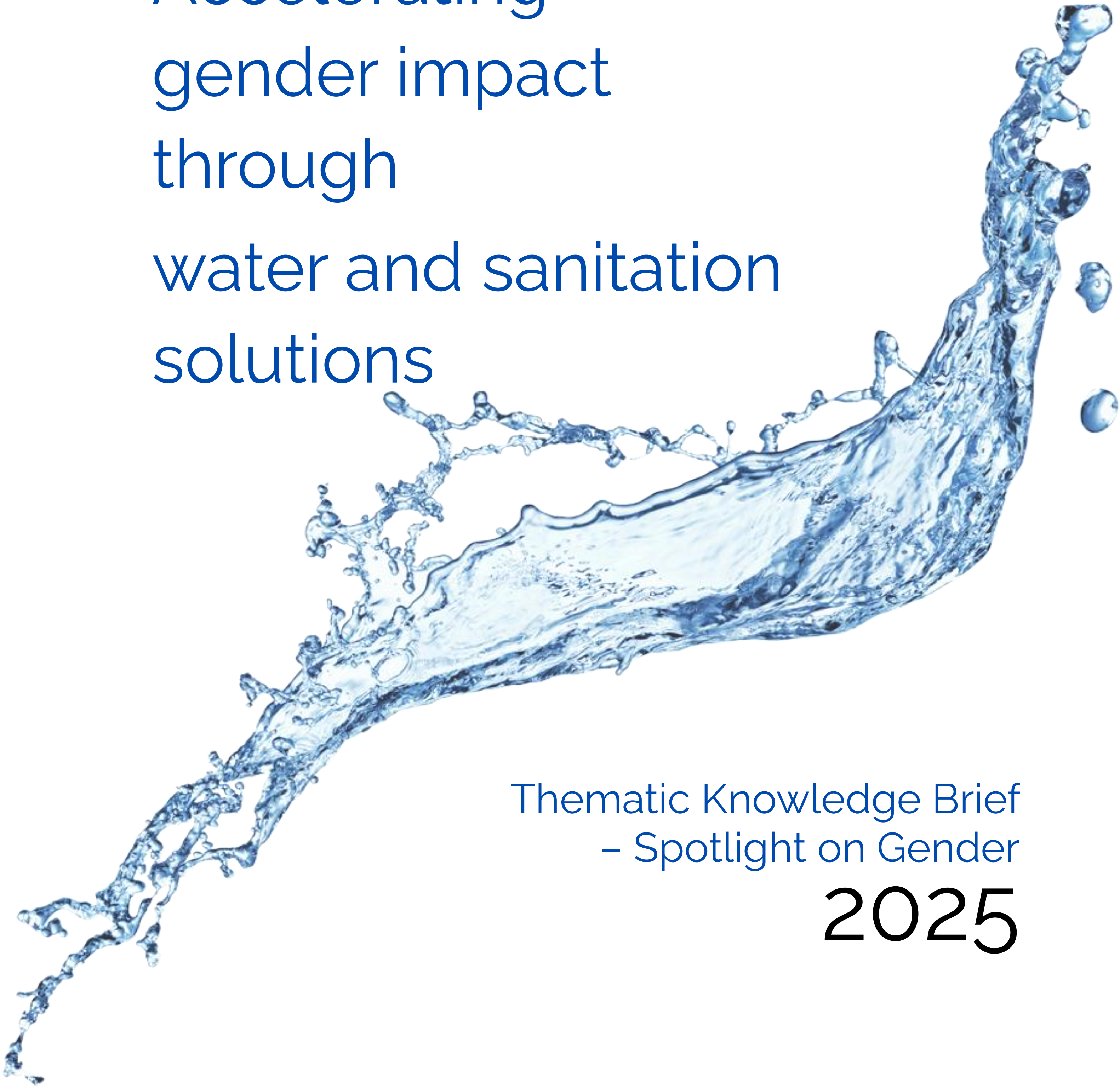
Aqua for All

Accelerating gender impact through water and sanitation solutions



Thematic Knowledge Brief – Spotlight on Gender

2025

Aqua for All gender ambitions and approach

Igniting change for all, supporting inclusion and diversity

At Aqua for All, we are driven by delivering impact, igniting market change, supporting inclusion and diversity. These values are core to our work and culture. As per our ToC, our ultimate impact goal is to increase access to safe water and sanitation solutions that are inclusive, affordable, and sustainable. Fundamental to this is improving outcomes for women and girls.

