Provide Clean Water for Poor Communities — Worldwide —

In Zambia, thousands of women and children travel great distances to collect their water from dirty riverbeds or unprotected hand-dug pits shared by cattle, dogs and wild animals.

You can change lives throughout the world by providing clean water and effective sanitation.

CrossCatholic.org/global-change-water
The Global Struggle for Clean Water

It’s hard for us to imagine a world where water isn’t easily accessible. Here in the U.S., we turn on a tap and clean water flows in abundance. But the developing world isn’t so fortunate. Especially in these difficult times, developing countries don’t have the funds to install modern water and sanitation systems. That means the poor are forced to seek water from other sources that are often contaminated. This leaves families sick and lethargic. Children suffer most of all. In fact, diarrhea, typically caused by water-borne illnesses, is the second-leading cause of death among children under the age of 5. (Source: WHO)

At Cross Catholic Outreach, we understand how the struggle for clean, accessible water impacts a family’s health, education and economic progress. Within the past year, we have helped our Catholic partners fund the construction and repairs of 62 community water systems worldwide, which has provided 34,086 people with clean, abundant water. This year, we have water and sanitation projects either planned or underway for our partners in nine countries, and we hope to raise $1.1 million in total funds.

Surely God wants us to continue helping poor families have clean water and safe sanitation, and he is calling on his Church to give them that hope!

In the dry season, this hand-dug well in Nicaragua runs empty. In the rainy season, it gives contaminated water that makes the villagers sick — especially the children.

DID YOU KNOW?

2.1 billion people globally lack safe water at home (2015)

Of those people...

159 million drink water directly from surface sources, such as streams or lakes

844 million do not have basic drinking water services

4.5 billion people globally have no toilets at home that safely manage excreta (2015)

Of those people...

2.3 billion still do not have basic sanitation services

600 million share a toilet or latrine with other households

Sources: WHO, UNICEF
A Cycle of Sickness and Misery

With a heavy bucket of murky water perched on her head, Dorothy Lungu slowly makes her way home from the local water source. She makes this trip several times a day. The job is labor-intensive, but Dorothy must do it if she and her children are to have any water.

Like most of the poor families living in the Diocese of Chipata, which stretches across the entire eastern province of remote Zambia, Dorothy’s family commits the better part of a day to collecting water, and while the water source she travels to is plentiful — it is also contaminated.

Villagers like Dorothy know their water is contaminated, but they have no other options. As a result, they drink the water and suffer from diarrhea, typhoid and dysentery — which weaken most and can even lead to fatalities among the elderly and young children.

A second and related problem for these rural villagers is poor sanitation. Few homes have access to toilets, so outdoor defecation is common, leading to the spread of infectious diseases. Families are also forced to cook with dirty water, dry dishes without clean racks, and skip hand-washing because their homes do not have sinks. All of these things — but specifically the lack of clean water and sanitation facilities — have severe consequences.

Bringing Hope to the Families of Chipata, Zambia

Cross Catholic Outreach wants to help the Catholic Church in Chipata address the needs of its people by bringing water to the community. It will do more than quench physical thirst. It will also address community needs by providing training in sanitation and hygiene. Most important, it will be an answer to prayers. A community water system is a tangible expression of God’s love for the poor, and fosters peace as Catholic villagers and those of other denominations come together to share from the same well.

2,058 adults and 3,085 children will be impacted by the construction of 15 hand-pump wells — one for each village — and the project will include troughs for animals and basins for washing clothes. Villagers will also be trained to construct pit latrines, dish-drying racks, rubbish pits and handwashing stations to reduce the spread of disease.

Please contribute today to provide clean water to the Diocese of Chipata and other ministries around the world!

In the village of Sankulani, Zambia, Dorothy Lungu gathers water from a nearby pond because it is the only water source available.
Please Give Generously
TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER FOR POOR COMMUNITIES

There can be no life without water — that’s why water is such a fitting symbol of God’s saving power and why Christ referred to himself as the living water; the source of eternal life.

With your help, our ministry partners across the globe can bring impoverished and hope-starved families to the wellspring that is Christ, who said, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.” (John 4:13-14)

Please — seize this opportunity to change lives in this miraculous way! Your gift to bring clean water and safe sanitation to poor communities will have a profound and tangible impact. It will transform the lives of men, women and children in desperate need and bless them with access to the greater hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ. The watching world will be blessed as well as it sees a dramatic demonstration of the Catholic faith and its mission of love.

Help us provide clean water and safe sanitation to these needy families today, and together we will prove the power of Christ’s mercy and sacrifice!

Cross Catholic Outreach
Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

Our Mission
We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship
We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:

The Chronicle of Philanthropy
The nonprofit world’s No. 1 news source

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