



The green school in Kosovo can save 30 to 60% on energy costs every year compared to traditional HVAC systems. The building saves additional energy by using natural light to illuminate the classrooms, solar roof panels, rainwater storage tanks and low flush toilets.

Resilience through Green Construction

Global Communities (formerly CHF International) is a green construction pioneer in the international development arena. With our expertise rooted in affordable housing, we have long been incorporating environmentally friendly and energy-efficient elements into the home improvement, community infrastructure and school construction projects we implement together with local partners, and as part of post-disaster reconstruction efforts. Globally, buildings account for 40% of global carbon emissions. Addressing the entire building life cycle - planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and demolition – in a sustainable way not only benefits the environment, it also reduces long-term operating costs and increases the productivity and health of inhabitants. Green buildings minimize energy requirements, reduce water consumption, use efficient materials and resources, reduce waste generation and ultimately conserve and enhance the surrounding environment.

Global Communities works in partnership with the private sector, civil society and local and national governments to promote sustainable construction through policy reform and advocacy, construction sector development and job training, green microfinance and improved infrastructure management.

Advocacy and Policy Reform

Global Communities is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and collaborates with the World Green Building Council as well as national councils in Colombia, India, Ghana and Palestine to promote regulatory reform and advocate for improved construction practices. We partnered with the USGBC's Center for Green Schools to launch in 2012 a cause-related marketing campaign, the Green Apple Day of Service to raise awareness and advocate for healthy learning environments and energy and water efficient schools. Global Communities organized events in six countries involving more than 30 schools and universities with

Principles of Green Construction

- Increasing energy efficiency through renewable energy technology and energy saving construction concepts
- Improving material utilization and decreasing waste in construction by using recycled and sustainable materials
- Reducing water consumption by improving methods of capturing and reusing rain and grey water



The Safer Children's Center in Palestine has 50% less power needs than similarly sized buildings nearby due to the use of green building techniques such as a grey water treatment system and low-cost sunshades.

an enrollment of more than 25,000 students in partnership with local governments and national ministries. With USAID and the Ministry of Local Government, Global Communities organized the first green construction conference in the West Bank, supported development of one of the first green buildings, an activity center for children in the West Bank, and supports research on the adaptation of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system to the Palestinian context. In Ghana, Global Communities is working with the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) and the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing on a national policy to make it mandatory for rainwater harvesting facilities to be incorporated in public and commercial buildings. Around the world Global Communities supports local organizations

to improve their advocacy skills and work constructively with local governments. We promote school environmental clubs and work in partnership with universities to engage their students in our work and promote future leaders focused on sustainability.

Construction Sector Development

Global Communities creates jobs and economic opportunity by improving the competitiveness of the construction sector. We do this in three ways:

1. Working through local partners, Global Communities strengthens small- and medium-sized construction enterprises to improve the quality of their services and ability to compete. Assistance includes: entrepreneurship training, loan facilitation and financing technical assistance, training in bidding and tendering, quality control, green building and improved project management.
2. Global Communities addresses sector constraints along the entire value chain such as developing construction-related associations to improve the legal and regulatory environment and facilitating access to finance.
3. Global Communities builds the capacity of the construction workforce to improve quality and productivity.

Working in partnership with the private sector and with other public and private agencies, Global Communities supports job training and apprenticeship opportunities for young construction laborers and professionals. We help local technical and vocational training institutes meet private sector demand by training people in competency-based skills and up-to-date technologies. For example, Global Communities collaborated with the Ministry of Education in Armenia to develop curriculum and certification standards for the construction sector, completed institutional capacity assessments of vocational training institutes and provided support to improve the quality and sustainability of their services. In the West Bank, Global Communities facilitated a partnership between the Engineers Association, local universities and Khatib & Alami, a global architecture and engineering firm, to support an Engineering Fellows Program with an 85% full-time job placement rate which includes an eight-week internship and training in green building practices. In Haiti we partnered with HayTrac (Caterpillar's equipment dealer in Haiti) to create a heavy equipment operator training facility and with CEMEX to offer training in the manufacture of cement blocks.

