

SECTION 2

GENDER, EQUITY AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Part A Main concepts and alternative approaches
Section 2 Gender, poverty, equity and basic urban services
Gender

The different roles and responsibilities of women and men are manifested in the ways in which we are perceived and expected to think, behave and act as women and men. Gender refers to those differences which are socially constructed, in contrast to the physical and biological distinctions between them that sex identifies. Gender differences are built up and reinforced by socio-cultural and economic institutions, over time and are therefore different in diverse contexts and societies. Although, women, or men, as a constituency can organise themselves around any common cause or interest these groups are not homogenous and in certain situations may represent conflicting interests. A gender approach requires consideration of a variety of different criteria when analysing situations, such as class, ethnicity, age, backgrounds and so on. Consequently, the interests of women and men, separately or linked, may be determined as much by their class positions or their ethnic identity as by their sex or gender roles. (UNCHS, 1996)

Relationship between gender, poverty, equity and BUS

Poor women and men in peri-urban areas are largely excluded from wider social development processes. This exclusion is experienced differently by women and men who face unequal access, management and decision-making power over water resources and sanitation options as a result of the socially defined roles and responsibilities assigned to women and men. Additionally, statistics indicate that more than 70% of 1.5 billion people living in poverty are women¹. Effective

Box 2.1 Benefits of gender responsive urban basic services for the poor

- **Increased income generation opportunities** for women and men, e.g. solid waste separation and collection, construction of components for latrines, selling compost from on-site ecosan toilets, etc.;
- **Time gains** for women and children who are mainly responsible for collection of water;
- **Increased monetary savings** (especially by women who are most frequently responsible for covering health-related expenditure) on medicines and other supplies for treatment of illnesses, wounds and injuries stemming from poor environmental sanitation conditions;
- **Increased personal safety**, particularly for women, youth and the disabled, due to greater availability and more appropriate placing of sanitation facilities;
- **Increased dignity** for both men and women, of all ages, due to more appropriately designed and located sanitation facilities;
- **Decreases the time and labour of women** -who are the main people involved- in caring for household members suffering from illness such as cholera and malaria (on the rise again in urban areas) that result from poor environmental sanitation conditions; and,
- **Health benefits** for women and girls who, in some settings, are only able to use communal sanitation facilities in the early morning and after sunset, increasing chances of illnesses such as bladder infections.

¹ UN (2000), Women Watch. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

approaches for addressing urban poverty must go hand in hand with gender responsiveness as they allow for highlighting the different needs and interests of poor men and women and therefore seek to achieve improvements in socio-economic development through obtaining, and safeguarding, equitable access to and control over resources and services.

The provision of basic services for the urban poor could contribute to a range of gender-specific benefits pertaining to the use and management of resources and facilities at community and household levels. The benefits mentioned in Box 4.1 above significantly impact upon the quality of life of poor women and men such as freeing up time and energy for services users to engage in other livelihood and income generating activities. Gender mainstreaming in services provision processes must be enhanced considering financing and viable technical options- as well as institutional and management arrangements.

Services that are responsive to users' *effective demand* (see "Elements of Community Management" page 1, Section 2) should also be, ideally, gender sensitive. These services should have been designed, planned and implemented in close consultation with a users' group that is genuinely representative. "Genuinely representative" means that women and men, irrespective of age, class, race, physical (dis-)ability, ethnic group, religion, or other socially defined distinguishing characteristic, are equitably included and involved, or represented by delegates they have nominated, in the process of services development – including strategic decision making about service levels, costs and management.

Gender Equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must often be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Equity leads to equality.

Services developed under these equity conditions, are more likely to meet users' needs and therefore more likely to be used, maintained and consequently, be financially viable over the longer term as users are more willing to contribute to the costs of services provision, thereby increasing the *effectiveness* and *efficiency* of the service.

What is gender mainstreaming?

Gender mainstreaming (GM) is the process of assessing the implications of women and men of any planned action in all areas at all levels. It is a strategy of ensuring women's and men's concerns and experiences are an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men *benefit equally* and that inequality is not perpetuated.

