

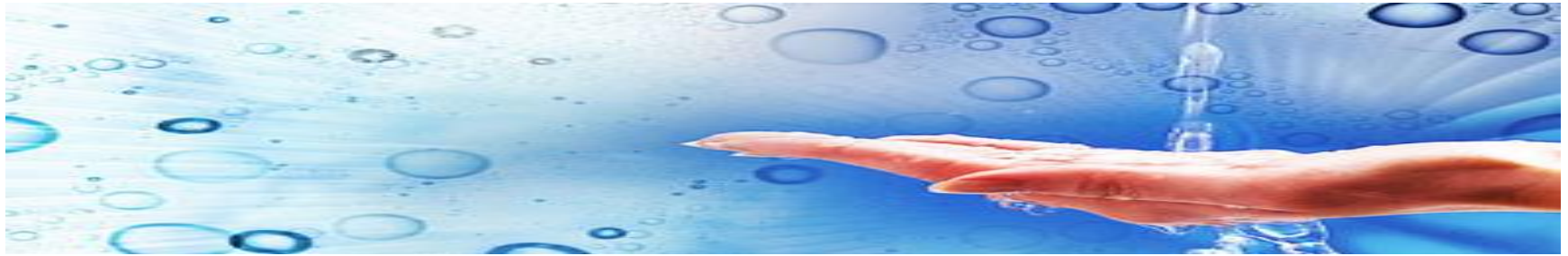
Gender, IWRM & DRR: Caribbean SIDS



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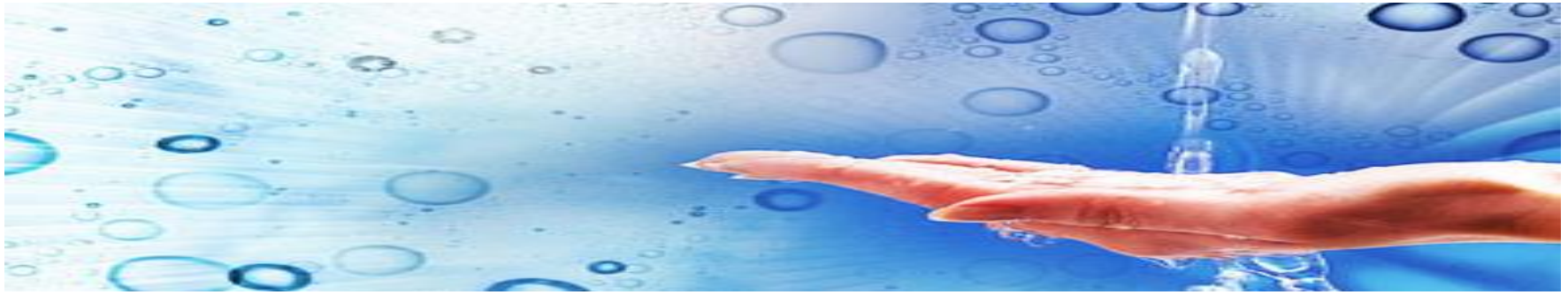
Gender Issues



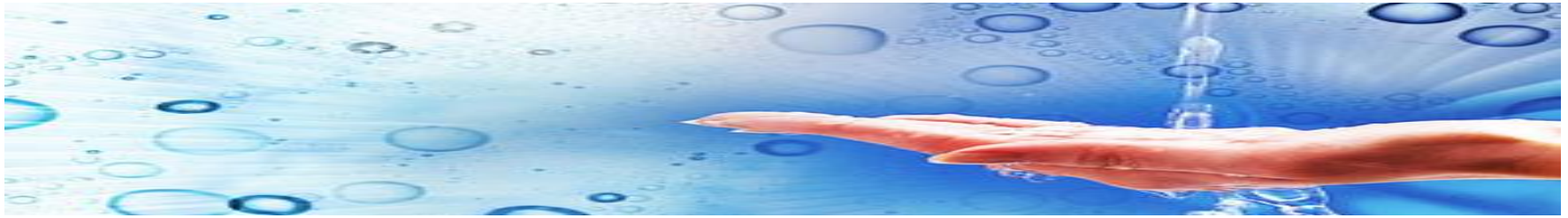


Droughts, Climate Change & DRR

- ✓ Women have few choices but to carry water home from unsafe sources, including streams and ponds that are likely to be contaminated (WHO, 2014).
- ✓ Women and household exposed to water-related diseases;
- ✓ Hygienic practices are commonly sacrificed to more pressing needs for water, such as drinking and cooking.



- Women in underserved communities spend much time collecting water for domestic use (Mycoo, 1996; Schneiderman and Reddock, 2004).
- Health consequences of nutritional deficiencies and the burdens associated with travelling further to collect water (World Health Organization, 2014).



