

# DIFFERENT PEOPLE, EXPERIENCES & NEEDS

## GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN DESIGNING URBAN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PROJECTS





**Projects take place in communities whether these are residential or institutional or a combination of the two spaces**





**How can projects foster equity in who participates, contributes, benefits in whatever “community” context?**





The **social context matters** as much as the technical considerations in designing sustainable projects.

Demographic data disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic status etc. deepen understanding of the social context of the problem to be addressed by an NbS project.



## Some key questions



Who is impacted by the issue/problem, how, why?

Who is most able to participate in/benefit from the project? Who is missing/under-represented? why?



How do/will different groups use (or be likely to use) the resources/amenities being addressed by the project?



Are specific needs of women, men, persons with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable groups known and responded to? What strategies are there to ensure their equitable representation and participation in the project's phases?



- **Gender** = socially/culturally determined roles, responsibilities, choices and expectations of males and females
- Because they are social/cultural norms they can/do change over time and from region to region
- Norms related to gender, age, disability etc. contribute to differences in people's life choices and experiences.

# Gender & Social Inclusion



## Gender & Other Demographic Identities Matter...

### ✓ Different life circumstances

females, males and other social groups are positioned differently in society. They have different relationship to the natural (and built) environment; and, they differ in the degree and type vulnerability to negative climate-related/environmental impacts

### ✓ Different Access & Relationship to Assets

Unequal access to land, finance, information, social spaces etc, and different uses of natural assets, differences in time use.

### ✓ Different degrees of power

Women & marginalized groups are often excluded from/under-represented in leadership and decision-making





## Social Inclusion Means...

- identifying disadvantaged or excluded individuals and groups,
- taking positive action to reduce limiting factors/barriers in relation to the proposed project
- ensuring equity in who is **recognised**, heard, taken into account in, **empowered** by, and **participate** and **benefit** in development efforts. . . .



## Some Red Flags in Project Designing

- Unsubstantiated thinking such as 'This project benefits/will benefit everyone equally'
- Barrier-blind thinking/attitudes "We don't prevent anyone from participating"
- Wishful thinking - No specific plan or strategies that respond to different groups' needs and foster inclusive participation



- Evidence/data poverty - Lack of/inadequate information to guide the project planning and design and tracking and measuring equitable, social outcomes



## THE WORLD'S BEST PLAN



## Take-Away

- Gender equality, equity and social inclusion strengthen sustainable development outcomes
- Projects that include gender-responsive & inclusive actions → greater equity & impact