In order to achieve this, project development should recognize that women & men :

- have different legal and traditional rights
- have control of and access to different resources
- have different jobs within and outside the household
- allocate their time and financial resources differently
- possess different priorities and goals
- have different degrees of decision making

As such, GM in project cycle should, in its analysis, take into account:

- Legal/policy environment – i.e. what are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders as laid out in the policy and legislative framework in a given context
- Activities – i.e. who does what?
- Resources – i.e. who has access/control over the resources?
- Benefits – i.e. what factors control access to benefits?
- Participation – i.e. how and when do men and women participate in realizing the benefits that they may or may not have under their control?
- Power –i.e. who takes the decisions?

Expected results of gender mainstreaming in BUS projects

The overall goal of gender mainstreaming in BUS projects is the achievement of efficiency, equity and productivity and thus, sustainability through the involvement of women and men at all levels in addressing urban environmental sanitation issues. A gender responsive approach allows for harnessing and maximizing the capabilities of women and men and maximizing the use of scarce resources for the greatest benefits (health, safety, economic, etc.) for users.

Achieving Gender Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming gender in the establishment and delivery of basic urban services can be achieved through specific activities conducted at each step of the process. An overview of gender-responsive actions that can be taken in each phase is provided in *Annex 4.2 HCES and Gender-responsive BUS provision*. Throughout the HCES 10 steps or any other process, care must be taken not to raise false expectations among users. In order to be able to mainstream gender throughout an intervention, it is necessary to:

- be able to identify and anticipate potential gender issues/concerns in the different stages of the project cycle;
- to employ the use of checklists, or key questions, to help and guide in identifying gender concerns; and,
- to address the gender issues or concerns by formulating the necessary strategies

Gender analysis in diagnosis and prioritisation

Designing, planning, implementing and monitoring gender- and equity- sensitive basic urban services programmes means recognising the different needs and interests of poor women and men. In order to be able to do this, a thorough analysis of the prevailing gender relations in a given context is necessary.

Planning for ‘people-centred’ and household centred interventions for basic urban services requires precise information the people that comprise those households. **Gender analysis refers to a systematic way of looking at the different impacts of development on women and men.** Gender analysis requires separating data by sex, and understanding how labour and benefits are divided and valued. Gender analysis must be done at all stages of the development process; one must always ask how a particular activity, decision or plan will affect men differently from women (Parker, R.A. 1993). This allows for gender-specific priorities to be expressed and recognised as women’s and men’s priorities within households, as well as at community level, frequently are different.

Gender Mainstreaming in the project monitoring and evaluation stage

Gender-sensitive monitoring (discussed in greater detail in Section 8 of this Handbook) methods have been designed in order to capture gender- and sex-specific data, both qualitative as well as quantitative. This is to ensure that processes can be evaluated for their impact upon men and women, to avoid aggravating existing, and prevent new, inequalities and to rectify circumstances when inequitable effects have resulted from the planned actions.

- Develop and operationalise a systematic monitoring and evaluation system with gender perspective as provided for in the project design
- Institutionalise the design of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system
- Ensure training of project staff on the use of the gender sensitive M and E system
- Provide necessary logistics and support structure for the effective operationalisation of a gender sensitive M and E system
- Involve women and men project beneficiaries in the development and implementation of a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system by clearly designating data requirements, collection and interpretation of data
- Develop and identify gender-responsive indicators to be able to explicitly measure the effects of the benefits of the project on women, men and both
- Identify and determine project effects on men and women using results of monitoring the different activities within the project

Tools and approaches for gender mainstreaming

Sex-Disaggregated Information

Sex-disaggregation of data means the collection of data on women & men separately in relation to all aspects of their functioning – ethnicity, social class, caste, age, location.

- Necessary in the conceptualization of gender-sensitive projects;
- Facilitates development and implementation of projects that are sensitive to the needs of women and men; and,
- Helps planners to develop project objectives, strategies and activities that put emphasis on the different and divergent roles that women & men play as project beneficiaries

What Data Must Be Sex-Disaggregated?

- those data related to resources needed or used by women/men;
- those data about activities done by women/men; and,
- those data that relate to control and access of resources

How Do We Disaggregate Data?

The following can be used to guide identification of sex-disaggregated data for projects:

- **Resources** - Identify the resources upon which women/men project beneficiaries are dependent.
- **Activities/roles** - Identify the activities through which women/men, rich and poor, relate to each of the resources in their day-to-day lives: across seasons, in productive, reproductive and community work.
- **Knowledge, value and worth** - Identify the specialized type of knowledge that is developed through day-to-day interaction with specific resources; the value of esteem with which particular activities and knowledge associated with them are regarded in the local culture; and their corresponding worth as measured by cash values and/or prestige.
- **Access and control** - Identify the modes of entitlement used by women & men and by socio-economic groups in order to access resources; examine the degree of control over such resources.

