

GENDER ACTION PLAN

1. **Gender Classification.** The purpose of the Project is to target less resilient water districts (WDs) in cities and municipalities outside Metro Manila including the WDs in San Fernando (La Union) and the City of Koronadal, to fund the extension and rehabilitation of their water supply (e.g., the construction of new deep wells, transmission and distribution pipelines) and sanitation projects, as well as capacity building development and institutional strengthening for the executing agency, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and WDs. Women will benefit from the Project through affordable tariffs and other pro-poor initiatives, capacity building and representation on WD Boards. The project is classified as effective gender mainstreaming (EGM) in design.

2. **Gender Action Plan (GAP) Purpose and Strategy.** The 2009 socio-economic survey shows that a small portion of households in the target WDs have piped water connections and sanitation facilities (11-18%). Among the poor in these cities, 90% of them don't have water connections despite LWUA's socialized tariff policy. The significant social and economic burden of illness, health care for the family, child care, water fetching, food preparation and other associated domestic responsibilities associated with not having water and sanitation connections, falls primarily on women. Women are positioned to benefit from the project's interventions due to their central role in water, hygiene and sanitation management. At the community level, women's participation in water system operations is low as there are no formal water associations in the pilot service areas in which they could participate in the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. The Government's existing framework for gender action is not being maximized by LWUA and the pilot WDs.¹ LWUA and the pilot WDs have designated gender focal points and gender and development (GAD) programs. However, their GAD budgets have not been fully utilized, with limited gender-specific activities such as capacity-building for increased women's participation in technical operational roles. The Project's gender strategy will facilitate women's participation and benefits through GAP implementation (see Table below). These include enhanced hygiene and sanitation awareness and training, connections to proper water supply and sanitation, capacity building, and representation on WD Boards. Pro-poor measures include lifeline tariffs and initiatives for affordable access (e.g. socialized and/or installment schemes for connection fees).

3. **Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements.** The Borrower shall ensure that it complies with all relevant laws and regulations related to gender actions.² A responsibility center will be created at LWUA/project management unit (PMU), with the designation of an employee to monitor GAP implementation by LWUA and participating WDs (including preparing 6-monthly progress reports and ensuring that the bidding documents and contracts include relevant provisions for contractors to comply with the measures set forth in the GAP) and to provide implementation support to the conduct of GAP activities, such as training and capacity-building on required competencies of the project implementation units (PIUs) in compliance with those aspects of the GAP applicable to the WD. Similarly, each WD will be set up a responsibility center and a gender focal person responsible for preparing and implementing a gender action plan for the WD in order to ensure the WD's compliance with those aspects of the GAP

¹ Including Republic Act No. 7192 ("Women in Development and Nation-Building Act" passed on February 12, 1992), Executive Order No. 273 ("Approving and Adopting the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development, 1995 to 2025" passed on September 8, 1995), and Joint Circular No. 2004-1 issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women which prescribes guidelines and procedures for the formulation and submission of agency annual GAD plans and budgets, and GAD accomplishment reports.

² See footnote 1.

applicable to the WD, including the preparation of budgets for, and the implementation, updating and monitoring of, the WD's gender action plan. Other staff members of the WD will be engaged to assist with various activities in the WD's gender action plan.

4. **GAP Budget.** LWUA will allocate a yearly budget for the implementation of the GAP, which will be taken from its GAD budget. In addition to enhancing its own GAD capacity, LWUA will work with participating WDs to ensure that compliance with those aspects of the GAP applicable to them.

Table 11.1 GAP Budget (pesos)

Budget Item	Year 1	Annual Budget Years 2 to 6
Training of LWUA's and WDs' gender focal points on GAP implementation and monitoring	400,000	200,000
Capacity building of LWUA and WDs staff on gender analysis, gender-responsive planning and budgeting	600,000	300,000
Supervision and monitoring of GAP implementation – database creation and maintenance	200,000	200,000
Total	1,200,000	700,000

GAP = Gender Action Plan, LWUA = Local Water Utilities Administration, WD = water district

Table 11.2 Summary of Gender Action Plan

Project Output	Proposed Actions and Targets
Client-Focused	
Output 1: Expansion and improvement of water supply systems; sanitation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information dissemination on new water services targeting poor households in the existing and expansion water service areas. ➤ Promoting affordability to low-income households including ensuring the minimum charge for monthly water consumption should meet LWUA's guidelines for low-income households in the areas served by participating water districts (WDs). ➤ Partnership with barangay health workers/units and non-government organizations (NGOs) for delivery of sanitation information education and communication (IEC) and training. Per subproject, IEC training for 100 barangay health workers, science, public school teachers (50% are female). ➤ Ensuring WDs consult with women and men separately about content, format, and media for IEC messages.
Organization-Focused	
Output 2: Capacity and institutional development for participating WDs and LWUA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training to enhance sustainability of operations for WDs (business planning, project implementation, management information system [MIS], non-revenue water [NRW] reduction) (at least 30% of participants are female).³ ➤ Designation of an employee to coordinate, monitor and report on implementation of GAP activities. ➤ Capacity development of LWUA/WDs in gender analysis, gender-responsive planning, gender budgeting, and GAP compliance. ➤ At least 30% of LWUA's overall staff and management at project management unit are female.⁴ ➤ Encouraging the appointment of at least 2 women on the Board of each participating WD, of which one is a representative of a women's organization (e.g. a relevant NGO or national women's group). ➤ Allocation from LWUA's yearly GAD budget to its GAP budget to support project implementation. ➤ Detailed project performance monitoring (including compliance with GAP), reporting, accounting, and auditing systems developed, with collection of sex-disaggregated data, provide 6-monthly reports and feed data into mid-term review and Project Completion Report.

³Baselines will be collected for LWUA and each participating WD. If the baseline indicates a higher % of female representation than the 30% target, an appropriate higher target will be incorporated and reported to ADB.

⁴See footnote 3.

