



GENDER & COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION



CLTS engagement, outcomes and empowerment in Malagasy communities

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Gender equality, serving the most vulnerable, and addressing the particular needs of women and girls are among the core principles of the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF). Since its launch in 2008 by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), the GSF has been committed to these principles in the sanitation and hygiene behaviour change

programmes it supports. However, challenges have been identified in sufficiently addressing these principles, such as disaggregating data by gender to assess progress.

In order to better understand the link between gender dynamics and the impact of its Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)¹ interventions, the GSF supported

a study in a small number of communities in Madagascar in 2015. These communities are in the area covered by the GSF-supported programme in Madagascar, known locally as 'Fonds d'Appui pour l'Assainissement' (FAA).² This 'GSF in focus' case study highlights and reflects on the study.³

PHOTO: CLTS TRIGGERING IN THE VAKINANKARATRA REGION, NEIGHBOURING THE REGION WHERE THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED. TRIGGERING MOBILIZES FEMALE AND MALE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COLLECTIVELY TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITATION AND HYGIENE. ©WSSCC/ISOBEL DAVIS

¹ CLTS is an integrated approach to achieving and sustaining open defecation free (ODF) communities. It entails the facilitation of a community's analysis of its sanitation profile, including practices of open defecation and its consequences, leading to collective action to become ODF. CLTS focuses on igniting change in sanitation and hygiene behaviour within whole communities, rather than constructing toilets through subsidies. Approaches in which outsiders 'teach' community members are not considered CLTS in this case study.

² Learn more about the FAA at <http://wsscc.org/global-sanitation-fund/madagascar>

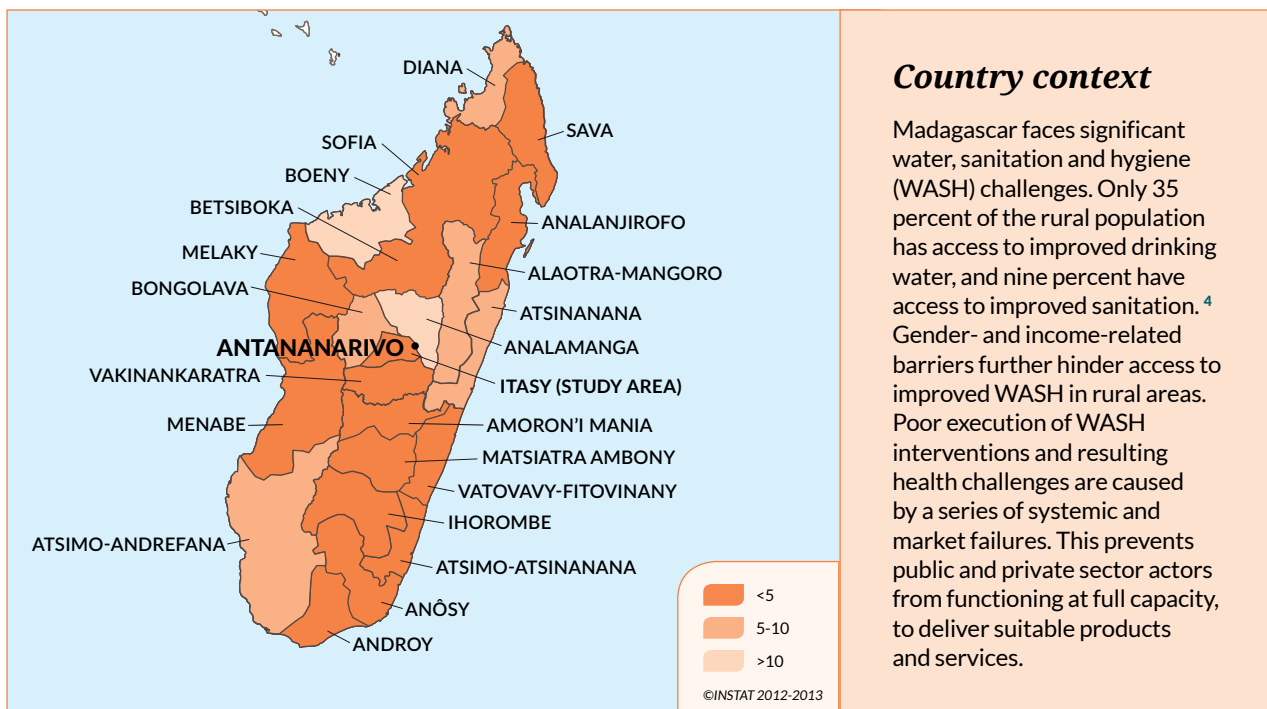
³ The study was undertaken in 2015 by WSSCC staff member Isobel Davis for her master's thesis, which was prepared for the International Water Centre's Master of Integrated Water Management programme, administered by the University of Queensland. The GSF and the study's author acknowledge the essential contributions from the FAA, other GSF partners and colleagues, the interviewers and interviewees, the thesis supervisor, and experts towards completion of the study and thesis. Download the complete thesis at: <http://wsscc.org/resources-feed/gender-case-study-experience-and-outcomes-of-faa-clts-interventions-in-madagascar>



MEMBERS OF A HYGIENE COMMITTEE IN A RURAL VILLAGE
IN THE VAKINANKARATRA REGION. ©WSSCC/ISOBEL DAVIS

Gender, development and sanitation

Addressing gender inequality is crucial to achieving sustainable development and has far-reaching impacts on human wellbeing. Human rights principles, such as gender equality and non-discrimination, are important instruments for delivering better education and health. Abiding by these principles also ensures more peaceful societies and long-term, transformative social change. WSSCC strives to integrate a gender focus in all of its work, including through the GSF. However, significant challenges remain in effectively doing so, such as matching theoretical perspectives to practical approaches.