In the sector we work in and at a variety of levels, an array of barriers prevents women and girls from participating in and benefitting from water and sanitation projects equitably. There is growing recognition that being intentional about advancing gender equity for women as consumers, managers, enterprise owners, can create tangible benefits for individuals, businesses and the wider community. Our approach is evolving and taking this broader scope into consideration.

The Aqua for All team is keen to further develop its strategic gender approach and this document is part of the process to further strategize, shape and operationalize our gender equity strategy and implementation plan as part of future programmes. Aqua for All's gender equity agenda is spearheaded by Aqua for All's CEO and practically led by the Lead Impact & Knowledge, in close cooperation with the relevant team members at Aqua for All.

How our approach aligns with the DGIS water results framework and methodology

In line with the DGIS methodological notes on the water results framework, at Aqua for All, gender is also considered a cross-cutting theme, as shown in our Theory of Change (ToC). We report on gender in our Annual Report, both quantitatively and qualitatively in a narrative. Aqua for All commits to the requirement to provide disaggregated data (male/female/unknown) for all indicators that measure a number of people. Considering there is no DGIS led harmonized approach for the monitoring of this theme yet, we look forward to share and discuss our approach with DGIS/IGG and relevant stakeholders at the Gender and Water Exchange Event on September 1st 2025.

Aqua for All gender commitments

At Aqua for All, we are fully committed to deliberately mainstream gender equity in our operations and the partnerships we support. We fully recognise our responsibility to safeguard women and girls across our operations. We aim to be gender intentional at three key levels:

1. Lead by example
2. Screen and monitor partnerships
3. Empower women and girls through our partnerships

In addition to being gender intentional, we aim to be gender transformational when its within our sphere of influence. As per the analysis in the Mid-term Review (MTR) that was published in 2023, our ILF and SIINC transactions can be used to specifically target and create change for women and girls, which is explained in more detail in the last section of this document.

Aqua for All's commitments at these three levels are as follows:

Lead by example

Guided by our values, we are committed to empower women. We lead by example. We include gender considerations in our policies and practices and external engagements. To do this, we:

- Demonstrate an internal commitment to empowering women:
    - We are proud of our female CEO, 50% of the Supervisory Board is female, more than 50% of the Management Team is female (2024-2025).
    - We are proud of our diverse team.
- Will make use of the diverse voices at external and internal engagements.
- Will be conscious in selecting images and visuals used in communications materials.
- Will continuously update our policies and practices with a gender lens (i.e. update our HR policies, recruitment practices, provide gender awareness training, etc.).

Screen and monitor partnerships

Guided by our ToC, we include gender considerations and criteria in our end-to-end partnership process. To achieve this, we:

- Include gender specific indicators in the updated results framework.
- We (will) systematically include gender considerations in our end-to-end partnership process, tools and templates, from screening to exit.
- The 2X gender framework is tailored to our dual approach and used to assess partnerships with funds ex-ante, during implementation and ex-post.
- We will apply gender disaggregated monitoring and collection of data

Empower women and girls through our partnerships

We are committed to advance gender across our partnerships and be transformational where possible. We all seek for opportunities to improve gender outcomes among our partnerships. At Aqua for All we are working to include gender considerations in every part of the partnership process, its tools and templates. We envision this broadly as follows, and more specifically as indicated in the instrument specific process flows:

To achieve our overall ambition to empower women and girls through our partnerships, we:

- Use ILF transactions to be transformative on gender (provide incentives related to gender targets).
- Actively explore how partnerships can have additional benefits for women and girls.
- Actively support female led enterprises, or enterprises that focus on women as producers/ consumers.
- Actively support financial institutions that support female empowerment at managerial levels.
- Explore and disseminate best practice on the climate for water, sanitation and gender nexus.
- Mainstream gender across training materials and deliver gender focused training to partners to fulfil their gender ambitions.

