



Access for the Poor

Water.org is a nonprofit organization whose founders have transformed hundreds of communities in Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean by providing access to safe water and sanitation. Co-founded by Gary White and Matt Damon, 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.

Methodology

Water.org empowers local communities and individuals to develop and sustain solutions to their own water and sanitation needs.

Local Partners

We deliver programs through carefully-screened, indigenous partner organizations that understand, and are part of, the local culture. Working through local partners also allows us to leverage our intellectual capital and to scale quickly.

Community Involvement

Water.org engages communities at every stage, from project planning, construction and financing, to ongoing project maintenance. Because our approach is demand driven, our in-country partner organizations respond to communities that approach them with their water and sanitation needs.

Appropriate Technology

Water.org is technology-agnostic. By working through local partners and engaging the communities we serve, we ensure that the technology selected is right for the issue.

Integration of Health and Hygiene Education

Adoption of good hygiene practices and access to sanitation facilities are critical to achieving sustainable improvements in community health. Water.org's local partners hold intensive training and motivation seminars throughout the project on the link between good hygiene and good health.

Innovative Funding

Water.org's projects are funded through grants, loans, or a combination of grants and loans or microfinance tools. WaterCredit, a microfinance solution, provides affordable credit for water and sanitation improvements that empower the poor to accelerate change in their own homes and communities.

Our vision

the day when

everyone in the

world can take a safe

drink of water

Program Areas

Water.org currently operates in four main geographic areas: Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Water.org is active in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda**. Ethiopian projects are located in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Harari, and Oromia, and are grant-only. In Kenya, our grant-based and WaterCredit projects take place in the Nyanza and Eastern provinces. Water.org's Ghana and Uganda projects are currently all grant-based.

In Asia, Water.org's work focuses on **Bangladesh and India**, where it implements both traditional grant programs as well as WaterCredit programs. Bangladesh programs target the slums of the capital city, Dhaka, and the rural Rajshahi and Manikganj Districts. Water.org's projects in India serve communities in five states – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Tamil Nadu. Rural projects are located in the District of Tiruchirappali in the southeastern state of Tamil Nadu and in Ganjam in the state of Orissa. Urban projects are located in the slums of Tiruchirappali, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Indore.

Latin America is home to Water.org's first project, which took place in **Honduras** in 1990. Today, Water.org has helped more than 40 Honduran communities build their own safe drinking water systems. Water.org has also implemented projects in El Salvador, Guatemala and the Philippines. All of these have been grant projects. In 2009, Water.org expanded its programming to **Haiti**. Initial projects are grant-based, in rural and peri-urban areas.

Sustainable Giving

Water.org has led the way in improving how water projects are delivered and financed in the sector. Nearly two decades ago, Co-Founder Gary White pioneered the operating model of working through local partner organizations, while simultaneously addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene education.

The WaterCredit Initiative, a microfinance solution, is also dramatically increasing the number of people with access to safe water. In recognition of its pioneering efforts, in 2009 Water.org received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

Water.org maintains an impressive success rate for its projects. A recent study by Emory University found 100 percent of projects surveyed are still operational, including projects up to ten years old.

Water.org backs its commitment to quality with rigorous monitoring and evaluation as well as original research programs. Water.org's internal efforts on this front are supplemented by independent research that it commissions from third-party organizations, such as Stanford University and universities based in the countries in which we work.

For specific questions
about how you can
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