

GWP Initiatives to empower women and girls in water management

The following note provides a summary of the latest GWP activities and results that have targeted or emphasized benefits for women and girls. This summary does not include GWP-wide gender mainstreaming efforts which are being implemented throughout our programming, rather it highlights specific initiatives where there has been significant efforts to empower women and girls as part of the program's impact.

GWP continues to target women and girls in a variety of ways within the implementation of its work programme. These include initiatives that benefit women and girls directly, such as improved sanitary facilities in female schools, as well as capacity building and awareness raising activities which enable women to adopt gender sensitive solutions and encourage change in community practices. In addition, GWP works to incorporate gender sensitivity into national and regional policy development and planning as well as empowering women to participate in governance bodies and decision-making processes. Here are a few:

Direct impact

- **Sri Lanka:** Water and sanitation programme implemented in partnership with Brandix Lanka and the Sri Lanka National Development Bank with the support of education authorities to improve water supply and sanitation facilities in rural schools, thereby increasing attendance levels of female students and promoting good health. The pilot project was launched in 2013 through the initiation of rain water harvesting systems for purposes of maintaining hygiene in two marginalised schools in the Central Province. Following the success of these pilots, the programme was extended to thirteen rural schools across Sri Lanka. The programme has since been handed over in its entirety to the National Development Bank which will continue to upscale it through their CSR programme. See: <http://lankajalani.org/?p=51#more-51> for more details.
- **India:** Ongoing initiative in partnership with All India Women's Conference (AIWC) on awareness generation and promotion of water quality testing by rural women in Kommaragiri village, Kakinda District, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Cameroon:** Drilling of boreholes and installation of solar powered pumps for water supply in order to provide clean drinking water, increase energy security, improve agricultural productivity, restore biodiversity and reduce poverty among local communities in the Mayo Tsanaga sub-catchment of the Lake Chad Basin. The pilot project is being carried out in partnership with the MBOSCUDA Women Social and Welfare Committee (MWSWC) and is benefitting women and youth through reducing the time and energy required for collecting water as well as increasing the decision-making rights for women regarding water resource management and agricultural produce.
- **Honduras:** In Honduras, a group of 11 women who live in the Dry Corridor, learned how to apply a farming technique called "biointensive gardening", which uses water and fertilizers more efficiently. The first crops from the demonstration plot have already been produced and where sold in their local market as well as in the closest city (Tegucigalpa). The project is

helping to improve the nutrition of the families, as well as providing a new source of income with the intention of replication on a larger scale.

- **Pakistan:** Distribution of food amongst women and children in four villages of District Headquarter Mithi that have been badly affected by prolonged drought
- **Rwanda/Burundi:** Enhancing climate resilience of communities in Bugesera project taking place in Rwanda and Burundi aims to benefit vulnerable groups of the community, particularly women and children, through the expansion of water supply services to ease the burden on women and children to collect water and prioritising the allocation of water for supply purposes. Women were also directly represented in the Lake Cyohoha catchment management structure established by the project and women's groups are being trained (*reported previously*).

Capacity building initiatives / Knowledge products

- **Bangladesh:** The Bangladesh Country Water Partnership partnered with the Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) to conduct a training workshop on *Climate change and water quality: Impact on coastal women and livelihoods* in Noakhali, Bangladesh. The workshop targeted grassroots level female participants to enhance awareness, share knowledge and develop a local level network to adopt climate resilient solutions in a coastal area vulnerable to groundwater contamination through saline intrusion. 49 participants from local water user groups, women's organisations, NGOs and students attended.
- **Jordan and Tunisia:** Multi-stakeholder policy dialogues on sustainable financing through PSP and water governance assessments were successfully completed in Jordan and Tunisia, involving key actors within and outside the water sector, with a fair female participation – over 30% of 150 stakeholders in Jordan and over 40% of 162 stakeholders in Tunisia.
- **India:** Training of 500 farmers, of which 30% were female, on modern rain harvesting and efficient irrigation technologies (*reported previously*).
- **Myanmar:** National dialogue to discuss the Gender Mainstreaming targeted at government organisations, universities, NGOs, and media/journalists (*reported previously*).
- **Pan-Africa:** An assessment of gender and water policies (legislation and policy related to both women's rights and water management in 28 African countries) was carried out by the Water Research Commission in South Africa with the endorsement of AMCOW. This Gender and Water Policy Study is being financially supported by GWP and several GWP gender focal points have played a leadership role in the work. A draft publication is currently under review and early results were discussed at the November 2014 Gender Water and Development Conference in South Africa. We expect the full study will be available in 2015 (*reported previously*).
- **Pan-Africa:** WACDEP young professionals program to engage young women leaders in GWP offices in climate and water management activities. The initiative is in support of both the AMCOW gender and youth strategies and is empowering young African women as future leaders in the water and climate workforce.

Events

- **Southern Africa:** Gender Water and Development – Keeping the Momentum - GWP was one of the organizing partners of the Gender, Water & Development Conference held in East London from 3-7 November, 2014. The conference, hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation, Water Research Commission, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Women for Water Partnership and others, attracted over 430 participants from 36 countries. Ministers present during the conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration on actions required to increase water security and sanitation dignity so as to achieve sustainable management of water resources.