

WATERPARTNERS INTERNATIONAL
2003 ANNUAL REPORT

From Our Co-Founders



Gary White visits a new water system in India.

This past year has been a tumultuous one. We have faced the continued threat of terrorism, the human toll of war, and the impacts of a struggling economy. It was a year that tested our vision of a better future.

And yet, this past year was a year of hope.

As co-founders of WaterPartners, we are fortunate enough to visit some of our completed projects and witness first-hand the difference safe drinking water makes in a community. We see the gardens that appear when women do not have to walk six hours to get water for their families. We see girls entering school for the first time now that they no longer need to collect water.

Every trip we made this past year to one of our communities reminded us that this year, like every other year, is a year of hope. Every day, around the world, people are making the decision to hope for a better future for their children.

While we cannot fix every problem facing the world today, we can fix the epidemic of unsafe drinking water. We have the solution: clean water.

And, so we hope. Despite the fact that every time we take a breath a child dies from a water-related disease, we are making progress. We have now served 63 communities and brought safe, clean drinking water to thousands of people. Financially, donations from individuals and foundations continue to increase, putting us on strong footing for 2004. We continue to expand our projects, to reach more people and to look for innovative, cost-effective ways to increase the number of people we help each year.

We hope that as you read through this year's report and meet some of the people you have helped, you, too, will see the hope you created.



Marla Smith-Nilson with a water point management committee in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2003 Overview



Current Projects

Preliminary Partner Searches Conducted

2003 STATISTICS

Number of Communities Served: 63

Number of current WaterPartners Projects: 14

Number of People Served: 35,000

Number of Current Sustaining Donors: 244

Percent of Ethiopians living on less than \$2 per day: 61.5

Percent of Hondurans living on less than \$2 per day: 29

Percent of Indians living on less than \$2 per day: 62.1

Percent of Bangladeshis living on less than \$2 per day: 62.4



Finding

IT IS THE WORLD'S SILENT EPIDEMIC. More than one billion people lack access to a safe supply of drinking water. Water-related diseases cause 80% of all of the sickness of the world and are the leading cause of death in the world, responsible for 14,000 deaths each day. WaterPartners International believes that creating accessible, safe water supplies liberates people and allows them to live healthier, fuller, more productive lives. It allows them to live to their full potential.

a Safe Place to Drink

WaterPartners International challenges the traditional approach to assisting people in developing countries. Creating self-sustaining water projects is a multifaceted process; it is simply not enough to drill a well and walk away. We dig deeper into the issues. Yes, we build wells, but equally as important, our projects include other key components, such as: community participation, maintenance of the new water system, health and sanitation education, financial management training, and water source protection. Over the past 13 years, WaterPartners International has helped more than 30,000 people in 63 communities develop accessible, self-sustaining, community-level water supplies.

Since we supported our first water project in Honduras in 1990, our focus has been on creating sustainable water projects. All of the projects WaterPartners has supported are still in operation today. Each project still has an active water committee governing the operation of the water system and users paying a water bill to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the water system.

In 2003, WaterPartners supported projects in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, and the Philippines.

Central America



Honduras

THE POOREST AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, Honduras faces a severe water crisis. Nineteen percent of the rural population does not have access to safe drinking water, and 41% do not have latrines or toilets. During the rainy season, families gather water from small springs and waterholes that form close to their houses; once these springs and holes dry up during the dry season, families must walk long distances to find larger streams.

Drinking from and bathing in polluted water supplies are among the most common routes for the spread of infectious disease. Many poor households are forced to rely on contaminated water supplies, and the prevalence of waterborne diseases, like cholera, is increasing. An epidemic of cholera swept through Latin America in 1991, causing thousands of deaths—the majority of the cases occurring in communities lacking safe water and proper waste disposal. Cases of chronic dysentery and cholera outbreaks are still reported. While some progress has been made, 9,000 children die each year due to water-related diseases.

WaterPartners has been working in Honduras since 1990 and has helped more than 40 communities bring safe drinking water to their villages, a proven method of decreasing child mortality. Improving access to water, combined with sanitation and hygiene education, means less time is spent gathering water, fewer health problems, increased school attendance, and increased farm production.



Spotlight

WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED IN SAN LORENZO, the only water source in the village was a failed and poorly-planned project built by a government agency more than 20 years ago. The women and girls of the community were forced to search for water, getting water from pools that formed during the rainy season or from far-away springs during the dry season.

