

# Why Women? Why Water? Why Me?

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

**Moderator:** Connie Wansbrough

**Keynote Speaker:** Honourable Maria Mutagamba

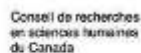
## **Panelist Presentations:**

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





**Plan** to change  
the world

**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?

Timothy Muttoo, Executive Director & Co-founder  
H2O 4 ALL  
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A photograph of a group of children in a rural, lush green environment. In the foreground, a young boy in a blue shirt holds a large red plastic water container on his head with both hands. He has small white and green markings on his face. Behind him, several other children are standing or sitting on a dirt path. One boy in a white shirt and light-colored shorts stands with his hands on his hips. Another boy in a light-colored tank top stands with his arms crossed. In the bottom right, a girl in a red shirt is partially visible. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees. The text "Giving life through water" is overlaid in white at the bottom left.

Giving life through water

# Me? a water perspective change

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Giving water solutions



# Me? Why I co-founded H2O 4 ALL?

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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

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Education



Social -Media



Community



Advocacy



Research



Volunteers

# Challenges on the ground

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Partnership



Community



Technology



Training



Implementation



Governance

# Engaging women in Sub Saharan Africa?

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Empowering women directly changes social reform



Sexual slavery freedom



Hygiene practices



Maternal Health decisions



Foster HIV/AIDS orphans



Stewardship



Economic



[www.h2o4all.org](http://www.h2o4all.org)



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH

# ***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



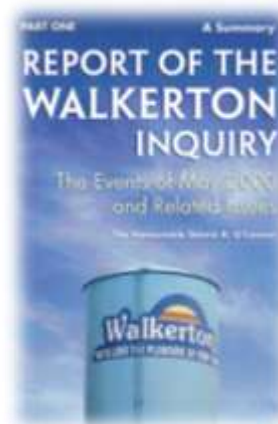
# Why Water?

- 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



