

**water1<sup>st</sup>**  
international



ANNUAL REPORT  
**2015**



SINCE 2005:

154,925

LIVES TRANSFORMED

\$14,278,000 RAISED

In 2015 we celebrated our 10 year anniversary as an organization. Thanks to the Water1st community, it was a year of tremendous growth. Together, we raised \$2,648,000. With 88% of our expenses going to programs, we completed more projects than ever before.

Water1st was created to build water projects that would last. We believe poor people are their own best resource in escaping poverty so we fund solutions based on their priorities. In a world that entices us with new technologies, it is easy to lose track of the human element. But we have remained true to our vision — to provide permanent solutions that have the greatest impact. You can be confident your gifts to Water1st throughout the years have been invested in projects that are still in use today.

The financial support of the Water1st community is the engine that powers our project success. Thank you for believing in this mission and making it your own.

*Margie*

**Margie Duckstad**  
Chair, Board of Directors

*Marla*

**Marla Smith-Nilson**  
Executive Director

IN 2015:

17,967  
LIVES TRANSFORMED

348  
PROJECTS COMPLETED

96  
PROJECTS UNDERWAY  
SERVING 10,261 PEOPLE

2005 - 2015



**HONDURAS:**  
17 PROJECTS  
5,554 PEOPLE SERVED

PARTNER: COCEPRADIL



**ETHIOPIA:**  
5 PROJECTS  
17,384 PEOPLE SERVED

PARTNER: WATER ACTION



**INDIA:**  
35 PROJECTS  
14,400 PEOPLE SERVED

PARTNER: AKSHAYNAGAR PALLISRI SANGHA



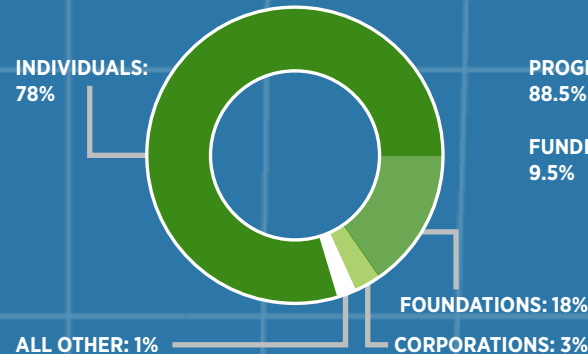
**BANGLADESH:**  
1,506 PROJECTS  
104,028 PEOPLE SERVED

PARTNER: DUSHTHA SHASTHYA KENDRA

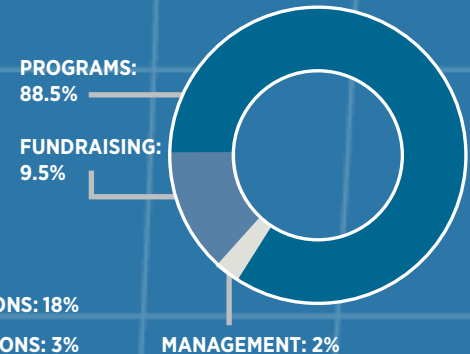
\$2,648,000  
RAISED

**WE LEVERAGE YOUR INVESTMENT.**  
For every \$1 invested, local government and communities contribute an additional 74¢.

2015  
REVENUE



EXPENSES





# SMART, COMPREHENSIVE PROJECTS THAT LAST

**EVERY WATERIST PROJECT INCLUDES PIPED WATER AND TAPS, TOILETS, HYGIENE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING.**

Our comprehensive water and toilet projects meet the immediate needs of people living in extreme poverty. They also play a substantial role in helping communities reach their potential. The unique benefit of a water and sanitation project is that, with attention given to the right details, a community will be transformed.

## WHAT ARE THE RIGHT DETAILS TO INVEST IN?

### 1. A PIPED NETWORK WITH A HOUSEHOLD TAP

A household tap versus a community hand pump results in triple the volume of water used — providing maximum health benefits. With a tap at home, people have 24-hour access to abundant clean water for drinking, cooking, and growing gardens. They can routinely bathe and wash hands. Laundry can be done right at home.

