



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

USAID's regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity

Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus online lecture

Lecture №16: Mainstreaming gender in nexus WEFE
Wednesday, 22 February 2023

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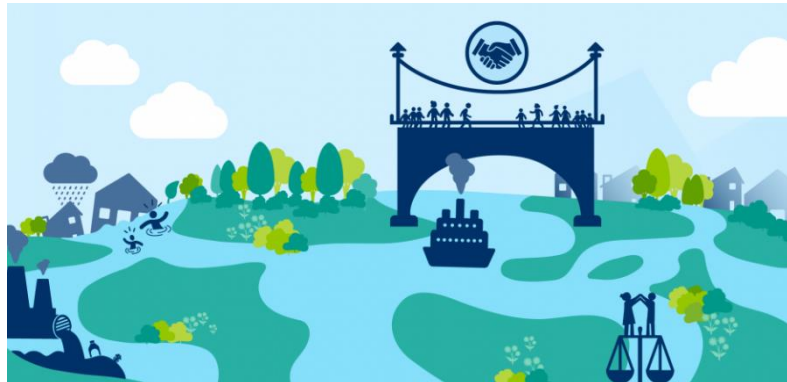


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OSCE Mandate – Water Management

The OSCE's mandate in the area of water management dates back to the Helsinki Final Act and comprises a number of OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions including:

- 1975 Helsinki Final Act
- 1989 Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment organized by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)
- 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document
- 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environmental and Security
- 2014 MC Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduce



OCEEA Priorities in 2023: Strengthening transboundary water co-operation and good water governance by:

- Promoting **water diplomacy** and **transboundary water management**; providing support for **transboundary water agreements**; ensuring a more integrated approach to water governance and the inclusion of **gender perspectives**



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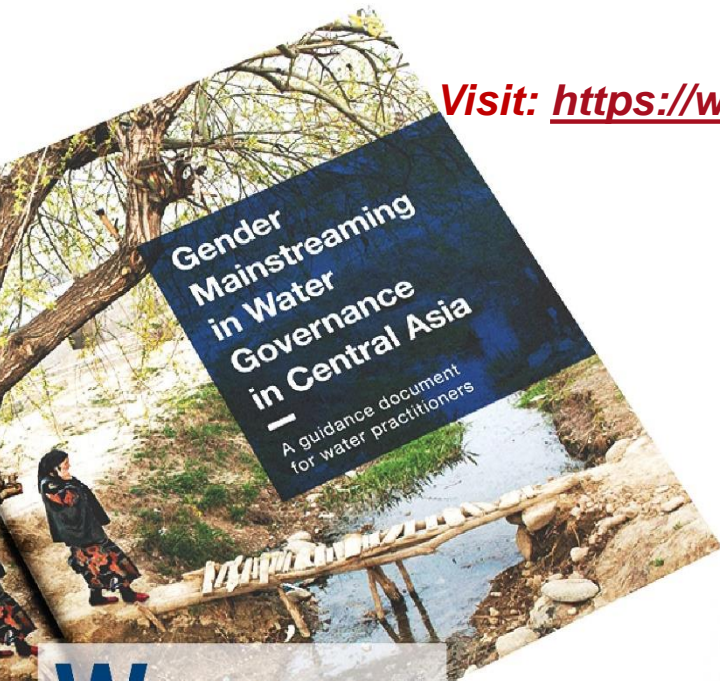
OSCE and UN Water Convention

- OSCE projects and activities contribute to more effective governance of water resources, also articulating and materializing benefits of transboundary water co-operation for strengthening trust and good neighbourly relations.
- OSCE basis its work on the principles of the **UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**
- Support to the OSCE participating States with the implementation of commitments taken at the international level on good water governance and co-operation

Select examples of OSCE support:

- Development of the ***International Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin*** in South-Eastern Europe region
- Drafting of the bilateral agreement for the ***Kura River Basin*** between Azerbaijan and Georgia
- Establishment and ongoing activities of the ***Chu-Talas River Basin Commission*** between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
- Establishment of the ***Dniester River Basin Commission*** between Ukraine and Republic of Moldova in 2018, development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Commission (2021-2035)





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Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention



Water Management - Women, Water Management and Conflict Prevention (phases II and III)

Overall objective:

To contribute to more inclusive and participatory water governance and capacity building of women professionals in the water sector

Project Area: Central Asia and Afghanistan (with cross-regional components)

Results:

- 1) Awareness by key stakeholders to advance good water governance is increased.
- 2) Women's professional networks in water management are strengthened.
- 3) Capacities of women water professionals in water diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, peacebuilding processes and conflict prevention are increased.
- 4) Awareness on climate change implications on transboundary water management among key stakeholders, including gender considerations, is raised.



