



# **Water for the Poor**

Restoring Lives with Safe, Abundant Water

— Worldwide —



**“Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.  
The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”**

**JOHN 4:14**



## Project Synopsis

### Description

This project will provide dependable water sources for impoverished rural communities suffering from thirst, waterborne illness and a lack of modern infrastructure.

Your gift can help fund the digging of a deep and secure well, the installation of a communitywide water system, or the repair or expansion of a currently existing source. Your gift may also support related water and health training. This empowers communities to take ownership of their water sources and maintain them for the long term.

### Purpose

To quench the thirst of the poor, improve their health and give them a personal encounter with Christ's mercy.

### Location

Developing countries around the world.

### Highlights

#### NEED

- Water projects are often identified as the highest priority for our ministry partners — even among those also dealing with food scarcity and other life-threatening issues. Water is essential to life.
- Many poor women and children in developing countries spend much of the day searching for water. Some must trek miles to find a stream or suitable well. Even when they do find water, the supply is often contaminated, rewarding their hard labor with diseases like cholera.

#### IMPACT

- By providing sanitary wells and community water systems, you can relieve this burden on the poor, freeing them from the cycle of thirst, sickness and despair.
- With water worries out of the way, mothers and fathers will have more time to support their families, and children will be able to consistently attend school.
- The water you bring to the thirsty will be a tangible sign of the hope Christ offers to all people, calling them to drink from “the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Rev. 22:1).





## Safe Water — Needed Now More Than Ever

“Wash your hands!” “Sanitize everything!” These frantic calls to cleanliness have been sweeping the globe like never before. The call to action is justified, of course, but for many families living in remote and impoverished communities, these efforts to slow the spread of disease must seem like a cruel joke. Most have no kitchen faucets. No water on demand. No way to wash their hands or sanitize their homes.

In fact, many suffer chronic dehydration.

Even when water can be obtained, collecting it is a burden, and what is available is typically so contaminated with toxins and disease, it often produces as much harm as good for those desperate enough to drink it. For the poor, water scarcity becomes a drudgery of hunting down water sources, waiting in line for access, and fighting the waterborne illnesses that result. Children suffer from stunting, as frequent diarrhea depletes their bodies of even the scant nutrients they are able to get from their meager diets, leading to a catastrophic failure to thrive.



Thankfully, the Church has seen the plight of these desperate families and is ready to act. Our local partners — dioceses, missions and religious organizations committed to serving the poor — are now depending on your support to enact their compassionate solutions to this terrible water crisis.

Your gift will empower Catholic leaders in countries like Nicaragua and Zambia to offer safe and culturally appropriate alternatives to the shallow wells and filthy streams their communities depend on, helping them quench the thirst of the suffering and bring comfort to the sick. Creating lasting solutions to a problem like this means investing in every important step of the process, from doing lab tests and hydrogeological surveys to the mobilization and training of the community members who can then help maintain the new resources.

Some solutions are very simple, like the digging of a deeper well, while others require a more complex approach, some also making use of filtration systems and electric pumps. Where energy is needed but no electrical grid exists, solar panels may be used.

The strategies vary, but the end result is always answered prayers and the lifting of a heavy burden from the shoulders of the poor.

Once the basic need for clean water is met, families typically flourish and are able to pursue education and work opportunities, as well as engage more fully in church and community life. Part of this is also due to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs that are provided, which teach community members basic sanitation and hygiene practices. You can make all of this possible. Please, join us in saving and enriching lives around the globe!



## Quench Their Thirst!



Day after day, mothers or their daughters are walking miles from home to find a trickle of dirty water. Hour by hour, containers are slowly filled in a desperate effort to quench the thirst of families. And when that water is consumed, the chances are high that illness will result.

We cannot let this go on.

The men, women and children facing water scarcity in developing countries are people made in God's image, just as we are. They are brothers and sisters in Christ, worthy of more. In fact, they are Jesus at the well, asking for a drink and offering living water from the eternal spring to all who serve him. For "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Please, respond today to those in desperate need. Make a generous gift to Cross Catholic Outreach to help solve the water crisis threatening families in developing countries around the world. This is a need that cannot wait! Today is the time to satisfy thirst, restore health and give our suffering brothers and sisters hope for the future.

*Your generosity can save a life!*

### 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.



### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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