

Story of Bertukan Asmamaw, COWASH Office Manager and Accountant



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year. It is a landmark in the movement of women's right. The theme for International Women's Day 2019, which will take place on 8 March, is "Think equal, build smart, and innovate for change". The theme will focus on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

Currently, in Ethiopia, there is a great and important time in history to do everything possible to help forge a more gender-balanced world. We have now come a long way. For example, we have 50% of Women cabinet members, yet there's still more to be achieved.

As the world heads toward International Women's Day 2019, we in COWASH will celebrate women's achievements and feature our own role models and Women Champions in COWASH Federal team.

For today, we would like to share the brief story of Bertukan Asmamaw.

Birtukan Asmamaw was born and raised in Bahir Dar town from a family of five. She is the 2nd in the family and the first national women staff in RWSEP, Finish Bilateral Rural Development Project, predecessor FINNWASH and the current COWASH. Birtukan studied Secretarial and Office Management and secured her Diploma, from Bahir Dar University and joined the then RWSEP as Secretary.

Birtukan is known in COWASH Federal team for her hard work, swift supportive actions and dedication both in her work environment and personal life. After her Diploma, Birtukan resumed her studies and obtained Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree in Management. In her professional life she has progressed from Secretarial position in Amhara Region to an Office Manager and Accountant at Federal level in Addis Ababa. As a person

Birtukan, is welcoming, playful and humorous valuable staff.

Asked what she values most in COWASH, she said "the work environment and the support she gets from the staff and the Chief Technical Advisor in particular "keeps her rolling in COWASH Federal team. She underlines "teamwork and trust is a key success point for her. She believes she is empower by the work system and appreciates the trust and support of the Chief Technical Advisor. Birtukan is passionate about COWASH and appreciates the organization for creating opportunity for pursuing her education and creating platform to interact with wide range of audiences including international exposures. Birtukan was quoted as "COWASH for me is not only a work place but also a family and home away from home".

Birtukan believes the key ingredient for success is opportunity, teamwork, trust and exposures which shaped her career in COWASH. The memorable experience that keeps Birtukan going in COWASH is the joy she witnessed in the face of children and community members in one of the water supply inauguration she attended. She said this has become an inspiration to wake up and work for COWASH.

Birtukan currently, is one of the senior COWASH staff and one of our Women Champion and role model in COWASH Federal team.

Birtukan is also a happy and caring mother of a girl child.