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WOMEN IN WATER MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

Transboundary water resources

Almost 90% of the people living in Central Asia rely on water that comes from precipitation in mountainous regions. Four of the Central Asia states are considered **water-stressed**.
(European Environment Agency, 2018)

Women are often **underrepresented** in transboundary water management, especially at higher levels of **decision-making**. Though the importance of including women in water management structures is beginning to receive increased recognition internationally, in practice laws and organizations seldom reflect a **gendered approach**.

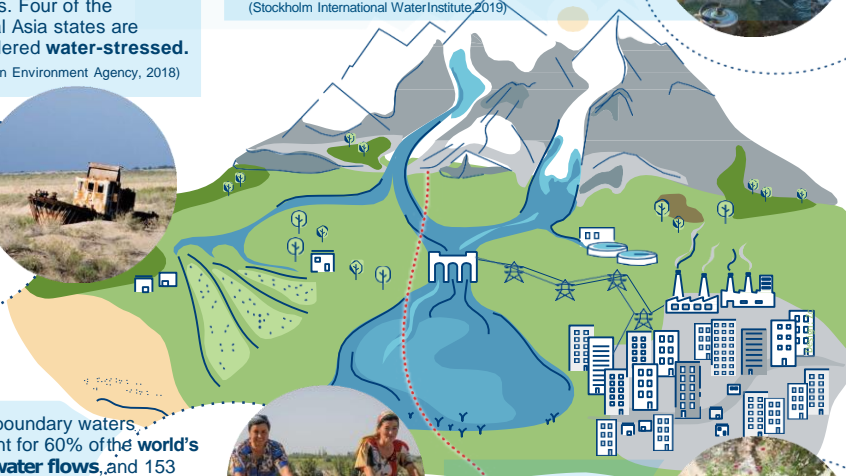
(Stockholm International Water Institute 2019)

Transboundary waters account for 60% of the **world's freshwater flows**, and 153 countries share at least one transboundary river, lake basin or aquifer system.

(United Nations, 2021)

The two largest rivers of Central Asia – the **Amu Darya** and the **Syr Darya** – are transboundary. Their basins provide 90% of the region's river water.

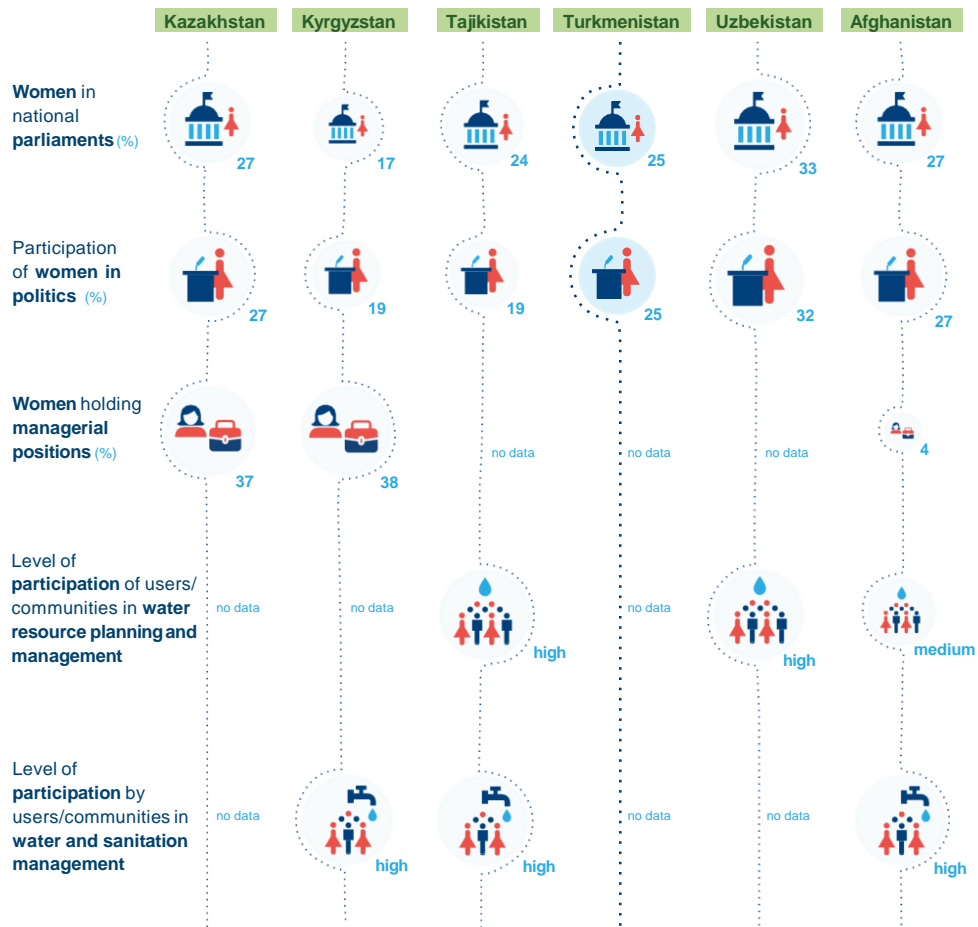
(European Environment Agency, 2018)