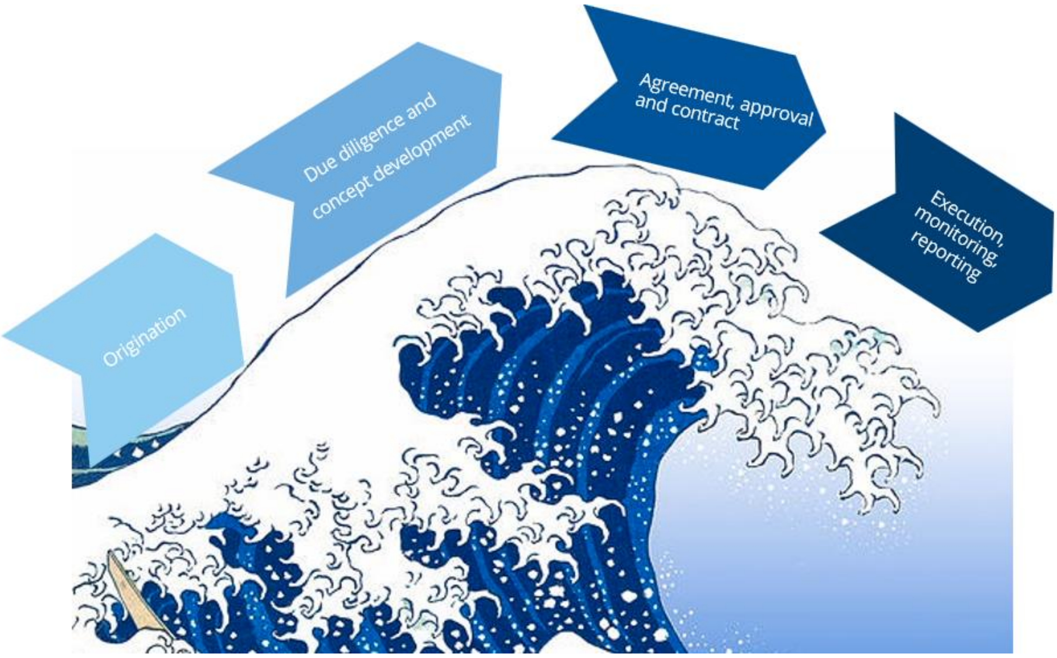
- Proactively develop partnerships with funders that promote inclusive outcomes.
- Proactively share knowledge and learnings on our gender efforts with a wider audience.
- Ensure (through TA support) that funds embed a gender-focused strategy in case there are clear gaps in the partners' approach.

Achieving gender equity is a process

How we screen and monitor partnerships

At Aqua for All we are working to include gender considerations in every part of the partnership process, its tools and templates. This is aligned with the process visualised in Figure 1 and specifically includes the following on gender:

Figure 1 Holistic approach to embedding gender



Origination: Each partnership is screened for gender considerations, and whether the partnership fulfils minimum gender criteria (do no harm), is gender intentional, or can be gender transformational.

Due diligence and concept development: Integration of gender considerations in due diligence questions and concept note. Questions include:

- Does the partner have an ESG framework (including a focus on gender) in place or does it intend to develop an ESG framework?
- Do you report on impact results (gender disaggregated) directly and indirectly?
- Does the partnership/transaction specifically target women/girls?
- How are/have women been involved in innovations, the product design?
- Does the project create employment (for women specifically)?
- Is the enterprise women led? How many (and %) women have managerial positions?
- How will this partnership/transaction be transformational for women?

Partnership managers will actively collaborate with the partner to seek opportunities to enhance gender opportunities through the transaction. We aim to ensure partners we work with have a similar gender commitment in place for their investees or beneficiaries.

Approval and partnership agreement: We ensure to asses proposals based on "gender-inclusiveness" and social sustainability "making water and sanitation interventions demand-driven, inclusive and needs-based, being sensitive to local and cultural incentives, addressing issues of exclusion and focusing specifically on women as change agents.

- Reporting on gender (quantitative and qualitative, direct and indirect) will be included as an obligation in the partnership contract.

Execution, monitoring and reporting:

- Partners report on gender (quantitative and qualitative, direct and indirect).
- The Aqua for All team shares gender specific case studies and lessons learnt.
- The Aqua for All team ensures gender is included in TA materials that are developed.
- The Aqua for All team actively works with portfolio partners to seek opportunities to enhance the gender ambition and gender activities.

Empowering women and girls through our partnerships: example of Sidian Bank, Kenya

In 2021, Aqua for All and Kenyan Sidian Bank launched an Emergency Response Facility for water and sanitation SMEs. This facility offered faster disbursement of lower-cost loans for water and sanitation businesses, made possible by Aqua for All's technical assistance and de-risking funds.

Loans were disbursed from August 2020 - January 2022 to:

- 618 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- 6 growth stage SMEs.
- 3 micro finance providers.

An independent review lauded the Response Facility as a strong and flexible response during the emergency. The facility achieved significant results in terms of outreach and water and sanitation-related benefits.

At end-user level:

- An estimated 832,098 people gained access to an improved nearby water supply. In total, approximately 1.39 million people were directly and indirectly reached through the products and services of MSMEs.
- Improved water quality and sufficient water for proper toilet hygiene were reported.
- In some cases, benefits included reduced queuing times, lower water costs (eliminating vendor purchases), and improved neighbourhood relations.

Impact on the market:

- Attracting capital: WaterEquity facilitated additional follow-up investments in water and sanitation initiatives through Sidian Bank.

