

The Millennium Water Alliance (MWA), formed in 2002, is an alliance of international NGOs with experience and expertise in rural and periurban water supply, hygiene education and promotion of sanitation. Members include CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Emmanuel International Mission, Food for the Hungry, Hope 2020, Lifewater International, Living Water International (LWI), Water for People, Water Missions International, WaterPartners International (WPI) and World Vision (WV). UNICEF is an advisor to the coalition.

# The goal of the MWA is safe water, hygiene and sanitation for 500 million poor people by 2015 through advocacy and direct action.

At the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced the U.S. commitment to the Goals for Sustainable Development. One goal is to "reduce by half, the proportion of people without access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation" by the year 2015.

To help reach these critical goals, leading U.S. based, non-governmental organizations formed the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA). The MWA is a cooperating group of humanitarian and faith-based agencies working to assist poor communities in the developing world gain access to safe water and sanitation. This mission is pursued by advocating for policies and resources, developing best practices, sharing information, and coordinating member efforts in providing clean water and sanitation services.

### Moving Forward

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (HR 1973) makes water aid a foundational component of U.S. foreign assistance. MWA contributed to the passage of this landmark legislation by convincingly communicating to legislators the compelling human need for safe drinking water.

The Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill (HR 3057) allocates \$200 million for dinking water supply projects and related activities, up to 100% from the previous year while other development assistance programs were cut. At least \$50 million of this amount is designated for programs in Africa. The report language accompanying the bill and clarifying congressional intent, specifically cites MWA as an approved organization for water project funding.

### **Global Water Crisis**

- 1.1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water
- ◆ 2.2 million deaths worldwide can be attributed to unsafe water
- ◆ Lack of clean water kills an estimated 4,500 children a day
- ◆ 2.6 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation
- Women and young girls must often walk long distances to obtain water

















# Water: the Foundation

The MWA believes that sustainable development cannot exist without water security. It is the foundation for health, education and development of a viable economy. Lack of this basic human need impacts the most vulnerable members of our global community.

Children are the most vulnerable to disease resulting from contaminated or inadequate

quantities of water for drinking and personal hygiene. Diarrhea kills 2.1 million people each year - mostly children. It has been estimated that 5,000 children die every day from water and sanitation related diseases. Frequent bouts of diarrhea lead to further deterioration in nutritional status and the ability to resist disease. Malnutrition, which is the most significant cause of immunodeficiency, is associated with about half of all child deaths.

These sobering facts inspire the MWA to stretch toward our goal to provide - directly and through advocacy - safe water and improved sanitation for 500 million people worldwide by 2015. Our vision mirrors



what you would want for your family: Every individual with access to safe drinking water and sanitation... no child in any country should die or suffer from a water-related disease.

The goals of the MWA reflect the belief that humankind has an extraordinary capacity to resolve its problems. Just by providing safe water and sanitation one can dramatically impact the lives of people in so many ways.

### MWA Operating Procedures Common to All Programs

- Improvement of access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and community development
- Partnerships with local NGO's to create program models that can be replicated
- Educational curriculum that takes into account wider water resource issues such as conservation and pollution
- Decentralized project design, training and implementation involving communities, organizations and government at the local level
- Long-term improvement of communities' capacity to sustain integrated solutions for water, hygiene and sanitation using contextually appropriate technology
- Empowerment of women and other marginalized groups so that their interests are heard and respected

















### Sub-Saharan and East Africa Region: Water in Need

In the world's poorest countries, more than 1.1 billion people lack access to safe water. Insufficient progress to provide clean water has been made over the last decade. Only 57% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to this basic human need. Africa presents the greatest challenge due to large displaced refugee populations, countries in conflict, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Alliance members are successfully working in countries throughout the developing world, including most Sub-Saharan African countries. Initially, the MWA is focusing its efforts on providing safe drinking water and sanitation to countries in East Africa, beginning with Ethiopia where only 24% of the population has access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

The MWA is implementing pilot projects in Ethiopia and Kenya through a partnership with USAID and private donors. These projects establish a partnership model for providing clean water, hygiene education, and sanitation. This sustainable, cost-effective model is designed to be replicable in other countries. The Alliance is taking action to target additional East African countries in crisis.

