



PO Box 22680 • Kansas City, Missouri 64113 • (913) 312-8600 • www.water.org

The Global Water Crisis

Every eight seconds, a child dies from a water-related disease. Water-related diseases are the leading cause of death in the world—killing more than 14,000 people each day—and are responsible for 80% of all sickness. More than 1 billion people in the world lack access to a safe supply of drinking water.

Who We Are

WaterPartners International is a U.S.-based non-profit that provides safe drinking water to people in developing countries. It began in 1990 with a fundraising event that was organized by co-founder and Executive Director Gary White to build a water system for a village in Honduras. WaterPartners was formally incorporated in 1993, and since that time, it has helped more than 100,000 people in 100 communities obtain safe water supplies and improved sanitation systems. Besides Honduras, WaterPartners has also completed projects in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India and Kenya and the Philippines.

What We Do

The core competency of WaterPartners is the social entrepreneurship that brings resources to bear on the most fundamental of human problems—safe drinking water. Because people in developing countries understand best how to solve their own problems, WaterPartners is committed to locally-based solutions and a decentralized operational structure. WaterPartners forges partnerships with carefully-screened partner organizations in the target countries who understand, and are a part of, the local culture. Thus, solutions can be tailored to fit the needs of each community, rather relying on a technological fix that the community has no way maintaining. Each of the projects has an active water committee governing the planning and operation of the water system, and users pay a water bill to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the water system. In this way, all of the projects that WaterPartners has supported are self-sustaining, with organizational and financial structures in place to allow communities to independently operate and maintain them on an ongoing basis.

WaterCredit Initiative™

WaterPartners' most recent innovations pertain to financing. Currently, nearly all of the water projects being built in developing countries are 100 percent grant-supported, which severely limits the number of people who can be served. The new approach pioneered by WaterPartners International, called the WaterCredit Initiative™, challenges the notion that all projects have to be financed totally by grants. By making small loans to individuals and communities as part of a revolving fund in areas where credit is not readily available, WaterCredit is greatly extending the reach of the resources devoted to water supply. By empowering people to develop their own solutions and providing the means to accomplish it, WaterCredit has the potential to greatly accelerate the pace of water system creation in the developing world. It also frees up grant funds to be targeted to the poorest of the poor. By offering both grants and credit, WaterPartners provides maximum flexibility in meeting the needs of communities. WaterCredit also maximizes donor dollars, allowing far more people to be reached per dollar invested.