Methods of Collecting Data

Can be done through: formal survey, group interview, literature search, observation, focus group discussion, key informal interviews, informal surveys, case studies and direct observation.

On Gender Sensitive Indicators

Gender sensitive indicators are indicators that track gender-related changes over time. It takes into account that gender roles do exist and it point to changes in the status of women and men over time. They are, therefore signals that help to measure gender-related changes in projects in terms of quality, quantity and timeliness. The disaggregation of these indicators by sex is a critical step for tracking the extent to which projects are mainstreaming gender and meeting needs of women and men.

They should be drawn from the identification of gender issues within the specific context of a project and should be linked to the goals/objectives of a project (e.g. poverty reduction, equity, urban upgrading). It is good practice to develop gender sensitive indicators at the beginning of a project—at the project identification and preparation, or formulation, stage. This will make easier to monitor or track progress and to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of projects. However, indicators can change during the process of project implementation. Indicators that have been anticipated can manifest themselves or become highlighted along the way.

Indicators to measure the outputs of programmes and projects should always be developed in programmes and projects in order to be able to follow-up and review their impact on gender equality. These should include both quantitative as well as qualitative data from the operational activities and should routinely be followed up in the framework of programmes and projects. This aspect is also checked at the PRC.

Institutionalised follow-up and monitoring linked to the above mechanism (the indicators and benchmarks) should be planned for all programmes and projects to review the on- going operational activities and their impact on women and men. Box 4.2 provides an example of a gender disaggregated monitoring matrix used to identify the types of operation and management jobs women and men do in a global study on community water services.

Box 2.2 Example of gender disaggregated data recording

Nature of job		Caretaking		Maintenance and repair		Management	
		N*	%	N*	%	N*	%
Voluntary	Women	16	21	1	1	5	8
	Men	1	1	17	25	12	17
	Both	46	60	5	7	43	60
Paid	Women	0	0	0	0	4	5
	Men	13	17	41	59	0	-
	Both	1	1	6	9	8	11
* Total number of services		77	100	70	101	72	101

Source: Van Wijk-Sijbesma, 2001

Although the example above is taken from a community water service, the method of data recording in which information is presented separately by sex, is relevant for recording disaggregated data in environmental sanitation projects. For instance, changes over time such as increases in opportunities for women to participate in paid jobs can be traced and considered for their impact. This data, separated by sex, is therefore essential for conducting gender assessments on the impact of policies, programmes, projects, institutional arrangements

Challenges and opportunities

The process of gender mainstreaming basic urban services interventions is not without its challenges, nor opportunities.

Challenges that may arise in efforts to ensure that the identification, prioritisation, design, implementation and monitoring of environmental sanitation services may include:

- A sense of threat among certain stakeholders who may feel loose rights or privileges when benefits, in particular, as well as roles and responsibilities, are more equitably distributed. This may result in unforeseen obstacles which require a re-analysis of the situation and further consultation to redefine the intervention.
- Lack of support at institutional and policy levels may obstruct efforts to promote changes where more equitable access and control are not supported by law (e.g. land tenure or ownership rights for women)
- Lack of thorough gender analysis and lack of clarity about ‘involvement’ or ‘participation’ may result in already vulnerable groups becoming overburdened with greater time and financial investments than previously; and,
- The on-going tendency to understand ‘gender’ as ‘women’s issues’ (and thus to focus on women in isolation - may result in lack of involvement and participation by men who do not see the benefits or necessity for their involvement. This can lead to gender-imbalanced outcomes and may even disadvantage men, by not incorporating their needs and interests throughout the intervention.

Opportunities for mainstreaming gender in BUS arise when linkages with existing initiatives for the promotion of gender equity can be made. Also, a gender mainstreaming approach brings with it the opportunity for capacity building and human development both for users as well as for institutional staff, who are trained in monitoring, data collection and analysis for improving services for the urban poor based upon gender analysis that they have conducted. These knowledge and skills gained in the context of BUS have in many instances (See Appendix 4.2) empowered users and civil society to take on other priority development initiatives such as literacy and numeracy programmes for greater income generation opportunities, micro-savings schemes, construction of schools and other public structures such as meeting halls and traffic reduction schemes.