While the MWA's core emphasis remains the link between clean drinking water, hygiene education and sanitation and the immediate impact on health, we promote the local management of water in all its uses as a means of improving the health and living conditions of rural African communities.

"Water is essential for life. Yet many millions of people around the world face water shortages. Many millions of children die every year from water-borne diseases. And drought regularly afflicts some of the world's poorest countries. The world needs to respond much better. We need to increase water efficiency, especially in agriculture. We need to free women and girls from the daily chore of hauling water, often over great distances. We must involve them in decision-making on water management. We need to make sanitation a priority. This is where progress is lagging most .... this year marks the beginning of the "Water for Life" Decade. Our goal is to meet the internationally agreed targets for water and sanitation by 2015, and to build the foundation for further progress in the years beyond."

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

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In Ethiopia and Kenya, MWA members are working together to foster and support civil society and local government and relationships between other stakeholders such as USAID, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and Coca Cola. Increasing the capacity of local partners, including government and NGOs, brings about permanent change through exposure to new methods, formal and hands-on training, and confidence building. The goal is to reduce dependency and ensure the ability for self-determination. The MWA is also building relationships with the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, the African Development Bank, UN Habitat and UNICEF Country Offices.















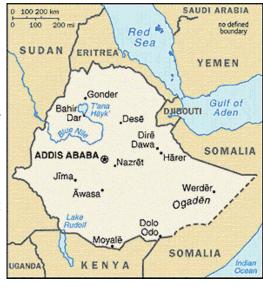


## Water and Sanitation Program in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, less than 25% of the rural population has access to clean water for consumption—and even fewer people have access to sanitation. Women and young girls bear the burden of water collection and management for their households, often to the point of sacrificing their education in order to make the long daily trips on foot.



There is clearly an urgent need to develop safe water supplies and basic sanitation for the majority rural population of

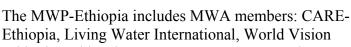


Ethiopia. The lack of access to safe drinking water places a heavy burden of morbidity and mortality on children who are especially vulnerable to diarrheal diseases. Furthermore these diseases are a particular threat to people with HIV/AIDS, who have compromised immune systems with limited resistance to op-

portunistic infections. Repeated bouts of diarrhea are not only debilitating for the patients, but also increase the burden on caregivers, family livelihoods, and ultimately the community

Within Ethiopia, the MWA program is entitled, the Millennium Water Program (MWP), and involves MWA members and local partners. Objectives of the current and future programming are to:

- Increase the level of access to sustainable, safe water and sanitation services among poor and vulnerable populations in rural and peri-urban areas;
- Decrease the prevalence of water and sanitation-related diseases;
- Promote integrated water (resources) management at the local level with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water; and
- Develop an efficient, effective and replicable partnership model for service delivery and advocacy.





Ethiopia and local partners Green Harvest, Kale Heywet Church, Hope 2020 and REST. Water retrieval methods include boreholes as well as shallow well and spring catchments. Sanitation facilities have been constructed at schools, with special emphasis on latrine and hygiene education. Planning is underway for water resource development to provide for livestock and food crops.











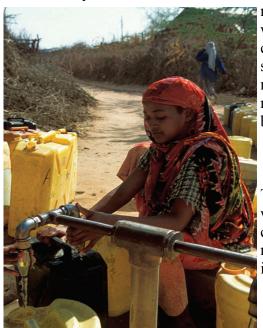






### Water and Sanitation Program in Kenya

Kenya is classified as a water scarce country, as defined by its disproportionate ratio of actual water withdrawals compared with renewable water resources. According to the Kenya Ministry of Water Resources Development, only about 50% of the



rural population has access to a water supply safe for human consumption. A lack of resources and improper management of existing water supplies result in poor health and instability in daily life.



The MWA works with partners within Kenya to carry out programs with point of use water treatments, hand-washing basins, spring catchments, shallow well rehabilitation, borehole construction and micro-loans for water and sanitation construction and hygiene training.

Through grants made available through USAID and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the MWA is working to develop program approaches such as:

- Focusing initial activities around one city, Kisumu, to enhance synergy and impact;
- Point-of-use water treatment with hygiene education and sanitation promotion;
- Water supply, hygiene and sanitation in schools;
- Provision of a mix of grants and loans to some communities rather than grants considering the level of economic activity in the Kisumu area:
- Implementation of the Program Management Group / Secretariat model of management; and
- Partnership with and funding from Coca Cola to enable access to safe drinking water and sanitation as part of Coca Cola's water stewardship strategy.

















