

July 2010

# World Vision Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Projects

Saving Lives through Safe Water,  
Sanitation, and Hygiene

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**A REPORT**



## WORLD VISION WASH PROJECTS



**On the cover:** Mary is one of many children in Chibiya, Zambia, whose smiles never wear out because they now have clean water thanks to a new well donors helped drill in their village.

**Above:** Bricks that will be used to build sanitation facilities are baked in a kiln.

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



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## **World Vision's Community Development Approach**

World Vision's WASH projects are implemented within World Vision community development areas. This approach focuses on a cluster of communities in a contiguous geographic area. World Vision brings together stakeholders in the region to identify and prioritize needs.

The community development concept typically integrates the sectors of clean water, primary healthcare, food security, education and literacy, and economic development. Research has shown that each of the successive stages in this progression effectively helps to cut in half the under-5 mortality rate in communities where social infrastructure is lacking.

In addition, where our witness can be fully expressed, World Vision seeks to intertwine meeting material needs with enhancing spiritual maturity. Just as our community development work is long term, the work we do to nurture individuals spiritually also is designed to have lasting, sustainable effects.

This development model is unique because its programs are built on needs and strengths identified by local leaders and residents. Community development areas are funded and staffed for 12 to 18 years, assuring long-term supervision and monitoring, leading to sustainability.

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## **Introduction**

Water is one of the basic necessities of life. Safe water is especially critical for children, who are the most vulnerable to water-related diseases. World Vision works in impoverished areas to provide potable water and adequate sanitation to decrease illnesses, improve health, and lessen the burden on women and children by reducing the distance to water collection points. In addition, sufficient water increases crop production and thus the ability of parents to adequately provide for their children with better nutrition and income from the sale of produce.

World Vision's water and sanitation programs help communities obtain adequate supplies of safe water and sanitation facilities by drilling new borehole wells, repairing existing wells, developing spring and rainwater catchments, providing water storage, building community filtration systems, and constructing household latrines, refuse dumps, and surface water drainage systems.

These initiatives become sustainable as community members are trained to repair and maintain pumps and water sources, and serve on water and sanitation committees that oversee community improvements. World Vision also initiates hygiene education for children and adults, including proper hand and face washing to prevent disease.

Over the past 25 years, World Vision has helped provide clean water and improved sanitation to more than 10 million people. In fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 to September 2009), individuals, corporations, and foundations in the United States supported World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in 20 countries. These interventions are playing a vital part in helping to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to "halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water." This report provides recent details of World Vision's WASH work around the world.

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## **Water and Sanitation Projects' Goal and Objectives**

The overall goal of World Vision's water and sanitation projects is to improve the health and socioeconomic well-being of communities by reducing the incidence of water- and sanitation-related diseases through sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. Projects achieve this goal through four objectives:

- Increase access to sustainable, safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities
- Reduce the prevalence of WASH-related diseases, including trachoma, Guinea worm, and diarrheal diseases, through the promotion of personal hygiene and environmental practices

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*Mothers and children are all smiles as they retrieve water from one of the 10 water points World Vision has drilled in Tonga Town. More than 7,500 people who live in the area used to gather water from an unprotected spring.*

- Increase sustainability by promoting integrated water resources management at the local level, with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water
- Foster a new model of partnership and institutional synergy to ensure technical excellence, programmatic innovation, and long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability in water management that can be replicated elsewhere

Communities that are most vulnerable and have the least access to water and sanitation are chosen to receive WASH interventions. World Vision also works with community leaders to ascertain that residents are committed to helping to construct and maintain WASH facilities.

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## Glimpses of Success

Following are some examples of World Vision projects in Africa.

### Ethiopia

Only 31 percent of the rural population in the East African nation of Ethiopia has access to safe drinking water, and just 8 percent has improved sanitation, according to the World Health Organization. Thanks to donors like you, World Vision is working through its Ethiopia Rural Water Project to prevent water- and sanitation-related disease and death by providing safe water to 340,000 people, and helping 170,000 of these individuals gain access to improved sanitation by the end of September 2011.

With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and other major donors, World Vision launched the Ethiopia Rural Water Project in October 2006 to help improve the lives of poor and vulnerable rural populations in Ethiopia. In its first five-year phase, this project is implementing potable water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and integrated water resources management activities in seven community development areas in Ethiopia.

### 2009 project accomplishments

The chart on the following page details project accomplishments donors like you helped make possible during 2009, and from inception-to-date (October 2006 through December 2009).

The 50 development surveys conducted to date are very important. World Vision does these initial surveys to ascertain the best and most cost-effective water solution for a community, based on available natural resources such as underground springs, population size, and existing made-made water solutions such as hand-dug wells. Improving existing but inadequate resources (such as protecting an underground spring from pollution at its source) or utilizing hand-dug wells where the water table is high enough, helps reduce costs, accelerates success, and allows us to deploy drill rigs where they are most needed.