ANNEXES SECTION 2

GENDER, EQUITY AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Annex 2.1 Gender Concepts (2)

Gender is a term coined in the 1960s to refer to those differences between men and women, which are **socially constructed**, in contrast to the physical and biological distinctions between them. These get expressed in differential **roles and responsibilities** of women and men as manifested in alternative ways in which we are perceived and expected to think, behave and act as women and men. As such, **gender** refers to the **relationship** between men and women as it is socially constructed, while **sex** identifies **biological** differences between men and women.

Gender Equality means that women and men enjoy the same status, that women and men have **equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and potential** to contribute to national, political, economic, social and cultural development and to **benefit from the results**.

Gender-Sensitive Perspective implies that attitudes, roles and responsibilities of men and women are taken into account, that it is recognized that both sexes do not necessarily have the same access to or control over resources and that work benefits and impacts may be different for both groups. This approach highlights – **differences** between men and women’s interests, **social hierarchies** between men and women, **differences among women** based on age, wealth, ethnic etc backgrounds, differential change of roles of men and women as a result of social, economic and technological change.

Gender Mainstreaming (GM) is a process of assessing the implications of women and men of any planned action in all areas at all levels. It is a strategy of making for making women’s and men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and program sin all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men **benefit equally** and the inequality is not perpetuated. The underlying assumption is **that women have been historically discriminated** throughout generations due to the prevalence of patriarchal institutions and norms.

Gender & Poverty perspective considers GM as a necessary constituent of poverty alleviation in a society based on the premise that more than 70 % of the poor comprise women. **Women’s empowerment therefore is integral to poverty reduction strategies**.

Sex or gender disaggregated data – refers to collection of data on women and men in relation to all aspects of their functioning.

² Source: Advocacy Manual, GWA, 2000; Jasveen Jairath, India, 2002; Status of Women, Canada, 1996

Annex 2.2 Practical examples of gender mainstreaming in BUS

Case Study 1

Gender Responsive Environmental Planning and Management in the Sustainable Chennai Project, India

Introduction

The city of Chennai is located in Tamil Nadu State in India. In 1991, the Chennai Metropolitan area which includes Chennai City and other urban areas had a population of 5.4 million. Chennai city alone had a population of 3.8 million out of which one third lives in informal settlements. With a growing population and a stagnant economy, the increasing pressures on provision and management of services in this city, result in poor sanitation, lack of adequate water supply, poor drainage, polluted water ways and congested roads.

Urban environment

Sanitation conditions in the city of Chennai are generally poor. The sewerage and drainage systems are under stress due to an increasing city population. The city also suffers from traffic congestion, poor air quality and dirty water ways. Although environmental issues impact more on women, especially in relation to health, nutrition and income, gender discrimination against women in India has contributed to the lack of effective participation of women in projects which affect their daily livelihoods. As a result, zoning legislation, provision of child care facilities, and planning for a safe and clean environment has not integrated the views of women.

The Sustainable Chennai Project (SChP) was started in 1995 with the support of the UNDP, Habitat and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) to promote the environmentally sustainable development of Chennai in close relationship with the communities and within the framework of the EPM process..

Experience with a gender responsive EPM process

SChP began with Consultation Meetings, followed by Strategic Planning and resulted in the preparation of Action Plans. The latter identified both investments and necessary policy and institutional mechanisms. Workshops, Consultation Forums, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and opinion surveys were conducted by SChP with wide representation from the various stakeholder groups, including government officials and technical experts. A good representation of women working both within and outside their homes was evident in the process.

The process identified three priority environmental issues in Chennai:

- improving liquid management and improving water ways;
- reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality; and,
- improving solid waste management within poor peri-urban areas.

In order to address these issues, the project set up Working Group Mechanisms which included the formation of Action Committees. Through the process, it was identified that the major source of waste was households, and that it was women who largely managed the waste. Subsequently, there was a need to educate women on orderly collection and disposal methods. These efforts would be combined with those of civic authorities and NGOs involved in solid waste management within the city. In turn, systematic and proper disposal of waste from neighbourhoods would be ensured.

