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POLICY BRIEF 1

**Gendered Climate Resilience in the Water
Resources Management; A call for Policy-
Practice actions from Water Intensive Sectors
and Regulatory Authorities in Tanzania**

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Introduction

Water is vital resource for socio-economic development in Tanzania. It contributes 3.2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) supports agriculture, industry, mining, health, education and domestic water supply sectors¹. However, climate change poses significant challenge to water resource management (WRM), affecting water availability, accessibility and usability. About 70% of natural disasters in Tanzania are climate change related and are linked to floods and droughts. Climate change affects water intensive sectors, including agriculture, industry. The World Bank's *Country Climate and Development Report* cautions that climate change could constrain realisation of Tanzania's goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2050 and could slow economic growth by 4%².

The Government of Tanzania has made various efforts to manage the risks of climate change in social and economic sectors. The country is a subscriber to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has developed strategies such as the National Adaptation Plan of Actions (NAPAs), National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2021 – 2026). Government Ministries, departments, agencies, and units have also established climate action strategies to create resilience in their areas. However, climate change continues impact vulnerable groups in the society, especially women, children, and people with disabilities in communities in Tanzania. Notably, heavy floods, unpredictable rain, and increase in

temperature cause stress to pastoralists and farmers in Mvomero and Kilosa Districts³.

In 2024 Shahidi wa Maji (SwM) conducted a study to understand how much and how well the selected water-intensive sectors (Agriculture, water and Industries), Mvomero and Kilosa district authorities, basin water board, and villages invest and implement climate-resilient and gender-responsive actions, contributing to effective water resources management (WRM). In the light to the findings of the analysis, this policy brief presents recommendations for enhancing climate-resilient and gender-responsive water resource management in water-intensive sectors in Tanzania.

Methodology

The study covered Wami-Ruvu Basin, Kilosa and Mvomero Districts, and water intensive sector ministries, including agriculture, water and industry. The Wami-Ruvu Basin was selected because it is the most stressed basin with per capita renewable water resource of 588m³, significantly below the national average of 2,250m³. Kilosa and Mvomero Districts were selected because they are affected by climate change. The analysis incorporated qualitative and quantitative methods, which involved a comprehensive desk review of policy documents, plans and sector reports, field visits, key informant interviews and budget analysis. Key informant interviews were conducted with policy makers, water resource managers and gender specialists. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with

women in local communities to uncover the impact climate change and document gender-responsive and climate-resilient initiatives.

Key Findings

Implementation of Gender-Responsive Budgets Faces Operational Challenges

Tanzania has established a comprehensive policy framework to integrate climate change and gender considerations into Public Finance Management. This framework includes the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), and the Five-Year Development Plan III (FYDP III), among others. However, findings of the analysis show that local governments face significant operational strides in implementing the frameworks. Particularly, Kilosa and Mvomero District Councils have expressed concerns about multiplicity and complexity which result to confusion and inefficiencies in implementation. Furthermore, LGAs lack unified monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Departments have their own reporting formats which are always not integrated into a comprehensive local council report.

Gaps in Budget for Promoting Women's Rights and Gender Equity About Climate Change Adaptation

The government of Tanzania has allocated budget to implement initiatives for women's rights and gender equity. Between 2019 and 2024, the government allocated TZS 32.64 to fund several projects related to leadership inclusion in government institutions, combating gender-based violence, women economic empowerment and protection of women

and children. While climate change exacerbates gender-based violence, gaps still remain in allocation of funds for promoting gender rights in climate change.

Gaps in Gender Mainstreaming in BWB Plans

The Wami Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRBWB) has developed an annual plan for the FY 2021/2022, This plan aim to address multi-sectoral needs, improve livelihoods, and support the national economy through sustainable water resource management. However, an assessment of these plans reveals significant gaps in gender responsiveness and climate resilience. However, the plan does not include specific objectives for women and men inclusion in decision-making in community.

Policy Recommendations

Integrate Gender and Climate Change Indicators in Development Plans

Therefore, we recommend that Prime Minister's Office-Environment Division, President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government Authority, and Ministry of Water, and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Special Groups should collaborate to develop monitoring and evaluation framework for gender-mainstreaming and climate change indicators in water resources management projects. The framework will enhance design of targeted water projects that meet specific needs of special group whist enabling climate-resilient and gender responsive water resources management.

Promote Gender-Responsive Climate Finance

- Mainstream gender considerations in climate finance policies and budget allocations.
- Support initiatives that empower women and marginalized communities in climate-resilient water management.

Leveraging Inter-agency Collaboration

Water intensive sectors, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Energy should liaison to develop an integrated gender-responsive fund which will support climate change and gender responsive

projects. A guideline should be developed to govern stakeholders to contribute financial resources in funding gender-responsive water projects.

Conclusion

Enhancing climate-resilient and gender responsive water resources management is vital for socio-economic development in Tanzania. It requires collaboration of water intensive sectors in developing unified monitoring and evaluation frameworks that measure performance across ministries and local government authorities.

REFERENCES

¹ Ministry of Water. (2023). Water Sector Development Programme Phase III. Annual Water Sector Status Report 2023.

² World Bank. (2022). Tanzania Country Climate and Development Report.

³ National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Planning, & Morogoro Regional Secretariat. (2022). Morogoro Region Socio-economic Profile, 2022. National Bureau of Statistics.