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- World Water Day
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- And more!

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the most water-rich country in Africa. Yet two thirds of the people don’t have access to clean water. As a result, millions of children and their families have no choice but to drink unsafe water, which puts them at risk for typhoid, malaria, cholera and other deadly diseases.

But thanks to generous, faithful friends like you, Lutheran World Relief is reaching out to these families with solutions that are bringing clean, safe water to some of the most remote communities in the country.

In partnership with local leaders, you’ve helped cap springs, repair wells and build high-capacity rainwater collection tanks with water filters to provide clean drinking water to more than 320,000 people in rural villages.

Your generosity is responsible for providing new latrines, complete with showers and handwashing stations, as well as other sanitation necessities that keep people who live in remote, rural villages safe.

And you helped install solar-powered pumps at existing wells so patients at hospitals and health centers, as well as people in neighboring communities, can have safe drinking water.

For the first time, 60,000 people have access to newly dug hand-pump wells in villages where no water source existed before.

continued inside ...
In honor of World Water Day on March 22, we’re dedicating this issue to the many ways you help provide clean water to our neighbors in need around the world.

I’m so glad you understand that loving your neighbor means much more than being kind to the people who live next door. It means loving all of God’s children and doing all we can to reach everyone who needs us.

With your support, we are reaching more families than ever, pursuing new opportunities to make an even greater impact in our world by expanding our reach and implementing cohesive and coordinated programs that promote the sustainable health, well-being and future of the families we serve.

Thank you,
Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

In Haiti, where contaminated water is the leading cause of childhood illness, your support is providing clean water and sanitation to save lives.

Thousands of school children in Port-Margot, along the northern coast, get their drinking water from a natural spring that pumps water from the ground. In a nearby stream, women wash clothes during the day. Children cool off in the water after school. And, naturally, the contaminants created by these activities ultimately seep into the groundwater.

This is feeding the deadiest cholera outbreak in modern history, and containing it requires teaching parents and children healthy hygiene practices — and ensuring they have access to clean water. Thanks to your compassion, that’s exactly what’s happening.

You are providing school children with clean drinking water, latrines, handwashing stations and education on the importance of sanitation to good health. Your generosity is training community health workers. And they, in turn, teach families throughout the community how to access clean drinking water and stay healthy.

Because of you, nearly 8,000 of the most vulnerable children and adults in Port-Margot now have lifesaving knowledge about the importance of good hygiene, along with 600 water buckets for gathering clean water, 30,000 purification tablets, and 1,500 packets of rehydration salts so they can stay healthy. Thank you for your life-saving support.

Clean, safe water in the DRC continued ...

With you by our side, another amazing outcome of all our efforts to bring critically needed clean water to people in the DRC, 20,000 schoolchildren now have safe drinking water, nearby bathrooms and handwashing stations. Plus, young girls no longer need to miss school to make long, difficult and often dangerous daily journeys to fetch water for their families. And because of the clean water you help provide, children are not sick as often, so attendance at school is up.

In total, with your support, together we’ve:
- Completed nearly 2,000 water infrastructure projects
- Installed more than 500 rainwater collection tanks
- Built over 450 latrines
- Connected 12 solar powered pumps
- Secured 150 hand-pump wells across the DRC
- Provided lifesaving clean water to people in over 300 villages

Today, because of you, children in the DRC can focus on being children and doing well in school. Parents can earn a living and care for those children. And entire communities can go about the business of life because they are no longer cleaning, washing or bathing with — as well as drinking — unsafe water.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sharing your blessings with our neighbors in need around the world. God bless you.

In Giving, We Receive
“... whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”
Matthew 10:42 NRSV

A MESSAGE FROM DANIEL

In honor of World Water Day on March 22, we’re dedicating this issue to the many ways you help provide clean water to our neighbors in need around the world.

Because of you, this beautiful little girl — and an entire village of children like her, and their parents, too — have clean water to drink and handwashing stations that help to prevent deadly diseases and keep everyone healthy.

Children in Haiti have clean water, thanks to YOU!

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