### Millennium Water Alliance Partners

Millennium Water Alliance Founding Partners bring their individual talents with a collective focus to achieve the goal of clean water and sanitation for 500 million people by 2015.

<u>Africare</u> works in partnership with African communities to achieve healthy and productive societies throughout the African continent.

<u>CARE</u> is one of the world's largest relief and development organizations with programs in agriculture, natural resources, economic development, basic education, health and water resources management.

<u>Catholic Relief Services</u> is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. CRS' water and health activities focus on providing safe drinking water and basic water and sanitation infrastructure to poor, rural communities. The projects aim to improve the health of rural communities while promoting solidarity

<u>Food for the Hungry</u> is a U.S.-based, international, faith-based relief and development organization working in 47 developing countries. FH works in the water sector to drill wells, construct dams, water pans, and catchment systems and provides education in proper hygiene practices.

<u>Lifewater International</u> is a U.S.-based, non-profit Christian water resource development organization with more than 250 volunteers who train and equip national crews and provide technical and financial support.

<u>Living Water International</u> is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian ministry providing clean drinking water to people in developing countries, using a three-pronged approach of training, equipping and consulting.

<u>WaterPartners International</u> reaches communities in need of safe water by offering a mix of grants and loans to construct water and sanitation projects. Working with locally-based organizations with expertise in water and micro-credit, WPI promotes innovative solutions that foster high quality, sustainable, community-level projects.

<u>Water For People</u> helps people worldwide by supporting sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

<u>World Vision International</u> is a Christian relief and development organization with water and sanitation programs serving 10+ million rural people in more than 40 countries. It works with the Conrad W. Hilton Foundation in the \$41 million West Africa Water Initiative.

### **Affiliate Members**

<u>Emmanuel International</u> is an international, interdenominational, evangelical agency assisting local churches worldwide to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor.

<u>Global Water</u> is an international, non-profit humanitarian organization focused on developing safe water supplies and related sanitation projects for rural villages in developing countries.

<u>Water Missions International</u> is a non-profit Christian engineering and development organization serving the water and sanitation needs of developing countries and disaster areas. It implements sustainable water technologies for drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater management and storm control.

### Millennium Water Alliance Advisor

<u>UNICEF</u>, the United Nations Children's Fund, is an international organization committed to helping children living in poverty in developing countries. It will focus MWA's efforts on rural projects including facilities at communities and schools, sector policy development, establishing standards and support for capacity building efforts.



### Millennium Water Alliance

Organizational Structure

The MWA provides a forum for sharing information and expertise and for developing a common advocacy platform. Its institutional synergy is designed to facilitate technical excellence and innovative programming among its members, leading to long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability of the services provided.

The MWA is governed by a Board of Directors that is composed of one representative from each Board member organization. All Board members play an active role in the MWA by serving on various Board committees. The MWA currently has one fulltime staff member (Grants Manager) and three part-time staff members (Vice President for Program Development, Treasurer and Accountant). The Grants Manager and VP for Program Development report to the Vice Chair, and the Treasurer and Accountant report to the President.

Within Ethiopia and Kenya the MWA delegates much of the decision making through the Program Management Group. The PMG is responsible for planning and progress review; coordination of training and technical exchange; monitoring and evaluation; development of strategy for learning and advocacy; and identification and sharing of lessons learned. In each country the programs of the MWA fall under the Millennium Water Program (MWP).

A Secretariat is designed to provide the MWP partners with a voice and face at the national level on sector issues and provide program donors with a source of information on progress and constraints. It also permits the MWP partners an additional insight into the sector policies and priorities of government, multilateral and bilateral agencies, so linking the partners' efforts at local level to efforts at national and international level. The Secretariat is responsible for facilitating collaboration among partners, networking with other stakeholders, coordinating training and technical assistance, ensuring the use of compatible monitoring and evaluation systems by partners, reporting, and documenting and disseminating lessons learned. It is important to note that the Secretariat serves the interests of the partners; it does not manage the partnership.

For more information about the MWA and its programs please contact:

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