- Following the success of Sidian Bank, other banks in Kenya were keen to develop water portfolios.

Sidian Bank III: WASH Loan programme with climate and gender nexus

Building on the success of the initial collaboration, Aqua for All, Sidian Bank, and other partners have co-created a new €7.4 million programme to finance water and sanitation investments with a focus on climate and gender impact. Launched on 20 June 2024, this three-year partnership includes a technical assistance grant to strengthen Sidian Bank's capacity to assess, originate, and finance bankable investments that are both gender-affirmative and climate-smart.

Sidian Bank's new impact strategy prioritises lending towards climate-smart investments. These investments focus on household connections, climate risk adaptation and mitigation, resilience, and MSMEs with a special focus on women-led or owned businesses, or those providing sanitation services targeting women.

The proposed project aims to facilitate Sidian Bank's lending to these target SMEs and private water service providers up to € 74 million within three years. 100% of the portfolio will target climate-smart infrastructure projects that focus on climate risk mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, with a gender lens in financing.

Image: partnership meeting with Sidian Bank, Kenya.

What have we done and what have we learnt (2019-2025)

Overview of insights and activities during our Making Water Count programme

Updated Theory of Change In 2023, we have developed a comprehensive ToC that visualises our strategy and dual approach to bridge the service and finance gaps in the water and sanitation sector, with a specific focus on climate and gender as a cross-cutting theme.

Updated Results Framework As mentioned in MTR (July 2023), developing an inclusive and pro-poor water and sanitation portfolio that focuses on affordability and inclusivity is included in Aqua for All's current results framework (MWC1). The gender-sensitive and pro-poor approach has been applied in many supported enterprises and remains a clear ambition in all of Aqua for All's work. Additionally, finance targets are included to economically empower people (including women) by building capacity and by stimulating jobs in sector and improve water and sanitation business performance- and value chain development. Additionally, stimulating women's empowerment with a gender-based approach crosscuts all levels of actions and underpins their corresponding targets.

As part of MWC1, Aqua for All currently looks specifically at the number of women separately from men for the following indicators:

- Nr of people reached with drinking water and sanitation
- Nr of people that have become self-employed or have a paid position as a result of the initiative
- Nr of people with capacity training
- Average time taken by women users to collect water/ use sanitation

Development of Equilo WE-WASH model At the start of MWC1, Equilo developed the "WE WASH model" for Aqua for All. This model quantifies the socio-economic benefits of water and sanitation improvements for women and girls using a Social Return on Investment (SROI) framework. The model estimates economic gains from time savings in water collection and sanitation, valuing these savings based on national income levels. It also incorporates cost reductions from improved health outcomes, such as lower incidence of waterborne diseases and reduced caregiving burdens. A more complex version of the model accounts for additional benefits, including increased economic participation, improved education, and reduced gender-based violence risks, making it a comprehensive tool for assessing the gendered impact of WASH interventions.

The Aqua for All team has, where possible, included the data needs in the partnerships' results frameworks. Considering most projects were still running, we have been waiting for end-line data before entering it into the model and are curious to see if partners have been capable to report on the requested data. Applying the WE-WASH model is included in our work programme. Our experiences so far have pointed out that the model in theory complies with international best practice, but applying the model in practice has not been as smooth as hoped for.

- 6 Making Water Count projects collected reliable data that could be used for analysis by the WE WASH model.
- Jointly, those projects created an annual value of productive time gained of US$ 891.985 and an annual value of averted disease/healthcare costs including 2 days caring time of US$ 5.974.523.
- This is a total annual credit value of US$ 6.866.508.
- If the impact results of all other MWC1 projects would have been included, this number would be significantly higher. However, most project partners struggled to collect data on "time saved by women". Restraints were mostly related to financial limitations of conduction surveys etc. on this indicator.

- Important note: the value of productive time gained is worth the same amount, regardless of how each woman chooses to use it. It could be paid work, unpaid work, or leisure.

MWC1 Portfolio Results and Review As analysed during the MTR (July 2023), in the case of Aqua for All's activities, results show an almost equal gender split across all levels of action and water and sanitation categories. This is unsurprising as many projects in Aqua for All's portfolio aim to increase access at least a neighborhood scale (e.g., through water service providers), thus targeting the general population. As this approach is in line with Aqua for All's strategic direction, enhancing the proportion of women beneficiaries can be steered more directly through SIINC/ILF transactions, that target women specifically.

The independent review of the Sidian Bank transaction highlighted the following: Aware of the challenges of indirect action, Aqua for All's IMM support has been crucial. For example, Sidian Bank was able to launch a M&E tool that could track indicators that the bank had previously been unable to track, including gender and labour statistics. The bank reported that this has improved customer segmentation, better targets women and has helped it draw lessons on product design. The bank has been able to extend this tool to other aspects of the business.

