Why Women? Why Water? Why Me?

Opening Remarks: Dr. Zafar Adeel and Dr. Susan Watt

Moderator: Connie Wansbrough

Keynote Speaker: Honourable Maria Mutagamba

Panelist Presentations:
Prisca Nandede, Social Scientist, Ministry of Water and Environment
Dr. Tanjina Mirza, Vice President, International Programs, Plan Canada
Tim Muttoo, Co-Founder and Executive Director, H2O 4 All
Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Programme Officer, UNU-INWEH
Why water? Why women? Why me?
Dr Tanjina Mirza, Plan Canada
Facts on Water

Waterborne diseases claim the lives of 1.4 millions children every year.

Every day, lack of access to clean water and sanitation kills thousands, leaving others with reduced quality of life.
Facts on Water (Cont’d)

Women (and children particularly Girls) spend long hours daily collecting water.

On average they walk six kilometers each day to fetch water. Carry 20 kilograms on their heads.
Water in schools: impact on girls

- Access to safe water and sanitation in schools is key in retaining girls in schools
- Separate latrines for boys/girls with water points
- Absenteeism for girls increases during periods
- Major cause for girls dropping out at secondary level, often leading to early marriage

- **Girls education breaks inter-generational cycle of poverty**
Rain water harvesting
Child friendly pumps: water management committees
Recommendations to consider

• Break cycle of poverty by retaining girls in schools by providing WASH facilities in schools.
• Create water management committees in schools, communities
• Equip women to participate at different levels in water resources programs defined by them.
WHY WOMEN? WHY WATER? WHY ME?

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H2O 4 ALL
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McMaster Innovation Park : Sept. 18, 2012
Giving life through water
Me? a water perspective change

Giving water solutions
H2O 4 ALL was formed to develop and implement sustainable water solutions in developing countries. Through partnering with 20 plus local charitable organizations and NGOs, we are able to engage and empower local community leaders to take ownership in these solutions. By their engagement in the solution process we ensure the success and growth of the community.

H2O 4 ALL has over 20 projects operating in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia Africa and Colombia, South America.
Challenges and successes in Canada

- **Education**
- **Social Media**
- **Community**
- **Advocacy**
- **Research**
- **Volunteers**
Challenges on the ground

Partnership | Community | Technology

Training | Implementation | Governance
Engaging women in Sub Saharan Africa?

Empowering women directly changes social reform

- Sexual slavery freedom
- Hygiene practices
- Maternal Health decisions
- Foster HIV/AIDS orphans
- Stewardship
- Economic
www.h2o4all.org

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Why Women, Why Water, Why Me?

Drinking Water, Sanitation and Health
Why Women?

- Ecosystem Integrity
- Global Equity
- Economic Development
- Education

Safe Water and Sanitation Provisioning
Why Water?

- Water is critical to our future (and our present)
- Power is in people, not technology
- Small investments lead to big changes
Why Me?

- Water is in my blood
- Right time, right place, right people
- The power of ONE
What now?

- We have to talk
- We have to understand what is working and why
- We have to understand what isn’t working and why
- We have to make a difference
UNU-INWEH and The Key to Global Health