FIGURE 1 Madagascar: Access to improved latrines, by region (% population)

Sanitation and the gender challenge

The literature on gender and sanitation emphasizes the disproportionate impact poor sanitation and hygiene has on women and girls. This includes: psycho-social and physical stress from infrequent visits to the toilet; risk to safety when seeking a place to go often after dark or early in the morning; and dropping out of school at the onset of menstruation due to a lack of safe and private disposal facilities.⁵

Gender is an important concept in sanitation and hygiene because

women often have the primary responsibility for facilities and practices in the household. As a result, they often experience a significant extra burden.⁶ Yet women's voices and participation in community decision-making are often marginalized, which impacts on their ability to influence decisions around sanitation and hygiene facilities and services.⁷ There is a relatively widespread discourse arguing that women's empowerment is necessary for more sustainable sanitation and hygiene solutions for both sexes.⁸

In a practical sense, addressing gender aspects in sanitation and hygiene does not mean excluding men. Instead, the concerns and experiences of women, as well as men, are made an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.

In the context of Madagascar, the country ranked in the top 10 for overall performance in the African Development Bank's 2015 Gender Equality Index, a sign that gender equality is improving.⁹

⁴ UNICEF and World Health Organization. (2015). *Progress on sanitation and drinking water – 2015 update and MDG assessment*. Retrieved from http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

⁵ See, for example: Water and Sanitation Program. (2010). *Gender in Water and Sanitation*. Retrieved from <https://www.wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/WSP-gender-water-sanitation.pdf>

⁶ Mitlin, D. (2011). *Pathfinder Paper: Equity and gender*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/dfid-research-outputs/pathfinder-paper-equity-and-gender>

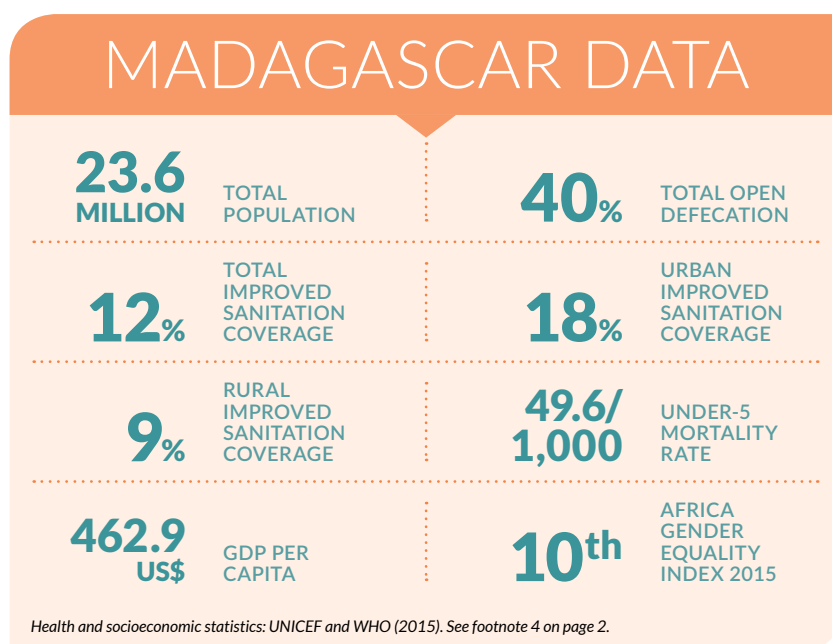
⁷ Water and Sanitation Program. (2010). *Gender in Water and Sanitation*. Retrieved from <https://www.wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/WSP-gender-water-sanitation.pdf>

⁸ See, for example: Ivens, S. (2008). *Does Increased Access to Water Empower Women?* *Society for International Development*, 51, 63-67. Retrieved from <https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/1380/does%2520water%2520access%2520empower%2520women%253F.pdf>

⁹ African Development Bank Group. (2015). *Africa Gender Equality Index 2015*. Retrieved from http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/African_Gender_Equality_Index_2015-EN.pdf

However, challenges remain in mainstreaming gender equality in socioeconomic contexts and legislation. Gender issues are consistently referred to in national strategies and planning documents – such as the 2015-2019 WASH Roadmap – but there are no clear policy guidelines for addressing gender in WASH activities.

While gender has been identified as an important issue in national and global WASH sectors, it is not well covered in the literature. There is a lack of data available at the programme, national and global levels, a gap to which this study aims to make a contribution.