As we walked around the community, we ran into Leslie, a little seven-year-old girl. She was collecting water in old anti-freeze containers. We talked with her for a while as she scooped water from a still pool. We chatted with her about her village, her family, and her daily activities. When we asked her if she was excited to have a water project in her community, she looked at us and giggled, (just like all seven-year-old girls) and replied "sí" (yes). "Why are you happy?" we asked. She looked at us and replied simply, "*porque me gusta bañar*" (because I like to bathe).



Leslie, Age 7
San Lorenzo, Honduras

Africa



Ethiopia

FOR MANY PEOPLE, ETHIOPIA HAS become synonymous with starvation and famine. Yet the lack of rain has consequences beyond poor agricultural output. Lack of rain also means a lack of drinking water. Some 4.2 million Ethiopians are suffering from acute lack of water. Household assets have been depleted by previous crises and traditional coping mechanisms have been lost to face this acute crisis.

There is clearly an urgent need to develop safe water supplies and basic sanitation for the majority rural population of Ethiopia. Access to safe water is estimated to be only 12% in rural Ethiopia. Latrine access is also extremely poor at merely 7%. Water-related diseases are endemic and health services are limited. The lack of access to safe drinking water places a heavy burden on children who are especially vulnerable to diarrheal disease. According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (2001), water, sanitation, and hygiene related diseases are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, accounting for a large portion of the deaths of 500,000 children each year.

As water has become scarcer, more families have been displaced. This has led to an increase in school drop-out rates, thereby taking away children's opportunities to acquire basic life-skills, to benefit from psychosocial counseling, and to participate in recreational activities.

WaterPartners International began its work in Ethiopia in 2001.



Spotlight

IT'S FIVE IN THE MORNING when we watch Asmaraha and her mother begin the walk to collect water. There is no water nearby and they will have to walk eight-miles each way to collect water for the household. Collecting water for their family will take six hours to complete. Such a walk, however, must be made every day—it is a matter of life and death for Asmaraha and her five siblings.

At their water source, they painstakingly collect water, cup by cup. By the time they are ready to return home, the day's heat has risen. Asmaraha bends over deeply to get a full water container up on her back. The ropes visibly pull her little shoulders tightly together. This container of water weighs almost as much as she does—32 pounds in all.

However, Asmaraha considers herself very lucky. For her, this journey will end soon. A water project is scheduled to be constructed in the village in 2004. And what does Asmaraha hope to do when she doesn't have to spend six hours a day collecting water? With a big smile, she says, "Go to school. I want to be a teacher."



**Asmaraha, Age 11
Echele, Ethiopia**

Asia



Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines

India:

INDIA IS THE SECOND MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY in the world with a population of 1.03 billion and an estimated 400 million children. With 15% of the world's population and only 4% of the world's water availability, India faces a severe water crisis. This problem is exacerbated by the highly uneven distribution of water resources. The majority of the Indian population receives their water from sources contaminated by sewage and agricultural run-off. Waterborne diseases are one of the main causes of child morbidity. Sadly, more than two million children die each year before reaching the age of five.

Bangladesh:

BANGLADESH IS ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD and the most densely populated. Bangladesh also faces serious challenges in the area of water and sanitation, particularly due to arsenic contamination of underground water. While Bangladesh has made commendable progress in the supply of safe water to its people, gross disparity in coverage exists across the country. Further, latrine usage is very poor across the country, averaging only 16% in the rural areas. Diarrheal diseases constitute a major health problem in Bangladesh, killing more than 100,000 children each year.

Philippines:

THE PHILIPPINES FACE A GROWING WATER CRISIS. Only 36% of its rivers are safe enough to be used as a public water source, and 58% of its groundwater is contaminated with coliform bacteria. Additionally, approximately 31% of illnesses monitored for a five-year period were caused by water-borne sources, and many areas are experiencing a shortage of water during the dry season. Latrine usage is also poor in both the urban and rural areas of the country, contributing to the high incidence of diarrhea among the population's children.

WaterPartners began its work in Asia in 2001 and will be expanding its work in 2004.



Spotlight

IN THE MEGA-CITY OF **DHAKA, BANGLADESH**, Noor Jahan, her husband, and five children all live in a one-room rented shack. They moved to Dhaka in 1994 after their rural village was destroyed by a cyclone. Noor says they had hoped for an easier life.

