



Haiti

Haiti is one of the poorest nations on Earth. Half of its citizens lack access to safe water and only one in five have a toilet. Our commitment is to affect 50,000 lives by bringing safe water and sanitation to Haiti.

Commitment for Haiti

Water.org, co-founded by Gary White and Matt Damon, is currently implementing work as part of three Clinton Global Initiative commitments made over the past three years. Through these commitments and additional initiatives, Water.org has served 400,000 people with water and sanitation services, nearly 130,000 of whom have been reached with microfinance via its WaterCredit Initiative.

At the 2009 CGI Annual Meeting, Water.org launched a new commitment that will bring safe water and sanitation to a minimum of 50,000 people in Haiti over the next three years. Water.org will initially reach these people working through local partner nonprofit organizations (NGOs), supporting them with its grant-driven programs. Additionally, Water.org will continue its focus on financial innovation by exploring relationships with microfinance partners in Haiti under its WaterCredit Initiative.

“Men anpil, chay pa lou.”

Many hands make the load lighter.

Haitian proverb

The water and sanitation situation in Haiti is the most dire in the Western hemisphere. Virtually no water treatment facilities are properly functioning for the general public. An estimated 80 percent of its people live under the poverty line.

Because of its vulnerable location in the Caribbean, Haiti also suffers from severe and cyclical degradation by an annual barrage of hurricanes, which killed an estimated 800 people and caused vast damage in 2008 alone. This is a challenge for many working in the country to alleviate poverty and foster stability.



Water and Sanitation Solutions

Water.org offers subsidy-driven solutions for the absolute poor while offering microfinance and other financial models to those willing and able to bring financial resources to the mix.

Water.org is bringing a mix of different solutions to its work in Haiti. It is tailoring financial offerings through its partner NGOs and, if financial conditions warrant, through partner microfinance organizations. Additionally, Water.org is investing in a mix of different water and sanitation solutions



appropriate for local conditions throughout Haiti. This program will directly and rapidly impact the lives of 50,000 people in need of safe water and sanitation.

We are supporting local partner organizations that can deliver effective and sustainable water and sanitation services to people throughout Haiti with a mix of grants, revolving loans, and microfinance approaches. Specific goals include:

- Increase the level of access to sustainable, safe water and sanitation services for 50,000 people among poor and vulnerable populations.
- Decrease the prevalence of water- and sanitation-related diseases in the target areas.
- Promote integrated water resources management at the local level with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water.
- Increase awareness of good hygiene practices.
- Measure the demand for credit-based water-supply and sanitation solutions at the community level in the target areas.

Haiti's Future Includes You

Water.org is seeking additional philanthropic resources to complete our commitment in Haiti. Depending on the uptake of WaterCredit, we may also be seeking debt financing to link to microfinance institutions that we select as partners. We will also seek to capitalize on media/marketing opportunities, particularly through our viral campaign with grassroots donors.

About Water.org

Co-founded by Matt Damon and Gary White, Water.org is a nonprofit organization that has transformed hundreds of communities in Africa, South Asia, and Central America by providing access to safe water and sanitation. Water.org traces its roots back to the founding of WaterPartners in 1990. In July 2009, WaterPartners merged with H2O Africa, resulting in the launch of Water.org. Water.org works with local partners to deliver innovative solutions for long-term success. Its microfinance-based WaterCredit Initiative is pioneering sustainable giving in the sector.

For specific questions about how you can support Water.org in Haiti, send an email to haiti@water.org.



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