CLTS and gender

The GSF focuses its resources on supporting collective behaviour change approaches. One of the most notable of these approaches is CLTS, a proven and internationally-recognized approach to achieving and sustaining open defecation free (ODF) communities – a first step towards universal improved sanitation. Proponents argue that CLTS is highly effective because it is widely participatory, class-neutral, values human dignity, and engages both men and women in community action. In addition to positive sanitation outcomes for the whole

community, the CLTS process has led to some positive gender outcomes such as increased respect for women for their contribution and new roles, improved community interactions, and reductions in domestic violence.¹⁰ However, CLTS critics argue that the approach fails to recognize and respond to gender roles and relationships at the community level, thereby missing the opportunity to empower women and men.

The study helps address the need for more research into gender

and CLTS. Specifically, its research question was: What role does gender play in shaping the experience and outcomes of FAA's CLTS interventions?

To answer the question, three lines of enquiry and relationships were examined:

- Gender and engagement in CLTS activities
- Gender and sanitation outcomes
- Gender and empowerment

¹⁰ See, for example: Plan Uganda. (2012). *Research on the Impact of Gender on Community-Led Total Sanitation Processes*. Retrieved from <http://www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/sites/communityledtotalsanitation.org/files/Gender%20and%20CLTS%20report%20final.pdf>

Gathering disaggregated data

An independent mid-term evaluation of the FAA noted its successful results and credited the 2013 expansion of the programme for outlining an overall equality and gender-sensitive approach. However, the findings pointed to a lack of disaggregated data and work planning detail, making it difficult to assess success in how the programme incorporates gender dimensions. In response to this evaluation and an outcome survey, the FAA commenced disaggregation of its CLTS monitoring data in 2015. At the time of the study, the programme began collecting this data and will report on these aspects in 2017. In addition, the study itself contributed to the availability of disaggregated data in the target communities.



FAA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS GATHER FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING THE CLTS PROCESS. GATHERING VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY WAS KEY TO THE STUDY, IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF CLTS. © WSSCC/PATRICK ENGLAND

Gender-focused research methodology

The study explored gender dynamics – common issues and patterns – in four villages covered by the FAA in the Itasy region of Madagascar, using qualitative research methods. The Itasy area was selected due to it being one of the regions where the FAA has worked the longest, and due to the accessibility of the villages for conducting interviews and their proximity to the capital, Antananarivo. Empirical data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 30 community members, six FAA staff and partners, and three sanitation and gender experts.

Given the breadth of the FAA programme – the FAA works in all 22 regions of Madagascar, with diverse sociocultural contexts – the study was limited in geo-

graphic and representative scope. However, it aimed to provide valuable insights for the FAA and other GSF-supported initiatives, to better understand the interac-

tion between CLTS and gender dynamics. The study aimed to suggest some practical actions for the FAA to consider in its ongoing programming.

Gathering the voices of community members

Interviews were conducted in two ODF villages that had already been triggered,¹¹ as part of the ongoing CLTS process. Interviews were also conducted in two non-ODF villages that had not had a CLTS intervention. This approach aimed at drawing out qualitative data and outcomes before and after programme intervention. The ODF villages were Mahazoarivo

and Tsaramasoandro, and the non-ODF villages were Amparafaravato and Ampiakarana. One of the ODF villages had been declared ODF more than two years prior in order to understand the impacts of the intervention after a period of time. In one ODF village, the researcher ensured that a female Natural Leader¹² was interviewed, and in the other ODF village a male