Unfortunately, life continued to be hard. Their community didn't have any public water supply system, and Noor's family paid exorbitant fees to buy water from a local water supplier. The worst part, Noor says, was that the water wasn't always safe and her children were often sick. Noor was very concerned about the health of her children and worked hard to improve their health. She took out a loan and built a latrine for her family, and participated in a water and sanitation project benefiting the entire community. Noor says, "I now have extra time because my children are healthy and not suffering from diarrhea. I have more time to take care of my children."



**Noor Jahan, 33 years old, and her family
Dhaka, Bangladesh**



Shaping

OVERCOMING THE WATER crisis is not a job for just one person or just one agency. A crucial part of what WaterPartners International does is to share the stories of the people we help. It requires many of us working together to speak to our friends, our companies, our religious institutions. Doing projects simply is not enough. It is a global problem that requires global involvement.

Our World

Using both traditional and non-traditional methods, WaterPartners International created new corporate relations, strengthened existing ones, and reached thousands of people through *Water for Life* events, media coverage, and public service announcements.

The following are some examples of collective, corporate, and individual action that contributed to private support of WaterPartners' programs in the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Fundraising Highlights

Water for Life Events

During the 2003 calendar year, WaterPartners raised more than \$275,000 through *Water for Life* events, bringing the total funds raised in the history of the organization to \$2.4 million. *Water for Life* events throughout the country were the single largest source of donations. Ever since the first WaterPartners event in 1990, *Water for Life* events have been the core of our domestic program. By linking donors and beneficiaries, *Water for Life* events provide us with an opportunity to tell the stories of the people in the communities we're supporting. In 2003, *Water for Life* events supported the following: Emergency Relief for Iraq; Pallabi Slum, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dibbasthali, Rajshahi, Bangladesh; Keelakaithigarpatti, India; Cacahual, Choluteca, El Aguila, Guacual, Gualcinse, Las Crucitas and Sosoal, Honduras; Villhermosa, Philippines; Sakkampatti, Periyanchippatti, Mettupatti and Keelakarthisaipatti, India.

WaterPartners Community

In the spirit of WaterPartners' tradition of reaching out to people at a personal level, our drive to expand our domestic community of supporters continued in 2003. WaterPartners supporters were asked to host a gathering of people—friends, family members or colleagues—who might be interested in our work. At these gatherings, called *Community Building Events*, guests were not asked for a donation, but to listen to our story. The purpose of these meetings is to provide more details about our work than we can share in our brochures. In 2003, WaterPartners supporters held *Community Building* events in Atlanta, Chapel Hill, Detroit, Kansas City, Knoxville, New York City, Raleigh, San Antonio, San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle.

Global Giving

Started in 2000 by two former World Bank employees, Global Giving is a web-based giving site that enables individuals, companies, and other groups to find and support high quality grassroots social and economic development projects around the world. Donors have the option of directly communicating with the extraordinary social entrepreneurs who run these projects and can receive reports and updates directly from the field. WaterPartners is excited to be a partner with Global Giving in bringing safe, accessible drinking water to people in need.

Domestic Partnerships

Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation awarded WaterPartners International \$97,000 to fund water projects in Dhaka, Bangladesh. More than 10,000 people will benefit from these important projects. New clean water systems will help families spend more time pursuing work and will allow children to spend more time in school.

Agora Foundation at the Peninsula Community Foundation

The Agora Foundation at the Peninsula Community Foundation awarded WaterPartners International \$126,000 for water projects in India. The new projects will include community training, health education, sanitation and water supply. There will be provisions to provide credit to communities so they can repay project costs over time. Repaid funds will then be reinvested in water projects for additional communities.

Millennium Water Alliance/Global Development Alliance

WaterPartners was awarded \$260,000 by the Millennium Water Alliance/Global Development Alliance for water, sanitation, and health education projects benefiting over 30,000 impoverished Ethiopians in need of clean water.

Kimberly-Clark

Kimberly-Clark, a leading global health and hygiene company, joined with us to help provide safe, accessible drinking water to Mettupati, India. With offices in India and throughout the world, Kimberly-Clark is dedicated to helping families throughout the world. We are excited that they have joined us in supporting our Atlanta *Water for Life* event.

American Airlines

American Airlines, the world's largest carrier and official airline of the Triangle/Chapel Hill *Water for Life* event, has teamed with us to tackle the world's biggest health problem: unsafe water. By supporting our Triangle *Water for Life* dinner and auction, American Airlines is helping to bring safe water to communities in five countries.

