



Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Water and Sanitation

Ronald Reagan Building, May 22nd, 2013

Summary & Key Messages

Event Overview: The USAID Water Office hosted a special seminar on Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership in the water sector with Gemma Bulos, Director of the Global Women's Water Initiative (GWWI). GWWI is building a cadre of women trainers versed in a holistic set of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) strategies capable of building various appropriate technologies, promoting water-related health campaigns and launching social enterprises.

Objectives:

- Share how GWWI partners with local women leaders to design trainings for grassroots women and groups to bring sustainable WASH solutions that improve their communities' health and self-reliance.
- Demonstrate tangible impacts through various GWWI small infrastructure programs.

Countries highlighted: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The event resulted in the following key messages:

1) Provide Support on 3 Levels – WASH Expertise, Entrepreneurship and Leadership: a combination of hardware (technology construction and product manufacturing), and software (WASH education and advocacy, entrepreneurial and leadership development) promotes women's voices in the WASH sector and fosters self-reliance. All teams have built multiple technologies in their communities, professionalized their services and mobilized additional resources from their communities and outside sources to expand their reach and build more technologies.

2) Build a Support Team: each team is assigned a support team that provides technical, organizational and outreach mentoring. The teams design a work plan and the support team works with them as an accountability partner to help overcome obstacles, track progress and motivate.



Participants learn to build a rainwater harvesting system with an ISSB Tank

3) Provide access to tools – Teams apply based on community context: GWWI is a training program that provides tools for providing sustainable WASH solutions. GWWI is not an implementer. We focus on building capacity of women and provide them with the tools to design their own WASH programs and strategies.

4) Measure entrepreneurship: defining entrepreneurship by diversifying funding/income, i.e. professionalizing services, selling products, obtaining WASH specific grants, etc.

5) Measure leadership by tracking ‘sphere of influence’: Measure team’s capacity to mobilize resources, influence local leaders and government officials, influence water strategies and policies, receive awards and recognition, and build confidence and self-reliance.

For more information, please visit the following:

- <http://gemmabulos.com/>
- How to Accidentally Change the World: Gemma Bulos at TEDxGramercy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cJ8MwKExvM>
- www.globalwomenswater.org

GWWI Contact:

Gemma Bulos, Director, Global Women's Water Initiative

Gemma@globalwomenswater.org

+1.917.497.1094



Kenya Regional Coordinator offers WASH Education seminars in local school

The USAID Water Office looks forward to seeing you at future learning events!