

# Women & Water

Embracing bold innovation and empowering women to provide clean and safe water to 40 million people in **East Africa** by the year 2022.

Proposal for a Partnership.

**Right  
Now!**



# Overview

- According to the World Health Organization around **700.000 children under the age of five die** every year of diarrhea due to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and lack of hygiene – that is almost 2.000 children a day.
- One of the greatest **causes of poverty** in Africa is the lack of access to clean drinking water. For women and children especially, this crisis is very real.
- Many schools in African countries lack adequate water and sanitation facilities, **affecting children's education**. Especially, it affects girls.
- With unclean water sources often miles from villages, many female members of a community are forced to **spend hours each day simply finding and transporting water**. The typical container used for water collection in Africa, the jerry can, weighs over 40 pounds when it's completely full.
- **Women & Water is about embracing bold innovation and empowering women to provide clean and safe water to 40 million people in East Africa by the year 2022.**
- Women & Water is an extraordinary collaboration between the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Right Now! and Rotary to create **positive and sustainable impact** in a region that suffers from recurrent water shortages, linked to climate change, increasing the threat of cholera and other diseases.
- The Women & Water program will **combine education of women professionals with action-learning** to improve upon existing water projects in their home countries and to the initiation of new projects.
- The objective of Women & Water is to scale-up best practices and strengthening the role of female water professionals in decision making and building local capacity among, notably, women.
- The public, private and faith-based sectors are invited to join forces to address one of the greatest challenges the world faces: proper management of water resources. While at the same time empowering women, the key stakeholders in water and sanitation.
- IHE Delft and Rotary have a productive cooperation on water management. **About 80 IHE alumni have been sponsored** by Rotary in the past 7 years. Ensuing local activities in developing countries have resulted in the improvement of livelihoods and public health.
- The Right Now! Foundation is accepting donations with a goal of \$1.440.546. Funds will be used primarily to thoroughly **train up to 15 female water professionals** from 6 East African countries and to prepare the local projects they intend to improve or initiate.
- The role of donors and potential investors goes beyond providing financial support. They are invited to **share their knowledge** and experience and engage actively, for example as mentors, to contribute to the success of the participating women professionals and the individual local projects.
- Lack of safe water and sanitation costs Sub-Saharan Africa around 5 per cent of its gross domestic product each year.
- **The World Health Organization has shown that fixing the water crisis is incredibly valuable: for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, there is an economic return of between \$3 and \$34. And based on UN and WHO studies, the return on impact of \$1 invested in water amounts to about \$10.**

## **Objective of the proposal**

The proposed program aims to improve performance and impact of water and sanitation projects in selected regions and communities in 6 countries in East Africa, by empowering female professionals in water management and building local capacity among, notably, women. In water and sanitation, women are the key stakeholders and they are the ones bearing the brunt of poor water and sanitation services. In many developing countries, women may spend more than one hour on each trip to fetch water preventing them to work and learn. Women without toilets are forced to defecate in the open, affecting their dignity and risking personal safety. Women are also the main educators of children.

The program would educate a core group of East African women professionals in water management at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. In turn, these women professionals will train local groups of women in East African countries, and set up and supervise a number of local field implementation projects. The program will combine education of women professionals with action-learning to improve upon existing local water projects and to the creation of new projects with the objective to scale-up best practices. The program will include competitive elements to attract the best and most committed women professionals and most promising and innovative proposals for actions on the ground.

In order to create life-saving or life-improving innovations, participating women professionals will work with teams of social scientists, engineers and governance experts to design solutions for existing or new local water projects. Ultimately, the program will involve a connection to the private sector, making it possible for investors/sponsors to participate in local water projects that will be implemented and/or managed by the women professionals that have been part of the program.



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## **A partnership building on networks**

The proposal invites investors/donors to form a partnership with IHE Delft, the global Rotary network and the Right Now! Foundation. IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest graduate water education facility in the world and is based in Delft, The Netherlands. The Institute confers MSc and PhD degrees in collaboration with about 30 partner universities in developing countries. The Institute has an alumni network of over 15.000 water professionals in 162 countries. IHE carries out research and capacity development throughout the world. The Institute offers a unique combination of applied and participatory research in water engineering combined with social and management sciences.