The Aqua for All team is currently in the process to analyse its MWC 1 portfolio with a gender lens. Initial results are expected Q3 2025 and final results will be reported on in the MWC1 end report (April 2026).

Assessment of Aqua for All against the 2X Criteria Aqua for All has screened its own performance against the 2X Challenge Criteria mid-2025.

2X Challenge Criteria (2025)		Threshold	Aqua for All	Evidence
Basic 2X ESG	Compliance with the EDFI Exclusion List and EDFI Fossil Fuel Exclusion List	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for Al has an exclusion list in place and does not approve projects or transactions that don't comply.
	Commitment to respecting human rights: ESG policy and processes that align to international standards	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for All has a code of conduct and ESG policy in place that are aligned to international best practices. Processes include IMM and ESG components.
	Demonstration of at least one Basic Gender-based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) safeguarding practice	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for All's HR policy and Code of Conduct includes non-discrimination elements based on gender as well as a section on sexual exploitation and abuse (GBVH).
Governance and accountability	Strategic action	Yes	Meets criteria	SDG5 is part of Aqua for All's strategic approach and ToC. Gender is included in Aqua for All as a cross-cutting theme.
	Management systems	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for All has gender commitments and approach included in its IMM manual, tools (scorecard), processes and systems (m-water).
	Gender data	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for All collects gender disaggregated data.
Quantitative criteria	1. Entrepreneurship/ownership: Founded by a woman (50%) or at least 51% shares owned by women	Yes	Partially meet criteria	Aqua for All meets the following quantitative criteria: 1. NA

	2. Leadership: 40% of Senior Managers or 45% of IC are women 3. Employment: 45% of employees are women + one quality indicator beyond compliance 4. Supply chain: commitment to women in the supply chain + one quality indicator beyond compliance 5. Products/services: enhance well-being of women/girls and/or drive gender equity			2. 33% of Senior Managers are women (as per 1/10/2025). 40% of the SDC IC is women. 3. 43% of Aqua for All employees are women (as per 1/8/2025). Aqua for All's CEO is a woman. 4. Aqua for All promotes gender equity in our partnerships and to women in the supply chain, e.g. % of women-led enterprises receiving investments is tracked. 5. Aqua for All uses its SIINC instrument to ensure inclusive impact potential for women is maximized and to drive gender equity.
Fund portfolio	Portfolio companies are 2Xaligned if they meet: • Basic 2X ESG criteria • One of the 2X criteria	Yes	Meets criteria	Aqua for All has 2 fund investments outside the CIIF programme. The Water Access Acceleration Fund (WAAF) meets most of the 2x criteria as per their 2024 Annual Report. Aqua for All is keen to provide more tailored gender support to its fund investments so they will meet more than basic 2X ESG criteria.

Climate and gender nexus The service and finance gap are not the only threats to the delivery of water and sanitation services. Increased climate change poses an additional risk to water resources and complicates the provision of water and sanitation services in several ways. Aqua for All has developed a comprehensive climate strategy in 2023/2024 aiming to position our water and sanitation work in the context of climate change. Our involvement addresses both mitigation measures on the side of water and sanitation service provision as well as adaptation measures to ensure robust delivery of water and sanitation services in the context of a changing climate.

Climate change disproportionately affects women and exacerbates the gender inequalities within the water and sanitation sector. Mainly due to the caring role, the burden of dealing with the impact of climate hazards, such as diseases in the water and unavailability of water, increases for these women. The increase in time spent on these activities limits their time for education or personal development, keeping them from becoming (financially) independent. To overcome these challenges, it is important to involve women and other marginalised groups in the decision-making processes. Due to their water-fetching responsibility, women have gained significant knowledge in the field of local ecological and water conditions which is now insufficiently utilised. Considering this, our programme and specifically our climate adaptation efforts will continue to pay special attention to the impact on and involvement of women.

As mentioned in the Annual Plan (2024-2025), climate and gender will increasingly be considered in everything we do. With the support of climate experts, Aqua for All will continue to develop frameworks and build the knowledge on climate for water and sanitation within the ecosystem and ensure this will enhance gender equity as well as building climate change resilience.

