

# RIPPLES

Working together to solve the water crisis



Collecting  
**WATER**  
now takes  
**MINUTES**

in the slums of Bangladesh  
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## Collecting water now takes minutes, not hours

Banu lives with her husband, two sons, and one daughter in Salepur slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Before the project with Water.org, she collected drinking water from a distant public source, two hours away. For all of their other water needs, such as bathing, cleaning dishes, and washing clothing, they used a nearby pond which was contaminated by human and animal waste and other pollution.

One day, staff from Water.org's local partner, DSK, came to her community and explained about the opportunity to take out a small WaterCredit loan for water and sanitation through a community-based organization. DSK helped Banu and other community members get organized and form a community-based organization of their own. Banu's group applied for a loan and received approval. As a result, today they have a new tubewell that provides ample, clean water right by her home. Collecting water takes minutes, not hours. Her group is having no trouble paying back the loan.

"Everyone has a right to water," says Banu. "I truly appreciate Water.org and DSK's help, and I implore them to help others to also get a tubewell."

As part of Water.org and DSK's project, education about good health and hygiene practices was provided to Banu and her community. Banu says she learned a lot of things from this training, such as the importance of washing her hands after using the toilet, using soap when washing, and covering food to protect it from flies. These simple but very important lessons have helped to improve her and her family's health. Even if a community has clean water, if good hygiene practices are not being used, there will still be health problems. That's why Water.org incorporates health and hygiene training into all of its programs.





## Photos from Salepur

Above: Children learn good hygiene practices by playing games during an education session.

Left: A young girl in Salepur collecting safe water.





# HAITI: committed to clean water

At the Clinton Global Initiative's 2009 Annual Meeting, Water.org Co-Founders Gary White and Matt Damon announced a \$2 million commitment to bring safe water and sanitation to a minimum of 50,000 people in Haiti over three years. Working with local partner organizations, Water.org is addressing critical water and sanitation needs for people living in the rural communities of Pignon, St. Raphael, and Grosmorne.

When Water.org's team first arrived in Haiti in fall 2009, the direness of the water and sanitation situation was evident. In a country slightly smaller than the state of Maryland, only 20 percent of its population has access to a toilet and barely half can access safe drinking water. This makes it the worst crisis in the Western Hemisphere. Since the earthquake on January 12, the Water.org team has remained committed to what it does best—

developing lasting solutions to complex water and sanitation challenges identified by the local communities themselves.

## Progress on the ground

Since the fall of 2009, the Water.org team has visited Haiti several times, consulted with experts such as the William J. Clinton Foundation and Partners in Health, and analyzed numerous potential local partner organizations. Of these, it invited

seven to participate in its partner evaluation process. While Water.org plans on developing and supporting a mix of different solutions to its work in Haiti, its first focus is on purely grants-based work, given the challenges posed by the local infrastructure and January 2010 earthquake.

The majority of organizations working in Haiti are focused on emergency response programs in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Water.org's work addresses the long-term water and sanitation needs of communities in remote, rural areas. Due to current migration movements from Port-au-Prince, many of these locations have experienced significant rises in their population, placing a strain on resources. Working with local partners, Water.org will reach those living in extreme poverty, fostering sustainable and effective solutions to address critical shortfalls in Haiti's infrastructure.

## Water.org partner: Haiti Outreach

In January 2010, Water.org certified one of its first local partners, Haiti Outreach. This program entails working with and training local communities in the Pignon and St. Raphael areas of Haiti to rebuild and/or rehabilitate 60 wells in 60 communities. Launching a hygiene education program in local primary schools is another important part of the program. Goal: reach 18,000 people with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene education by 2012.

Haiti Outreach has been working with the people of Haiti since 1997, building and maintaining community-initiated programs that have gained wide recognition from local beneficiaries and the Haitian government's water and sanitation authority, Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et Assainissement (DINEPA). Due to



## Over the next three years, Water.org's Haiti commitment will:

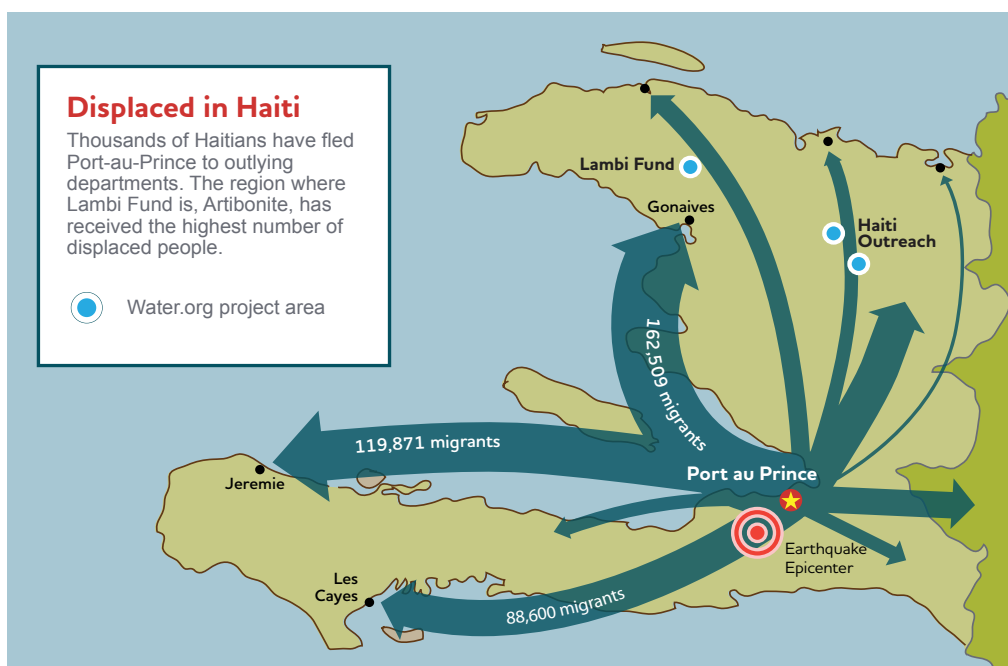
Increase access to safe water and sanitation for at least 50,000 people.