IHE Delft and Rotary have a productive cooperation on water management. About 80 IHE alumni have been sponsored by Rotary in the past 7 years and on an increasing number of local activities in developing countries the Rotary and IHE networks collaborate to improve local livelihoods and public health (IHE Delft Partnership 2018).

The Women & Water program is actively supported by Right Now! ([www.rightnow.global](http://www.rightnow.global)). The aim of Right Now! is to create a new marketplace for environmental, social and impact-oriented ventures that align with the inspiration and mission of Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato si'*: *On Care for Our Common Home*. Right Now's purpose is to support projects and programs that accelerate the global impact economy while addressing the intertwined crises of climate and poverty, in particular youth unemployment and the empowerment of women.

The proposed program Women & Water will maximize effectiveness by building on existing local networks.

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# Implementation framework

## **The Women & Water program will be implemented in 3 phases:**

- **Phase 1** would run for a period of 12 months, starting in October 2018. In this Phase **the selected women water professionals from 6 East African countries will be trained and coached** to design and supervise the implementation of field-based projects and the training of local women.
- **Phase 2** (6 months) is the Accelerator-phase. **All detail preparations will be made for the specific field projects and submitting the budget, using local networks and ensuring local commitment and readiness.** The field projects and local training and capacity building will be implemented. Phase 2 will end with a Special Right Now! Event to celebrate the achievements of the women water professionals and to present their field projects to the world.
- During **Phase 3** (2,5 years) the focus will be on **developing and supervising on-the-ground projects to be implemented by local groups.** This will include developing networks with local stakeholders to enhance sustainability and turn field projects operational. Potential investors will be offered the possibility to participate in selected projects.

A Progress and Impact Monitoring Framework will be established to monitor impact on the ground based on selected key performance indicators. These will include technical parameters (such as reduced leakages, utilization of better irrigation techniques, etcetera) and social surveys of key stakeholders. Progress will be reported on a semi-annual basis to allow early identification of challenges, and corrective guidance. A completion report will be issued within 6 months after termination of activities.

**Potential investors will be offered the possibility to participate in selected projects.**



## ***Foreseen Activities***

### **Activities of the Women & Water program will include:**

- Identify up to 15 women water professionals from 6 East African countries who will participate in a relevant IHE MSc program (e.g., Water Supply Engineering, Sanitary Engineering or Sanitation, Water Services).
- Train and coach the selected group of water professionals (project design and management; crafting businessplans for field projects; creating awareness on environmental issues and dealing with corruption; methods of co-creation and collaboration; etcetera).
- Prepare, with local NGOs/CSOs and local networks, local field projects to pilot and/or scale up water and sanitation services and arrange sustainable management at selected existing or new locations.
- (in Phase 2) Implement the field projects.
- (in Phase 2) Monitor and evaluate the program and feed conclusions back into the program.
- Foster an (alumni) Women & Water Leaders Group that actively shares knowledge on the subject gender and water and applies innovations and best-practices; organizes local refresher courses and thematic networking and knowledge exchange seminars; connects to already established projects of IHE Delft and other organizations that have a focus on gender issues in sub-Saharan Africa (e.g., the ***Women and Water in Communities for Change*** project sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation where a series of demonstration sites in Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda are set up in order to better understand the role of female entrepreneurship, female skill development, and female land ownership in the use of water and natural resources).
- Celebrate the outcomes of the Activities with a Special Right Now! Event.

The activities foreseen in the program will be based in Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Zambia and Mozambique. In those countries IHE Delft and Rotary have long-standing experience in implementing activities successfully. Also, IHE can work closely there with a local network of partners – NGOs, academia, private sector, the Catholic Church and other faith groups, government agencies such as utilities and local governments, individual alumni and Rotary Clubs. It is always advisable to operate in two or three contiguous countries to enhance peer learning and regional synergies.

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## ***Expected Outcomes***

The Women & Water program foresees to provide sustainable water and sanitation improvement in existing or new water projects in East African countries through:

- Increased capacity of a sufficiently large, and selected group of female professionals working in the field.
- Crafting, with the help of teams of professionals, businessplans that enable female water professionals to initiate and manage projects.
- Joint pilot infrastructure improvement that is scalable (with local NGOs/CSOs).
- Monitoring and evaluation results feeding into improved future actions.
- Fostering a network of women water leaders who have both the technical knowledge but also the leaderships skills to elevate other women to become water leaders as well.

The trained women professionals will play a key role in all activities.

***Women & Water will foster a network of women water leaders in East Africa.***



## ***Selection of Participants***

Eligible participants are female, live and work in the selected East African countries at the time of application and have at least a Bachelor Degree. Applicants will follow the normal academic admission procedure of IHE Delft, demonstrate sufficient command of the English language, and commit to prepare and, later, supervise, the field projects and local capacity development. IHE Delft will make the academic screening of all candidates and forward the CVs and motivation letters of prospective applicants to the Right Now! Foundation for the final, joint selection. IHE Delft, Right Now! and Rotary will cooperate on marketing and communication materials that may be used to inform potential candidates. Based on previous experience, IHE Delft expects the application process will take 2 to 3 months.

A Progress and Impact Monitoring Framework will be established to monitor impact on the ground based on selected key performance Indicators. These will include technical parameters (such as reduced leakages, utilization of better irrigation techniques, etcetera) and social surveys of key stakeholders. Progress will be reported on semi-annual basis to allow early identification of challenges, and corrective guidance.

A completion report will be issued within 6 months after termination of activities.

***Impact of the projects will be monitored on the ground based on selected key performance indicators.***





## ***Estimated Budget***

The overall cost estimate amounts to \$1,440,546.

### ***Phase 1***

The overall budget for Phase 1 is estimated at \$856,146.

It includes:

- MSc-level training: \$797,706 (\$53,180 per MSc program, for 15 fellows. Training budget is for tuition and living expenses).
- Miscellaneous and unforeseen: \$58,440.

### ***Phase 2***

The overall budget for Phase 2 is estimated at \$584,400.

It includes:

- Establishing/strengthening the local networks (including workshops, training of trainers, etc.) and detailed preparation of projects in each country: \$350,640.
- Organization Special Right Now! Event and overall promotion and awareness campaign: \$116,880.
- Initiating and structuring of the Women & Water Leaders Group: \$58,440.
- Miscellaneous and unforeseen: \$58,440.

### ***Phase 3***

The overall budget for Phase 3 cannot be determined yet in detail, as it is dependent on the specific needs of the individual projects.

Right Now!, IHE Delft and Rotary will explore further synergy with other activities and funding streams, notably, with other on-going activities in these countries, and to leverage the financial support of investors/sponsors to attract other co-financing and pool funds.



## ***Discernible benefits to investors***

The Women & Water program is essentially an investment in people – primarily women, to be more specific. It is an investment in the capacity of professional women to solve water issues in East Africa. Women & Water is not a technical intervention – although the women participating in the program will be encouraged to come up with technical and innovative interventions. Rather, it is a long term commitment to solve water problems in a sustainable way.

A clear and discernible advantage of the Women & Water program is that it touches upon a wide range of water issues. The program gives female water professionals from East Africa the tools to think and implement in an interdisciplinary way – tools they can use when they return to their communities to train and engage other women in solving water problems.

The impact investors in the Women & Water program will achieve with their involvement is huge – not only regarding the 40 million lives that will be affected positively by the year 2022, but also that this goal will be achieved by empowering professional women from East African countries.

Based on UN and WHO studies, the return on impact of \$1 invested in water amounts to about \$10. And for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, there is an economic return of between \$3 and \$34.

Investors in the Women & Water program will be considered and treated as genuine partners. They are invited to share their knowledge and experience and engage actively – for example as mentors – to contribute to the success of the individual local projects. At the same time, they will stand to gain multi-faceted benefits of being part of the Right Now! and Rotary ecosystems.

