



Water For People  
Providing Solutions to a Global Humanitarian Crisis  
February 2009

*The Issue:*

Water is so basic to human life, yet it's something we often take for granted. Unsafe water and poor sanitation undermine the potential of developing countries, exacerbating social and economic vulnerabilities.

- 884 million people lack access to safe water and more than 2.5 billion people lack access to proper sanitation.
- Every day, nearly 6,000 people who share our planet die from water-related illnesses, and the vast majority are children.
- Women frequently travel many miles over treacherous ground to collect and haul water, preventing them from caring for their families, getting an education, or generating needed income.
- Water-related illnesses contribute to untold hours of lost school time for children and productive employment for adults.

*Water For People's Approach:*

Water For People helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education programs. By facilitating functional environments that support ongoing access to proper water, sanitation and hygiene education, Water For People is helping to build the capacity of local communities to create sustainable access to these basic necessities.

Water For People never works alone, but partners with local governments, other nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. The community members who benefit from the work are included every step of the way - from initial planning and design of an appropriate water or sanitation solution and construction of the facilities, through training on repair and maintenance. Engagement with the private sector and government are critical to ensuring that when pumps break, there are parts available and that systems are monitored effectively and thoroughly. Water For People invests in the capacity of communities to manage their own resources and sustain lasting change.

*The Impact:*

Water For People's 18 years of working in water and sanitation have shown that community involvement and a community-centered focus are what make programs work. In fact, independent research through the World Water Corps has shown that more than 97% of Water For People's programs are still functioning more than a decade later.

Water For People selects the communities where it works based on a thorough evaluation of their abilities to sustain functional environments for water and sanitation. At the present time, Water For People works in Bolivia, Guatemala, India, Malawi, Honduras, Rwanda, Uganda, Nicaragua and Peru, and has plans to initiate work in Dominican Republic and Ecuador in 2009. Rather than focus on individual communities, Water For People identifies regions and aims to achieve 100% coverage throughout.

Last year was an exceptional year for Water For People, with dramatic improvements in both the water and sanitation sectors. In 2008, Water For People reached:

- 91,722 beneficiaries with clean water – a 39% increase
- 92,983 beneficiaries with proper sanitation – a 117% increase
- 335 schools and communities served – a 78% increase

This resounding success could not have been possible without the support of generous friends such as Miami- Dade and the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department.

*Regional Success in 2008:*

A key region supported by Water For People in 2008 was South America, where our programs in Ecuador and Bolivia reached 430 beneficiaries with clean water and 555 beneficiaries with proper sanitation. In Bolivia, one of the areas served by Water For People is the Villa Rivero municipality located within the Cochabamba region. There are 41 communities within Villa Rivero and Water For People is working in nine of these including Ichucollo, San Francisco, Chaco Vinto, Centro Hoyada, Villa Victoria, Energueri, Pompa Kosi and Aramasi. Water For People's work sought to reach more than 700 families in these communities with access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene, for a total of 2039 beneficiaries.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sanitation</u>	<u>Hygiene</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ichucollo	96		58	154
San Francisco	192		115	307
Charagosi	216		130	346
Centro Hoyada	172		103	275
Villa Victoria		72	46	118
Enequeri		96	58	154
Pampa Kasi		128	77	205
Aramasi	360		120	480
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>2039</b>

At the end of 2008, 58% of the water work had been physically completed with the remainder to be shored up by the end of February 2009. Progress was delayed in part due to the rise in the cost of materials procured locally, so additional materials were ordered for delivery in early 2009. As of the writing of this report the following sanitation projects have been completed: Villa Victoria, Pampa Kassi and Enequeri.

Water projects in the communities of Charagosi, Centro Hoyada, and San Francisco are in the construction phase which is being managed by our partner NGO, CIAPROT. In the small community of IchuKollo the construction phase of the project has been finished. Throughout the municipality of Villa Rivero, Water For People worked closely with local NGO partners, the Departments of Health and Education and the municipal government to conduct an extensive hand-washing campaign which aimed to reduce unnecessary illness among beneficiaries.

Water For People-Bolivia has also played a leading role in capacity building workshops focused on municipal facilities management, advocacy for proper sanitation, and rural and community sanitation. Leadership, administrative and technical workshops have included both NGO partners and municipal representatives. Along with the physical construction of facilities, these workshops are a pivotal component of ensuring long-term sustainability of these programs.

Because of the success of Water for People's work in Bolivia, we have been invited to help the Bolivian government in developing and testing its new sanitation policy. We have also signed MOU's with all five municipalities where we work confirming they will contribute 50% of all hardware costs on programs supported by Water For People. In light of these successes, Water For People has secured a UN Habitat agreement to support our water and sanitation in the Cochabamba region.