Decrease the prevalence of water and sanitation-related diseases in targeted areas.

Promote integrated water resources management at the local community level, with a focus on the quantity and quality of drinking water.

Increase awareness of good hygiene practices by launching education programs within local communities and schools.

Support the Haitian government's water and sanitation agency (DINEPA)'s strategy.



Migration data courtesy of OCHA, Mar 2010. [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)



its successful track record and following DINEPA's request, Haiti Outreach's model has become a national standard throughout Haiti.

### **Water.org partner: Lambi Fund**

Water.org recently certified a second partner in March 2010, Lambi Fund of Haiti. This program takes place in the Artibonite region, outside of Gonaives, which has experienced the largest population influx due to migration from Port-au-Prince. The increase has placed significant strain on local resources. This program entails constructing rainwater catchment systems, a series of new wells, and community latrines in widely-accessed public areas such as schools and churches. Goal: reach 10,000 people with clean water and sanitation.

### **Thank you and stay tuned!**

Thank you for your support, which has helped enable the programs with Haiti Outreach and Lambi Fund to break new ground. In the months to come, Water.org will continue to make progress with these programs and also certify additional partners to join its Haiti partner network and launch new programs.

Want to stay up-to-date? Starting in November, check out our progress in Haiti at [my.water.org](http://my.water.org).



### **Why work with local partners?**

Water.org's local partners have long-standing relationships with communities, and local and regional governments.

They speak the same language and are part of the local culture. Because of this, they have a better understanding of communities' needs and local resources.

They have greater knowledge of past programs, and help Water.org's programs build on lessons learned.

### **And the benefit to partners . . .**

Water.org gives local organizations the opportunity and freedom to apply lessons learned.

Local nonprofits usually have to mold programs to satisfy donor demands or meet pre-existing protocols. Water.org provides partner organizations with the unique chance to craft their dream program based on locally acquired experiences.

By partnering with local organizations that are often bypassed by international players, Water.org provides these organizations the opportunity to greatly expand the scale of their work.





## Water after a 12-year wait

Onaninja is a tightly-knit community of 155 people in the Volta Region of Ghana. The residents of this rural community are descendants of migrants from the northern part of Ghana and mainly work in subsistence agriculture on small plots of land near the community.

Community members attending the meeting with APDO and Water.org





### Clean water only a dream

As far back as community members can remember, the people of Onaninja collected drinking water from a stream near the community. During the rainy season the stream runs clear, but during the dry season the water turns red from the clay. Regardless of the season, the stream is dangerous to drink from, causing people to suffer from diarrheal diseases, guinea worm, and other water-related illnesses. In Ghana, guinea worm is close to eradication, but still exists. Drinking water from surface sources like streams can spread the disease, which causes larvae to burst through the skin in painful blisters.

The people of Onaninja knew their water wasn't safe and had been waiting a long time for change to happen. Twelve years ago, an

organization (no one remembers the name) came to the community and conducted geophysical studies to determine where to drill a borehole. The community was excited and began to think about the clean water that would soon flow. Unfortunately, the organization never returned and the people of Onaninja continued to walk to the stream for water.

### Taking matters into their own hands

After figuring out that the organization was not going to help them, the members began to organize and

save money to be ready the next time an organization arrived. When Water.org, through its partner organization Afram Plains Development Organization (APDO), approached the local district office with a borehole-drilling project, Onaninja was ready and at the top of the list.



Household latrine constructed by community members with locally available materials.



They were motivated, organized and had saved over 500 Ghana cedis (more than \$350 USD) to apply to the project. Onaninja was selected for the project with APDO and Water.org.

In addition to assisting with construction on a new borehole well and pump, community members participated in a sanitation education process called Community-Led Total Sanitation. As part of this process, community members map the contaminants in their environment and come up with an action plan to eliminate the contamination and improve health. The people of Onaninja decided that every house should have a designated defecation area. In order to assist each other with the goal, the community constructed public latrines out of locally available materials.

Before the project, the community members used the bush as a toilet, which can spread disease.

