



TRANSFORMING WATER INTO POWER

Women Controlled Water Access Points as a Tool for Women's Rights and Gender Empowerment

RESULT:
Measurable Social Impact,
New Change Leaders
& Culture of Social Entrepreneurship

After one year, Abanyamurava is operating sustainably, preparing to expand to two new sites, and is initiating a local women's microfinance fund. Seraphine is recognized as the first woman to bring development to her community and now mentors other emerging change agents committed to water access.

1
Identify Marginalized, Emerging Women Change Agents

Seraphine Hacimana, a 38 year old mother of 8 with only a primary school education, decides to address water access in her rural Rwandan village. Physically disabled, sick and elderly women who cannot make the 3-4 hour round-trip into the valley to collect dirty creek water, face risk of sexual exploitation from delivery men when they cannot afford to pay for water.

2
Provide Social Venture Training and 3 to 8 Months of Project Design Support

Seraphine, representing a team of 19 women, attends and graduates from Global Grassroots' 40-hour Conscious Social Change Training Program, learning how to design a sustainable social venture.

3
Award Seed Grant for All Start-up Costs and Provide 12 Months of Advisory Support

With a \$2600 grant from Global Grassroots, Seraphine launches "Abanyamurava", a social-purpose venture that will sell purified water delivered by truck or from rainwater catchment to 60 families. This sustainable project will use profits to provide free water to vulnerable women and orphan-headed households, and also pay for orphan school fees and women's health insurance.

The most effective lever of social change is a woman with the capability, resources and commitment to initiate positive change for herself and others.

WATER ACCESS IN RWANDA

In Rwanda, the responsibility for water collection falls primarily on women and children, who spend hours each day hauling jerry cans of water long distances up and down the mountainous terrain. Limited access to clean water not only causes water borne illnesses and poor hygiene; but the time required to collect water often prevents children from attending school and serves as a trigger of domestic violence. Women who are too sick, disabled or elderly and cannot make the daily journey to collect water often face sexual exploitation to meet their basic needs.

At the grassroots level, the marginalized women experiencing these issues directly often have the best solutions. Unfortunately, they also often have the least access to the education, skills and funding necessary to advance their ideas. Global Grassroots helps women help themselves.