Why are gender equality and social inclusion important in SEHATI Programme?

Women often encounter difficulties to get access to clean water and safe sanitation. This condition does not only affect the health of mother and child but also self-safety, education, dignity, source of income, and family life quality. This limitation of access occurs because of women are systematically not represented in policy-making institutions. It is indeed ironic, because women usually have the main roles in transporting and managing water as well as advancing sanitary practices in the household. At the government itself, men have strategic positions that as a consequence, activities and budgeting for water and sanitation programmes are insensitive towards gender and non-inclusive towards the disabled, the poorest community members, etc.

Such gap also occurs towards access to information regarding water and sanitation related products and services that are often only felt by people close to the village’s government officials. As a result, there are still many marginalized groups of people who have not get the advantages from the sanitation programmes provided by the governments. At the end, this causes poor hygiene and health practises. Lack of education and limited representation cause them to remain silent and difficult to change. This condition contributes to the high numbers of morbidity to those marginalized groups.

Through SEHATI Programme, Simavi and 5 local partners support the government to achieve sustainable sanitation at large at the entire district, with no one left behind. Therefore, to minimize the gap in marginalized groups and to ensure the presence of equality are imperative steps to achieve the goal.
Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for Eastern Indonesia (SEHATI)

The integration of gender and social inclusion in this programme have already been implemented at the beginning of the implementation in 2016. SEHATI partners (Yayasan Plan International Indonesia, Yayasan Masyarakat Peduli NTB, Yayasan Dian Desa, CD Bethesda YAKKUM, and Yayasan Rumsram) have been trained to become the trainers of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion for the STBM Programme. This training is conducted in order for the partners to be able to facilitate the local government in planning and implementing the water and sanitation programmes responsive to gender and social inclusion.

Working in 7 districts including Lombok Utara, Lombok Timur, Dompu, Sumba Barat Daya, Sumba Tengah, Manggarai Barat, and Biak Numfor, these 5 partners of SEHATI focus their approach to improve the capacity of the local government for the implementation of the 5 pillars of STBM.

This learning brief aims to describe the ways SEHATI Programme to promote gender equality and social inclusion as well as to share learning outcomes obtained through experience in implementing the programme. It is hoped that this learning brief can contribute in overcoming gender and social inequality issues.

How are Gender Equality and Social Inclusion integrated into SEHATI Programme?

Social inclusion and gender equality have been mainstreamed in the following SEHATI programme activities:

Sanitation Demand Creation
As an outline, SEHATI programme would like to ensure a balanced participation between women and men at each process of sanitation demand creation such as triggering and training. In addition, SEHATI also conducts activities appropriated with women and the poorest’ needs to ensure water and sanitation related services reach all people.

At a triggering activity, the participation of the all community members of village is required; they must be involved in the process. In reality, women’s participation is more dominant.
A triggering process in Manggarai Barat District emphasizing village’s mapping process

This occurs because of a popular belief in community that the matter of sanitation is the matter and responsibility of women. This assumption makes the representation of men low, when in fact for decision-making, especially if it is related to family’s economy, men are in charge. To handle this situation, meetings and post triggering actions become vital in the process of increasing awareness and demand of the community. In Lombok Timur, for instance, although triggering is conducted for one day only, volunteers and sanitarians keep making promotion efforts at household level through door to door visit activities. This is to ensure that all community members to be exposed and improved their awareness for sanitation and hygiene practices.

Besides, modifications of triggering process are also done to ensure social inclusion to take place. For example, although the triggering guidance at the village level from the Ministry of Health mandated a transect walk and contaminated water simulation to bring about the shame, the STBM teams of Manggarai Barat District did not conduct both of those steps. It was intended to avoid shaming and coercion processes because the steps could make community members who indeed did not have the ability to build toilets feel even more marginalized.

Coercion from the local government to build toilets is an unhealthy solution and it can lead to the increase of debts of the poorest. To embrace natural leaders to guide and promote the 5 pillars of STBM respectfully is viewed as more reasonable to create demand naturally at the community level.

**Improving WASH Governance at the local government and cross sector levels**

SEHATI makes efforts to increase women’s influence at POKJA AMPL level and STBM teams at each level through strategic coordinations which provide opportunities for women in decision making and in leading the implementation of 5 pillars of STBM. Other than that, SEHATI partners encourage the government to create regulations, develop planning and budgeting responsive towards gender and inclusive towards marginalized groups.
kelompok termarjinalisasi. Good practice happened in Sumba Tengah District in which the mayor of the district has issued STBM Implementation Regulation and included an article concerning women’s role and children inclusion in the implementation of STBM Programme of the district (Article 20, Mayor’s Regulation Sumba Tengah District No. 21/2017).