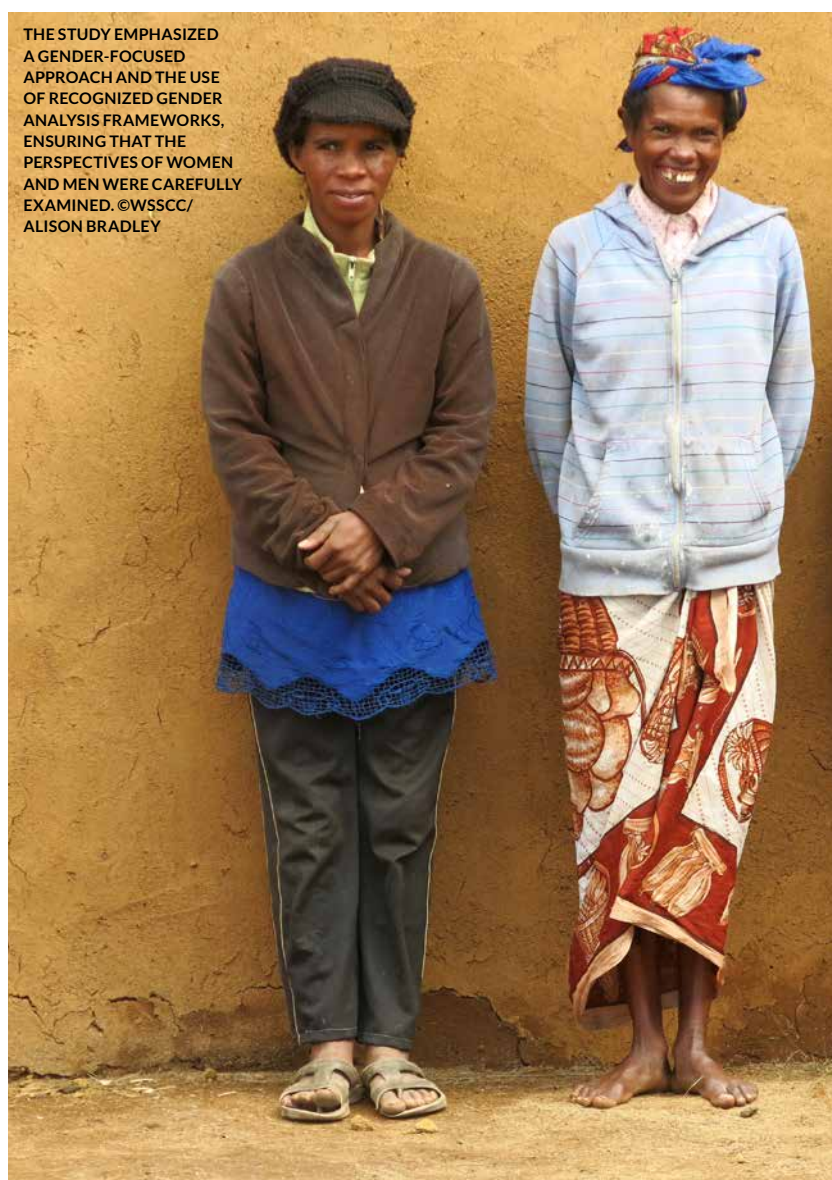
Natural Leader was interviewed, to compare responses.

Through semi-structured interviews, the study aimed to understand the perspectives of the women and men the FAA is designed to reach. Outsider bias was reduced by using female, Malagasy interviewers. Furthermore, interviewee selection was undertaken

TABLE 1 Village interviewees

ODF VILLAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village chief • A Natural Leader • Women, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one woman over the age of 40 - At least one woman 18-40 - At least one woman who was the head of a household or had an additional role or work outside the home (e.g. a teacher, market seller or health worker) • Men, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one man over the age of 40 - At least one man 18-40
NON-ODF VILLAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village chief • Women, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least one woman over the age of 40 - at least one woman 18-40 - at least one woman who was the head of a household • Men, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one man over the age of 40 - At least one man 18-40

THE STUDY EMPHASIZED A GENDER-FOCUSED APPROACH AND THE USE OF RECOGNIZED GENDER ANALYSIS FRAMEWORKS, ENSURING THAT THE PERSPECTIVES OF WOMEN AND MEN WERE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. ©WSSCC/ ALISON BRADLEY



¹¹ Triggering, in the context of CLTS, refers to a facilitated journey of self-realization mobilizing communities to take action to end open defecation and improve their sanitation and hygiene. Within GSF-supported programmes, communities are triggered at the start of the CLTS process through a community meeting or event, using a range of tools and approaches. Triggering can also be facilitated throughout the CLTS process, to achieve and sustain behaviour change.

¹² Natural Leaders are activists and enthusiasts who emerge and take the lead during CLTS processes, driving their community to end open defecation and ensuring that everyone can access adequate sanitation.

with a goal of engaging as diverse a group as possible, considering ethnic backgrounds, economic backgrounds and social classes. Participation in the interviews was voluntary and consent was sought from each village interviewee. In order to limit bias and influence in responses to the gender-based questions, men and women were interviewed separately without another person present. Given the interviewers were women, this

may have helped put the female interviewees at ease.

The community interview design and subsequent data analysis draws on various gender analysis frameworks. These are the Moser Framework, Rani Parker's Gender Analysis Matrix, and a framework for gender analysis in WASH developed by Naomi Carrard, Joanne Crawford, Gabrielle Halcrow, Claire Rowland and Juliet Willetts.

Furthermore, the approximately 30 questions were designed to address the three lines of enquiry and split into four sections (below).

Due to the need to limit the scope of the study, the methodology did not include observations of facilities, behaviours, CLTS processes, or focus groups. The study served as a starting point for future deeper investigation in this regard.

1	<i>Background demographics</i>	These introductory questions were intended to put interviewees at ease, create rapport and capture potential demographic variables – for example marital status, education and size of household – that may influence findings.
2	<i>Village activities</i>	These questions aimed to uncover the gender division of labour and patterns of decision-making. For example, the questions examined gender roles in financial decision-making in the household, and participation in village meetings, which is the primary governance mechanism at the village level in Madagascar.
3	<i>The CLTS approach utilized by the local Sub-grantee,¹³ Famojena</i>	These questions centred on the CLTS process and were designed to determine any barriers or constraints to participation, including giving inputs and decision-making.
4	<i>Sanitation and empowerment outcomes after achieving ODF status</i>	These questions aimed to investigate and document the sanitation and empowerment outcomes, including changes in relationships in the villages, perceptions of roles and existence of new roles, in order to understand the present impact and potential impact areas for future interventions.