### **Clean water and toilets change community**

As a result of the project with Water.org, the community now has ready access to clean water, community latrines, and a strong water and sanitation committee made up of community leaders.

Health and overall quality of life has improved. In addition, community members say that children now have more time to attend school and that women have more time to take care of the children.

Community member Binanyi Mobil, age 56, shared her thoughts and appreciation:

**“Good water has been a major source of worry for the entire community . . . When we went to a nearby community to fetch good water they would drive us away. Before Water.org and APDO entered this community, our water was filthy and open defecation was common. Thank God all of this is becoming history because of continuous monitoring, education, and visits by the staff.”**



Children sit at the side of the new borehole and pump.





# Social Networking

With your help, during the past year social media tools have enabled Water.org to increase awareness about the water crisis and connect with more people interested in the water cause. Partnerships with key players such as Facebook, Twitter, and Zynga have also helped Water.org to spread its message.

## Tweet for Good

Back in April, Twitter selected Water.org to participate in the beta release of its Promotional Tweets advertising feature, which allows organizations to pay to place “sticky” tweets at the top of search results for authenticated users of Twitter.

## Ripples is Going Green!

**Ripples** is now distributed electronically. If you'd like a printed copy, please send an email to [ripples@water.org](mailto:ripples@water.org) or call 816.877.8451.

## Zynga Partnership

In March, Water.org kicked off its partnership with Zynga, the biggest game developer in Facebook. For one week, Zynga offered a promotional fish for sale in its FishVille game. Fifty percent of all proceeds benefited Water.org's work in Haiti. During this five-day timeframe, FishVille drove more than 60,000 visitors to Water.org's oneWEEKforWATER campaign site. The week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zynga ran its second promotion to benefit Water.org, as part of its Poker Campaign for Haiti. Water.org received a \$1 donation for every poker chip package sold.

## YouTube clips of the day

In case you missed Water.org's clip of the day series this summer, we captured footage from around the globe to create 15 – 30 second video clips. These clips show the harsh water realities for millions of people, as well as the power of the solutions. See any of the 30 clips at [youtube.com/water](http://youtube.com/water).

## Stand up with us online

Join us in spreading the word about the water crisis and the solutions:

[Facebook.com/water](http://Facebook.com/water)

[Twitter.com/water](http://Twitter.com/water)

[YouTube.com/water](http://YouTube.com/water)





# Shop for Water.org



## Limited-edition Water.org Water Bottle

Your holiday shopping just got a whole lot easier. Partnering with CamelBak, Water.org will be offering a series of limited-edition water bottles that will show everyone how you make a difference with safe water. Ten dollars of the purchase price will benefit Water.org. Visit [gift.Water.org](http://gift.Water.org) for more information.

## Drink Coffee to Give Clean Water

Water.org and The Roasterie have teamed up to bring drinking water to people in need. We've created our own light-roast World Water Blend, which has a bright lemon sweetness that gives way to a medium bodied cup full of dynamic fruits and wild honey. Ten percent of your purchase helps Water.org bring clean water to people around the world.

**About The Roasterie:** The Roasterie selects only the finest beans from the best small farms around the world. Air-roasting in small batches makes a difference you can see, taste, and smell. Water.org's World Water Blend contains 100% fresh Arabica beans, including beans from growers in Ethiopia, a Water.org project country.



All products supporting Water.org can be found at: [www.water.org/shop](http://www.water.org/shop)



# One family's reason for giving



Our four-year-old granddaughter, born in Ethiopia, is the inspiration for our investment in clean water projects in Ethiopia. Her birth mother died of dysentery, a preventable disease. Water.org projects in Tigray, Ethiopia help to educate communities and provide for greater sanitation, hygiene and access to clean drinking water in the villages—these are the cornerstones of improving the quality of life.

We support Water.org because they deliver on their promises and directly improve people's lives. We tried working with other organizations and foundations in Ethiopia, but they did not bear fruit. Then we approached Water.org and saw that they were making a real difference on the ground. Tragic cases of dysentery and malaria don't have to happen. What we also like about Water.org's work is the follow-up information we get, telling us what is happening, educating us, and keeping us engaged.

People in western countries take water and sanitation for granted. Watch Water.org's videos and you will see a woman traveling three hours a day for a bucket of water. In America we use 50 buckets a day. Water.org is about not having to spend excessive time collecting water, using a small-frame body to carry heavy loads for years, thus stunting growth. When girls stay small, they have problems delivering children. Tragic domino effects go on in so many ways.

We would like prospective donors to think about the fact that they could prevent children like Mimi from losing their mothers. It's too late for Mimi's birth mom, but someone could help make another child's life very different.

– George and Patricia Ann Fisher



920 Main Street  
Suite 1800  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
816.877.8400

**Water.org**, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, provides safe drinking water and sanitation to people in developing countries. Water.org projects create a ripple effect – saving lives, preventing illness, and improving quality of life.

**Ripples** is published annually for friends of Water.org. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [ripples@water.org](mailto:ripples@water.org). Comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome.

**Thank you** to all of our supporters. You make our work possible. Each life transformed is because of you.