THE ADVANCE: WATER PROJECTS

Helping You and Your Congregation
Direct Your Generosity
Water is **essential to life**, and access to it greatly affects the quality of life for millions of people around the world. It is **survival and hope**.

And yet **ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO HUMANKIND** is unclean water.

Even in the 21st century, billions of people don’t have access to clean drinking water. In fact, nearly 60% of the sickness worldwide is related to contaminated water.

At any given moment across the world, more than 663 million people are drinking water that could be contaminated, yet don't have any other real option.

- Contaminated drinking water is estimated to cause 502,000 diarrheal deaths each year
- 1.6 billion people don’t have access to clean drinking water
- 80% of all sickness worldwide is related to contaminated water
- More children die from dirty water every year than war, malaria, HIV/AIDS and traffic accidents combined. 84% of water-related deaths worldwide are from children 14 and under.

With your generosity, we can change this. Together we can impact the world.

When you give through The Advance, a United Methodist Church Global Ministries project, you can be assured that 100% of your donation is earmarked for the Advance Project you choose.

This is a catalog of our Advance projects focused on water that you can support generously. We encourage you to rally you, your congregation, your small group, your family, and even your community behind these efforts.
SAFE WATER FOR MAYAN COMMUNITIES IN GUATEMALA

By Bella Difilippo
Former Communications Specialist from Mission Engagement for Global Ministries

Maria Santos Baquiax, a young married mother of two, lives in the Santa Apolonia area of Guatemala. Laden with two heavy jugs and a baby strapped to her back, she often walked 12 times a day to collect water for her family. Although the water was contaminated, Maria used it for cooking, laundry, and personal hygiene.

Today, thanks to a partnership between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Asociación Bienestar Progreso Desarrollo (ABPD), Maria and other Mayan families now enjoy safe water at home and a better life as a result.

With funding from UMCOR, ABPD is building clean-water systems and latrines and educating communities on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Together, Global Ministries and ABPD empower communities to achieve sustainable development, improving the lives of 1,600 men, women, and children.

“Since I was young,” Maria told ABPD in an interview, “life was always hard in this village because of the lack of water. I did my family’s laundry in nearby ponds, which were about half a kilometer (one-third mile) from the community.

“When I got married and moved out,” she added, “I had to collect water 12 times a day. I carried a jug on my head, another in my hands, and sometimes I carried my baby on my back. In total, I carried over 75 pounds. All of my mornings, every day, were spent collecting water. I didn't have enough time to economically support my husband.”

Then, ABPD and UMCOR came to the village. Now Maria simply turns on a faucet to collect all the water her family needs.

"My life is totally changed," Maria said. "Doing all this takes me only an hour or two every day, which has allowed me to have time to harvest strawberries with my husband and sell them in the market."

With access to clean water, diarrhea or skin problems are no longer threats. “In the past,” she continued, “many children died from not being treated in time for water-borne illnesses, like diarrhea, but now the risk is greatly reduced.”

The entire community owns the water project. “We all use clean water now,” Maria says. “Families are practicing better hygiene, and we all have a better understanding about the importance of washing our hands.”

Your congregation’s generosity to The Advance Water Projects makes stories like this possible. To support this program, earmark a donation to #3020600, UMCOR Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Program.

Keep reading to find more initiative like this one.
UMCOR Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program

Annual Goal: $600,000
Location: Global

UMCOR Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) supports communities to meet their needs for clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. More than half a billion people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water, and even more people lack access to water for agriculture or household tasks. The lack of access to these basic services and the education regarding healthy behaviors results in over 1,000 children a day dying from preventable diseases. Through this initiative, partners help communities gain better access to clean water by working with them to locate and develop safe water sources, educate themselves on key hygiene behaviors, and improve appropriate and simple sanitation solutions.

Water Pumps

Annual Goal: $110,000
Location: Congo, Democratic Republic

The goal of this project is to improve the overall health in North Katanga Episcopal Area by providing clean water in all the 36 church districts of UMC-North Katanga and Tanganyika.
#525000

**El Porvenir: Clean Water, Healthy Nicaraguans**

**Annual Goal: $75,000**

*Location: Nicaragua Latin America and Caribbean*

The primary goal of this project is to push for higher access to clean, plentiful water in the six regions of rural Nicaragua where we operate so communities can thrive. Long term objectives include:  

A) Improved quality of life of people and families in Nicaragua through lower incidences of water and sanitation related diseases and mortalities.  

B) Reduced environmental contamination caused by poor sanitation.  

C) Improved productivity and educational opportunity for women and children by freeing time previously spend carrying water.  

D) Improved quality of life through basic human dignity. Protected water tables where water projects draw from.  

E) Improved water quality and quantity.  

F) Restored stream-flow, critical habitat, and productive agriculture.  

G) Community members educated and trained in co-existing in harmony with their local environment and how to use existing resources in a sustainable manner.  

H) Improved quality of women and children’s lives and health through the construction of improved stoves that remove hazardous smoke from the kitchens.  

I) Community members who are educated about the connection between hygiene, water, sanitation, and disease.  

J) Trained network of community-based hygiene promoters to reinforce hygiene concepts on an ongoing basis.