A household tap also ends the long walk for water, freeing up time for women and girls. The time and energy saved can be redirected to important activities that lift families and communities out of extreme poverty — going to school, growing food, earning an income.

### 2. BUILD A TOILET PEOPLE WANT TO USE

Toilets dramatically reduce exposure to disease and deadly pathogens. In places where there are no toilets, what will convince people to start using one? The key is building one that people want to use. We have found that our project users value the same things we do—they want an indoor toilet that is odor-free and easy to clean.

### 3. LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Local ownership is vital to long-term project success. Poor people are incredibly resourceful. They succeed in repairing and maintaining their houses, plows, rickshaws, cooking pans — all the things that really benefit them. With specialized training, communities can independently operate and maintain their water and sanitation systems, too.

A piped water network is shared infrastructure, which is more challenging to manage than personal property. But the benefits are worth the extra effort and investment. Our local partners are key to developing organizational structures within the community that assure project sustainability. We carefully select our partners for their proven ability to prepare communities to manage their projects well and serve everyone equally. With these structures in place, community members go on to tackle other issues, such as education, trash collection, and access to electricity.

### How do we know this investment is worthwhile? WE FOLLOW UP.

Worldwide, 35-50% of water projects fail within the first 5 years. Our projects are different — THEY LAST. We know what works because we routinely evaluate our projects and learn from past experience. Since 2005 we have completed 1,686 projects and not one has failed, proving that this comprehensive approach works.

# YOUTH ADVOCATES CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



**SCHOOL OUTREACH.** We visited dozens of classrooms and youth groups, educating students about the world water crisis and empowering them to make a difference.



**YOUTH BOARDS.** Over 40 students served on our High School & Middle School Boards, acting as global water ambassadors in their schools and communities.



*Global Fellows — Dawo Kara, Ethiopia water inauguration*

**GLOBAL FELLOWS.** A select group of high school students participated in a global development curriculum that included a field seminar in our project communities in Ethiopia. Each gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of poverty, the effective community-led development philosophy of Water1st, and a powerful voice to advocate for the people they met.

# EVENTS

**GIVEWATERGIVELIFE**  
Seattle | Chicago

**WATER1ST BEER2ND**  
Portland | Seattle

**CARRY5 WALK FOR WATER**  
Seattle | Portland

**BIKE FOR WATER**  
Seattle



Chicago GIVEWATERGIVELIFE | \$135,000 raised.



ALL IN ONE NIGHT...

# \$1,600,000

A \$500,000 donation granted.

'2015 World Citizen Award' given to Water1st by the World Affairs Council.



**SEATTLE CARRY5 WALK FOR WATER | \$120,000 RAISED**  
**WE WALK SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO.**

Over 700 walkers — schools, youth groups, companies, families — carried water in solidarity with the millions of women and girls who still carry water every day.

# GIVEWATERGIVELIFE

SEATTLE BENEFIT

# MEET THE PEOPLE YOU SUPPORT TRAVEL WITH US

Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, and India

This unique travel opportunity allows supporters to experience firsthand the tremendous impact a successful water project has on people's lives.





# 2015 SUPPORTERS

While space does not allow us to acknowledge all of our donors, every gift is valued. Your support has a lasting impact on thousands of lives and sends a message of hope to the people we serve.

## WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

### COUNTRY SPONSORS: \$500,000

Anonymous

### COUNTRY SPONSORS: \$250,000 - \$499,999

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Brian & Diane Langstraat

### PROJECT SPONSORS: \$100,000 - \$249,000

Not Yet Foundation

### PROJECT SPONSORS: \$50,000 - \$99,999

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World Affairs Council





# EVERY \$75 RAISED TRANSFORMS 1 LIFE FOREVER

Easy access to clean water and toilets creates opportunity.

With the constant burden of water fetching and illness lifted, families can move beyond the demands of daily survival.

Women can earn an income. Families begin to save money.

Girls can go to school, breaking the cycle of illiteracy among women.

Addressing the water and sanitation needs of the world's poorest people is the one activity that, when done properly, saves lives and generates benefits that can break the cycle of extreme poverty.

**water1<sup>st</sup>** international

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to learn more, to donate,  
or to begin your own campaign  
to save lives.