



WATER



SOLUTIONS ARE CLEAR



EVERY DROP COUNTS

More than anything else, people need clean water to live a healthy, safe, productive life. Water affects everything: Nutrition, health, livelihood, even access to education. Journey with us and see why that is—and what a difference the solutions can make in people's lives.



In Islam, there is great reward in giving water to any living creature. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, *“While a man was walking, he felt thirsty and went down a well and drank water from it. On coming out of it, he saw a dog panting and eating mud because of excessive thirst. The man said, ‘This (dog) is suffering from the same problem I was suffering from.’ So he (went down the well), filled his shoe with water, caught hold of it with his teeth and climbed up and gave the water to the dog. Allah thanked him for his (good) deed and forgave him.”*

(Narrated by Abu Huraira; Sahih Bukhari)



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When people have too little water, some of the potential effects are obvious: Dehydration and risk of death. But lack of water can also reach into many other aspects of life, from livelihood to education.

The effects of too little water are most obvious in drought situations. Dehydration—especially in hot weather—can quickly become fatal. The very young and old are the most vulnerable.

Even where there is some water within reach, life can still revolve around getting enough of it to live. In Egypt, Suad's water comes in as a slow trickle. She collects it in a container all night, and that's all she has for her family the next day.

In some areas, there's not even a faucet. In these cases, water may come from wells miles from home, and the only way to get it is to carry it in buckets. In Africa, people spend 40 billion hours a year walking for water. It's usually women and girls doing this back-breaking job, which keeps them from working for an income or going to school.

Lack of water can impact even a family's ability to earn a living and grow their food. When there's no system to get water from a stream to the farm fields, people rely on the rain. When the rain doesn't fall, their crops and livestock die. Without water, it's hard to live a dignified life.

STATISTICS

Hours spent carrying water from remote wells in Africa:

40 BILLION



How much water an eight-member family should have every day (according to UNHCR):

48 GALLONS



Weight of that water:

384 POUNDS



Who usually carries water:

WOMEN & GIRLS





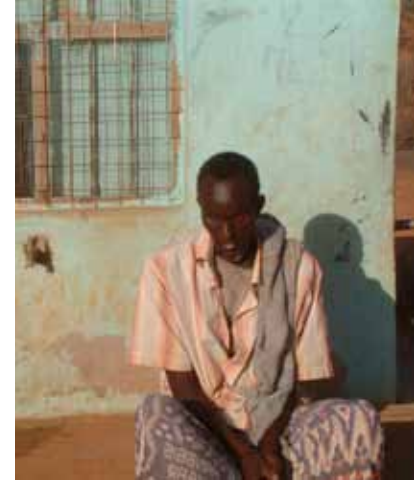
Muda's story

Muda Billow, a father in Sarohindi village in Mandera, Kenya, used to have to rely on the rain for water, and that destroyed his livelihood. Drought killed 60 of his goats—the essential source of milk, food and income for many people in the region—and left his children malnourished.

“The rains are unreliable,” he said. “When they are good, we can grow crops, but not anymore.”

Islamic Relief set up a water-supply system in Sarohindi village, where the people can get water for themselves and their animals. This gives the livestock they rely on a better chance to survive through drought.

“We now have a reliable source of water in this village,” Muda said. “... We are very thankful to Islamic Relief.”





too much
water

Too much water can be as dangerous as too little water. When extreme weather sends floodwaters flashing through the streets, it can destroy homes and lives.

The 2010 floods in Pakistan washed away entire villages, crashing through walls and sweeping away roads. 2,000 people died in the emergency phase. Survivors were stranded, running out of food and clean water to drink. Farm crops, almost ready for fall harvest, were submerged in water and ruined for seasons to come.

After the immediate devastation of a flood, a sinister second phase begins: waterborne illness. Water is all around, full of debris, dirt, waste and dead animals. This contamination is extremely dangerous, spreading deadly illnesses. For flood survivors, the danger is all around.



STATISTICS

— Pakistan Flood 2010 —

People affected:
20 MILLION

People killed:
2,000

People left homeless:
6 MILLION

Acres of farmland submerged:
17 MILLION

Damage to agricultural sector:
\$5.1 BILLION

Cases of diarrhea
(reported to WHO by May 2011):
2.5 MILLION

Cases of acute respiratory
infection (by May 2011):
7 MILLION





hazards all around

During the 2010 floods in Pakistan, people were forced to walk through dirty water—a frequent situation after a flood, when standing water covers roadways and fields. As a consequence, doctors soon begin seeing patients with skin and respiratory infections and diarrhea. Bacteria multiply quickly in the dirty water, and the hazards of waterborne illnesses are difficult to avoid. This contaminated water often breaches drinking water supplies, so even though there's water everywhere, none of it is safe to drink, wash with or touch. But with no other alternative, flood survivors are often forced to wade in it and use it anyway.



dirty
water

STATISTICS

People who don't have clean drinking water worldwide:

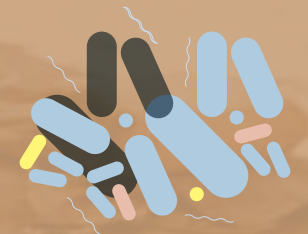
900 MILLION

almost three times the population of the United States



Children whose lives could be saved each year by clean water and sanitation:

2.2 MILLION



An often overlooked water problem is unclean water, because its victims never know when it will make them sick.

