

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 9007



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Water for the Poor

— Worldwide —



And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16



We are a ministry

that serves the poorest of the poor internationally by channeling aid through existing churches or church-based ministries, cost-effectively helping the poor while advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

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.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.





Project Synopsis

Description

Your contribution will construct aqueducts and wells, and provide water filtration systems in impoverished rural communities around the world.

Purpose

To improve the health and well-being of thousands of families who suffer from waterborne diseases.

Location

Worldwide.

Highlights

- The greatest risk to society worldwide is the lack of access to clean water, according to a World Economic Forum report.
- In developing countries, women and children often spend hours each day fetching water from far-off and sometimes contaminated sources. Infants and the elderly, who are most susceptible to waterborne diseases that cause diarrhea, risk death by quenching their thirst with water from dirty streams or watering holes.
- With the support of American Christians, Cross International wants to build wells in developing communities so people will have safe water to drink.
- An easily accessible water supply radically transforms the lives of people in impoverished communities, giving them the opportunity to live more purposeful, dignified lives.

Not only will your donation provide water, but the selflessness and love expressed through your support of the General Water Fund will introduce communities who've only known suffering and hardship to the hope of Christ.



The Need: *Snapshots of Life Without Water*

Zambia: Elizabeth and Simon

Well before dawn, subsistence farmer Elizabeth Ngoma and her husband Simon Daka begin their day with a prayer of thanksgiving. Simon leaves the village of Nyandeka to work in the family's meager field, and Elizabeth and the children depart on an equally essential task — fetching water for the family's survival.

Mother and children walk three hard miles to the closest water source — a murky, parasite-infested stream — where they collect as much water as they can carry. On a good day, usually during the rainy season, the water is “clearer,” Elizabeth says. On bad days, the water they share with a neighbor's livestock is cloudy and foul.

“My whole family has been struggling with diarrhea for years,” says Simon. “It's hardest on the children.”

Nyandeka is just a 25-minute drive from the region's main highway where a convenience store sells bottled water, but with an annual income of just \$95, that option is unaffordable for Simon and Elizabeth's family. So they continue to drink the contaminated water. Sometimes the morning water supply runs out and Simon must return to the stream after work to collect more. After a long day in the field, he finds this frustrating, but he goes out of concern for Elizabeth's safety at night.

“We have no other choice,” said Elizabeth.



Without access to clean water, Simon Daka, Elizabeth Ngoma and their children have suffered for years from chronic waterborne illnesses.



the dry season, only the murkiest contaminated water remains. It is rife with concentrated levels of bacteria and toxins. The entire village has battled bouts of diarrhea.

Vietnam: Y Beo

For generations, Y Beo and his family have fetched water from the lake, carrying it 500 meters to their home. The distance — about the length of 4½ football fields — is an incredible hardship for those struggling with heavy containers of water. Yet Y Beo did not consider this burden a serious problem. His issue was with the quality of the water. What they collected was no longer safe to drink. Cattle breeding and agriculture have developed near the lake, and during the rainy season, cattle waste and pesticides drain downhill into the lake, polluting the water. When much of the lake evaporates during



Haiti: Willeve

In remote villages on Haiti’s northwestern peninsula, whether the poor live or die can depend on the weather. While most of the island benefits from a tropical Caribbean climate, the North-West Department is blocked by the Massif du Nord Mountains, which stop trade winds from bringing in much-needed rain.

In this rugged, unforgiving landscape, droughts can drive families to desperation, forcing them to use unreliable and potentially contaminated water. In Haiti’s rural areas, only 42 percent of the population has access

to clean drinking water. By some estimates, more than half of all deaths in Haiti in recent years are attributable to waterborne diseases — diarrhea, typhoid, cholera, dysentery and, hepatitis — and most of those victims are young children.

“We have not died yet, but we are still hurting,” said Willeve, a mother of three who lives in the village of Morne Christienne. “The water is very important to us.”

Willeve sells knickknacks for a meager income when she can, but like many of her neighbors, she often has to set that work aside to search for water. Her village is one of 12 communities that once relied on a network of PVC pipes to obtain water sourced from the mountains, but natural disasters, rock slides and other destructive forces have damaged the pipes, forcing residents to walk miles to another water source.

These Challenges are Great, But *God’s Power is Greater*

Even in communities where hunger problems exist, church and community leaders make safe drinking water a higher priority when they request help. It is that important. In fact, many say having safe water to drink is literally a matter of life and death in their area, and they beg us to address the problem immediately. With more than 663 million people around the world lacking access to clean water, it may seem like a daunting task; however, we know our Lord is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

As American Christians, we can help meet the urgent need for safe water, serving as the hands and feet of Christ to help our brothers and sisters in these impoverished communities. Cross International has developed partnerships with local pastors and missionaries in developing countries to cover the costs of well construction projects and water filtration systems, but we need your financial support to undertake these outreaches and relieve their thirst!

World Water and Sanitation Crisis

- 663 million people live without access to safe water. That’s roughly 10% of the world’s population.
- 2.5 billion people — almost two-fifths of the world’s population — do not have access to adequate sanitation.
- 6 to 8 million people die annually from the consequences of disasters and water-related diseases.
- Around 700,000 children die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation — that’s almost 2,000 children a day.
- 90% of the deaths due to diarrheal diseases are in children under 5 years old.

Sources: WHO, UNICEF



Project Description

Thousands of impoverished families in developing nations around the world rely on Cross International to fulfill their basic need for clean, safe water. The General Water Fund not only makes this possible, but it allows us to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and support the greater mission of our ministry partners at the same time. Here's how your contribution allows us to serve these communities.

Partner Visit

When a partner ministry contacts us about a water crisis, we schedule a visit to learn more about its needs. Cross International reviews the partner's sustainable relief plan that will provide easy access to water while fostering a greater sense of community in the villages, and will serve as a foundation for growth in the area. We take an inclusive approach, working with community or tribal leaders, local health workers and educators.

Construction and Installation

Your donation is so much more than just money. For a suffering community, your gift becomes a tangible example of Christ's love, starting on the day the construction crews arrive to begin drilling and installing a well. As one partner put it, it's the day "when hope and water begin to rise."

Often, people in the communities have already volunteered their time to help with the construction of the wells. The water will not only be used for drinking, cooking and bathing, but also to water the gardens the residents depend on for food and income. These hand-pump wells are freestanding, with no holding tanks. The families in each community usually choose a leader to oversee and perform maintenance on the wells. Water is free, but residents are encouraged to make a small contribution to a community fund for repairs. This gives the villagers a sense of ownership over the wells and helps build a positive community sentiment.





Help Us Save Lives!

By giving to Cross International's General Water Fund, you can demonstrate that Christlike compassion combined with purposeful action yields a profound impact — in this case providing clean, fresh water for people who would otherwise be at terrible risk.

We can't overstate the importance and life-changing impact a well can have on a community where people are suffering and dying for lack of alternatives. When families can safely drink, wash dishes and clothes, bathe, and irrigate gardens, they live better lives and can deepen their personal relationship with Jesus. Entire communities are transformed, dignity is restored and for the first time, the poor can begin to live a more abundant life!

Please support this important cause today. Your contribution will enable us to install wells in remote areas of the world, improve sanitation and, in general, improve people's lives so they can deepen their faith in Christ. It is a kindness that will not be forgotten!

***"We are not cisterns meant
for hoarding. We are
channels made for sharing."***

Billy Graham



Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2018, the close of our ministry's new 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