WELLS AND WATER SYSTEMS

Water is the most basic necessity of life. Yet every day, nearly 1,000 children younger than 5 die from diarrhea caused by contaminated water, poor sanitation, and unsafe hygiene practices. Your donation to the Gift Catalog was combined with funds from other generous donors to make clean water accessible for thousands of families. Between October 2019 and March 2020, World Vision provided clean water to 966,656 people by drilling or rehabilitating 9,392 wells and water points.

AFGHANISTAN

A new water system allows Basir to spend more time on his studies

Basir, 13, lives with his family in the village of Alamtabee in Badghis Province, Afghanistan. He remembers what it felt like to leave his homework and walk to the stream to collect water, a daily routine that usually took about two hours.

One afternoon, as a result of a drought, “the stream water was very low,” Basir says. “It took an hour to fill the jerry cans. With toil, I filled the cans and carried them home.”

But when he returned he was too weary to focus on school. “I was very tired and went to sleep. [The] next day, my teacher in school punished me for not doing my homework.”

When World Vision constructed a new water supply network in Alamtabee, 200 families gained access to clean water. Like others in his community, the water network eased Basir’s burden when collecting water for his family.

Now in the fifth grade, Basir finds he has more energy for his studies. In fact, he enjoys finishing his homework on time. “From the day the network was installed in here,” he says, “my homework is no longer incomplete.”

KENYA

Clean water changes everything for Rosebela

World Vision’s Kenya Water Project is providing children and their families with clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing—all within minutes, instead of hours, from their homes. In the Bartabwa area, Rosebela Balliat, a mother of eight, used to walk nearly 10 miles round-trip to the Kerio River to get water for her family. The trip could be a treacherous one.

“Mothers miscarried due to the hard labor carrying water from so far. Crocodiles attacked our goats by the river,” she says. “I had to leave our small children with the baby goats in their pen (at home) as I went for water.”

The project supplied solar-powered water pumps, distribution lines, and storage tanks for the government-drilled Ayatya borehole. Now, Rosebela spends only 30 minutes a day getting water for her family, instead of up to four hours.

She makes good use of that water, too. To supplement the income from her husband’s work raising livestock, she has opened a tea shop.

“I didn’t want to stay idle after the water came . . . Our life is much better now,” she says.
WELLS AND WATER SYSTEMS

GHANA

School access to clean water boosts attendance

In rural Ghana, access to clean water in schools can be a challenge. In some cases, borehole wells become inoperative due to mechanical issues community members are unequipped to fix. As a result, students spend a lot of time looking for water during their breaks from class, and many girls skip class altogether during their menstrual cycle because of the lack of access to clean water.

“The borehole rehabilitation at this school has now reduced the burden of walking long distances to compete ... at the community borehole for water to drink and wash hands,” says Mr. Silvester, headteacher at Mirigu Junior High School in the Kassena area of Ghana.

Since the borehole has been repaired, there has been enough clean water for the kitchen staff to prepare meals for the students. Most important, having a working borehole on school premises is expected to greatly improve academic outcomes. Among boys and girls alike, school attendance and class participation has increased—clear indicators of students’ new appetite for learning.

“[Our] hygiene and sanitation has improved as the burden of [collecting] water from long distances has [been] reduced,” says Clothilda, a student (above, right). “No more delays and even absence from school. Now, we are ready to compete with boys.”

ZAMBIA

New water system gives Violet hope and independence

Violet, a 43-year-old widow, lives in Kayuni village, which is part of World Vision’s Sinazongwe area program in Zambia. She did not have means to make money in order to meet her basic needs. She longed for a day when she could be independent and not rely on support from family or village neighbors.

The extreme heat had dried a nearby water source that Violet used for drinking and gardening. The closest water source was over three miles away, which was too far for her to walk. She began to lose hope and was ashamed she could not purchase even a packet of salt.

Violet’s hope for survival was diminishing, but after a mechanized water system was constructed for the community, in partnership with World Vision, her life changed.

Once the water system was complete, Violet was encouraged by the water point committee to start gardening again. Since then, she has been able to sell produce from her garden to meet her basic needs and pay her user fees to help with the operation and maintenance of the water system. She can even purchase school supplies for her nephew and niece, using money made from her garden sales. Violet also joined a savings group in her village after attending a training facilitated by World Vision.

“Thank you ... for providing our village with clean water,” Violet says.