



# a child's right

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every child has a right to clean water

917 Pacific Avenue . Suite 417 . Tacoma . WA . 98402 . USA

ph: 253.238.8766 . fx: 253.238.3584 . web: [www.a-childs-right.org](http://www.a-childs-right.org) . email: [acr@a-childs-right.org](mailto:acr@a-childs-right.org)

a child's right is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing the lives of vulnerable children around the world by providing clean, safe, purified water

## A CHILD'S RIGHT – OVERVIEW & PROGRAMS

**Background:** Although there are several organizations focusing on clean water and hygiene education in developing countries, most do not focus specifically on children – particularly those in urban environments.

A Child's Right (ACR) was established to fill this gap and provide charitable relief for children living in orphanages and street shelters, as well as those attending schools and visiting children's hospitals in impoverished urban and semi-urban areas in underdeveloped countries. This population remains severely underserved and as such our mission revolves solely around these children and improving their lives through the relatively simple provision of clean, safe drinking water and hygiene education.

**Focus:** ACR believes that all children should have access to clean and safe water and improved sanitation in their living environments. To our agency, this is a basic right of every child anywhere in the world, and one that should be sought with diligence. In this day and age, with the technologies and education models currently available, this goal is no longer unattainable. We can provide substantial and sustainable changes that will affect large numbers of children with every single project we undertake.

Our goal is to install water purification technologies and provide hygiene education at orphanages, street shelters, rescue homes, schools and children's hospitals. Our agency undertakes as many as six international projects each year, each with multiple sites. Depending on the site, the water purification systems we install affect 100 to 50,000 children each year, as well as staff members, families and surrounding community members. ACR current program focus and primary funding is centered on projects in China, Cambodia, Nepal and Ethiopia.

**In the last 24 months of operations alone, A Child's Right provided clean and safe drinking water to more than 150,000 children around the world.**

**Cambodia:** ACR has worked with some of the most reputable NGOs in Cambodia since 2006. Our mission to provide clean water to institutionalized children is often best served by supplementing the good work of groups on the ground that are doing the difficult day to day work of providing for orphaned, sick and suffering children.

In addition to providing comprehensive clean drinking water solutions to the Angkor Hospital for Children (two systems and water stations providing for more than 100,000 children annually), our work with orphanages, schools and street shelters has assisted an additional 55,000 impoverished children and their families.

A Child's Right has two Cambodian staff members in Cambodia: our Country Director and primary installer. Both men oversee all site inspections, installations, and upkeep and oversight of each water system.

In 2009, ACR will work in Cambodia to install 20 - 40 water systems in schools, children's hospitals and shelters in several cities in Cambodia.

**Nepal:** ACR began working with rescue homes, hospice facilities, orphanages and schools in Nepal in January 2007. To date, we have brought clean, safe drinking water to more than 13,000 children in Nepal.

As at all of our sites, ACR's hygiene education classes are vital aspects of this annual project's success.

**China:** *The China Project: Clean Water for Orphans* is a five-year project addressing the needs of 500 Chinese orphanages and child welfare institutions across the country, bringing clean, safe drinking water to vulnerable orphaned children. From 2008 to 2013, ACR will undertake this bold and exciting project to improve the lives of over 200,000 abandoned and orphaned children in China.

ACR is uniquely positioned to provide clean water technology for a project of this magnitude. Our staff has over eight years experience installing water purification systems in orphanages and shelters in six of China's thirty-one provinces, as well as in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

In 2009, ACR will expand the scope of our work in China by bringing water purification systems and water filtration units to directly benefit vulnerable and sick children in children's hospitals.

**China: Earthquake Relief:** In response to China's devastating May 2008 earthquake, ACR gained rare access to work in-country with the Chinese government in the most damaged areas of the epicenter to provide long term solutions for clean and safe drinking water to families and children. We delivered access to free, purified water to nearly 50,000 people – 30,000 of whom were children – by allocating and installing 30 clean water systems across ten children's schools, nine emergency relief camps and one hospital.

According to Chinese officials, ACR's contribution was the single largest donation of its kind from any organization after the earthquake.

Additional projects in China have delivered clean, safe drinking water to 6,000 children to date.

**Ethiopia:** In 2008 ACR launched our first Sub-Saharan Africa project to provide over 3,000 children with safe, purified drinking water. In our work with two orphanages for children living with HIV/AIDS, two children's homes and four schools, we were privileged to assist a broad range of children, including HIV/AIDS patients, orphans in institutional care and children from extremely destitute families. In December 2009, ACR will return to Addis Ababa to install ten clean water systems in schools, orphanages and pediatric hospitals.

**Project Methods:** ACR has a simple, effective and time-tested process for bringing clean water to children in impoverished countries, one that includes both technology and education. The same basic five steps are followed for all of ACR's installations:

1. Identify the site, review the existing water supply and/or water storage system, and test the water quality to confirm that it is unsafe.
2. Send a team of in country ACR staff and volunteers to the site with water purification equipment, including at least 5 years of spare parts.
3. Assign local plumbers and electricians to assist with the physical installation of each water purification system. Systems can be configured for the needs of each site, including the number of outlets, the location of the system, and the inclusion of other equipment such as water heaters, storage tanks, water dispensers and clean water stations.
4. Re-test water quality after installation to ensure that the purification system is working.
5. Provide language-specific education for primary staff and caregivers at each site that focuses on hygiene, food preparation, and sanitation practices.

Our top-tier purification systems are custom designed, and include ultrafiltration, carbon filtration and ultraviolet (UV) water purification technologies. Ultrafiltration effectively removes 99.99999% of all bacteria, and 99.999 of all viruses and cysts from contaminated water sources. Carbon filters rid the water of bad tastes and smells that can make water unpalatable. A UV water purification system is the final safeguard that deactivates the DNA of any remaining bacteria, viruses and other pathogens in the water.

To ensure safe water delivery we also install clean water stations designed and built to our specifications out of stainless steel and/or mortar and tile. These stations act as static, hygienic and safe areas for children and staff to access the water.

ACR staff and volunteers spend several hours at each site training staff members on the proper care and maintenance of the systems. We provide literature, translated in the local language, and photos to provide step-by-step instructions on cleaning and easy system maintenance - the systems we install require less than ten minutes of maintenance annually. ACR also requires that every site have primary staff and caregivers attend interactive training sessions with educational materials and teaching tools focusing on hygiene, food preparation, and sanitation practices.