Funded by the US State Department for 2013-2015, this project connected women in Central and South Asia to water and its management, and proposed a program of international exchange of knowledge and leadership to support innovative conflict resolution with a sustainable and multiplying effect. To this end, it brought together young female social entrepreneurs and activists from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, to discuss their experiences and innovative solutions on community-level water management, enhance their competencies and leadership skills, and expose them to U.S institutions and the policy community working on water management and gender issues. This was accomplished through in-person and virtual exchanges in the Central and South Asian region and Washington DC, video and web content production, and curriculum development.
9:00am. Opening remarks by Daniel Rosemblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia at the U.S. Department of State

9:30-11:00am. Session 1. Water as a Security Issue

Chair: Sean Roberts (GW)

Marcus King (John O. Rankin Professor of International Affairs, GW)
*Global Water Security in the Context of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation*

Marlene Laruelle (Central Asia Program, IERES, GW)
*The over-Securitization of Water Issues in Central Asia*

Deepa Ollapally (Sigur Center for Asian Studies, GW)
*South Asian Narratives on Water and Security: Is the Cooperative Version being Drowned Out?*

Barbara Miller (Global Gender Program, GW) and Marlene Stearns (Founding Director, Women’s Food Leadership Initiative)
*Vital Connections: Women, Water, and Food*

11:00-11:30am. Coffee-break

11:30-1:00pm. Session 2. NGO Capacity-Building around Water and Gender Issues

Chair: Marlene Laruelle (GW)

Lisa Shipek (Executive Director of Watershed Management Group, India-USA)

Olga Djanaeva (Director, Rural Women’s Association ALGA, Kyrgyzstan)

Muhabbatkhon Mamadalieva (Zan va Zamin, Tajikistan, winner of the 2012 Equator Prize)

Mohammad Ilias Esmatullah (Afghans4Tomorrow, Kabul)

Sanaa Baxamoosa (Hisaar Foundation, Karachi)

1:00-2:00pm. Lunch

2:00-2:30. Screening of the video film

Introductory remarks by Chithra Jeyaram, filmmaker and film educator

2:30-4:00pm. Session 3. Roundtable. Voices from the Region and Best Practices

Chair: Ariana Leon (Women’s Leadership Coach, Lead with Creativity)

In this session, participants from the five countries will share their best practices and the lessons learned from the project.
Rahat Jabeen (Environment Specialist at Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project Planning & Development Department Govt of Sindh, Karachi) Farwa Tassaduq (Pakistan Sustainability Network and Roshni Association), Somaya Abdul Razaq (Managing Director, Skills Training & Rehabilitation Society (STARS), Kabul), Zainab Rafiiee Abdul Haadi (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan), Mandakini Mathus (Founder/Chairperson, Devrai Art Village, India), Ganga Joshi (Social activist, India), Aizhamal Bakashova (Coordinator, SHAZET public association, Kyrgyzstan), Asel Dunganaeva (Coordinator, Rural Women’s Association ALGA, Kyrgyzstan), Uguloy Abdullaeva (Chairman, Havaskor of Qubodiyon district, Tajikistan), Zulfiyamo Khusaynova (Member, Water Commitee of Gesh, Muminabad district, Tajikistan).