



ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES FOR CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

8 COMMIT TO REALIZING POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Civil Society Organizations are effective as development actors when they collaborate to realize sustainable outcomes and impacts of their development actions, focusing on results and conditions for lasting change for people, with special emphasis on poor and marginalized populations, ensuring an enduring legacy for present and future generations.



Photo: CAWST

Local solutions for water and sanitation: CAWST

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) provides training and consulting to organizations that work directly with populations in developing countries that lack access to clean water and basic sanitation.

CHALLENGE

The lack of knowledge and skills is one of the biggest gaps in ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation for the poor and marginalized populations. Simple solutions exist to treat drinking water at the household level. While hygiene practices and sanitation options are available, they are not commonly known among the most vulnerable, leading to a significant impact on health.



RESPONSE



Effective education and training with ongoing support and mentorship can not only ensure solutions are developed locally but can also empower individuals to have more control over the health of their families. CAWST develops effective and appropriate education materials and teaching tools. These are open-content, allowing anyone to use and modify them, free of charge. These education resources get adapted to local cultures and contexts and translated into hundreds of languages. Other organizations have used CAWST's educational materials to educate and train over 1.5 million people in 63 countries.

LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

CAWST recognizes that marginalized populations, which often face greater challenges, are also less stable communities more prone to displacement or forced relocation for work. This illustrates why knowledge and skills must be effectively shared: through CAWST's approach, a project survives the loss of any one individual because many community members have acquired the relevant knowledge.



MAINSTREAMING/KNOWLEDGE SHARING



The essence of CAWST's work is to share knowledge and skills more efficiently and comprehensively so that communities can take charge of their own development challenges and pass on the knowledge and skills among and beyond their community for generations to come.

NEXT STEPS

CAWST is partnering with in-country organizations called Water Expertise and Training (WET) Centres to provide education, training, and consulting services locally. CAWST is expanding its WET Centre program from three to 11 countries, building the capacity of in-country organizations to provide CAWST-like services, independently of CAWST. These organizations will provide leadership, training, technical consulting, educational resources, and networking services to government agencies, NGOs, and community groups in the water sector.



FURTHER INFORMATION

The WET Centre Program

<http://www.cawst.org/en/what-we-do/wet-centres>

Go here for more examples of how Canadian civil society is improving its development practice: <http://www.ccic.ca/IP-case-studies.php>