



Global Water  
Partnership  
Caribbean

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

# Practical experiences regarding women's welfare in IWRM across the Caribbean

Gabrielle Lee Look - Communications Officer, GWP-C  
November 26th, 2019 | Port-of-Spain, Trinidad |





- 1 of 13 Regional Water Partnerships of the GWP.
- GWP - Global action network that provides knowledge & builds capacity to improve water management.
- GWP Network - Over 3,000 Partner organisations in over 183 countries.

# ABOUT GWP-C

- Established in July 2004.
- To support Caribbean countries in the sustainable development & management of their water resources at all levels by promoting & fostering IWRM.
- IWRM - About good water governance and is a cross-sectoral policy approach to water resources and management.
- GWP-C - Has over 100 Partners in more than 22 Caribbean countries.



Vision: A water secure Caribbean


# CORE VALUE: INCLUSIVENESS & GENDER SENSITIVITY:

## DUBLIN PRINCIPLE 1:

Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.

## DUBLIN PRINCIPLE 2:

Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels.



## DUBLIN PRINCIPLE 3:

**Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.**

## DUBLIN PRINCIPLE 4:

**Water** has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good.

January 1992 (Dublin, Ireland) – The International Conference on Water and the Environment  
(Led to the Dublin Principles)

# GWP GENDER STRATEGY

## Objective:

Bring gender into the mainstream of GWP's work, by providing an overarching framework to practise gender-and women inclusive approaches.

## Approach:

Make gender inclusion in GWP's work clear, relevant, and manageable:

- Gender mainstreaming policies and practice.
- Creating an enabling environment for women's meaningful participation in all aspects of water management for sustainable and equitable development.
- Gender equality in the workspace.



**GWP Gender Strategy**  
**PUBLISHED IN 2015**

# CASE STUDY



# NIHERST ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Creating self-sustaining rural communities by introducing sustainable practices, mainly rainwater harvesting (RWH)



- NIHERST engaged GWP-C and the Toco Foundation in 2011.
- GWP-C's modern RWH Model could be adapted by any water scarce community.

# THE COMMUNITIES

- 2019: Plum Mitan
- 2018: Cumana
- 2014: Biche, Guaico & Lopinot
- 2013: Barrackpore, Mayo, Fishing Pond & Toco
- 2012: Barrackpore, Toco, Moruga  
(Women's Groups engaged through Toco Foundation)

\* Total of 18 schools and 4 community centres equipped with RWH systems.



# PROJECT ELEMENTS

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Conducted at schools in the communities.
- On water conservation, RWH and why systems were being installed.
- Over 3,500 students.

## TRAINING, JOB CREATION & INNOVATION

- 10 - 25 persons in each community trained (**half women**) in RWH installation, maintenance and costing.
- Trainees also attended entrepreneurship workshops. **Cumana (2018) received systems – most of the female trainees are registering their own businesses (E.g. Ice making, pastries, old age home etc. utilising their RWH systems).**

## BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- RWH systems installed in schools and community centres.
- Installations include solar powered water pumps.
- Schools and centres (double as disaster shelters).



# RWH INSTALLATIONS

## Rainwater Harvesting



**SCHOOLS AS ECO-FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

# REFLECTIONS

- Gender responsive targets and indicators weren't built into the project, despite the high engagement of women.

Have a strategy for making women's participation an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes (at all levels).

- Any Gender Strategy needs to be continually adapted from the lessons learnt.



# REACH OUT



GWP-C Secretariat

c/o WINDREF, St. George's University, Grenada

[gleelook@gwp-caribbean.org](mailto:gleelook@gwp-caribbean.org)

[www.gwp-caribbean.org](http://www.gwp-caribbean.org)

[@GWPCaribbean](https://www.instagram.com/GWPCaribbean)