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**What is Community-Led Total Sanitation?**

- It involves everyone in the community.
- It stresses total elimination of open defecation using hygienic, locally constructed toilets.
- Collective community decision, collective local action, and local diversity and innovations are key elements.
- Interventions are decided locally and don't depend on external subsidies, prescriptions, or pressures.
- Natural leaders emerge from collective local actions to lead future collective initiatives.
- It ignites a change in sanitation and hygiene behavior rather than through simply constructing toilets.
- People decide together how they can create a clean hygienic environment.
- The community takes responsibility for its own actions.
- It advocates washing hands with soap or a substitute at least during four critical times.

Description of Activities	2009 Accomplishments	Inception-to-Date Accomplishments
<b>Water Supply Development</b>		
Water supply development surveys conducted	19	50
Deep wells drilled	6	15
Hand-dug wells constructed	7	20
Springs developed/capped	1	4
Miles of water supply pipeline laid	18	22.4
Water points (faucets) constructed	25	48
Reservoir tanks constructed	5	6
Shallow wells drilled	13	19
<b>Sanitation</b>		
Dry pit latrines constructed	0	987
Ventilated improved pit latrines constructed	4	20
Refuse pits constructed	0	23
Communal latrines constructed	4	5
<b>Capacity Building</b>		
Training of trainers workshops on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) for government officials and local World Vision staff	50	50
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) committees trained on CLTS	60	60
CLTS trainings held for community representatives and leaders	180	180
WASH committee members trained on water system management	128	272
Artisans trained to construct latrines and other structures	24	46
Sanitation and hygiene trainings held	0	137
Environmental sanitation trainings conducted	0	203



*At left, family members in Ethiopia struggle to gather water from a remote watering hole. Above, villagers gather around a water supply point made possible through the Ethiopia Rural Water Project. Thanks to donors like you, more people have access to clean, easily accessible water supplies.*

## West Africa

More than 17 million people in the West African nations of Ghana, Mali, and Niger do not have access to safe drinking water, and more than 40 million have inadequate or nonexistent basic sanitation. The West Africa Water



*Hygiene training includes teaching villagers how to properly use water, for example, how to wash dishes and use dish-drying racks.*

Initiative (WAWI) was launched in 2002 to help improve the lives of poor and vulnerable rural and peri-urban populations in the developing world. In its first six-year phase, this public-private partnership of 14 international institutions conducted potable water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and integrated water resources management activities in Ghana, Mali, and Niger. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, 958 wells were drilled and 9,329 latrines were built in the three countries during the first phase of this project (through September 2008). As a result, more than 504,000 people gained access to safe water. In addition, people in 2,212 communities received hygiene education.

Through WAWI, World Vision continues to work to prevent disease and death by providing access to clean water and sanitation, as well as hygiene education. In fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through September 2009), 231 successful wells were drilled, providing year-round access to safe water for more than 136,000 people in the three countries. Following are accomplishments from September 2009 through March 2010 in the three nations (unless otherwise noted):

- Drilled 126 successful wells, providing year-round access to safe water for more than 60,000 people
- Installed hand pumps on 99 boreholes drilled in fiscal years 2009 and 2010
- Constructed concrete pads and aprons around 91 borehole sites
- Built 108 laundry pads and 94 animal watering troughs in Ghana and Mali
- Sampled 155 boreholes for water quality testing
- Established 10 garden sites in Ghana and Mali, benefiting more than 8,500 people
- Held a two-day workshop in Ghana to train farmers groups in project storage and marketing
- Formed or reactivated 159 WASH committees
- Trained 2,153 members of 212 WASH committees in health, hygiene, and sanitation issues, and trained 1,430 members of 138 WASH committees in financial management
- Trained 856 community leaders to promote and educate community members on health, hygiene, environmental sanitation, management of WASH facilities, and household sanitation improvement
- Trained 241 artisans to construct latrines
- Educated 8,660 households in 110 communities in Ghana and Mali on community and household sanitation and behavior change
- Facilitated the construction of 1,472 latrines



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Thimote's 8-year-old son, Assama, shows a cup of clean water. Assama has a lot of energy now and likes to run with his friends. He prevents trachoma by washing his face every day. A healthy Assama attends a school that was built by World Vision.

### Improvements in Ogodengou Village

Ogodengou village in the Koro area of Mali faced many difficulties due to a lack of clean water. Thanks to donors like you, World Vision was able to drill a borehole and install a mechanized water system, facilitate construction of latrines, and encourage the community to make compost to improve its harvest. Now water- and sanitation-related diseases have been drastically reduced, and local families are reaping larger harvests.

Thimote Sagara has lived in Ogodengou his whole life. He remembers his family and community suffering from water-related diseases such as trachoma (a blinding eye disease), Guinea worm, and diarrhea before the village had clean drinking water. "During that time I wished that I could protect my children from diarrhea," said Thimote.

