

A Message to our Supporters

All of our projects start with a baseline study. Although these studies are usually done by our partner organizations, sometimes we are lucky enough to help. These studies focus on the human angle of what we do. Through them, we catch a glimpse into a community's struggles and the innovative ways people try to overcome them.

Our first project in Ethiopia was no different. Our communities face incredible difficulties just to collect enough water for one day. The drought has caused traditional water sources to disappear, and women spend 6 to 8 hours daily fetching water. During the dry season, it is often longer, and the water is collected cup by cup from small springs. The lack of safe water has devastating effects on Ethiopian families and almost every family has had at least one child die from water-related diseases.

We have accomplished a lot since we started in 1990. We have helped more than 100,000 people in 100 communities gain access to safe drinking water. In 1990, our model was ground-breaking; today, it is the industry standard and more people have access to safe water than ever before. We have done so much, but the facts remain staggering: more than 1 billion people still lack access to safe water and thousands of children die every year.

The truth is there are not enough funds to meet this need. We know that having safe water makes a direct and lasting impact, but how do we increase the number of people who have access to safe drinking water when funding is limited?

This past year, we set the groundwork to address that question and introduced a second-generation solution to that problem: the *WaterCredit Initiative*.

The initiative helps more people gain access to safe water more quickly while it maximizes limited resources by creating loans for new water systems. In the US, we use credit daily. In developing countries that sort of credit is not available. WaterCredit addresses that need by instituting a revolving loan fund to finance water projects. The repaid funds are then reinvested in new

projects. Now more than ever, we are moving closer toward our vision where everyone can take a safe drink of water.

an White

Executive Director and Co-Founder



Water Fact: Each year more than five million people die from water-related diseases.

2004 Overview



Number of Communities Served: 112 Number of current WaterPartners Projects: 14 Number of People Served: 55,000 Number of Iraqis who have received Emergency Relief: 100,250

Nearly 82% of the population in Ethiopia does not have access to any kind of latrine facility.

Of the 125 million inhabitants of Bangladesh between 35 million and 77 million are at risk of drinking arsenic-contaminated water.

In India, 44% of the population lives on less than \$1 a day

In Honduras, 12% of the population still lacks access to a sustainable, improved water source.



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, responsible for 14,000 deaths each day. WaterPartners International believes that creating accessible, safe water supplies liberates people and allows them to live healthier, more productive lives

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, we bring to our projects such components as community participation, maintenance of the new water system, health and sanitation education, financial management training, and water source protection. Over the past 14 years, WaterPartners International has helped more than 100,000 people in 100 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 2004, 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. Twelve percent of the rural population do 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 American 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.

Maria knows too well how long it takes to fetch water. Even though she is only eight, she had been helping her sisters collect water for her family since she was six. They often left first thing in the morning and often did not return until after lunch. When we spoke with Maria's mother about what she wanted for her children, she said that more than anything, she wanted her children to attend school.

With the help of WaterPartners International and our local partner, the San Lorenzo project brought water to the community center. For Maria, a new world has opened up and she is now attending school and wants to be a teacher when she grows up.



Maria, Age 8 San Lorenzo, Honduras

<image>

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 7%. Waterrelated 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), diseases related to water, sanitation and hygiene problems 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



Postcard From the Field

I'm excited to say that our grant projects are in fullswing! Today I visited the village of Simret, which is a six-hour drive from Addis Abba.

By the time we arrived at the village. There were several men working to build the new well. What an amazing sight! Two men stood at the bottom of a 15-foot hole bent over shovels. Each time they scooped a shovel full of dirt, they deposited it into a bucket, and men at the top of the hole hauled the dirt out. As we watched, water was beginning to leak into the hole—a good sign. When the water becomes too deep, or when they hit bedrock, our partner organization will assist the community in blasting the rest of the way with dynamite.

As we watched, a group of women approached carrying boulders from the quarry more than a mile away. The stones will be shaped by hand into blocks and will be used to line the well after the hole is completed. They are so excited about the new well and how their lives will be changed because of it. As Abrahat, one of the women in the group, laughingly explained, "With the new water system I will have a lot of energy and will be able to do a lot of things, like make big meals at my house." They agree, however, that the best thing about the new well is that their daughters will have time to do things they only wished they could do.



Abrahat, 45 Simret, Ethiopia



Bangladesh, India & 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 its 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, 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 faces 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 children.

