OUR VISION
We envision a world free of extreme poverty where everyone has access to a clean, permanent water supply and a toilet.

OUR MISSION
Water1st helps the world’s poorest people implement and sustain community-managed projects that integrate clean water, toilets, and hygiene education.

Water1st unites people to fight the global water and sanitation crisis. We believe this worldwide, silent catastrophe will be solved when people come together as a concerned community and take simple, effective actions.
OUR IMPACT

SINCE 2005

Water1st has raised over $19 million to fund 2,677 projects serving 205,197 people in Honduras, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, and Mozambique.

2017 AT A GLANCE

$2,380,500 raised
435 water projects completed
20,278 people with clean water
40 new projects under construction serving 12,000 people

Mozambique expansion
OUR COMMUNITY

Our community makes all the difference. From staff, country partners, and project communities to generous individuals, family foundations, and corporate partners—together, we continue to have a big impact.
OUR EVENTS

Give Water Give Life
Carry5 Walk for Water
Water1st Beer2nd
Bike for Water
Teen Global Water Summit

1,500 walkers in Chicago, Portland, and Seattle carried water in solidarity with those who lack access to clean water

$1.2 million was raised in a single evening at the Seattle Give Water Give Life gala

Water1st Beer2nd events were hosted in Portland, Milwaukee, and Seattle

Seattle cycling enthusiasts biked for 100, 50, and 15 miles

Countless individual fundraising campaigns were created by our dedicated supporters
OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Over 200 youth served on middle school boards, high school boards, and school clubs. Collectively, they educated and inspired their networks to raise over $130,000 to transform the lives of youth in the community of El Sompopo, Honduras.

Our Global Fellows traveled with us to Honduras to study global development with our partner communities.

We feel really good about the next generation of global leaders.
OUR WATER TOURS

Over 150 dedicated supporters have traveled with us to experience firsthand the tremendous impact a successful water project has on people’s lives.
## Our Active Country Programs

### Bangladesh

- **150,211 People Served**
- **2,595 Projects**

**In-Country Partner:** DSK—Dushtha Shasthya Kendra

**Solutions:**
- Piped Water
- Sanitary Toilets
- Showers
- Hygiene Education

### Honduras

- **17,902 People Served**
- **40 Projects**

**In-Country Partner:** COCEPRADIL

**Solutions:**
- Piped Water
- Sanitary Toilets
- Showers
- Hygiene Education

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**Since 2005**

- 2,677 Projects Completed.
- 205,197 Lives Transformed.
OUR ACTIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS

ETHIOPIA

21,084 PEOPLE SERVED
6 PROJECTS

IN-COUNTRY PARTNER
WATER ACTION

SOLUTIONS
Piped Water  Sanitary Toilets  Showers  Hygiene Education

MOZAMBIQUE

1,600 PEOPLE SERVED
1 PROJECT

IN-COUNTRY PARTNER
GSB—GRUPO DE SANEAMENTO DE BILIBIZA

SOLUTIONS
Piped Water  Sanitary Toilets  Showers  Hygiene Education

SINCE 2005
2,677 PROJECTS COMPLETED.
205,197 LIVES TRANSFORMED.
WATER1ST PROJECTS PROVIDE A COMPLETE SOLUTION

Projects can vary greatly from water organization to organization. It is important to know what an organization’s project entails, and what your donation accomplishes.

$85 provides one person:
- Water piped directly to the home & school
- Showers for personal hygiene
- High-quality toilets
- Community organizing & management training
- Ongoing project monitoring

Average Cost Distribution:

- PIPING WATER TO EACH HOUSEHOLD
- DRILLING A WELL OR CAPPING A SPRING
- HYGIENE EDUCATION
- BUILDING CAPACITY OF LOCAL WATER COMMITTEE
- WATER1ST OVERHEAD

$85 provides one person:
PIPED WATER TO THE HOME 24/7

With each of our projects, the entire community—homes, schools, health clinics, and community centers—receives water and toilets. This comprehensive, cost-effective approach has the greatest health and economic impacts on a community.