Increased use of instruments that specifically target gender – SIINC/ILF Aqua for All is inspired by the results of the Social Impact Incentives (SIINC) set-up with Jibu and is looking to offer these instruments at a wider scale. Jibu is an impact enterprise active in various African countries that leverages a franchise model to provide access to safe drinking water at scale, Aqua for all is incentivising the enterprise to empower more female franchisees (who at the moment are a minority - 42% i.e. 61 out of 145). With a steep franchisee growth foreseen in the next years, it is important for Jibu to ensure greater gender equality among their franchisees. According to the enterprise, identifying and onboarding female franchisees is difficult in the short term, e.g. because they generally are less likely to have the necessary capital (because of lower access to capital and income-generating activities) or because they require more training due to less prior business exposure. However, in the long-term, female franchisees have proven to be successful, and possibly even stronger candidates than their male counterparts. Aqua for All shall help Jibu overcome the initial added efforts, to eventually increase gender equality. The targeted final aim of 49% of franchisees being female, gives Jibu the opportunity to sustainably and incrementally close the gender gap without hindering diversification over the course of the next four years.

Gender commitments, targets and results as part of our agreements with other funders In 2024, Aqua for All has developed the 'Catalysing Impact with Innovative Finance' (CIIF) programme, which provides a framework for cooperation between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Aqua for All. Gender is an important aspect of the programme, and gender indicators and targets have been included in the logframe:

- # People with newly provided or improved access to basic/safely managed drinking water and sanitation (disaggregated by gender).
- 2 funds supported with targeted technical assistance based on needs, including on capacity building (especially IMM and WASH knowledge) of the fund, pre-and-post investment support (to improve investment readiness, quality of service, gender equality, and climate resilience) to potential investees, specific market research.
    - # fund 2x certified
    - # of women at managerial level of the funds supported
    - % of women-led enterprises receiving investments
- Impact-Linked Finance: Amount and % of funding disbursed to women-led SMEs out of total disbursement from transactions
- SIINC: # and % of women-led SMEs supported out of all SIINC transactions
- TA: # and % of women-led SMEs supported out of all TA alongside transactions
- # People trained (disaggregated by gender):
    - Train a pool of 10 WASH SMEs on Impact Measurement Management (IMM), including contextualization of WASH services and products with gender intentionality as well as climate adapation and mitigation.
    - Train a pool of 10 WASH SME's on Impact Measurement Management and Investment Readiness (IR), including contextualization of WASH services and products with gender intentionality as well as climate adapation and mitigation.
    - Train a pool of 7 certified TA-providers to provide group training on Impact Measurement Management (IMM) and Investment Readiness (IR) for WASH SMEs, including contextualization of WASH services and products with gender intentionality as well as climate adapation and mitigation
- # of events attended (intentional representation by women).
- # of articles published on website and other socials (spotlight publication on gender).

To date, Aqua for All is achieving, or over-achieving on the targets that have been set. The next section will give more detailed insights on a research regarding the gender-WASH nexus which has been performed as part of Aqua for All's Impact-Linked Finance programme.

What our recent research tells us about the gender-WASH nexus

Research paper 'Strengthening Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) at the WASH-Gender Nexus'

In 2024, Aqua for All commissioned a research under our Impact-Linked Fund for Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (ILF for WASH) programme, to "identify a list of output metrics measurable by enterprises in the WASH sector that can serve as sufficient proxies for demonstrating outcome-level gender impact."

Within this general objective, the study explored the role and impact of WASH solutions on gender outcomes. Its sub-objectives were to:

- Analyse different WASH enterprise models to identify relevant output metrics by business type, and determine which of these can credibly and attributably reflect gender outcomes.

- Assess the feasibility of applying insights from one geographical context to another, and identify practical methods to support such transferability.

Context

In 2022, 2.2 billion people globally lacked access to safe drinking water, and 3.5 billion were without safely managed sanitation. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, facing heightened health and safety risks, limited economic opportunities and increased school dropout rates. Yet, the gendered impact of inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene — particularly within market-based approaches — remains largely underexplored.

The Impact-Linked Fund for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (ILF for WASH) — a programme co-designed by Aqua for All and Roots of Impact — commissioned research to explore the link between WASH and gender. The research aimed to identify enterprise-level, measurable output indicators within the WASH sector that can serve as meaningful proxies for gender-related outcomes across regions in Asia and Africa.

Summary highlights of the research paper

- The research confirms a strong correlation between market-based WASH solutions and positive gender outcomes.

- Based on the strength, type and geographic spread of the available evidence, six categories of gender outcomes were identified and mapped according to their expected timelines (immediate, mid-term, and long-term): **1) Safety & security; 2) Physical health; 3) Surplus time and learning; 4) Psychological wellbeing; 5) Socio-economic impact; and 6) Agency & leadership.**

- In line with existing studies, it found that in the short to medium term, improved access to adequate WASH services contributes to increased safety and security, physical health, surplus time and enhanced learning. Over the longer term, these gains are typically associated with improved psychosocial wellbeing, greater socio-economic empowerment, and strengthened agency and leadership among women.