WaterPartners began its work in Asia in 2001 and will be expanding its work in 2005.



Postcard From the Field

We recently visited the school house in

Keelakarthigaipatti, India. Lined up outside of the school were 50 boys and girls waiting to greet us and show us their new bathroom. The new bathroom was fantastic! The toilets were brightly colored and painted with messages about proper hygiene. Each side had its own handwashing station and the children proudly showed us the soap they each bring from home and how to use it.

After the tour of the new toilets, we entered the classroom, and the children sang a song about all of the hygiene activities they perform during the day. Although we don't speak Tamil and couldn't understand what they were singing, the children pantomimed their hygiene behaviors. Among other things, we could tell that they brushed their teeth each day, and washed their hands after using the toilet, and before eating. The smiles they shared with us while they sang were so enthusiastic that it was obvious they enjoyed their hygiene classes and that they were internalizing the messages presented to them.



Keelakarthigaipatti, India

Water Fact: The poor in developing countries pay, on average, 12 times more per liter of water than the middle class.

WaterCredit Initiative



The WaterCredit Initiative

What is WaterCredit?

WaterCredit is a revolving loan fund that provides credit to poor communities to build water and sanitation systems. Many families that are willing to pay to improve their communities. Many of these families have income but are unable to access the up-front capital required to do so. Instead, they are forced to wait indefinitely for grant money. When given the chance to pay back a small loan over time they are able and willing to purchase their water system immediately, rather than waiting for years for limited grant money.

WaterCredit makes microloans available to communities and individuals to construct water systems and sanitation facilities. Communities pay back the loan to WaterPartners, and we are able to loan it again and again to other communities in need. This system of loaning and re-loaning allows us to multiply the number of people served by the same donation.

Piloting WaterCredit

This year, WaterPartners has sponsored WaterCredit pilot projects in India and Bangladesh. These pilot projects have been made possible by grants from the Agora Foundation at the Peninsula Community Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. Through our pilot projects, more than 15,100 people in four Indian communities and 10,000 people in three slums in Bangladesh are using WaterCredit to purchase their water systems. Construction is well underway on both projects, and community members in both countries have begun to repay their loans.



Spotlight

WaterCredit India gives communities choices

Mrs. Pethayee, age 54, lives in Ponnusagampatti, Tamil Nadu, India. She had polio as a child and is now disabled by partial paralysis in her legs. Because of this, she has difficulty walking and has found that traditional squat-style latrines are particularly hard to use. To minimize the discomfort, she would often not eat in efforts to minimize the frequency of defecation.

When we visited her house, Mrs. Pethaye eagerly greeted us explaining how before the project she had to walk far away to practice open defecation in a way that would not be embarrassing. She told us that our partner organization gave her information about many kinds of toilets, and recommended that a Western-style toilet might be easier to use. They suggested that if she took out a WaterCredit loan, she could have any type of toilet she wanted.

For Mrs. Pethayee the WaterCredit loan fund made it possible for her to afford the construction of the Western-style toilet. Since construction, she is very satisfied with her toilet and can use it without difficulty.



Mrs. Pethayee, 54 Tamil Nadu, India



The Faces of Water





Partners International



Thank you to our Donors



Every year, donors 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 gratefully thanks all our donors at every giving level. Each gift, a gift of life in its own right, becomes even more substantial when joined with the thousands of other gifts we receive each year.

WaterPartners is incredibly grateful for your support. On behalf of all you have helped, thank you.

On the following pages, we recognize the corporations and foundations that contributed \$2,500 or more during fiscal year 2004, as well as those current

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2004 Finances

WaterPartners International's financial resources come from many sources, including foundations, corporate partnerships, workplace giving, and, 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.

	Total
SUPPORT AND OTHER INCOME	
Direct Public Support and Special Events	\$ 529,420
Foundation Grants	\$ 295,788
Interest and Dividend Income	\$ 1,475
Gain/(Loss) on Donated Investments	\$ 180
Other Income	\$-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND OTHER INCOME	\$ 826,863
EXPENSES	
Programs	\$ 491,579
Management & General	\$ 65,657
Fundraising	\$ 88,239
Special Events	\$ 109,824
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 755,299
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 71,564
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 4,975
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 76,539

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.



Water Fact: UNICEF estimates that in 2000, 2.2 million children under the age of five died from diarrhea resulting from ingesting waterborne pathogens.

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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 workplace giving campaigns allow you to write in our name.



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



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