Additional insights and analysis

In-depth interviews were also conducted with a cross-section of stakeholders involved in the design and management of the FAA, as well as with sanitation and gender experts, to better understand their views on gender within and beyond the Madagascar case.

Using tested gender analysis frameworks, the study assessed the

different roles that men and women have in the villages and the ways that their relationships impact on their ability to participate in, contribute to and ultimately benefit from the FAA's work. The analysis also allowed for a bottom-up approach involving the community members themselves in the research, which is in alignment with the FAA and CLTS approaches.

¹³ Sub-grantees receive funds from GSF Executing Agencies to implement country programme activities within communities, providing technical services in some cases. They are comprised of NGOs, government entities, associations and private companies. The GSF supports the work of hundreds of Sub-grantees across 13 country programmes.



IN THE STUDY AREA, THE CLTS PROCESS HAS EFFECTIVELY MOBILIZED BOTH FEMALE AND MALE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COLLECTIVELY DECIDE TO END OPEN DEFECACTION. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE STUDY'S FINDINGS, CHALLENGES REMAIN IN ENSURING WOMEN VOICE THEIR NEEDS AT CLTS MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATE IN HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL DECISIONS ON SANITATION. ©WSSCC/ISOBEL DAVIS

Findings and recommendations

The findings and analysis of the study demonstrate that there are positive outcomes for both sanitation and the empowerment of women where the CLTS process has been applied. However, the data suggests that gender roles and relationships may limit voice and equal participation for women generally, thus changing women and men's experience of CLTS and impacting on outcomes.

“ How important is gender in CLTS facilitation?

In the ODF villages, women and men responded unanimously that having a male or female facilitator did not influence their ability to be involved or speak up in the process. Rather, it was their dynamism and what they were saying that influenced them.

“... well... maybe there was no influence... maybe it's not the fact of being a male or female but... when there is something interesting that is said, we should do it... whether it is said by a man or a woman.” (Female community member, Mahazoarivo village)

“No, it is all about the ability to convince people but not about being a man or a woman.” (Male community member, Tsaramasoandro village)

Although in this context gender had less importance in regards to CLTS facilitation, the literature suggests that women do not participate equally in the CLTS process, and strongly argues for both female and male facilitators, and for women to be involved at all levels.¹⁴ Data from the study itself suggests that the barriers women face in freely participating during meetings are more related to pre-existing social and cultural barriers rather than the subject matter or the gender of the facilitator.



Gender and engagement in the CLTS process

The study found that both women and men felt that women have less ability and opportunity to actively participate in overall village meetings, the primary governance and decision-making forum for the village. The data also confirmed that women were not as actively engaged in contributing or decision-making in CLTS-specific meetings, such as triggering and post-triggering sessions. This suggested that at the time of the study, women's suggestions and needs may not have been adequately considered when devising community solutions to sanitation problems.

The problem appeared less to do with the decision for the community to become ODF, but much more with household-level decisions on sanitation. Such decisions include the location, type and structure of the toilet, which can have a significant

impact on how women's sanitation, menstruation and needs over the course of their lifetime are met.

Most women interviewed responded that they have the power to speak up about important issues for them – if not in village meetings, then in other contexts such as at the market, on the street or when washing clothes. However, some women remarked that discussions should not take place outside the village meeting if a decision related to the discussion has already been taken.

When asked about ways to assist women in participating in CLTS decision-making, two-thirds of the women in the ODF villages thought that no more could be done. Conversely, one-third of the women and men believed that more could be done but they were not sure what.

Participating in village meetings



Both women and men commented that while women may be present, men talk more and therefore actively participate more in village meetings. In addition, both women and men commented that women are shy and lack the skills for public speaking, while women also commented on the fear of speaking up, due to this perceived lack of skills or getting something wrong:

“Sincerely, I don’t have the skills [to take part in the discussion] but when it is agreed by everybody, I always follow... I live like that... I dare not say anything.” (Female community member, Amparafaravato village)

“It is not that you are women and we have no consideration of you... never... men and women have the same rights now... but the thing is that women in the countryside have a low intellectual level... they cannot understand lots of things.” (Male community member, Ampikarana village)

¹⁴ See, for example, Kar, K. with Chambers, R. (2008). *Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation*. Retrieved from <http://www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/sites/communityledtotalsanitation.org/files/cltshandbook.pdf>

Gender and sanitation outcomes

In the ODF villages, the study found positive sanitation outcomes for both genders in improved health, convenience, safety, privacy and a sense of dignity and wellbeing. These findings contrasted with the findings in non-ODF villages, particularly in terms of latrine quality and consistency of latrine usage.

While the study did not find evidence that primary outcomes differ by gender, respondents indicated that additional activities from improved sanitation fall predominantly on women, though additional duties were not perceived negatively. This suggests that it is important for CLTS monitoring to seek to understand how sanitation activities are assumed by men and women differently, how these are perceived, and their influence on traditional gender roles.