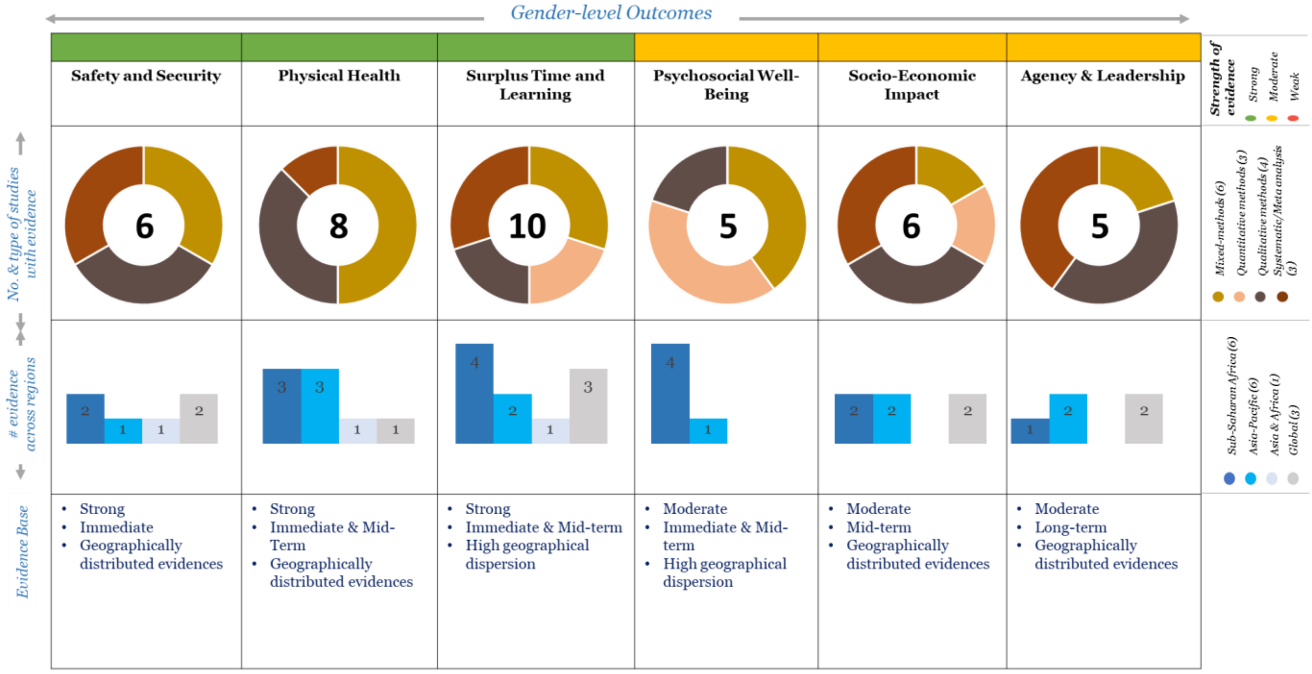


Figure 1: Evidence Map (incl. no. of studies)

- WASH is contributory rather than causative: Market-based WASH approaches should prioritise gender sensitiveness and responsiveness over gender transformation. Expected gender outcomes vary significantly across WASH sub-sectors, making it essential to identify key outcome areas for evidence collection.

- Findings from the desk review and stakeholder consultations helped identify key gender outcomes linked to different WASH solutions, revealing notable variation by solution type. For instance, filtered water solutions mostly impact health and wellbeing, while household piped water connections also contribute to time savings, safety and security gains for women.

