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Enabling Women to Participate in Sustainable Water Management in Armenia

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General Information: Target provinces

Ararat marz

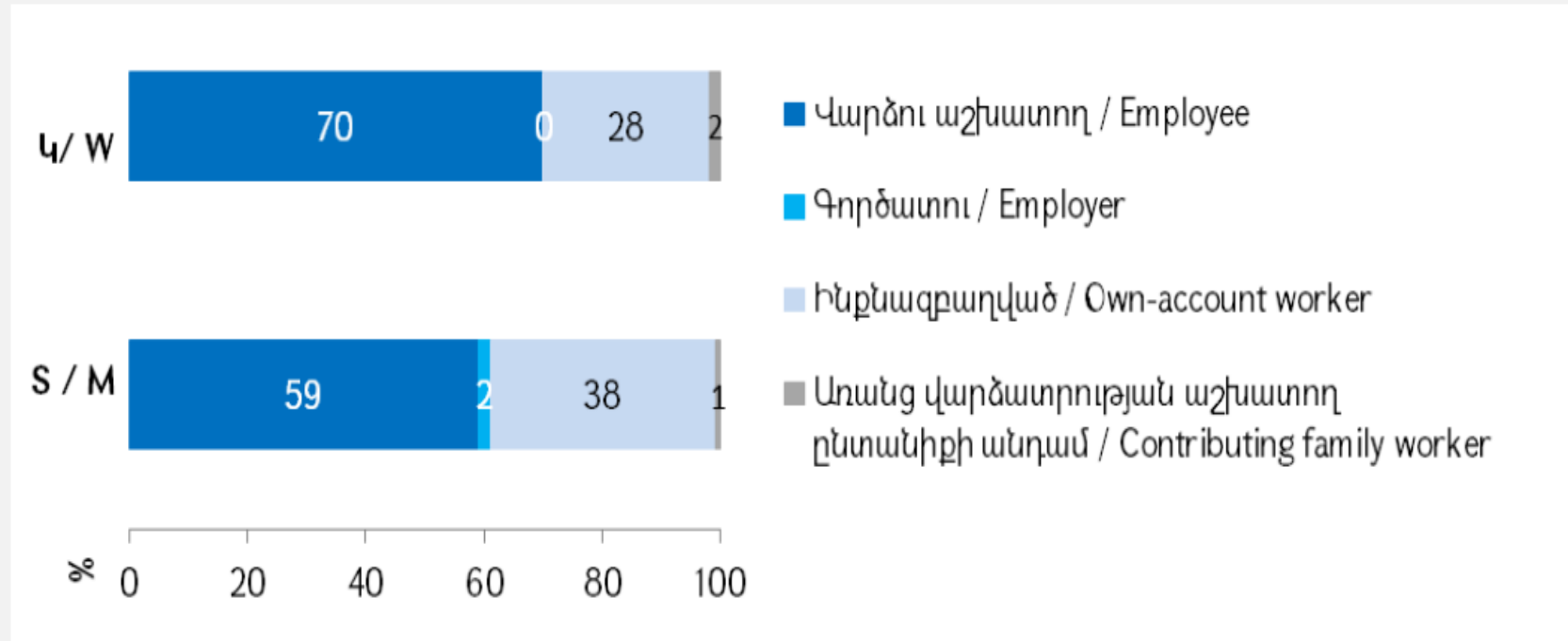
- Settlements: 99
- Population: 257000

Armavir marz

- Settlements: 100
- Population: 237000

Water issues: drinking water scarcity because of fish farming and deterioration of infrastructures; droughts and deterioration of irrigation systems

Introduction: gender aspects/ Armenia context



Managerial positions occupied by men are higher 2.8 times than by women. In 2018, the women's average earnings amounted to 64.7% of men's earnings. Gender pay gap is amounted 35.3%.

Source: armstate.am

Project Components

This project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of natural water resources of the Ararat Valley by enhancing participation of women groups in the oversight of community water resources to ensure equitable access to water supply and sanitation.

Three interlinked groups of actions will be put in place:

- discussions on tariff compensation mechanisms to ensure equitable access to drinking water and sanitation by vulnerable and marginalized groups, at national level;
- monitoring based participation in oversight of irrigation water, at province level;
- and the implementation of four pilot projects, at community level.

Project Component 1

Aim of the Activity 1: Discussions on tariff compensation mechanisms to ensure equitable access to drinking water and sanitation by vulnerable and marginalized groups as continuation of the implementation of the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health.

The technical report was developed in two languages (Armenian and English).

Technical report

The main purpose of this report was to identify the financial problems and gaps in equitable water supply and sanitation access and affordability for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Technical report includes analysis of:

- Legislation framework

- Institutional framework

- Current situation in drinking water and sanitation sector

- Tariffs

- Recommendations

Technical report

- A national meeting to address Equitable access to water and sanitation **for vulnerable and isolated groups** and a number of other issues related to water supply and sanitation was held on January 30, 2020.
- The technical report including recommendations was introduced during the meeting.
- Based on the discussions, recommendations were revised and sent to the Water Committee.
- An appeal was developed with request to introduce social tariffs in Armenia.

Key findings of the analysis

- A multi-stakeholder approach ensures provision of the equitable access to water and sanitation.
- Gaps in legislative changes ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation were identified and amendments to national legislation such as the Water Code were suggested.
- Proposed draft tariff mechanism provides a national discussion platform for equitable access to drinking water to vulnerable populations.
- Recommendations include also the engagement of more women in decision-making in the water sector.

Conclusion

- The combined approach (from top- for policy discussions on tariffs, to bottom – for community-based communication) allowed to better assess the needs and provide demand-driven recommendations for policy improvements.
- The participation of women at all levels has been very instrumental in moving towards the project objectives.
- For example, over 80% of participants at the National Workshop on equitable access to drinking water represented women decision-makers at all levels, as well as community activists.

References

- Statistical committee: www.armstat.am
- Armenian Women for Health and Health Environment NGO: <http://awhhe.am/2019-enabling-women-to-participate-in-sustainable-water-management-in-armenia/>
- UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health: <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/protocol-on-water-and-health.html>

Thank you!

www.awhhe.am

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<https://www.facebook.com/awhhe/>