At government level, SEHATI approach requires the partners to advocate the governments to make representations of women available at each institutions such as POKJA AMPL and STBM teams at each level, association of sanitation entrepreneurship, etc. This is conducted not only for women empowerment and but also to ensure that water and sanitation programmes are friendly towards women, children and marginalized groups.

SEHATI also supports the village governments to provide same incentive both to male and female volunteers appropiated to their work loads. Most villages at present have issued appointment letter for volunteers or village’s STBM teams which imply towards the budget provision for the honorarium of the team members.

Another good example is shown by Yayasan Rumsram in Biak Numfor who coordinates with Women Empowerment and Family Planning Agency in delivering gender and social inclusion training in STBM to district’s POKJA AMPL and STBM facilitators. This is done to ensure that gender integration at STBM Programme is suitable with the local context in Papua.

Programme Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring tool used in the SEHATI Programme is capacity outcome monitoring with the following indicators of gender equality:

1. Equal participation both women and at institutional level such as STBM teams or POKJA AMPL at all levels.
2. Participation of women in sanitation entrepreneurship.
3. Participation of SEHATI partners in conducting gender-sensitive approaches.
4. Participation of women and marginalized groups in sanitation related dialogues at certain levels such as village, sub-district, dan district level.
Financial support for the poorest and most marginalized Groups
SEHATI encourages the governments and private sectors (sanitation entrepreneurs) to provide affordable finance options for women, widows, the poors, disabled people, the elderly, etc. Furthermore, SEHATI encourages the implementation of smart subsidy right on target. In Dompu District, for instance, association of sanitation entrepreneurship, FORPAS, initiates to provide creative financing for the so that they can build their own toilets. Through cooperations with cooperatives and rural banks with a very low amount of down payment, people can have their own toilets. Besides, the cheap toilet package with the price below IDR 1,000,000,- (under 70 EURO) has given the alternative solution for the poorest c in the district.

In Sumba, Manggarai, and Lombok, SEHATI advocates the government to provide the smart subsidy programme in the forms of closet provision, cement, and pipe for the poors, whereas other materials are the contribution of the community themselves. Other than the smart subsidy programme, there is a priority programme available for poor widows and the poorest community members. In this programme, the governments of 7 districts provide the entire needs for toilet constructions (full subsidy).

Strengthen Supply Chain for sanitation related products and services
During the intervention in 7 districts, the partners strengthen the access to sanitation related products and services to the poorest and marginalized groups; train women and poor community members to join in sanitation business; provide technology options that is suitable for the local community, including for people with special needs. Furthermore,
Female Sanitation Entrepreneur

Mrs. Suharniati is one of the sanitation entrepreneurs in Montong Baan Village who has been trained to produce closets by YMP. Her involvement as a sanitation entrepreneur is supported by her husband who was first trained as a closet maker. At present, Mrs. Suharniati has become a professional sanitation entrepreneur and has trained 11 women to become closet makers in Seruni Mumbul Village, a replication village of SEHATI Programme in Lombok Timur District. Her products are trusted by customers because they are smooth and strong.

Together with her husband, they join Sanitation Entrepreneurship Forum in Lombok Timur District. In this forum, she participates in setting the selling price of toilet package including setting the options of cheap toilet package with other closet makers.

There is no price or honorarium difference received by Mrs. Suharniati either when she sells the closets or when she is asked to be the trainer by the chief of village. The honorarium she receives is based on the quality of her product, not on her gender.
Future Plan

SEHATI Programme in Eastern Indonesia will continue in promotion towards gender equality and social inclusion. Until the end of the programme in 2019, SEHATI will focus on:

• Formulation of new approaches to promote roles of women and marginalized groups in the government realm, especially towards the deliberation process and decision-making in water and sanitation programmes.
• Progress measurement concerning gender equality and social inclusion.
• Guiding and encouragement for local governments and other institutions to integrate strategies of gender equality and social inclusion into water and sanitation programmes.

Link

To get more complete information on SEHATI Programme, please visit Simavi website through the following link: https://simavi.org/what-we-do/programmes/sustainable-sanitation-hygiene-eastern-indonesia/