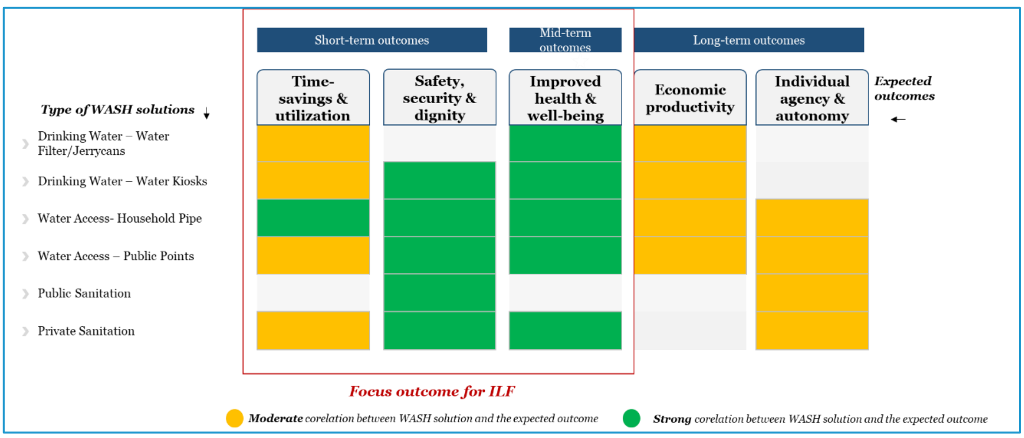


Figure 2: Focus Gender Outcomes for WASH

- For Impact-Linked Finance transactions (or other results-based mechanisms with short-to medium-term timelines), enterprises should prioritise measuring gender outcomes that are likely to emerge in the short- and medium-term and using SMART metrics that are both context-sensitive and sector-validated. For these outcomes, there is an overview of sample output indicators to support the use of proxy indicators for short-to medium term outcomes.

However, considering each enterprise's contextual conditions alongside the use of standard metrics is critical.

- To strengthen the credibility of their gender impact, WASH enterprises should move beyond gender-neutral approaches to actively integrate gender considerations into product design, service delivery and customer engagement strategies.
- Main recommendations include:

  For WASH Funders

  - ✓ Offer Technical assistance (TA) for gender mainstreaming
  - ✓ Pilot and scale proxy indicators using a Test–Learn–Scale approach
  - ✓ Prioritise gender responsiveness over transformation

  For WASH Enterprises

  - ✓ Develop a contextualised Theory of Change (ToC)
  - ✓ Conduct a gender-sensitive baseline assessment
  - ✓ Ensure reliable measurement and verification of gender outcomes (e.g. data triangulation and strengthening data collection protocols).

Limitations of the research

While the research provides valuable insights, it acknowledges the limitations inherent in measuring the gender outcomes of WASH solutions in the short term, particularly within the framework of Impact-Linked Finance. The complex interplay of contextual, systemic and socio-economic factors makes it challenging to isolate the specific gender impacts of WASH services.

About Aqua for All

Aqua for All is an international foundation transforming the water and sanitation sector into a sustainable and inclusive economy. We believe that market-based solutions, combined with public and private capital, are key to bridging the service and financial gaps to achieve SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all. Through strategic grants and partnerships, we maximise our impact and leverage of our funds to deliver lasting change. We support local water and sanitation enterprises by helping them scale their market-based solutions and attract private investment. By mobilising private capital and improving access to finance, we accelerate the delivery of climate-resilient water and sanitation services—particularly in Africa and Asia. Our headquarters are located in The Hague.

Our approach

We offer tailored solutions that respond to the local needs, challenges, and opportunities of water and sanitation enterprises, financial institutions, and investors. By combining market development with impact finance, our unique approach actively contributes to closing the finance and service gaps. Our grants are deployed strategically to maximise both impact and leverage. More importantly, they drive lasting change and enable sustainable access to water and sanitation for households, communities, schools, and health centres.

What sets us apart is our demand-driven approach to the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Water and sanitation enterprises—often not yet eligible for traditional finance—share their needs, as well as their growth and impact goals. Together, we co-develop ambitious but attainable plans that support scaling and remove barriers to growth. Cross-learning is central to our approach, as many SMEs face similar challenges.

Our strong networks across West Africa, East Africa, the Horn of Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia position us as a linchpin in the sector, connecting key actors and driving impact. In East Africa and the Horn of Africa, we've established local teams. In West Africa, we work with reliable partners like CEWAS and ForthInvestment to remain effective, even in complex environments such as Mali and Burkina Faso.

We drive change

To achieve lasting impact, we focus on three key outcomes:

- Scaling viable water and sanitation SMEs: We support water and sanitation enterprises in adopting sustainable business models that generate sufficient revenue to cover costs, to expand operations to underserved communities and adapt to climate change challenges. This approach promotes long-term sustainability of water and sanitation enterprises and their services.
- Increased (private) financing strengthens the water and sanitation sector: We empower financial institutions and investment vehicles to finance water and sanitation enterprises and infrastructure, driving greater access to finance across the sector.
- Strengthening the water and sanitation ecosystem: Through capacity development, learning and knowledge-sharing, we enhance the network and systems supporting water and sanitation enterprises, enablers and investors. This fosters a more inclusive and sustainable environment for all actors in the sector.

These outcomes complement each other, creating a market of viable enterprises and an improved financing landscape that strengthens the entire water and sanitation ecosystem, ensuring affordable and inclusive services for all.