Thank You to Our Donors



EVERY YEAR, DONORS continue to reaffirm, through their donations, that our vision can become a reality—that there will be a day when everyone in the world can take a safe drink of water. WaterPartners International gratefully acknowledges all our donors at every giving level. Each gift to WaterPartners is a gift of life to someone in the world. On behalf of our beneficiaries, thank you.

Foundations

A Glimmer Of Hope Foundation
Clearwater Project
Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
New England Biolabs Foundation
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WaterPartners is privileged to have a group of donors who pledge on a yearly basis to support WaterPartners throughout the year. These donors, our *Sustaining Donors*, are the backbone of our programs. We thank them for their continued support.

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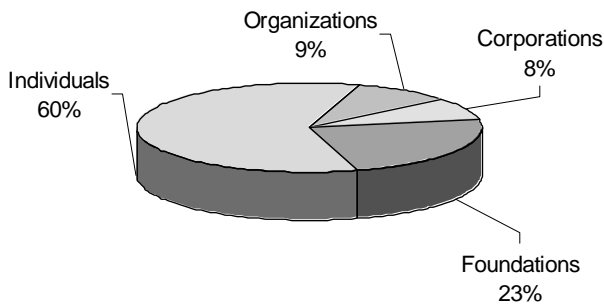
2003 Finances

WaterPartners International's financial resources come from many sources, including foundations, corporate partnerships, work-place giving, and, most importantly, private donations.

We know that when an individual or institution donates money, it is with the intention of making a difference in a life. One of our core values is to use our resources carefully, efficiently, and with the greatest possible benefit to the people we serve. One way we express this value is by keeping overhead costs as low as we can.

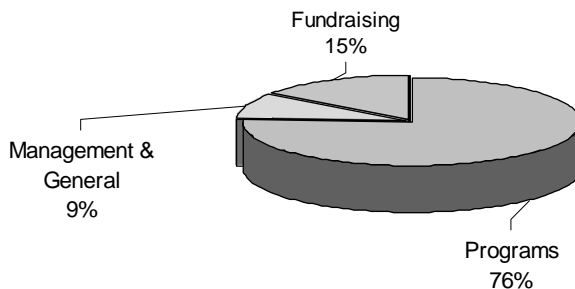
The following financial summary is based on WaterPartners International's IRS Form 990, a statement that nonprofits are required to submit to the IRS declaring revenues and expenditures. A complete, independently audited financial statement is available upon request.

Support and Other Income



Total Revenue: \$708,773

Expenditures



Total Expenditures: \$698,100

Our Vision

WE ENVISION THE DAY WHEN EVERYONE IN THE WORLD CAN
TAKE A SAFE DRINK OF WATER.

It is easy to take for granted ready access to a safe supply of drinking water. Yet, more than one billion people lack this most basic commodity. Creating accessible, safe water supplies in developing countries liberates people to live healthier, fuller, more productive lives.



Our Mission

INSPIRE PEOPLE TO ACT

Donors to provide consistent financial resources with a sense of solidarity for those in need of safe water.

Staff and Volunteers to seek innovative and efficient solutions to meeting the global water supply needs of today and tomorrow.

People in need of safe water to take the lead in meeting their own needs.

Together, these people form the "*Water Partnership*" that will allow us to realize our vision.

DEVELOP HIGH-QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE WATER
PROJECTS

We use our expertise to foster high-quality, sustainable community-level water supply projects. We promote innovative solutions that enable communities to take a leading role in solving their own water supply problems.

ENABLE DONORS TO INVEST WISELY

We exist to create a global awareness of the water supply crisis and to help people respond. We carefully invest donors' funds in only the highest-quality projects through locally-based water development organizations. We hold ourselves accountable to donors and to people who benefit from the projects they support.

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Stephanie Nelson
Development Associate
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Regional Director of Development
Dave Sarr
Financial Manager

Offices

WaterPartners International has its global headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, and a satellite office in Seattle, Washington.

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Seattle Regional Office
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Seattle, WA 98127
Phone: 206.297.3024

Web Site: www.water.org

WaterPartners International depends on contributions to carry out its essential work in the developing world and its educational mission in the United States. Gifts to WaterPartners support community water projects in developing countries.

Please remember WaterPartners in your will, matching gifts at work, and United Way campaigns. Even if WaterPartners is not listed, many work-place giving campaigns allow you to write in our name.



WaterPartners International is a charitable institution under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Financial support comes from foundations, corporations, the religious community, other private organizations, and thousands of individuals.

To make a contribution or for more information about gift options, please contact:



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