Our projects provide piped water 24/7 assuring that each household receives the maximum health benefits of clean water, a toilet, and a shower.

Water meters at each home
Our projects include a water meter at each household for optimal system management; leaks are detected and the cost of operating the system is determined based on water usage.

DID YOU KNOW?
Research shows that when a water source is located more than 350 feet away, people use less than 5 gallons per day; not enough for adequate health and hygiene.

Our goal for household water use is 15 gallons or more per person per day, enabling families to have enough water for drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, and hand washing.
Piped water to the home ends the long and grueling walk for water for women and girls.

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**
In Africa alone, women spend 40 billion hours a year walking for water.

About three quarters of households in sub-Saharan Africa fetch water from a source away from their home, and up to 85% of the time, women are responsible for this task.

— UNESCO
Good hygiene is preventative medicine
Hand washing and bathing are imperative to preventing the spread of disease. Household and school water access allows for routine hygiene practices, including showers.

DID YOU KNOW?
Readers of the British Medical Journal voted water and sanitation systems the greatest medical milestone ever, ranking higher than antibiotics, vaccines, anesthesia, and the discovery of DNA.

Hygiene promotion is the most cost-effective health intervention. — World Bank
We believe in spending a little more on toilets to break the cycle of disease.

When water is piped directly to a household, it allows for high-quality, sanitary toilets. Our project users value the same things we do; they want an indoor toilet that is odor-free and easy to clean.

Water faucets are also placed in the stall for flushing, cleaning, and hand washing.

DID YOU KNOW?
Human waste is often the culprit for ongoing illness, malnutrition, and stunted growth. The porcelain water-seal toilet is the most effective isolator of human waste.

892 million people worldwide still practice open defecation because they do not have access to a basic toilet. – World Health Organization/UNICEF
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & MANAGEMENT TRAINING

We prepare communities to independently own and operate their projects.

We support masterfully constructed projects that are skillfully managed. Community members receive extensive technical and administrative training that prepares them to build, operate, and maintain their projects in perpetuity.

Our projects are technologically simple and sociologically complex.

Each project community elects a local water committee comprised of 50% women to govern their system.

Each household pays a monthly water bill of about $2 to cover system maintenance and repairs. The water fee and access to loan funds we have created, also allow communities to accumulate savings for future system expansion and replacement.
ONGOING PROJECT MONITORING

Project monitoring leads to program improvement

Ongoing project monitoring and evaluation is included in the cost of a Water1st project. It is important to know where we are meeting our project goals and where we are falling short, enabling us to work with our partners to devise solutions.

Our commitment to systematic evaluation has resulted in program improvements, including the adoption of water meters, water-seal toilets, and piped water to every home. Every policy decision has been based on data collected during our monitoring visits.

DID YOU KNOW?
Less than 5% of water projects are revisited after project completion, and less than 1% have any long-term monitoring. Without regular monitoring, an organization does not know how project outcomes compare to original objectives.

Considering the industry-wide project failure rate is 35-50% after 5 years, we believe monitoring is a worthwhile investment.
RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Our comprehensive approach to water projects impacts the health, economy, education, food security, and overall well-being of our project communities.

**HEALTH** Diseases from dirty water kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war. 43% of these deaths are children under the age of five.

*Access to clean water and toilets could save 16,000 lives every week.* — United Nations Water

**EDUCATION** 100 million children, mostly girls, do not receive an education because they are carrying water. 272 million schools days are missed each year due to preventable water-related illness.

*A reduction in time spent carrying water increases school attendance for girls, especially in rural communities. And this has a domino effect: educated women have fewer, healthier children, and they have them at older ages. And their children are more successful in school.* — World Bank

**TIME** Over 100 billion productive hours are wasted annually on water collection.

*With safe water nearby, women are free to pursue new opportunities and improve their families’ lives. Children can earn their education and build the future of their communities. It means time, freedom, and incentive to change their communities and lifestyles.* — University of Pennsylvania Journal of Gender and Water

**MONEY** The world’s poor spend $30 billion a year treating preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.

*For every $1 invested in a water project, communities experience $4-$12 in economic returns.* — World Health Organization

A HIGH-QUALITY WATER & SANITATION PROJECT IS THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.
Water1st invests in innovative, long-term public-health solutions that go well beyond basic water and sanitation services. Our projects leverage local investment.

