



YOUNG WATER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



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Background & program description

According to the United Nations, water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of global population, and every day 1000 children die due to preventable water-borne diseases. While achieving universal access to water and sanitation and ensuring an integrated water resources management (IWRM) are crucial to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, climate change rapidly increases stress on the world's water resources, and billions of people remain unserved of safe and affordable access to water.

Although children and young people are in many ways seen as primary victims of these local and global water-related problems, there is an increasing focus on the potential of young people as solution providers. Lack of experience and funding constraints often make it impossible for young people to carry out costly and labor-intensive water supply projects or water management initiatives. These structural barriers lock the potential of many young people, irrespective of their skills, their personal determination to make a change, and their ability to take on the responsibility.

Young Water Solutions exists to address these barriers, and is strongly committed to empower young people in developing countries by helping them implement their own water projects in their communities, through the provision of technical and financial support. After successful implementation of a series of youth-led field projects across Africa and Asia, Young Water Solutions is proud to bring together its knowhow into one flagship program, the Young Water Fellowship.

The **Young Water Fellowship** aims to empower in its first edition ten young leaders from developing countries to implement water projects in their communities, by offering them an intensive training program, seed funding grants for their project, and mentoring support by senior level experts. This program will bring about young community leaders capable of successfully designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive water projects that significantly improve living conditions in their communities, while contributing to the achievement of SDG #6 (water and sanitation for all). In accordance with Young Water Solutions' DNA, the program's conceptual design is scalable and replicable, with the ambition to create sustainable impact.

Program goals

The general goal of this program is to empower young people in developing countries to lead water projects to address water supply, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) issues; and water pollution and scarcity at the local level, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal #6.

The specific objectives include:

- To build capacity in young people aspiring to implement water projects by training them in project management, WASH solutions and issues, sustainability and integrated water management
- To support all stages of the implementation of water projects in developing countries led by the selected young people, by providing them technical support and seed-funding
- To strengthen the contribution of young people to the sustainable development agenda

Capacity building workshop

After intensive preparation, the ten selected young leaders will come together in Belgium for a one-week workshop (likely to happen in 18-25 November 2017), during which the Fellows will gain critical knowledge and skills (related to project management, water supply solutions and issues, water sector stakeholders, etc.). The Fellows' projects will be strengthened and finalized for implementation, through peer-to-peer advice and application of the lessons learned during the workshop.

The workshop modules will range from presentations by inspiring professionals to interactive learning sessions with experts in different areas. Every thematic module will also offer space for individual reflections and for application of the modules' topics on the project proposals. Moreover, before the workshop takes place, one mentor will be assigned to each Fellow. During the workshop, there will be face-to-face meetings (both informal meetings and working sessions) between the mentors and Fellows.

The workshop will last 7 days (excluding days of travel) and will be divided in 6 modules. Each module (one per training day) cover a different topic relevant for the projects. All modules taken together will cover all topics necessary for an integrated approach in projects' implementation.

The topics listed below are a preliminary, and a purely indicative listing. The final content will be designed by experts in collaboration with the Fellowship partner organizations. Furthermore, the content will also be adapted to the Fellow's profile (missing skills and knowledge) and their projects.

- Understanding the water sector: policy landscape, main stakeholders & funding sources
 - Water sector: understanding main international and international stakeholders
 - International policies: UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Climate Agenda
 - Funding sources: mapping the main funding sources for water programs and projects
- Basic Principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Project Management
 - Project planning
 - Stakeholder coordination and project partners management
 - Project reporting

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- Financial planning & administrative management
 - Monitoring, evaluation & sustainability of projects
 - The basics of monitoring & evaluation: who, what, why and how
 - Setting and measuring key performance indicators
 - Practical tools for project monitoring
 - Ensuring financial and technical capacity & accountability for maintaining the project outcomes
 - Gender & water
 - Designing and implementing water projects in a gender-sensitive way
 - Empowering women through water projects
 - Personal leadership skills
 - Special focus module: Social entrepreneurship & Technology for Development

The workshop will finish with a networking event, where the 10 Fellows will pitch their projects to potential donors, Young Water Fellowship partner organizations and specially invited guests.

Projects' implementation

After the workshop, Fellows will have three weeks to submit a final version of their project proposals, enriched by the lessons learned during the workshop. After the final approval by the selection committee, Fellows will receive opportunities for up to €5000 as seed funding for the implementation of their projects .

Support will be provided to each Fellow, throughout the whole life-cycle of the project (expected to last max. 6 months), through:

- One-to-one mentorship
- Webinars and other virtual training (customized to the Fellows' needs)
- Contact with senior water organizations in their countries for support in implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Provision of the monitoring and evaluation tools to be used
- Direct line with YWF's coordinator for immediate support to implementation issues

Continuity

The program is expected to run on an annual basis, selecting 10 new Fellows every year, with the ambition of increasing the number over time. The former Fellows will stay connected through an informal social media community to share ideas, projects, etc.. Moreover, in order to extend the benefits of the learning process, each Fellow will be asked to provide a plan on how to extend their learnings and projects' outcomes to other young people in their countries.