



## Gender

### Background

Since the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing Gender mainstreaming has been an explicit strategy of International Development Cooperation. Based on policy activities to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming is understood as making the concerns and experiences of both men and women integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes at all levels and at all stages. It contains reflections of the interrelation between gender discrimination, poverty and ill health and takes the various living conditions and interests of women and men into account. Gender mainstreaming is the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes towards gender-sensitive projects, programmes, and political dialogue. Thus German Development Cooperation pursues the cross-cutting issue of gender equality as a binding guideline in its routine work towards the goal of 'real equality' between men and women.

### Objective

In line with its overall objective – to improve the health and wellbeing of all Tanzanians, in particular of vulnerable population groups – TGPSH aims to put a gender oriented approach into action in all its activities. Based on the fact that a number of health problems originate from causes such as unequal living conditions, gender roles, or gender related differences in health care, Gender is integrated as crosscutting aspects in all programme areas. Further TGPSH targets at bringing up gender topics in all communication and cooperation with the Tanzanian partners and other development partners to support them to incorporate the philosophy of gender equality in their strategies, operational and daily work. Thus emphasis is put on the dialogue on how gender issues are related to many facets of a public health programme and how a gender sensitive perspective can enrich interventions.

### Approach

Gender mainstreaming is well established in TGPSH both in regards to internal principles as well as across the spectrum of supported interventions. On the overall level, the programme has appointed a Gender focal person to follow-up gender issues within the programme and to take care of gender related activities. Furthermore, Gender is priority on the agenda in the cooperation with Development Partners and the Tanzanian Government. In the planning, monitoring and evaluation of TGPSH as well as in the national data collection system sex disaggregated data are collected to address gender sensitivity and equality in the further planning. In a nutshell, gender sensitive activities are included in the TGPSH's routine work.

### Activities

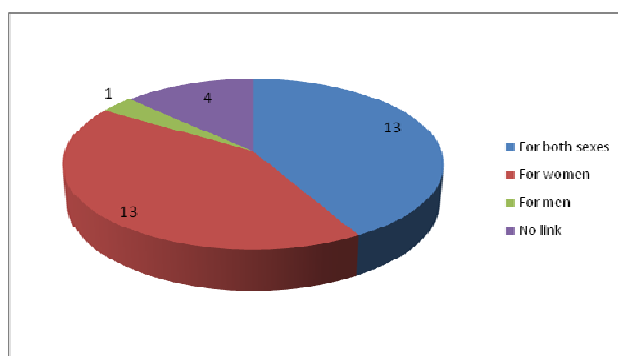
There is a wide range of specific Gender sensitive activities in the TGPSH – some of them are already carried out others are still ongoing, e.g.:

- Addressing maternal mortality by various cross-component activities like improving infrastructure and funds for transport to health facilities, or advocating for change of hospital regulations so as to allow pregnant women to be accompanied by a female friend or relative at the time of delivery.

- Addressing gender based violence via sensitization and including aspects of sexual violence in the training curriculum of health practitioners, teachers and workplace programme trainings for public and private sector.
- Conducting studies about gender sensitive topics like early pregnancies in schools, as pregnant girls are expelled from schools and therefore hindered to continue their education.
- Including Emergency oral contraceptive into the national adolescents' reproductive health strategy as well as into the training curriculum of Community Based Distributors.
- Promoting mother and child health in Service Agreements between district government and private health service providing hospitals and advocate for making them priority issues of PPP agreements.
- Enhancing access to health care for women through individual registration cards of the community health funds.
- Including maternal and child health in trainings of Community Health Service Boards and Facility Governing Committees.
- Male involvement in family planning through revising the training curriculum of the Community Based Distributors (CBD) to make services more accessible for men.
- Establishment of (21) health information centres "Connect and Learn" providing free basic health information on HIV and SRH with focus on women and youth, using CDs and internet.

### Impact – what has been achieved

TGPSH endeavours to include gender sensitive activities in its routine work. The success of these efforts to mainstream Gender is proven in the monitoring as only 13% of the TGPSH work has no link to gender while 87% of the TGPSH activities were interrelated to gender: it was revealed that is 42% of the activities are supposed to be gender sensitive for both sexes and further 42% of the TGPSH impact is classified to be gender sensitive for women. Only a single activity, male circumcision, is targeted at men only.



An external appraisal of TGPSH gender related work claimed that TGPSH has taken an innovative step in seeking to establish gender mainstreaming in its internal processes, i.e. on the overall programme level, and across the entire breadth of its interventions through gender specific activities. In this context it can be declared as an achievement that the TGPSH does not only focus on classical intervention areas for gender related activities such as sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS. Especially, the extend of paying attention to gender sensitivity in areas such as contractual arrangements with service providers, health insurance schemes and quality management seem to be an achievement worth to be mentioned.