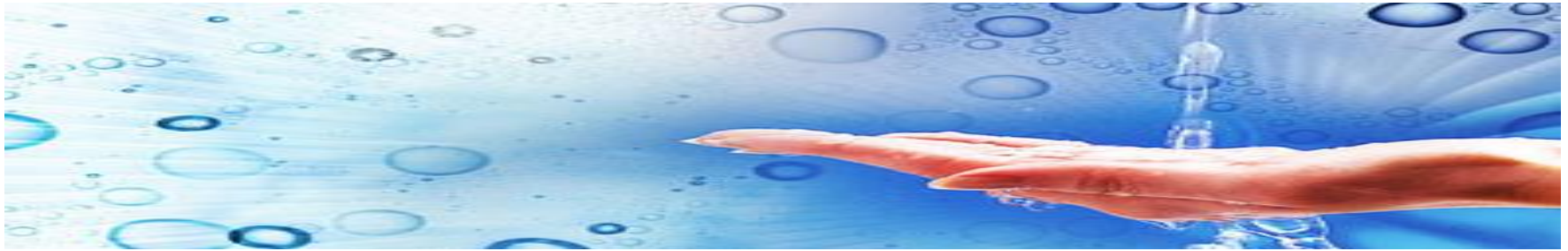
- ✓ Less sleep because they must rise early to collect water.
- ✓ In some low-income households women do not own vehicles or do not drive.
- ✓ Carrying heavy loads over long periods of time causes cumulative damage to the spine, the neck muscles and the lower back, leading to early ageing of the vertebral column (Mehretu and Mutambirwa, 1992; Dasgupta, 1993; Page, 1996; Seaforth, 2001; Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, 2005; Ray, 2007).



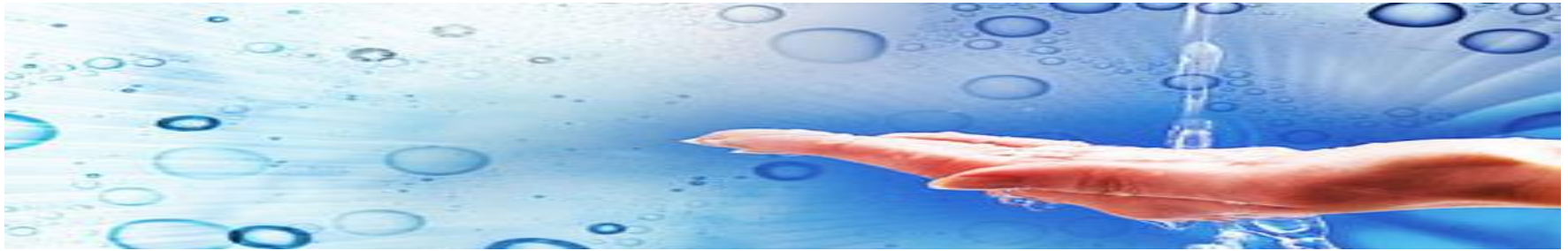
A background image showing a splash of water with many bubbles and a red liquid stream flowing across the surface.

Economic Burden

- Underserved communities e.g. informal urban and rural communities are highly vulnerable to inadequate water supply;
- Female-headed households;
- No legal water connections;
- Miss days from work or take time off to receive water;
- Hillside areas where water has to be transported is risky for women



- ✓ Economic sectors such as food vending, tourism and agriculture where women are engaged are water-dependent;
- ✓ Highly affected by natural hazards when water is impacted.



- ✓ IWRM, Gender Mainstreaming & DRR
- ✓ Rainwater harvesting can help mitigate the the impact of natural hazards (floods and hurricanes);
- ✓ Women can be easily trained to maintain the rainwater harvesting systems.



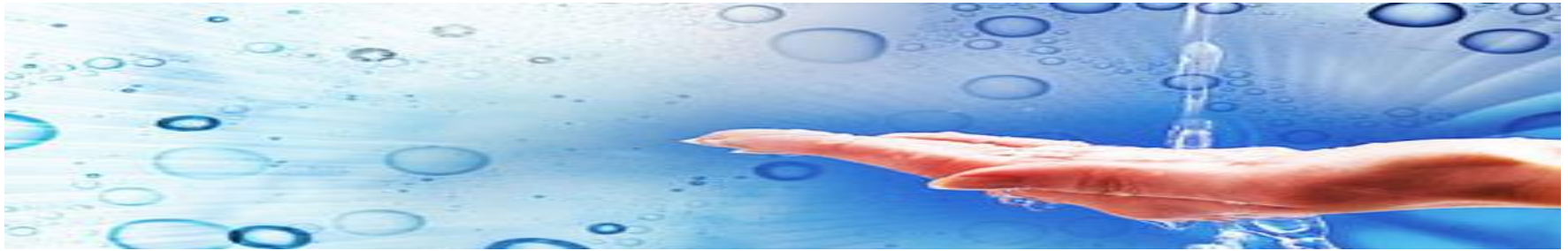


Gender & IWRM Economic Principles

- Water vouchers (subsidies) for female headed houses living below poverty line to receive water connection;
- Direct relationship between consumption and cost of water provision.
- Less wastage of water through use of economic instruments and effects on behavioural change.

Take home messages





- ✓ Mainstreaming gender into the narrative of water security and disaster risk reduction should be high on the development agenda.
- ✓ Solutions need not be highly technological innovations.
- ✓ Cultural transformation in understanding the central role women play in health, well-being and sustainable development.