Internalization of CLTS messages

In the ODF villages, both women and men responded with conviction that they did not want to continue defecating in the open and were therefore motivated to build and use toilets, and to remain ODF. This implies that the previously

highlighted differences evident in women's engagement in particular meetings and decision-making processes did not reduce their receptiveness to the core concepts of CLTS. Given people's receptiveness to the subject matter and their ability to change and break taboos, this could provide an enabling environment for discussing gender equality and taboo topics, such as menstruation.

Sanitation outcomes

Both women and men in ODF villages reported improvements in

health, privacy, dignity and security from improved sanitation as a result of the CLTS process, and there was no evidence of a gender divide in their ability to realize positive outcomes. In both villages, ODF status was swiftly achieved and had been maintained for two years since the intervention. Though additional duties from improved sanitation were not perceived negatively, representatives from the local Sub-grantee Famonzana emphasized that it is important to promote equitable work sharing within local cultural contexts.

Additional burden on women for improved sanitation?

One possible negative outcome of improved sanitation is an additional burden of work, which often falls upon women. In this study however, the majority of women and men felt that while they may have additional activity related to sanitation they do not perceive this as a burden.

"There is more [work] because even when we fetch water, we fetch more for the toilet... but it is not that much though, for we are used to it and we do not feel that the work has increased." (Female community member, Tsaramasoandro village)

"I do not feel that... On the contrary it is pleasant to contribute to the village's cleanliness." (Female community member, Mahazoarivo village)

"As it has been our lifestyle, nobody is complaining. Nobody sees the extra work as extra work but a way to live in a clean environment, leading to happiness." (Male community member, Mahazoarivo village)



The impact of CLTS on female community members

The study revealed positive behavioural, health, empowerment and social outcomes for women in CLTS villages.

"We have already made a vow of cleanliness that... we will not let down this cleanliness anymore no matter what... with the presence of a facilitator or not, whether he would come or not... we always keep it... we will not go back to [open defecation] anymore." (Female community member, Mahazoarivo village)

"According to the training we got, now we wash our hands with water and ash... even the little children know that when they are at school." (Female community member, Tsaramasoandro village)

"Since we have access to toilets, diarrhoea has disappeared, mostly death due to diarrhoea ... For my case, for example, I have not gone to the doctor for years (laughing)." (Female community member, Mahazoarivo village)

"I can say that it is true because when we did not have a toilet we felt like we were not clean. Now we have one and we are like the other people." (Female community member, Tsaramasoandro village)

Gender and empowerment

The evidence shows that there is significant progress in CLTS communities for both women and men.

In ODF villages in comparison to non-ODF villages, both women and men showed higher levels of openness, confidence and enthusiasm in talking about sanitation with their interviewers. This provided an indication of increased voice for women in CLTS and ODF settings, despite limited participation in village and CLTS meetings.

The study also provided evidence that CLTS interventions helped facilitate new, respected roles for women and helped to improved relationships in the village. Every woman in the ODF villages responded that they had seen a positive improvement in how other people viewed them since they improved their sanitation. In the two ODF villages, new roles were created for women, such as the village health worker and Natural Leader. Both women and men were represented on the hygiene and cleaning committee for the fokontany.¹⁵ This

¹⁵ A fokontany is the smallest administrative unit in Madagascar. It comprises groups of villages, comparable to a local county or parish.

was deemed as positive in terms of gender balance in the inputs and activities of the committee, as long as ‘voice limiting’ aspects discussed previously did not impede the women’s ability to carry out these duties.

Beyond these new roles, the study also pointed to the need for further investigation to determine whether CLTS interventions can have a positive impact on women’s decision-making power at the household level.

In the ODF villages, the empowerment of women and men was made evident. This was especially in regard to an increased voice and motivation when speaking about sanitation with others outside their village, such as family members in their hometown, neighbouring villages and at the marketplace. The data provided evidence of positive empowerment outcomes from CLTS, including the enhanced development of collaboration in the community and an increased sense of collective pride. These results align with the goal of the CLTS approach in seeking to empower people to take action to improve

Equal representation, enhanced outcomes

Perspective from Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies: If in the triggering and post-triggering processes, the facilitators ensure that women’s voices are heard and there is an equal or majority representation of women on the sanitation committees, then there is a more active engagement of men and women. This balance of gender representation can have a significant effect on CLTS outcomes.

their circumstances in a range of community-determined problems.

Responses from FAA staff and CLTS practitioners were generally in line with the findings from the village interviews. These stakeholders noted that there is no universal gender strategy for CLTS, but guidelines can be developed to support a gender-sensitive approach. However, these guidelines must be flexible and practical, to accommodate local contexts. It is also important that the implementing party has the relevant capacity to deliver any resulting actions, and has the adequate budget, including for monitoring.

A shift in traditional gender roles?

The interviews across all four villages were consistent in affirming the presence of traditional roles for men and women, where men are responsible for agriculture and productive work and women are responsible for household chores, childcare and hygiene. A representative from the local Sub-grantee Famondra reflected on this, as well as the additional duties placed on women from improved sanitation:

“It is true that most of the time almost all tasks fall on women... It is already a common practice in the community and we find it hard to say ‘let women do this and not do this’ or something else, as it seems obvious to them that there are tasks for men and for women. Besides, women do not feel burdened. But I would suggest that during follow-up sessions, we... can try to transmit that everybody should be involved as it is for a common profit.”