In order to realise the project goal, the Working Group invited NGOs to work with women in the planning, implementation and management of the sewerage and drainage system. The training and incorporation of women into the project was expected to ensure the sustainability of the services, since women are largely available and continuously deal with the issues being addressed. Through

this approach, the construction of community drainage in an informal settlement called Ambedker Nagar was undertaken. In parallel, Working Groups comprising stakeholder groups, technical experts and women's organisations were formed after several workshops and consultation programmes on ways and means to relieve traffic congestion within the city. The Madras Christian Council of Social Services (MCCSS), with the assistance of SChP, organised and educated the community in the process of construction of the community storm water drainage system. Thus, the SCP also addressed the issue of traffic congestion and air quality, identified during the workshop.

The Working Groups, composed of government officials, technical experts and NGOs with women representatives, have formulated programmes such as staggering weekly holidays in the market places of Chennai and staggered school hours in the busy areas of Chennai. A Traffic Action Plan for Chennai has also been developed. The programme has computerised programmes of improvements to road intersections, arterial roads, construction of mini flyovers and improvements in the public transport system. An action plan for cleaning the water ways is still in the pipeline.

(It seems that only women are necessary to make a change, even on traffic congestion programmes, while probably women most probably are not even owners of vehicles. Just comment)

Lessons

The SChP has moved away from former methods project implementation which did not include the many stakeholder groups. The projects had the support of the State Government of Tamil Nadu and all other stakeholder groups including women. The project approach has been process oriented and ensures gender responsiveness throughout all the stages of the EPM process. It has improved the ability of individuals and organisations to convert agreed strategies into Action Plans. Other areas that have not benefited from the project are interested in the project outputs and opportunities exist for replication.

In spite of its success, there is need to strengthen and equip the key stakeholder groups with skills in project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. There is also a need to increase the capacity of government and NGOs involved in provision, operation and maintenance of essential urban services through information exchange and appropriate information systems. Continuous research should also be conducted to assess the specific policy issues which affect women and men, the changing needs of women and their participation and contribution to urban environmental planning and management.

Case Study 2

Women-run Waste Management and Recycling Programme, Senegal

Summary

The goal of this initiative is the improvement of the living environment and along with providing income for community women.

The targeted quarters receive 960 trash bins, six horse-drawn carts, collection and work equipment. The achievements are:

- domestic treatment of waste in trash bins
- collection of waste by carts
- payment by every member household of a US \$ 1.5 contribution
- the setting up of transit dumps where carts collect the waste from before it is taken over by municipality trucks
- laying out the waste recycling site (2 acres, 9 compost pits and equipped pits) where biodegradable waste is transformed into compost, metallic and plastic wastes re-cycled.

The compost is used in market gardening and agro-forestry tree nurseries. The plastic waste is transformed into gadgets and other useful objects. The metallic elements are handed back to the craft-men in charge of the maintenance of the local carts.

In addition to this solid waste management and recycling programme, the Set-Setal grouping, through public health committees, participates in the liquid waste management programme with the setting up of 239 latrines and 169 cesspools.

Background

Only 35% of the 263 cubic metres of waste in the municipality were collected by the municipal services leading to archaic dumps and chronic poor health. 50.9% of the households had neither WC nor latrines leading to poor sanitation. 76% of the households had no convenient systems to process used waste-water which was consequently poured onto the streets.

Out of a targeted population of 44,860 people, the unemployment rate was 28.6% for men and 24.1% for women. There was prevalence of infectious and parasitical diseases, (diarrhoea, intestinal parasitical diseases, typhoid and malaria). This situation was exacerbated by lack of proponents for urban poverty reduction and absence of skills training for urban women. There were no working relationships between the present key partners before the project was initiated.

Preparing information and clarifying priorities

In a participatory approach, a study of the daily constraints has allowed to get the basic priorities right and to identify the key partners. Participatory research tools such as MARP (Method for Participatory Rural Appraisal) and SARAR method have helped sharpen the analysis.

Formulating objectives and strategies and mobilizing resources

The objectives were:

- Clean up of the urban environment through simple processes ranging from the treatment of waste at home to final elimination or final treatment
- Generation of income for women
- Creation of jobs
- Encouraging a financial contribution of the beneficiaries in the handling of their habitat

Many key actions have been identified and materialised on the basis of participatory investigations:

- Holding training sessions (organisational and financial management, composting, market gardening and agro-forestry, savings and loans, riding and caring for horses, animation and sensitisation)

- Setting up a recycling area
- Generating income from supplementary activities like waste collection, selling of compost and vegetable, and of recycled plastic objects. It was the Rodale International Non Governmental Organisation that played the leading role in the implementation of the initiative, in the identification of the donor, the setting up of the partnership, the supervision and the follow-up.

