

Safe water and the dignity of a toilet for all – in our lifetime.



THE FACTS

- Nearly 1 billion without water
- 2.5 billion without adequate sanitation
- 440 million school days lost
- 220 million hours each day are spent collecting water
- 3.7 miles walked each day by women and children
- 4100 children under five die each day from preventable water-related illness

At Water.org, we think about the nearly one billion people who are living and dying for water access differently – we see them as individuals with financial power, rights, responsibilities, and the energy to design their own futures. When families gain access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services, the benefits are transformative:

- **Economic Opportunity** Every \$1 invested in water and sanitation generates an approximate \$8 return in the form of saved time, increased productivity, and/or reduced healthcare costs for the average family. With access to safe water and a toilet, parents can work and children can stay in school.
- **Dignity** Increased privacy and dignity for girls and women particularly when physical effects associated with menstruation, pregnancy, and childbirth can be managed discreetly.
- **Improved Health** Relieves women from ongoing physical injury from lifting and carrying heavy loads of water. Saves lives – water-related illness, the number one killer of children under five, is more deadly than malaria and HIV/AIDS combined.
- **Girls in School** Reducing by half the number of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015 would result in 272 million more school attendance days a year.

BACKGROUND ON WATER.ORG

For more than two decades, Water.org has been at the forefront of developing and delivering solutions to the water crisis. Founded by Gary White and Matt Damon, Water.org challenges the traditional approach by pioneering innovative, community-driven, and market-based solutions to ensure all people have access to safe water and sanitation; giving women hope, children health, and communities a future. To date, Water.org has positively transformed the lives of more than one million individuals in Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean by providing access to safe water and sanitation. Its microfinance-based WaterCredit Initiative is pioneering sustainable giving in the sector.

WATER.ORG OVERVIEW

- Vision – We envision the day when everyone in the world can take a safe drink of water and experience the dignity of a toilet
- Founded in 1990 as WaterPartners International
- Merged with H2O Africa in 2009 to form Water.org; co-founders Gary White and Matt Damon
- Co-founder and CEO Gary White widely-recognized as a pioneer and leader in the water and sanitation sector
- \$9MM/yr annual operating budget
- 37 full-time staff
- U.S headquarters in Kansas City, MO, with additional staff presence in markets across the U.S.
- International offices: Tamil Nadu, India; Nairobi, Kenya, Lima, Peru
- Direct impact programs in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, and Uganda
- WaterCredit programs in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, and Uganda

THE WATER.ORG APPROACH

We empower people to take action and deliver solutions that accelerate progress and impact. Our approach ranges from building and rehabilitating wells and toilets to pioneering market-based approaches such as WaterCredit. Our work is comprehensive and demand-driven – communities know what solutions will work best for them in the long-term – and rooted in local technologies and innovations.

Direct Impact: The Most Basic Needs

Where it is most needed, we extend grants to local partners to build or rehabilitate water systems and toilet infrastructure. Our carefully selected partner organizations have deep-rooted cultural knowledge and relationships with communities in need. We build quality assurance into our program design and invest in training and monitoring to ensure the solutions endure. Working closely with each community ensures there is true demand and local investment in the project, in the form of time and energy.

WaterCredit: Small Loans, Big Effect

We recognized early on that most families, even though they are poor by economic definition, still spend much of their precious disposable income each day to access clean water and sanitation services. By providing families micro-sized loans for toilets and household water connections, we empower them to take charge of their futures. As loans are repaid, the funds can be loaned again to the next family in need. When families living in poverty use what small amounts of purchasing power they have to garner larger sums of financing, they can secure permanent solutions and break free from the vicious cycle of poverty. The global repayment rate of these loans has remained at 97 percent. In India alone, WaterCredit is on track to reach nearly a million people by 2016.

ABOUT WATERCREDIT

A microfinance solution, WaterCredit empowers those living in poverty to gain access to affordable credit to meet their own water and sanitation needs. This comprehensive initiative puts microfinance tools to work in the water and sanitation sector.

- Leverages microfinance as a distribution channel and a platform for overcoming market failures
- \$6MM in philanthropic capital has leveraged over \$14MM in commercial capital
- 22 microfinance partners in four countries (South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa)
- More than 500,000 people served
- Represents more than 50% of Water.org's programmatic portfolio



STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Lack of access to safe water and sanitation persists as one of the planet's greatest burdens, impacting health, economic development, and human dignity. The good news is there is no need to wait for a silver bullet. We've known how to deliver safe water and sanitation services for more than 100 years. We just need to do it faster, cheaper, and in ways that are scalable and sustainable. The strategic alliances below are helping us to realize the vision of safe water and the dignity of a toilet for all – in our lifetime.

- Bank of America
- Camelbak
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Conrad Hilton Foundation
- Hult International Business School
- Levi Strauss & Company
- The MasterCard Foundation
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
- PepsiCo Foundation
- Skoll Foundation
- Swiss RE Foundation

920 Main St, Suite 1800 Kansas City, MO 64105-2008

+1.816.877.8400

Learn more: <http://water.org>

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