Nevertheless, a number of responses indicated that gender roles were blurring. For example, a Natural Leader stated that she tries to teach people in her house visits that there are no chores designed specifically for men or for women, and that men and women can make decisions together on household development. One man even replied that he is proud to do the dishes or prepare a meal when his wife is working in the fields.

“ Opportunities for further research

Building on the experience of the study and to increase the data available for broader application by the FAA, further research could be considered in the following areas:

Recognizing and meeting all of women's practical and strategic needs in the long-term

Given the finding that women are not sufficiently included in community decision-making, women's needs may not be adequately taken into consideration when determining the sanitation solution such as toilet technology, location, and maintenance responsibilities. This includes needs for sanitation and menstrual hygiene management, as well as needs for elderly and pregnant women. Further investigation into whether these aspects are considered in decision-making could be carried out, as well as investigations into women's local empowerment objectives that could influence or be improved by the CLTS process.

The impact of marginalization of women in the CLTS process on long-term sustainability, and other gendered reasons for 'slippage'

It would be valuable for the FAA to explore gendered reasons for slippage. This concept refers to a return to unhygienic behaviours, or the inability of some or all community members to continue to meet all ODF criteria.¹⁷ Marginalized voices, coupled with less engagement by women in sanitation decision-making could be an important factor, as this has an impact on developing the most appropriate long-term solutions.

Practical actions for consideration

At the time of the study, the FAA's gender strategy included aspects such as knowledge gathering during pre-triggering,¹⁶ knowledge sharing with Sub-grantees on sanitation technologies to suit women's and men's needs, and partnerships with women's associations. While the study did not disagree or contradict with this strategy, it proposed six practical actions to consider, to help strengthen the strategy. They were:

- Facilitate gender awareness training for Sub-grantees.
- Disaggregate programme data by sex to understand gender outcomes.
- Pilot a gender-sensitive CLTS approach during pre-triggering or follow-up activities.
- Consider including menstruation as a sanitation sub-theme in CLTS programmes.
- Develop a sanitation radio campaign that is sensitive to gender dynamics.
- Revise the CLTS facilitators training manual to include an evidence-based gender component.

¹⁶ During pre-triggering, the facilitator gathers knowledge that will maximize the actual triggering event and build rapport with the community. This concretely means that facilitators will get an idea about the size, characteristics and subtleties of the community that one can use to make triggering more effective and dynamic.

¹⁷ WSSCC. (2016). *Sanitation and hygiene behaviour change at scale: Understanding slippage*. Retrieved from <http://wsscc.org/resources-feed/sanitation-hygiene-behaviour-change-at-scale-understanding-slippage>



AS THE STUDY SHOWS, WOMEN HAVE BEEN EMPOWERED TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY'S SANITATION IMPROVEMENT. © WSSCC



Reflections

The FAA welcomes the findings of the study, which provide valuable insights and evidence to better understand the interaction between CLTS and gender dynamics. In various FAA-supported communities, the programme has observed the positive empowerment outcomes highlighted in the findings, as well as the challenges in ensuring that women's needs are fully incorporated. Moreover, the programme has observed how CLTS mobilizes communities to collectively find solutions to social problems beyond sanitation, while encouraging collaboration and self-help amongst women.

Both the WSSCC Secretariat and FAA note the finding related to women's limited participation in CLTS-specific meetings. Given the range of activities that occur during the CLTS process – including pre-triggering, triggering, post-triggering, and post-ODF follow-up – it would be worthwhile to gain more insight into women's participation

levels during these activities. For example, how are women engaged in post-triggering activities such as Follow-up MANDONA¹⁸ and Local Community Governance,¹⁹ during which more Natural Leaders emerge? Is there more engagement in smaller group meetings, where there is more room for women to speak up?

¹⁸ Follow-up MANDONA is an action-orientated, collective approach for post-triggering follow-up visits. The approach is designed to accelerate the achievement of ODF status in the shortest time possible, by bringing the entire community together. See WSSCC. (2016). Follow-up MANDONA: A field guide for accelerating and sustaining open defecation free communities through a Community-Led Total Sanitation approach. Retrieved from <http://wsscc.org/resources-feed/follow-mandona-field-guide-accelerating-sustaining-open-defecation-free-communities-community-led-total-sanitation-approach>

¹⁹ Local Community Governance is aimed at effectively transferring the leadership for maintaining and sustaining sanitation improvements from the Sub-grantee to the community and local governance structures.

Furthermore, it would be beneficial to engage a larger sample size, to test the findings from this study further. Similar studies could be carried out in other FAA-supported

fokontanys, districts and regions, to gain a more in-depth and broader understanding of the gender dynamics in CLTS and sanitation improvement initiatives.

Progress to date

To achieve maximum impact, the FAA is incorporating gender and equality dimensions in a more systematic manner, to ensure meaningful participation of women and girls. This is also helping to ensure equally positive outcomes for women, men, children, the elderly and adolescents alike.

