



It was a challenging, exciting, and successful year for Water For People's international programs. Faced with a global economic crisis, natural disasters, and political uncertainty, Water For People was able to serve over 327,000 beneficiaries in need of safe drinking water and sanitation services, and provide hygiene education to 191,670 beneficiaries.

Water, sanitation, and/or hygiene education programs were implemented in 379 communities and 244 schools in nine countries. These beneficiary and community numbers reveal the expansion and impact of Water For People programs; the numbers are almost double those of 2008!

Water For People and partners successfully applied an approach centered on sustainable and innovative solutions and encouraged the replication of the Water For People model in regions outside of its operation. Highlights of these 2009 successes in sustainability, innovation, and replication show why Water For People's programs are catching on.

IN 2009, WATER FOR PEOPLE SERVED 327,391 WATER AND SANITATION BENEFICIARIES, AN INCREASE OF 77% OVER THE 184,705 WATER AND SANITATION BENEFICIARIES SERVED IN 2008.

SUSTAINABILITY

Water For People strives to provide sustainable water and sanitation services so no community or school has to return to an unsafe water source and unimproved toilets. Water For People empowers communities, governments, and local partners with the skills, knowledge, and resources to replace their systems themselves, without external financial contributions. This approach of establishing functional environments where all key actors are engaged and have the capacity to construct and sustain water and sanitation systems—*without Water For People's continued direct support*—is working.

- Cyclone Aila struck Eastern India in May 2009 and within three days, private mechanics trained by Water For People–India, (called Jalabandhu) repaired 295 existing water sources in 63 villages. Only 47 of these repaired water sources were installed with Water For People support. The Jalabandhu mechanics worked outside of their target areas to repair 248 additional water sources that could not be reached by the government, preventing further disaster. Water For People–India is now being asked to replicate the Jalabandhu training program in districts beyond the scope of Water For People–India's operation to ensure the sustainability of water systems throughout West Bengal, India.
- An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 shook Honduras in May 2009. While water systems supported by governmental agencies suffered significant damage, all water systems supported by Water For People–Honduras sustained the shock and continued to function with no serious damage.
- In Guatemala, Water For People helped establish a water system in the community of Estancia. As with all community programs, construction of the water system was only one component of the project, with significant time devoted to training community members on how to operate, maintain, finance, and repair the water system. Later in the year, when a storm damaged Estancia's water system, the community had the reserve funds (collected through water user fees) to cover all of the repair costs.

Water For People trains and builds the capacity of local governments, partner organizations (public and private sector), communities, and schools in program countries, and ensures that communities can contribute financially to projects.

A total of \$2,123,067.28 in cash was leveraged from these local stakeholders for work in 2009. These contributions shift the sense of ownership from Water For People to the communities ultimately responsible for sustaining these new systems.

REPLICATION

Water For People recognizes that it cannot solve the global water and sanitation crisis alone, but believes it can model effective work and support the replication of this work by others on a national scale. Water For People advocates the replication of its programs to expand water and sanitation coverage beyond the regions where the organization operates. The year 2009 saw the beginning of Water For People program replication.

- Despite a political coup in Honduras in June 2009 and five months of political uncertainty, Water For People–Honduras was able to successfully complete the School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion plus Community Impact (SWASH+) program in all targeted 22 schools. This program, implemented in both Guatemala and Honduras, has gained tremendous recognition in Guatemala and is now being replicated by other institutions within its municipalities. SWASH+ in Honduras is attracting additional funding from major multilateral organizations for expansion.
- In Bolivia, a visit to the municipality of Saavedra, where Water For People and partners worked several years ago, revealed that without external financial or organizational support, a new neighborhood was able to access ecological toilets with just community and local government financial support.
- Water For People–India’s approach and programs are being replicated in districts outside of its operational areas and in states outside of West Bengal. This year, WaterAid installed AMAL filters, developed by the Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESUS) with Water For People’s support, to treat arsenic-ridden water in six villages in the state of Uttar Pradesh. As a result, the rural development minister of Uttar Pradesh committed to installing 300 such filters throughout the state.
- In Rwanda, Water For People broke ground in 2009 with new programs. The organization’s approach to water and sanitation has already been recognized by national and local governments as well as nongovernmental agencies. Water For People was asked by UNICEF to moderate a national workshop reviewing public ecological toilets in Rwanda and provide input on key national documents such as the National Policy and Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation Services.

INNOVATION

International development organizations do not have the money or human capacity to provide everyone who lacks improved sanitation and safe drinking water a toilet and a water tap. For this reason, Water For People is promoting innovative ways to spread water and sanitation coverage by utilizing the local private sector.

- In November 2009, Water For People–Malawi accepted an AfricaSan award from the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) for their innovative Sanitation as a Business program. This approach seeks to increase sanitation coverage by promoting small loan-inspired investments in improved sanitation and making sanitation a service between entrepreneurs and households. This innovative program is recognized in Malawi as a successful means to increase sanitation coverage and is being replicated by other Water For People country programs.
- In Uganda, Water For People facilitated the establishment of the Sanitation Business Development Association (SaBDA), consisting of local NGOs and government representatives. The organization allocated its first round of funds to local NGO Uganda Environmental Education Foundation to implement an “action research” project to test affordable composting latrines, with cost per latrine ranging from about \$250 to as low as \$13.
- Peru, where two of the three regions selected for operation were mapped in 2009, recently completed an ecological sanitation study and plans to experiment with Sanitation as a Business in 2010.

Programs have now been established in eleven countries—Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Malawi, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, and Uganda—and Water For People looks forward to 2010 and the opportunities to provide sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene education to people in need.