Unsafe water comes in many forms, from many sources: a shallow or outdated well; an open stream or pond; or a contaminated water supply system. During times of drought, such as the 2011 crisis in East Africa, people are forced to drink whatever they can find to survive, even if all they can find is a muddy stagnant pool. During times of flooding, the rushing waters can wash contamination into established drinking supply systems. Sometimes mothers carefully and painfully carry buckets full of water home from wells for their children—inadvertently bringing along millions of invisible bacteria, viruses or parasites. And sometimes the water sneaks its deadly illnesses in through the kitchen faucet.

Sometimes, people don't even have to drink water to get sick from it: When they wash in it or walk in it, they can contract skin infections and respiratory infections. Just living near contaminated water can be a danger.

The effects are staggering: Diseases from unsafe water and lack of sanitation kill more people each year than violence and war. And children are hit the hardest.



Banadir hospital

It was late September 2011, and young patients lay motionless—two or even three to a bed—at Banadir hospital in Somalia.

This was the hospital's pediatric diarrhea clinic.

“Between 30 and 40 new patients come to our diarrhea treatment center a day,” said Dr. Shaf’ee Mohamed. “We are overwhelmed.”

The patients were coming to the Islamic Relief-funded clinic from villages and camps all around. Weakened by malnutrition, they easily fell victim to the bacteria in the water that they drew from old, shallow, contaminated wells. In the relentless heat, after many months of drought, they had no choice but to drink any water they could find. If they didn’t, they would die. But if they did, they could die too.

At the clinic, mothers sat by their babies in the heat, and waited, and waited.

“So many people need help,” Dr. Mohamed said.





THE SOLUTIONS ARE CLEAR



During an emergency such as drought, Islamic Relief teams truck in life-saving water to distribute. When someone is so dehydrated that she knows that soon she won't be able to move another step, her heart is beating quickly, she can't think well and she watches her child cry without tears ... there is no relief and blessing like water. Alhamdulillah, our donors can provide this relief.

Our goal, however, is to help communities never to need this emergency relief. We also want to help people in villages where water is far away and difficult to access on a daily basis. Deep-water wells can be the solution to both of these situations. Islamic Relief's teams construct high-capacity, deep-water wells that can serve not just a few families but an entire community. These wells—cared for by committees chosen by the local community—draw from deep water sources that are unlikely to dry up, providing a reliable source for many years to come. Where these wells are constructed, families are freed from the daily search for water and the worry of not finding it. Women and children no longer have to spend their days carrying heavy buckets: The women now have other options, including earning an income to help their families, and the girls can go to school. The gift of water opens many new doors for the community.

In addition to water for drinking, many rural communities depend heavily on water for their food sources—local crops and livestock. Irrigation systems and other water systems can vastly increase their capacity to raise food, and protect them from disaster when drought hits.

We also employ other solutions, and look for creative ways to help each community we work with. Recent projects have included rainwater catchment, water purification systems and ecological management systems. These projects can efficiently bring long-lasting relief to families that once struggled to find enough water.





Islamic Relief's programs in Pakistan illustrate the range of our response to flood situations. During the 2010 floods, teams mobilized from our Pakistan offices and from around the world in an effort to save lives. The emergency phase combines multiple approaches, from distributing clean water and food to providing emergency health care for those hurt in the crisis or sickened by waterborne illness.

After the emergency phase ended, Islamic Relief teams launched a rehabilitation phase, rebuilding homes and schools, and distributing livestock and equipment to help people start their lives over. Teams are also constructing flood-resistant drinking water systems that can keep out contaminated floodwaters, and they're installing drainage systems that help prevent standing water from accumulating in the village. These reconstruction projects are bringing families new hope, and keeping them healthy.



Unclean water comes from many sources, but the solution is often the same: Deep-water wells that draw from far below any contamination, and water treatment systems. With a reliable source of clean water in their villages, families are no longer forced to drink from old and contaminated shallow wells, or from the streams their animals drink, walk and defecate in. Illnesses, particularly diarrhea, once threatened to strike at any time and quickly claim the lives of their children and their elderly; but now, the people don't have to be afraid of getting sick because their water is safe. This brings greater health—and peace of mind.



“We thank the donors, we pray for them day and night. May God bless and grant them long lives. May God grant them success, so they can help the most vulnerable people.”

– Azahara Maiga, resident of Gourma Rharous, Mali, where Islamic Relief USA is funding an irrigation project



Long-term water projects are a *sadaqah jariyah*, bringing blessings to communities beyond our lifetime insha-Allah.

Thank you for being part of the solution.

HOW TO HELP

Donate to Islamic Relief's water projects by calling 1.888.479.4968 or visiting **IRUSA.ORG**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PARTNERS VISIT IRUSA.ORG/ALLIANCES

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