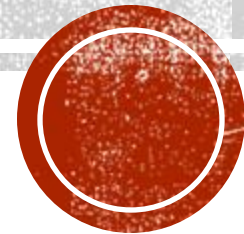


MAINSTREAMING GEDSI IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY IN SAMOA

**Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
(MWCSD)
October 2025**



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Samoa's National GEDSI Policy Framework
- MWCSD's cross-government role
- What's going well
- recommendations for inclusive development planning



GEDSI FRAMEWORK

To ensure:

- Equal access and participation for women, men, persons with disabilities (PWDs), youth, and all vulnerable groups
- Inclusive development outcomes across all sectors
- “Leave No One Behind”



GEDSI FRAMEWORK — KEY ELEMENTS

Policy instruments;

- National Gender Equality Policy
- National Disability Policy
- National Ending Violence Policy (Family Safety Policy)
- Inclusive Economic Empowerment Policy
- National Policy on Inclusive Governance
- National Prevention Framework to address Gender Based Violence
- Community Sector Plan (2024–2028)
- MWCSO Corporate Plan (2021–2026)
- Early Childhood Development Framework (2024–2034)



GEDSI FRAMEWORK – KEY ELEMENTS

Aligned to ;

- Pathway for the Development of Samoa
- Regional commitments – Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration
- International Commitments – CRC, CRPD, CEDAW



GEDSI FRAMEWORK — KEY ELEMENTS

Implementation tools;

- Stakeholder engagement via village/district structures – STNs/SNs network, DDP (district councils)
- Capacity building & training programs
- Inclusive planning manuals and monitoring frameworks



GEDSI FRAMEWORK

MWCSD role; Coordination

- National focal ministry for gender equality and inclusion
- Drives GEDSI integration across all sectors -Technical & Capacity Support through development of guidelines and initiatives
- Training for communities on inclusive practices
- Monitoring & Oversight - Tracks GEDSI indicators, supports data collection, and ensures accountability



WHAT'S GOING WELL

- **Strong Policy Foundations**
GEDSI is a cross-cutting priority in national plans
- **Community-Led Planning Models**
District Development Programme ensures grassroots input
- **Donor & NGO Partnerships**
Support for pilots, inclusive design, and training
- **MWCSD Capacity Development**
Ongoing training and stakeholder engagement initiatives



WHAT GEDSI MAINSTREAMING MEANS FOR ALL SECTORS

Areas for consideration;

- inclusive planning development
- disaggregated data for planning and M&E
- Strengthen technical capacity in all sectors on key principles of GEDSI
- mandatory GEDSI impact assessments
- Inclusion budgeted into projects



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING GEDSI IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Policy - Develop GEDSI Infrastructure Guidelines
- Planning - Mandate GEDSI Impact Assessments at project start
- Budgeting - Require inclusion line items in infrastructure budgets
- Capacity - Train engineers and planners in inclusive design
- Data - Collect disaggregated usage/access data
- Coordination - Establish GEDSI focal points in infrastructure ministries



MWCSD – ENABLING INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

As a GEDSI Enabler, MWCSD will:

- Support and mobilize technical guidance to ministries and utilities
- Facilitate inclusive community engagement
- Support donor alignment and funding for GEDSI in infrastructure
- Monitor impact and ensure inclusive outcomes across projects



CALL TO ACTION

To achieve truly inclusive development, we must:

- Embed GEDSI in all stages of infrastructure planning and delivery
- Foster collaboration between MWCSD, MWTI, utilities & donors
- Track outcomes and invest in what works
- Ensure all voices—especially women & vulnerable groups—are heard