Process

The absence of such an integrated initiative in the country, the differences in origin and status among the partners were the main difficulties at the beginning. Yet, that proved to be of tremendous help insofar as, at first, the initiative was tailored to the needs and capacities of the participants, and then the diversity of origins allowed for taking into account multiple aspects of it (agronomic, sociological, statistical, legal, gender, etc.)

These results have been achieved mainly thanks to numerous meetings and sensitisation sessions held in the quarters amongst the parties involved.

The current problems are related to the mobilisation of new resources for an extension of the initiative to the whole city of Thiès and the other cities.

Results Achieved

This initiative has just won the Grand Prize of the President of the Republic of Senegal for the Promotion of the Senegalese Woman, 1998 Edition, on the theme of "Cleanliness and Management of our Habitat: the Response of Women"

For the beneficiaries, it means in practical terms:

- a regular collection of the waste, and eradication of anarchic dumps, an improvement of the sanitary and nutritional status of the beneficiaries
- covering the recurrent costs with the financial contribution of the member households.
- better co-ordination amongst the different parties and a greater trust in the women from the quarters
- reinforcement of the managerial capacities and strategic approach of the women through training and exchange visits allow them now to manage the initiative at all levels
- emulation of the local private sector through packaging and collection equipment order
- alleviation of the family charges through the employment of jobless youth (sons, nephews..); women being often heads of families in this region.
- a greater availability of additional financial means through rotating credit, the saving banks and credit totally managed by the women themselves
- widening of the women's technical scope through exchange visits and an active and efficient participation to national and international celebration days
- Greater mobilisation of women who are now more confident in their capacity to take their emancipation in their own hands
- Eradication of endemic cholera (none of the quarters covered by the Set-Setal Grouping were affected by the latest cholera epidemic)
- Promotion of individual sanitation through house processing of waste and elimination of waste poured into the streets
- Improvement of nutritional status of beneficiaries through consumption of healthy biologically vegetable
- Reduction of diseases carriers like flies and rodents
- Re-use of abandoned suburban lands with compost
- Alleviation of municipality expenditure on waste collection
- Increasing the number of external actors who come and visit the experiment in order to duplicate it where they come from (i.e., Senegalese actors and the experiment of AFEB - Association of the elected Women of Burkina Faso, USAID International Seminar on the Study of Impact on the Environment, etc.

- The diffusion of the experiment through national and international press (see www.africanews.org).

Sustainability

With this initiative, the idea of integration has been carried in four directions:

- at the economic level, endeavouring to make the beneficiaries take charge of the costs of the financial activities (salaries and other charges).
- at the technical level, a valorisation of waste and a re-introduction of the products (biological vegetable, utilitarian objects...) into the economic circuit
- at the gender level, making women aware of their responsibilities in the initiative, since they are traditionally in charge of domestic waste
- at the institutional level, partnership and the availability of knowledge package through eight training sessions covering all the aspects necessary for women to carry out successfully their activities in an independent way.

Lessons Learned

At the beginning of the initiative, it was not possible to find other experiments practising the activity on such an integrated and complete scale. Yet, two aspects have been noticed and even confirmed as guarantee of success:

- community participation in the funding of the initiative
- participatory and de-centralised management of the initiative by the beneficiaries themselves

Transferability

The aspects to be taken into account for a duplication of the initiative are:

- communal financial contribution of the beneficiaries in the implementation of the practices related to the habitat
- technical integration and the taking in charge of the totality of the procedure by the initiative
- urban disadvantaged women are capable of taking charge of the activities related to their environment through an adequate knowledge transfer

In Senegal (Thies, Dakar, Fatick) as well as in Burkina Faso, groups of women have been trying, after visiting the initiative, to work on the whole network of waste. Before, they used to operate almost exclusively on waste pre-collection only.

The initiative can easily be transferred, the condition being an emphasis on the sensitisation session to guarantee the participation of the beneficiaries themselves and a communal management of the initiative.

Key Dates

1993 : Involvement of women in waste collection

1996 : Initiative financed by Life/UNDP Programme

1998 : Initiative awarded the Grand Prize of the President of the Republic of Senegal

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Type of Partner Support: Administrative Support

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Type of Organization: Local Authority

Type of Partner Support: Technical Support

Source: <http://www.bestpractices.org/cgi-bin/bp98.cgi?cmd=detail&id=18302&key=ElAtyrkbfah>