing Social Exclusion

The adoption of an approach to addressing social exclusion can be difficult within the transboundary water context due to the challenges that need to be considered particularly when it comes to developing a water project at the regional or transboundary level. This includes a lack of access to disaggregated data as well as challenges excluded groups face in accessing opportunities to voice needs and concerns.

Plan and Budget for the Integration of Social Inclusion Throughout the Project Cycle

The integration of a social inclusion perspective should ideally begin from the start of the project cycle and be coordinated throughout design, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases of a transboundary water project. It is important to budget for social inclusion activities to be undertaken over the long term and across multiple levels and sectors where the transboundary project is operating such as water, environment and climate change.

OPTIONS TO ADDRESS ISSUES FACED BY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS AT THE DESIGN PHASE

The design phase can offer an early opportunity to identify the diversity of identities and sources of vulnerability for the target groups being considered for a transboundary water project. It is critical to find ways to address specific issues that disadvantaged groups face. Key steps include:



- Conduct a secondary literature review as a first step before moving to primary research.
- Gather disaggregated data related to the different vulnerable groups linked to the project.
- Conduct data analysis to determine what is being said about particular vulnerable groups of relevance to the project and to identify what information is missing.
- Map out partner organizations that can provide relevant information on vulnerable groups.
- Identify different vulnerable groups to determine their ability to participate and to derive benefits from a transboundary project or program.
- Conduct inclusive consultations to gather data directly from disadvantaged groups. This includes using participatory methodologies to accommodate specific vulnerabilities such as enabling illiterate people to make drawings to communicate their needs or concerns.
- Undertake stakeholder analysis using a diversity of methods to gather the perceptions, needs and possible benefits for different marginalized individuals and groups.
- Gather evidence using a multi-method approach by drawing upon a diversity of sources of qualitative and quantitative data gathered through primary and secondary research.



ACTIONS TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND MEN IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITIES AT THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE



- Identify and prioritize actions that benefit and empower women in all their diversities.
- Integrate the participation of disadvantaged groups into the project implementation phase to ensure that their differing needs, preferences, and constraints are addressed.
- Access local knowledge and resilience strategies of vulnerable groups to develop effective and equitable solutions aligned to the context of the transboundary project.

USING MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M & E) PROCESSES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY TO VULNERABLE GROUPS



- Incorporate M & E strategies that consider gender and social inclusion dimensions.
- Build M & E into the project at the planning phase and integrate it throughout the project cycle to facilitate a comprehensive reflection on social inclusion issues.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AT THE TRANSBOUNDARY INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL



- Start from the understanding that there are different perspectives, each of which is valuable
- Identify the barriers holding back people from participation and put forward measures to overcome these obstacles.
- Ensure that a diversity of stakeholders - ranging from staff to ministerial representatives - feel safe to speak up and that their opinions are acknowledged.
- Factor in and accommodate the equitable representation and participation of a diversity of stakeholders in key transboundary institutions to enable an equitable distribution of resources.
- Ensure access to key resources, participation in decision-making processes and empowerment are key elements at the institutional level.
- Apply a Gender and Social Inclusion lens to the governance of the institution to assess whether and how selection, appraisal, promotion and evaluation practices is conducted.



TO ACCESS THE CIWA SOCIAL INCLUSION TOOL KIT, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)