The FAA's CLTS training curriculum has been revised to include a more pronounced focus on gender and guidance on how to ensure that women can participate more meaningfully throughout the CLTS process. In this way, it is also envisioned that women's voices can be stronger in the initial triggering session, as well as in the other activities that follow during the journey to behaviour change maturity and beyond. For instance, the programme's pre-triggering tool intends to identify potential problems for women as well as emerging female Natural Leaders that can be considered in the actual triggering session. While many FAA Sub-grantees have already employed this approach, it is now included in the curriculum and therefore used by all implementing partners.

Furthermore, the programme disaggregates its data according to gender indicators and will report on these aspects in 2017. The programme is also collaborating with USAID on a maternal and reproductive health programme, as it is seen that improved sanitation behaviour is a crucial entry point for maternal health. The Country Programme Monitor²⁰

verification methodology is being revised to provide more in-depth data on the reasons for slippage, as well as the groups vulnerable to slippage, and coping mechanisms therein. This will be pertinent in better understanding the gender dynamics of slippage, and if and why women and girls are more exposed and vulnerable to slippage than others.



MALAGASY GIRLS AND BOYS ARE TRIGGERED TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITATION AND HYGIENE. © WSSCC/PATRICK ENGLAND

Looking ahead

The FAA is gradually shifting to its transition phase, where the focus is to sustain the impressive progress made to date,²¹ expand

the geographical scope, and support an enabling environment for the national sanitation sub-sector to thrive. As part of this work,

a comprehensive framework to address gender dimensions and other aspects of equality and non-discrimination is being established.

²⁰ Country Programme Monitors conduct programmatic and financial verification of GSF-supported country programmes, and report directly to the GSF Secretariat.

²¹ Read more about the FAA's results in WSSCC. (2016). *Global Sanitation Fund Progress Report 2015: A catalyst for large-scale results*. Retrieved from <http://wsscc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/GSF-Progress-Report-2015.pdf>

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Strengthening the capacity and awareness of Sub-grantees.
- Piloting menstrual hygiene management activities, including the use of adequate materials.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation to capture disaggregated data.
- Continuously harvesting and facilitating periodic exchanges of promising practices between Sub-grantees and other partners within and beyond the FAA.
- Raising awareness about gendered sanitation issues through mass media.
- Reinforcing advocacy messaging to develop gender inclusive policies for sanitation.
- Regularly documenting and sharing best practices on evidence-based approaches that effectively integrate gender considerations.
- Testing and adapting the framework in various local contexts.

An exploratory study, drawing on findings of this study, is planned, to gather a more in-depth and broader understanding of the gender dimensions of sanitation in Madagascar. The results will be used to determine specific priority areas for the programme and the larger sanitation and hygiene sector. This initiative will work to understand the differing and compounded vulnerabilities faced by women in Madagascar, while examining how gender inequality can be addressed within and beyond the household.

Communities are ultimately in charge of triggering and sustaining their sanitation behaviour. The FAA programme therefore invests tremendous efforts in strengthen-

ing local solidarity mechanisms for inclusive development and social change, as well as building on existing community structures to ingrain collective behaviour change. The FAA programme has mobilized a 100,000-strong movement, with actors committed to tackling the sanitation challenge. As a way of institutionalizing this movement for sustainability, Natural Leaders will be brought together to form organizations or will be embedded into existing WASH organizations. It is envisioned that female Natural Leaders will be at the forefront of these groupings. Once a few of these Natural Leader groupings are in place, a study to explore their relevance will be carried out.

The FAA plans to collaborate with the GSF-supported programme in Senegal, in order to learn from their experiences on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Some Programme Coordinating Mechanism²² members and Sub-grantees have already participated in MHM training in Senegal. They are supporting efforts to prioritize equality and inclusion of women and vulnerable groups in national and local plans and strategies.

Based on findings of this study as well as other efforts to incorporate gender principles in its programme, the FAA will improve monitoring regarding gender impact. The programme will also work more intensely with local women's groups to strengthen women's participation in local decision-making processes and entities. Moreover, there will be ongoing efforts to capture technologies, such as improved sanitary pads and contraception, designed to cater for women's and girls' particular sanitation needs.

About WSSCC

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is at the heart of the global movement to improve sanitation and hygiene, so that all people can enjoy healthy and productive lives. Established in 1990, WSSCC is the only United Nations body devoted solely to the sanitation needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people. In collaboration with our members in 150 countries, WSSCC advocates for the billions of people worldwide who lack access to good sanitation, shares solutions that empower communities, and operates the GSF, which since 2008 has committed over \$112 million to transform lives in developing countries.

About the GSF

The Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) invests in collective behaviour change approaches that enable large numbers of people in developing countries to improve their access to sanitation and adopt good hygiene practices. Established in 2008 by WSSCC, the GSF is the only global fund solely dedicated to sanitation and hygiene.

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BACK COVER: A COMMUNITY MEMBER IN THE VAKINANKARATRA REGION TAKES PRIDE IN USING HER HANDWASHING FACILITY.
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²² Programme Coordinating Mechanisms are nationally-recognized, typically government-led coordinating bodies for sanitation and hygiene within GSF-supported countries.

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