“We at USAID believe that without environmentally friendly policies and construction technologies, the rapid urbanization in the West Bank and Gaza could be detrimental to the country's environment and local resources. In addition to showing the environmental benefits and social motivations of going green, we hope to showcase how eco-construction has a positive impact on local economies and human health.”

Michael Harvey,
USAID Mission Director,
West Bank and Gaza - 2010

Green Microfinance

Global Communities is an innovator in providing locally appropriate financial solutions. We pioneered housing microfinance in the 1970's and have continuously managed credit programs in some of the world's most challenging environments. Global Communities manages a growing development finance portfolio of over \$137 million in nine countries. We have experience tailoring loan products to meet specific needs including the promotion of energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies. In both Bosnia and Romania, Global Communities' microfinance institutions, LIDER and Express Finance, offer loans for improved home energy efficiency. Express Finance collaborated with the Romanian Government's Green House program which offered a rebate for home owners who installed solar panels.

Infrastructure Management

Global Communities is known for our expertise in construction management. We work in partnership with communities, the private sector, local governments, ministries and donors to improve local management expertise resulting in projects that meet international standards and local community priorities. We also work with local utilities to improve their operations and management. In India, as part of a slum-upgrading program we worked with a local energy provider to convert more than 8,000 illegal users to regular subscribers, reducing losses by 41% in one year. Global Communities is helping the Ghana Water Company Ltd. improve the efficiency of delivery and partner with community Water and Sanitation Boards in Accra and Sekondi-Takoradi to manage localized systems and collect fees.



Through the Engineering Fellows Program in the West Bank and Gaza recently graduated engineers are provided hands-on, paid working experience to develop their workplace skills. The program builds local capacity and promotes best practices for implementation of labor intensive infrastructure projects aimed at revitalizing the local economy.



The Kasa Rasa (Trash to Treasure) Waste Management Center in Bangalore, India. The 2,500 square-foot center recycles 1.5 tons of solid waste per day, including organic waste that is composted on site. The center was built in partnership with the Caterpillar Foundation, the municipal government of Bangalore and local NGO partners.

Recent construction project highlights include:

Ministry of Education Colombia, Improvement of School Infrastructure, US\$28 million, 2011-2012: To respond to emergency needs created by flooding, the government selected Global Communities to manage an umbrella program to support both corrective maintenance and structural repair work in more than 200 schools. In some cases we are working with the school and community to relocate the new building to a safer location and we are building local capacity to handle the on-going and long-term repairs and maintenance to protect the schools from future flooding.



USAID and corporate partners, KATA “Work Together” program, Haiti, US\$104 million, 2006-2011: With primary funding from USAID, Global Communities leveraged an additional US\$7.8 million from corporate and community partners. While this program focused primarily on creating more than 169,000 jobs, it also supported local organizations and communities to complete 237 community infrastructure projects including 19 schools serving 10,500 students. A testament to our ability to transfer quality construction management skills is that all of the schools built through the program withstood the 2010 earthquake and served as critical relief centers during reconstruction.

USAID, Small Infrastructure for Education in Kosovo, US\$5 million, 2008-2010: Global Communities worked closely with the government and leveraged US\$4.7 million in additional investment to support construction of two new schools including an innovative green school in Pristina with geothermal heating and cooling, solar power, water recycling and a green roof. The program supported the government to complete 18 new annexes attached to existing schools and 7 renovation projects. We formed Steering Committees for each project to ensure feedback and transparency. Maintenance equipment and training was provided to the schools to support long-term sustainability.

Based on the program’s success, USAID awarded Global Communities the Kosovo Activities to Support Schools (KASS I and II) US\$6 million, 2011-2013. We expanded the physical capacity of primary and secondary schools to reduce overcrowding and improve energy efficiency. In Northern Kosovo, KASS supported local governments to construct new classrooms and rehabilitate existing school facilities to generate short-term employment and improve community infrastructure. Global Communities supported Kosovo municipalities to leverage additional resources from other donors and the program has constructed and repaired more than 427 classrooms, directly benefitting more than 38,077 students.



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Global Communities (formerly CHF International) is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself.