

International Women's Day



A BRIGHT FUTURE

Making water work for the women of Rwanda

It's International Women's Day, the one day each year dedicated to honoring those who work to improve the lives of women. Every day Global Grassroots' teams are doing just that, working tirelessly, against the odds and cultural confinements, to bring their own grassroots' solutions to the problems they and women like them face in their communities. One of these teams calls themselves Bright Future.

Did you know that **in sub-Saharan Africa women travel 6-9 miles daily, often spending up to eight hours collecting water?** And that girls younger than 15 are twice as likely as boys to collect water, making them regularly late for school so they fall behind on their education, often giving up?

Team Bright Future knows - because they live it. And they are fed up with how long it takes for women to collect water for their families and with the number of children dropping out of school. They're fed up with domestic violence that can be triggered because a woman spends so much time collecting water she is often late responding to her partner's needs; fed up with children being malnourished because their mothers spend too much time collecting water and have too many mouths to feed; fed up with women's inequality in the home and in the village because they have no time for other economic pursuits.

With training and support from Global Grassroots, Team Bright Future is bringing safe water access to the 3,360 people in their rural village and will use the revenue generated by their water venture to solve those systemic community issues. They will sponsor workshops on:

- Proper nutrition and healthy meal planning
- Family planning
- Women's rights
- Personal hygiene
- Vocational skills to create independent income for women

This year, up to 11 Global Grassroots' teams, including Bright Future, are working to provide water access to 30,000 Rwandans. When these ventures are up-and-running,

thousands will have sustainable, permanent access to water right in their villages and priority social issues will be addressed. And what's really remarkable? **The final cost will be less than \$7 per person.**

The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation has partnered with us, generously providing 1/3 of the funding we need to help our teams succeed. Will you help us match their investment?

In honor of International Women's Day, please help our teams bring critical water - and essential social change - to their communities. [Make your gift right now](#) and tell us how many people, at just \$7 each, you want to give the gift of clean water. Thank you.



Leaders of Team Bright Future planning their water venture

WATER POWER = WOMEN'S POWER

In sub-Saharan Africa, water plays a critical role in a woman's life. In addition to the time it takes to travel to collect water:

- Lack of sanitation facilities at school leads girls to miss classes one week each month during menstruation; they eventually drop out.

- Water collection is a source of opportunistic sexual violence, a trigger for domestic violence, and an opportunity for sexual exploitation of the disabled who cannot get water for themselves.

Yet women play an equally important role in water access for communities. UN Women reports:

- Experiences across the region demonstrate that placing women at the centre of water decisions leads to improved access, more cost-effective delivery and less corruption in water financing.
- Women have been essential to the success of community-led total sanitation, a subsidy-free approach that encourages people to build their own toilets/latrines with local resources.

[Read More](#)



Team Hard Workers sells water at their site in Gahanga, Rwanda

Global Grassroots is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports Conscious Social Change for women in post-conflict societies. Our Academy for Conscious Change is an 18-month social venture incubator, offering non-profit management skills, leadership training, personal transformation practices, seed grants, and high-engagement support that enables vulnerable women change agents to launch their own grassroots solutions benefiting women and girls. With more than 650 graduates who have designed more than 120 ventures, Global Grassroots' change agents are pioneering Conscious Social Change in their own communities. www.globalgrassroots.org

Visit our website

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 