



Global Grassroots
CONSCIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE FOR WOMEN

MID-YEAR UPDATE

JULY 2022



A NOTE FROM KIGALI

By Vincent Kalimba, East Africa Director



Photo of Vincent (L) and Women's Water Leadership Initiative teams at recent Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning gathering

Dear Friends,

Electricity is in the air at Global Grassroots as we work together with community change agents to catalyze Conscious Social Change for women, girls and communities. As we continue on our path of collaboration, impact, learning and growth, we're excited to share more about our work so far this year.

We live our values - from the inner level outwards. Our new Learning Community provides the team an opportunity to build shared understanding, learn from each other, embrace diversity, develop empathy and compassion, and share knowledge, experience and wisdom. This does not only happen when our team members facilitate sessions that enhance collective learning. It extends to creating space for women to share their impactful wisdom and also informs our critical community programming.

We recognize that healing is non-linear. "Each turn in the path of our journey is an important part of our story; without those experiences, we wouldn't be who we are today". One of the members of a successful, long-standing Global Grassroots women's water venture team shared this note with us recently. It reminds us that creating the space for wisdom sharing as a community gave her a chance to share her journey from inner healing work to deep community impact. The empathy and compassion she exhibits everyday is a model for us all.

We integrate these concepts and practical approaches into our work as we continue implementing the Conscious Social Change programs in this update. We're grateful for the support of our amazing, engaged community and we look forward to sharing more throughout the year. Thank you!

Vincent Kalimba

Together Again: new headquarters office in Rwanda

Our team is thrilled to be back together in-person working at our new office in Kigali. We're missing a few faces here, including our Ugandan team members, but we're energized by where we're heading together!



NEW INITIATIVE: WISDOM LAB

We're thrilled to introduce our Wisdom Lab!

This is an inquiry-driven collaboration among our staff, program participants, board, graduates, and interested partners aimed at deepening collective understanding and commitment to bringing a conscious approach to community and social change.

We are doing this through:

- Storytelling
- Participatory research
- Interactive learning engagements



We've already taken critical steps to build this initiative including:

- Gathering over 30 women and community members involved in GG's Women's Water Leadership Initiative to share Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) methods, best practices, learnings and wisdom
- Interviewing women's venture team members from one of our longest participating teams to test our story collection questionnaires and help GG team practice trauma-sensitive interviewing techniques
- Conducting Ripple Effects Mapping data collection with 4 women's water venture teams in Rwanda

[Please reach out here for more information!](#)



WOMEN'S WATER LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Our Women’s Water Leadership Initiative helps local women design, construct, and implement social-purpose water enterprises to improve safety, health, education, and economic opportunities for women and girls. Global Grassroots' incubator and accelerator programs allow for new teams of women to start their own ventures, as well as established teams to expand their successful ventures.



Pictured above from left to right: Team Abizeranye member at new water site in Rwesero, Rwanda, Team Twitezimbere signing award letter for their second water venture, and Team Tuzamurane in Gahanga, Rwanda at their refresher training

ONGOING WATER VENTURE IMPLEMENTATION

So many of our women's ventures over the years have become self-sustaining and highly impactful in their communities. A natural result of this impact is a desire to do even more. In these instances, Global Grassroots provides refresher trainings, resources, team support, and seed grants for additional water sites and related community needs.

All 5 accelerator teams launched in 2021 are now operating successfully, reporting tremendous outcomes including new water access and myriad community trainings.



Team Indangamirwa water site ribbon cutting

Women's Accelerator Venture Team Team name (English), Venture #, Location	Individuals with New Water Access
Abizeranye (Trust Each Other), Venture #3, Rwesero	3,175
Tuzamurane (Hold Each Other), Venture #3, Jali	2,870
Tuzamurane (Hold Each Other), Venture #2, Gahanga	2,740
Abadahigwa (Invincible), Venture #2, Jali	2,440
Indangamirwa (Eternal Beauty), Venture #2, Bumbogo	3,015
Total # of individuals with new access to water	14,240

Giving your child dirty water because you don't have another option is a terrible feeling. But I'm relieved that there will be a reduction in waterborne illness among my children now that we have this new water site.

- Abayisenga, Team Abizeranye (Trust Each Other), Venture #3, pictured here opening the new water site in Rwesero



2022 ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Established women's water ventures expanding their reach

In 2022, we're implementing three accelerator teams including the following: (Team name, English, Venture #, location)

- Twitezimbere (Step Forward), Venture #2, Jali
- Isuku nk' Umurage (Cleanliness as Heritage), Venture #2, Nduba
- Abishyizehamwe (We are Together), Venture #2, Nduba

Once their water sites are launched, they will bring new water access and critical community training to over 10,000 more individuals in their communities.



Isuku nk' Umurage (Cleanliness as Heritage) and Abishyizehamwe (We are Together) refresher training



Team Twitezimbere (Step Forward) Venture #2, refresher training

2022 INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Team Names (English), location

- **Ihumure** (Take Heart), Kigali
- **Abusakivi** (Achievers), Bumbogo
- **Abaharanira Amahoro** (Peacemakers), Kagarama

THREE NEW WATER VENTURE TEAMS START TRAINING

Our team is overjoyed to have the opportunity to gather new women's water venture teams again in-person to complete our full Academy for Conscious Change program, now that COVID restrictions have eased in Rwanda. These new teams are already change agents in their communities, but they are excited to gain new tools and resources to see their visions implemented.





YOUNG WOMEN'S ACADEMY FOR CONSCIOUS CHANGE

Young Women's Alumni Engagement Program (YWAEP)

Our first YWAEP meeting was held in 2021 with the purpose of building support and connections among our 200+ YWA graduates by building an online community during the pandemic period as well as providing an opportunity for select participants to receive funding for continuance of their social ventures. Since that first meeting, Global Grassroots has provided training and seed funding for six young women's ventures, two of which have already been implemented:

- **Brenda Atuhaire (Uganda)** - The Hope of a Tree's mission is to integrate conscious social change methods into community work
- **Loving Asifiwe (Rwanda)** - Go Get Her's mission is to reduce early pregnancy

Additionally, there have been three YWAEP virtual gatherings this year, bringing young women together and culminating in additional community resources at the end of the year for select ventures.

Young Women's Academy 2023 Cohort

A full in-person Young Women's Academy new cohort will be gathering later this year and into 2023. We're excited to have the opportunity to once again connect with young change agents, support their Conscious Social Change efforts, and grow the Global Grassroots network.

THANK YOU!

We're grateful to our wonderful community of supporters, donors, foundation partners, board of directors, and friends; our work could not be implemented without you.

Thank you!

Please reach out to get more involved or to learn more about our work. We'd love to connect with you!

And if you'd like to contribute to our work, [click here!](#)

(Photo of Rwanda Program Associate, Atosha Genevieve Iranyuze)



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