**Honduras: Local Leverage**

**Community Labor**
The labor investment rivals the cost of project materials, therefore, we engage local stakeholders in the construction of projects. In Honduras, communities must donate upwards of 20,000 hours of labor, including digging miles of pipeline trench by hand and carrying 500-pound pipe up steep hills. Each household covers the cost of all infrastructure that is constructed on its property, including toilets and showers.

**Loan program**
Households that are unable to pay cash apply for a loan through our local partner, COCEPRADIL, which they repay over 2—3 years.

**Government involvement**
COCEPRADIL also negotiates a cost-share with the local mayor with the goal of each local government contributing 30% of the total project budget.

A project has the highest rate of success when the entire community is invested, from the individual level to the local government.
First-ever piped water system in region

Less than 2% of Mozambicans have water piped to their homes. In 2017 we completed the 19 de Outubro community project in northern Mozambique—the first piped water system in the entire region. For most people, this is the first time they have seen water flowing out of a tap.

We are proud to be partnering with GSB to lead the way in bringing piped water systems to rural communities in Africa.

Our Mozambique partner, GSB, worked tirelessly to apply its skills to a whole new set of implementation techniques and processes. Having successfully navigated the multitude of challenges this project presented, they will apply lessons learned to a new project in a similar community. Soon they will be proficient at building these systems and will ramp up to implement multiple projects each year.
Decentralized wastewater treatment

In most urban areas around the world, human waste is disposed into local waterways untreated, mostly flowing through open ditches. The city of Dhaka is no exception—only about 2% of the city waste, including the most affluent neighborhoods, is treated before it empties into open waterways.

Our Bangladesh partner, DSK, is piloting a decentralized wastewater treatment system for a cluster of community toilets serving roughly 750 people. They are implementing a simple process that uses microorganisms to break down the biodegradable material that does not require electricity.

This pilot project includes the use of buried pipe. Instead of open ditches of flowing sewage, communities have an underground system of sewer pipes, making this a cleaner, odor-free, and healthier place to live.

If the treatment process is effective, we will replicate it in other locations.
2017 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

87% $2,266,360
PROGRAM SERVICES

11% $294,602
FUNDRAISING

2% $50,363
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

REVENUE

72% INDIVIDUALS

4% CORPORATIONS

23% FOUNDATIONS

OUR GUIDING BELIEFS

1. Access to clean water and a toilet is a basic human right.

2. Clean water transforms lives. Our projects are designed to end the walk for water for women and girls. Access to clean, convenient water promotes health, education, time savings, productivity, equity, and dignity.

3. Invest in people & offer solutions that last. Our projects thrive because we train community members to independently own and operate their water systems, and we place women in key leadership roles. Our success rate stands because we prepare communities to manage their own water and sanitation systems in perpetuity.

4. There is no one-size-fits-all response. Our in-country partners and colleagues are highly qualified to provide solutions that are suited to the unique conditions of each project community. Our long-term commitment and consistent support of our partners has enabled each country program to increase capacity and operate more effectively each year.

5. Don't cut corners. We support high-quality water systems that are designed to last a lifetime. We spend money on pipes so that water is conveniently located in each home, allowing users to increase the amount of water they use for personal hygiene.

6. Follow up. We visit our in-country colleagues and projects regularly because we understand the value of monitoring and evaluation. Rigorous oversight ensures that each project is providing the intended benefits and allows us to improve the execution of future projects. We hold our local partners accountable, affirm them in their work, and share and exchange knowledge.

7. We are stronger together. We believe the global water crisis will be solved when we build a community of concerned people, and together, support simple, effective actions.
OUR 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.

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