



G-CREWS 31/10/2024

# Lessons Learnt from the Implementation of the G-CREWS Water Ambassador Program (GWAP)

## Challenge

Grenada’s water sector is challenged by changes in temperature, precipitation, tropical storms and sea level rise because of global warming. For a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) like ours, urban development and expansion is severely impacting on the ability to provide adequate water supply due to increase in population and development. Notwithstanding, the entire island is negatively affected by climatic impacts and its influence on our water resources.

Education is an avenue used to empower citizens through the development of solutions which can be adopted to help mitigate climate change impacts. In July 2023, the Climate - Resilient Water Sector in Grenada (G-CREWS) project partnered with Caritas Grenada for the Youth Emergency Action Committee (YEAC) to launch the G-CREWS Water Ambassador Program (GWAP).

The program objectives were: (a) To empower youths with the knowledge and skills to promote water conservation practices in their communities and gain support from decision makers and (b) collaborate with local partners inclusive of hardware retailers, community residents and artists to build awareness about sustainable water use approaches (i.e demand side water management).

Youth between the ages 16-25 articulated water-related issues and learnt from local experts about the impacts of climate change on the water sector and disaster management. Thereafter, they developed solutions for 3 communities namely: Crochu in St. Andrew, Jean Anglais in St. George and Mt. Craven in St. Patrick. The main issues affecting these communities were: water scarcity, water shortage, water availability and water security.



GIZ technical officers along with YEAC participants at the end of 2-week training program

**The implementation of rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems:** With the support of technical advisors from the G-CREWS project, community members and a hired consultant. The GWAP members successfully installed 5 RWH systems. This approach provided a perfect hands-on opportunity for knowledge transfer through implementation – achieving yet another program objective.

For the beneficiaries of these rainwater harvesting systems, the added storage brought smiles to their faces and a peace of mind knowing their water challenges have reduced significantly.

Through community meetings, surveys and interviews. The GWAP members engaged community members on the G-CREWS project and got feedback on ideas for the creation of awareness campaigns. This culminated with the commissioning of a mural painting located at the Fond Playing Field in Mt. Craven, St. Patrick and the development and distribution of brochures with community information and water conservation reminders. These activities generated great interest and interaction at the community level.

## Successes of GWAP

**Youth Empowerment:** 12 GWAP members from communities across the island received training in Data for Decision Making and Rainwater Harvesting (RWH). A mix of theoretical and practical information allowed the participants to obtain a comprehensive understanding of water related issues and solutions. Presentations to communities formed part of the training allowing members to build their self-confidence and public speaking skills. Additionally, members developed business ideas such as “One Drop Solutions” proposing ways to assist residents with RWH designs, procurement and installation in the future. Equipped with this added knowledge, the participants satisfied the programs’ objective of creating a sense



GWAP Member Ronda Stafford installing spouting on recipient home

**Creation of Knowledge Products:** the work of the GAWP resulted in the development of several knowledge products: reports and visual appeal artworks which adds to the plethora of local resource materials available for future researchers. These materials include: A maintenance manual for rainwater harvesting systems; a mural painting located at the Fond Playing Field in Mt. Craven, St. Patrick - a perfect opportunity for teachers to visually communicate water processes to their students.



**Students of St. Patrick's Anglican Primary School at the Water Processes mural at Fond Playing field St. Patrick**

## Lessons Learnt

### Procurement challenges with Suppliers of RWH materials

Presenting the goals of the GWAP program in advance would have allowed the suppliers of RWH materials to gain a better understanding and foster meaningful relationships and expectations. The advanced engagement should have covered: (a) Explanation of the project's tendering procedures; (b) Agreed timeline for delivery of materials, especially for items quoted but not in stock at the time of delivery to avoid delays and; (c) Organization of transportation by the project to ensure more control over delivery.

### Assessment of timeline for implementation of RWH Systems

When planning a project of a technical nature, contingency measures inclusive of adequate timing must be included and often checked against the timeline of project deliverables. This will ensure deadlines can be met efficiently.

### The Importance of continued involvement of partners

Continued involvement by the NGO group through monitoring individuals' performance can help assess members' interest and commitment, thereby effectively addressing those whose interest may have changed.

### The Importance of Community Involvement

Communities are comprised of diverse perspectives which provide an opportunity for knowledge generation, particularly traditional knowledge. Thus, the interaction between youth and the community is essential in driving sustainable change beyond the lifespan of the G-CREWS project.

Future projects should consider building upon the capacity of community groups through theoretical and practical approaches that can not only strengthen but enable them to devise effective solutions to improve community resilience to climate change impacts.

### GWAP Program structure

In the roll out of GWAP, an additional topic on how to design a rainwater harvesting system could have been done with the larger group of members. This would have allowed more participants to learn about the system and think of implementing something similar in their own homes or churches. Then a consultancy could have been offered to the persons' interested in the installation aspect.



**GWAP members along with GIZ Senior Technical Advisor and Consultant standing in front of newly installed rainwater tank**



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