#11580A

**Shade and Fresh Water**

**Annual Goal: $100,000**

*Location: Brazil Latin America and Caribbean*

Helping at-risk children and teens develop character through a national after-school network.
Mulungwishi Area Clean Water Projects

Annual Goal: $38,000

Location: Congo, (Democratic Republic) Africa

To create a system in which the people of the Mulungwishi area have access to clean water.

Fresh Water for Central Congo

Annual Goal: $50,000

Location: Congo, (Democratic Republic) Africa

To provide a fresh water well, hygiene and sanitation program, in each UM mission station villages in Central Congo Episcopal Area. This will enhance the quality of life, reduce disease, and encourage economic development.

Water for Life

Annual Goal: $200,000

Location: Liberia Africa

Seek resources (funding) for the construction of wells/hand pumps and toilet facilities within communities. Other long term impact includes: Set up community structures and leadership that will supervise and coordinate the wells and toilets. Strengthen existing community structures, and leadership for the supervision and proper management of the facilities. Mobilizing, training, and educating the various communities on water and sanitation and other developmental initiatives. Promoting the rights to access clean and safe drinking water, and good sanitation facilities, health, and development at the grassroots level in post-war Liberia.
Ghana Water Projects

Annual Goal: $75,000  
*Location: Ghana Africa*

To help Ghana achieve universal coverage for water and sanitation by: 1) Providing safe reliable drinking water to communities, schools and clinics in Ghana that otherwise are forced to use a less desirable or less reliable source of water. 2) Providing sanitation facilities and raising community awareness and education about the harm of open defecation. Which is contributing to the health and welfare of the communities served.

Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry

Annual Goal: $65,000  
*Location: Sierra Leone Africa*

The primary goal seeks to improve quality of life for the people of Sierra Leone by provision of potable water, sanitation, health care and education.
#3021988

**Water@Work: Providing Clean Water in the Dominican Republic**

**Annual Goal:** $200,000  
**Location:** Dominican Republic Latin America and Caribbean

The goal of the Program is to bring transformational healing to select rural communities of the Dominican Republic. Where over 1,000,000 people who lack access to affordable clean water. This transformational effort is designed to make clean and safe water available in 1,084 communities. This will be accomplished through leveraging the provision of clean water towards good health, access to the Gospel of Christ, and business and local job creation. One critical mechanism for community transformation is the implementation of water purification plants at strategic locations, as well as delivery vehicles to facilitate a distribution system where beneficial. A hub and spoke type distribution mechanism will ultimately ensure coverage across all rural parts of the island.

#3021633

**Health Projects in Bolivia**

**Annual Goal:** $85,000  
**Location:** Bolivia Latin America and Caribbean

Provide high quality basic health care services to the 5 communities we now serve, and add two new clinics within the next 4 years. This will reduce infant mortality, improve the health and increase the productivity of these communities. It will also reduce urban migration to growing slums around the city which leads to extreme poverty, starvation, and is the breeding ground of radicalism. By providing a sustainable solution to water projects, communities will see a huge improvement in their health, and it too can lead to reversing urban migration.
#3021984

**Agua Viva Serves**

**Annual Goal:** $45,000  
**Location:** Costa Rica Latin America and Caribbean

Elimination of waterborne illness in the areas we serve.

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#3021535

**Engineers in Action**

**Annual Goal:** $75,000  
**Location:** Bolivia Latin America and Caribbean

EIAs primary goal is to partner with those living in poor village in Bolivia, and by 2017 in Ecuador, to build their capacity to improve their health and economic situation by providing sustainable solutions to the self-determined needs of these villages. The long term impact is improved health with a reduction of waterborne diseases and under 5 mortality rate; and greater income for villagers from increased agricultural production.
General Health and Ministry

Annual Goal: $103,000

Location: Liberia Africa

Liberia’s health care delivery is challenged by limited public access to healthcare. This is especially true for rural communities. UMC Liberia’s commitment to provide affordable (but quality), healthcare supports government’s general health care program. Preventive healthcare has limited prioritization. Other health care challenges include, high maternal/infant mortality. With increased maternal complications during pregnancy, labor and delivery. High death rate associated with incidence of Malaria, and water born diseases, and prevalence of HIV/AIDS etc.

Abundant Health

Annual Goal: $1,000,000

Location: Global

Our programmatic emphasis over the next four years is to protect children from preventable causes of death and disease. As a sign of this commitment the UMC has pledged to reach 1 million children with lifesaving interventions by 2020. Global Ministries has joined our forces to the coordinated international effort called “Every Woman Every Child,” a global initiative to reach 15 million children by the year 2020. The Global Health unit aims to meet three major objectives as part of its work to help reach this goal. First, scale up existing programs on community health education, how and when to seek care, and using the health services that are available. Second, increase coverage of health interventions for the people who are most at risk for disease and early death. Interventions might include activities like the promotion of breastfeeding and use of mosquito nets; the importance of immunization and oral re-hydration therapy; seeking treatment for malaria; and the use of antibiotics for treating pneumonia. Third, improve the quality and scale of health-care services offered through UMC hospitals and clinics. This work would seek to ensure the availability of diagnostic and sterilization equipment, drugs and essential supplies, safe water supply and waste disposal to prevent infection, surgical supplies, as well as improving treatment facilities.
Get to know all of The Advance programs and projects by visiting www.umcmission.org.