Gender Mainstreaming in the Water and Waste Water Sectors

Water is a basic human need and access to water is important for women. In a situation of scarcity, it is the woman in the house who is responsible to manage the limited resources to the best of her capacity. Moreover, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

In that context, Mrs Vasudha Pangare, Expert on Gender Mainstreaming in Water Sector, has been appointed by UNOPs under the Integrated Water Resources Management Project to develop guidelines and indicators for gender mainstreaming in the water and waste water sectors in Mauritius. The indicators will help the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and related institutions to ensure gender mainstreaming in the two sectors and assess gender gaps in the project implementation cycle and outputs.

Mrs Pangare visited Mauritius from 4 to 9 September 2017 to start her assignment. During her visit she had several working sessions with officers of this Ministry, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, the University of Mauritius, the Central Water Authority, the Water Resources Unit and the Wastewater Management Authority. Mrs Pangare also conducted a half day working session on 7 September 2017 to explain the concept of gender to Senior Officers of the Ministry.

During her second visit, scheduled in early October, she will hold a consultative workshop with stakeholders, mainly grass root associations and NGOs as well as a workshop with relevant Officers so as to train them on the use of the gender mainstreaming guidelines and indicators.