In 2021 the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) launched a Mentoring and Career Development Programme for women water professionals in partnership with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Each month 20 women meet with experts and mentors to discuss challenges that women face in the water sector and to take part in capacity-building activities.



WOMEN IN WATER MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA: GOOD GOVERNANCE



Sources: IPU 2020, UN Women 2020, GWP 2020, UN-Water 2019



When women and men equally decide on how to use water, decisions are better targeted and more representative of the needs of the entire population. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, has developed this **guide to gender mainstreaming in water governance in Central Asia** in collaboration with OSCE Secretariat



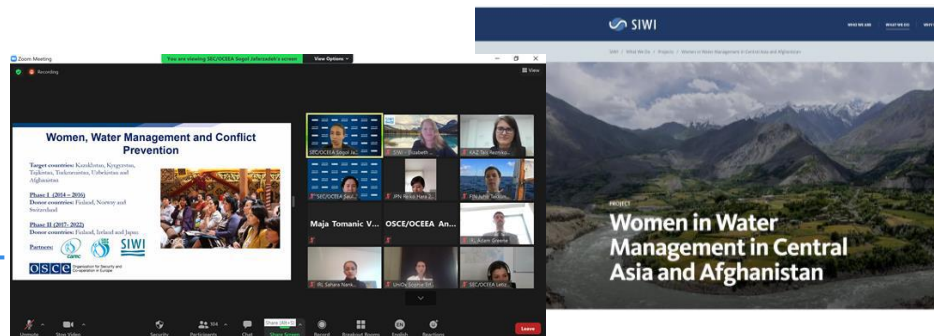
Gender Issues Programme for the benefit of water practitioners in the region.

Based on the manual, the OSCE has developed an **e-learning module** as an **introduction to gender mainstreaming in water governance in an engaging manner.**



2021: Launch of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan

- Monthly **joint capacity building, experience sharing, knowledge exchange, skills building.**
- Supporting **development of women water experts in the region** and **enhanced water co-operation.**
- The Network is part of the broader **Women in Water Diplomacy Network** which consists of supporters from other developing basin communities, including in Africa and North America.
- Building synergies with the **Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile**



2022: The Network members meet in person

- Participation to **Second High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development**, co-organizing the Women Water Forum and **directly contributing to the Dushanbe Declaration, 'From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023'**, where women's voices were strongly reflected.
- **Women in Water Diplomacy Global Network Forum at World Water Week**
- Launch of the **Global Strategy "A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security"**.
- 15 November 2022: **Networking for Peace: Women Making a Difference through Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Engagement in Peace Processes**, Side-event at EEDIM



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2023 Upcoming Activities

- Participation to the **UN 2023 Water Conference: 22-24 March 2023**
- **Capacity building** for water professionals in water diplomacy, **negotiation, mediation**, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, including interactive simulations.
- Organization of **awareness-raising** events on **climate change implications on transboundary water management**, including gender considerations.
- Connecting with other Women Water Network, including **Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile and North America**.
- Partnering with **Finnish Centre for Peace Mediation, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Geneva Water Hub, IUCN, Central Asia Youth for Water Network (CAY4W)**



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Participation to UN 2023 Water Conference

In co-operation with relevant partners, the OSCE is participating to:

- **21 March: *Water Diplomacy Symposium 2023: A Global Experience Exchange*** organized on the margins of the UN Water Conference. ELI-SIWI-IJC-Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the University of Arizona
- **22 March: *Central Asia: Commitments to Water Action Agenda*** IFAS-Government of Tajikistan-World Bank side-event.
- **22 March: *Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition*** side-event.
- **21-22/03: *Women Water Decision Makers for Peace and Human Security*** (Women in Water Diplomacy Network side-event).
- **22-23/03: *Roundtable : Concrete Path to Empower Women, Youth and Indigenous Persons to Accelerate Global Water Security in the Water Action Decade*** (World Bank)

THANK YOU!

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