



Global Grassroots

CONSCIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE FOR WOMEN

For me, this project of water supply made me feel safe and secure. It freed me of the long distance I used to make...Now, there are no illnesses caused by unclean water. We no longer go to hospital. That is something that we are grateful for.

- Mukakarera Matilda //

THE FACTS

Women and girls travel 10-15 km/ 6-9 miles daily, spending 8 or more hours collecting water.

Women represent more than one half of those with no access to safe water.

Girls younger than 15 are twice as likely as boys to collect water. This causes them to arrive late to school and fall behind in their studies.

\$1 invested in WASH (Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene) programs yields an economic return of up to \$34.00
(World Health Organization)



Matilda is a beneficiary of a Global Grassroots water venture called Have a Good Life in Nyamirambo, Rwanda. After initial research revealed that 95% of the community had experienced health issues related to unclean water, 81% had traded sex for water at least once, yet only 25% had taken HIV tests, Have a Good Life was established to reduce water-borne illnesses among women and children and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and women's rights. Today, Have a Good Life provides clean water access to approximately 2,000 people daily and educates women on issues of health, hygiene, violence, and equality.

Women's Water Leadership Initiative

Most of the women with whom we work live in areas with no water access, where they or their daughters must travel for many hours to collect water from a valley creek or hand-dug well. Yet that water source can be a cause of harm, contaminated by run-off from latrines, farms, and livestock. Not only are water-borne illnesses an issue but women and girls face opportunistic violence at remote water sites, the duration of collecting water prohibits women from other economic pursuits, girls fall behind in school due to their duty to collect water, and those who are physically unable to access water may face exploitation in exchange for water delivery by men.

Through our Women's Water Leadership Initiative, teams of vulnerable women learn to design, construct, and implement water access, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) enterprises and become leaders of change in their communities. Through their water ventures, teams are able to generate resources for their families and use the profits from the sale of water to address social issues such as water-borne disease, malnutrition due to low agricultural yields from poor irrigation, violence and exploitation, girls' education, the need for safe latrines and washrooms to ensure girls do not miss school during menstruation, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, and women's rights.

In 2016, Global Grassroots' teams currently in development will bring safe, clean water access – *permanently and sustainably* – to more than 30,000 people in Rwanda. The cost of this clean water, along with important social change programs, equates to *less than \$7.00 per person*. We believe we offer one of the most cost-effective water programs in existence.



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Global Grassroots' Academy for Conscious Change

Our Academy for Conscious Change in Rwanda and Uganda provides a unique experiential curriculum in social entrepreneurship, trauma healing, mindfulness-based leadership, and team-based problem solving. Through local partnerships, we first target the most vulnerable and undereducated women, including subsistence farmers, victims of sexual or domestic violence, war widows, and single mothers. We then help teams of these women design their own non-profit community organizations to address critical issues in their villages. We also provide seed funding and offer high-engagement coaching during their first year of operations.

The Global Grassroots model is highly replicable. Each Academy incubator program takes a team of grassroots change agents from idea phase to a sustainable civil society organization within a year, while providing ongoing monitoring, oversight, and mentorship. Within the next year, they are often ready to expand or replicate their work or address additional social issues; some reach upwards of 9,000 people in their communities.

Global Grassroots' holistic approach provides women in poor and post-conflict environments with an avenue to heal from traumatic experiences, develop social-emotional intelligence, build confidence, create a positive social impact, and develop as self-aware leaders, all while initiating long-term, sustainable solutions to WASH issues locally.



Global Grassroots is 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our mission is to catalyze women and girls as leaders of Conscious Social Change in their communities. Conscious Social Change is the intersection of mindfulness, leadership, and social entrepreneurship whereby individuals may initiate change consciously, compassionately and ethically. Our work was established in 2006 in Rwanda targeting women survivors of the 1994 genocide. We have since trained more than 650 change agents who have created more than 120 social change enterprises across Rwanda, Uganda, China, Cameroon, Liberia, and the US.