In 2006 that wish came true when the Mali Rural Water Project (MRWP, which is part of WAWI) drilled two boreholes in Thimote's village, which has a population of 3,760 people. Due to the large size of this village, another borehole was drilled in October 2009 and equipped with a mechanical pump that is powered by solar panels. The clean water is pumped into a water tower and then gravity-fed to seven distribution points in the village.

The MRWP trained the village WASH committee to manage the borehole, water tank, solar panels, and distribution points. Each distribution point is manned, and a fee (one cent for 20 liters) is charged to obtain water. This money is used for maintenance and repair of the system. Currently, the village is saving to construct another water distribution point.

In addition to providing clean water, the MRWP provided tools and materials to construct a demonstration latrine as well as 10 other toilets. The village committee appointed two masons who continue to make latrines for other families in the village. Each family provides sand, gravel, and a bag of cement for its latrine.

### Zambia

With generous support from donors, World Vision is working to improve lives through the Zambia Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (ZWASH) project. ZWASH employs an integrated, holistic strategy with a focus on safe water as the entry point for long-term development. More than 165,000 people living in rural areas of southern Zambia will gain access to safe water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education by September 2013.

World Vision is taking an innovative approach in Zambia, which integrates water and sanitation, nutrition, maternal and child health interventions, and disease prevention and control initiatives to achieve sustainable improvements in the health and nutrition status of children and mothers.

### Inception-to-Date Accomplishments

The table on the following page shows key ZWASH inception-to-date accomplishments.

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Activity	FY09 Actual	FY10 Semiannual Actual	Inception-to-Date Actual
Geophysical survey borehole sitings conducted	42	16	58
Successful boreholes drilled	23	7	30
Boreholes rehabilitated	45	36	81
Wells sampled for water quality analysis	68	27	95
Civil works constructed on boreholes	45	24	69
Water supply pipeline laid (one kilometer = 0.62 mile)	2.2 km.	3.4 km.	5.6 km.
Community dams undergoing rehabilitation	2	2	2
Latrines constructed in schools, health centers, and households	9 completed; 13 under construction	20 completed; 9 under construction	completed 29
Sanitation platforms molded for household latrines	310	316	626
WASH committees formed and strengthened	43	47	90
Community hygiene promoters trained	68	170	238
Pump minders trained	40	51	91

**Clean Water for Chibiya**



*Pictured above is the old water source villagers used before the new borehole was drilled in Chibiya. “We used to share the same water from the stream with the animals. This water smells of animal feces and because the water is dirty, we used to suffer from diarrhea, bilharzia, and dysentery,” said Jenala Nseele, Mary’s grandmother.*

“It was a dream we thought would never come true; absolutely there was no hope that I would one day drink clean water in this community as this was impossible for us to do on our own—unless a miracle happened.” These are the words of Christine Nseele, 34, a mother of six who shared the anguish she and many other women and children had faced over the years just to have access to clean water near their home.

According to Christine, her dream, like that of many others, was to look forward to a day when she could rest from the suffering and pain caused by walking long distances to collect dirty water and frequently trekking to the clinic to seek medication to treat diarrhea. Villagers collected water from a stream that dried up during hot seasons. When that happened, Christine and others had to wait for hours in a long line to draw water from an unprotected well dug near the stream.

“We have always longed to have access to clean water but where could we get it?” Christine asked. “We have been suffering so much from diseases like dysentery, diarrhea, and bilharzia. Diarrhea was rampant among children because of drinking dirty water, but this is no more.”

Thanks to donor support, more than 220 people in Chibiya, Christine’s home village, now have access to safe, clean water from a new borehole drilled through the ZWASH project. The suffering of Christine and other villagers has ended, and local children and women now have enough time to study and engage in income-generating activities since safe water is easily available.

“We are really grateful to World Vision for this borehole. This is why the day the borehole was launched, the entire community gathered to sing, dance, and eat all night to celebrate the blessing that we never thought would ever come through for us to address our sufferings,” Christine explained.

Mary, 12, a sponsored child and Christine’s niece, remembers the difficulty she used to face by waking up at 5:00 a.m. to help her mother fetch water before getting to class at 7:00.



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*"I am happy the borehole is closer to our homes," said Mary. "This time when mum asks me to draw water, I don't feel bad about it because the distance to the borehole is shorter. As a result, I no longer feel pain to carry a bucket of water on my head."*

"I used to feel body pains to carry heavy containers of water on my head for a long distance. This used to force me not to go to school which is also far (2.5 miles away)," she explained.

The sinking of a borehole closer to their home has provided the opportunity for Mary to have enough time to study, learn, and help her aunt Christine water her garden.

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## **With Deep Appreciation**

Your generosity is helping families in Africa access clean water, basic sanitation, good hygiene education, and improved nutrition and income. As a result, incidences of WASH-related diseases are decreasing.

Thank you for helping us show God's unconditional love to children and families in Africa. Community members appreciate the help they have received and are working to sustain the interventions that have begun.

