

2018 Colorado WASH Symposium Abstract Submission Form

Thank you for submitting an abstract for the 2018 Colorado WASH Symposium! By completing this form, you agree to the following terms:

- All author(s) approve the submission of this work for consideration.
- The author(s) agree(s) to materially confine their presentations to information in the abstract if accepted for presentation.
- The authors will immediately notify the Colorado WASH Symposium if they are unable to present an abstract or if the presenting author is changed.
- Abstracts will be matched to presentation formats by the organizing committee. Presenters may not receive their first choice format, but will be informed in this case.

We will make every effort to accommodate applicants who are applying for external travel funding and need a response by a specific deadline. If you require such a consideration, please include this information below.

Name of Applicant *

Organization/Affiliation *

Title within Organization *

Phone Number *

Email Address *

Title of Presentation *

Preferred Format of Presentation *



Oral Presentation



Poster

Travel Funding *

The Colorado WASH organizing committee has limited funding to support travel to the symposium for excellent applicants. Traditionally, priority has been given to student presenters. Are you interested in learning more about the travel funding application?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Notification Date *

We will respond to all applicants by the end of January 2018. If you require an earlier response on your application due to an external funding deadline, please indicate that deadline here. Otherwise, please write "none".

Abstract (500 words Maximum) *

The abstract statement (500 words or less) describes the research, work or topic they intend to present in a poster or short oral format (20 minutes). The abstract should address why the topic is relevant to current trends in the WASH sector and how the session supports the mission of the Colorado WASH Symposium.

Water For People's programs strive to improve the quality of life for Everyone - men, women, and children - Forever. However, women and girls are disproportionately affected by lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation. This is due to having to spend time fetching water, looking for a toilet, or caring for sick family members instead of going to school and working. Actively striving for gender parity in community planning and decision-making brings a more holistic view to water and sanitation and encourages more women to become community leaders and water professionals. Their participation increases understanding of community water and sanitation issues and accelerates finding solutions. When women are given an opportunity to lead and influence the development of services in their communities, the results are more sustainable and help Water For People reach Everyone Forever.

Water For People brings women and girls into leadership roles at all levels. Girls lead school water and sanitation committees. Women work in water and toilet sales, are water system mechanics, and lead the microfinancing of toilets. Women serve as presidents of their district WASH offices and community water committees. An inclusive culture that engages women in the design, operation, and maintenance of water and sanitation systems leads to better responsiveness and customer satisfaction. As satisfaction increases, so does willingness to pay for service and maintain the systems, which is key to sustainability.

Water For People operates in over 30 districts in nine countries. Country program teams provided examples and program data to develop four case studies demonstrating women and girls as leaders at various levels. In addition to synthesizing qualitative data from program reports, interviews were conducted with Country Directors and staff to document stories and

examples. The case studies are organized to showcase female leadership in schools, communities, districts, and microfinance and focus on learnings and successes in gender inclusion. In this oral presentation, we will present examples from each case study that highlight women as leaders at various levels WASH sector. If country program staff are able to join, they will elaborate on the leadership of women in their communities.

Career/ Motivation Statement (500 words maximum) *

The career/motivation statement describes (1) the applicant's WASH-relevant background; (2) current involvement with WASH-related research or practice; and (3) motivation for attending the Colorado WASH Symposium



Ellen Witt is Water For People's Programs Learning Manager. In this role, she is developing a Knowledge Management System and program learning strategy to facilitate knowledge exchange between country programs and contribute to the sector's body of knowledge for the purpose of improving programmatic impact, quality, and progress toward SDG 6. Ellen led the development of four case studies that document the leadership of women in Water For People's work, and serves on the Equity and Inclusion taskforce responsible for developing a framework and ensuring we are practicing and promoting inclusive WASH in our programs and more broadly in the sector. An 8-page paper containing the four case studies can be shared with conference organizers upon request.

At the Colorado WASH Symposium, Ellen hopes to share concrete examples from the districts where Water For People works and discuss with sector partners and practitioners how we can be more intentional about going beyond equal participation on water committees and providing women with an active voice and encouraging leadership at all levels in WASH policy and programming. She aims to facilitate an interactive discussion to learn how others are engaging women and developing indicators to measure the active participation of women and the impact on accelerating our progress toward SDG 6.