



OUR APPROACH TO WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and proper hygiene are not only fundamental human rights, but also critical for human health and well-being. Poor WASH conditions lead to the spread of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea and cholera, which can have devastating consequences on communities, particularly in low-income countries. With far-reaching impacts on education, gender equality and economic growth, investment in WASH infrastructure is essential.

The Corus International family of organizations is committed to addressing WASH around the world. Our WASH programming employs a public health approach to WASH in emergencies, as well as sustainable water resource management, animal management and community WASH mobilization for improved sanitation.

Corus brings together IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief to integrate WASH interventions into livelihoods projects as well as into broader health systems strengthening initiatives. Our approach is multi-sectoral and works to combine the resources and capacities of WASH and health sector authorities with the private sector to plan, finance and deliver integrated WASH outcomes through markets.

Corus organizations also emphasize education and effective behavior change strategies to promote good hygiene practices. We believe in strengthening the capacity of local communities and governments to sustain WASH improvements over the long-term. We increase access to WASH facilities, helping local leadership develop business plans and financial projections, design low-cost WASH facilities, implement community education programs and craft local ordinances to support these activities. Our climate-smart agriculture approach also promotes water conservation and effective watershed management to create healthier

landscapes that are more resistant to droughts and floods.

Access to clean water is a critical need in the wake of a humanitarian crisis. We deliver supplies of water in emergencies to affected areas, while also installing or rehabilitating storage tanks and reservoirs. Where water is scarce or unsafe, we drill and decontaminate wells, install hand-pumps, protect natural springs, tap aquifers, rehabilitate damaged infrastructure, and pipe water into hard-to-reach communities and health centers.

By engaging with government, private sector, health and community leaders, we seek to accelerate change to bring equitable WASH access to all.

In Practice

Humanitarian Assistance in the DRC

Renewed clashes in the DRC have forced hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes, worsening the already dire humanitarian crisis in the North Kivu province. In response to critical WASH needs and to support cholera response efforts in areas of displacement, IMA World Health partners with fellow humanitarian actors to provide critical hygiene and sanitation inputs such as hand washing stations, latrines, showers, brooms and waste collection baskets across internally displaced person (IDP) sites. By increasing access to WASH for IDPs and host households in the Nyiragongo health zone, IMA World Health is committed to reducing mortality and morbidity rates from waterborne diseases. To date, 31,931 individuals across 16 IDP sites have been provided with hygiene kits and handwashing stations.



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Animal-Inclusive CLTS

IMA World Health recognizes the need for WASH programming to further emphasize livestock management and animal waste management. Insufficient separation of animal waste from human domestic environments, common in low-income countries, can lead to fecal-oral transmission of zoonotic pathogens. In conjunction with a consortium of research institutes and universities, including the International Livestock Research Institute, UC Berkeley and Johns Hopkins, and with funding from the Osprey Foundation, IMA World Health conducted research to better understand how animal management and environmental practices (poor composting, inadequate cooping, unhygienic slaughtering, etc.) affect child health in Mali's Ségou region. Results from this year-long quantitative and qualitative study informed the development of modules on the management of animals and their waste. These modules will be included in the Malian government's national WASH strategy using Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Improving Health and Nutrition in Guatemala's Western Highlands

Through the Improving Health and Nutrition in Guatemala's Western Highlands project and its follow-on activities, Lutheran World Relief, in partnership with FundaSistemas, has employed an innovative approach - Arts-based Community Development (ABCD) - to improve health and household sanitation in Guatemala. Among several components, the ABCD approach includes partnership with local artists to develop skits that advance public health messaging as well as video presentations about household sanitation followed by community discussion. Results from monitoring and evaluation suggest improved WASH knowledge and practices, including 99% of households now employing proper latrine or toilet hygiene practices around human waste management.

Provision of Life-Saving Emergency WASH Support for IDPs

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is among the worst in the world with 1 in 8 individuals (an estimated 4.3 million people) internally displaced. Access to water and adequate sanitation services for Yemeni families is critical. Lutheran World Relief partners with the Field Medical Foundation (FMF) to implement the Provision of Life-Saving Emergency WASH Support for IDPs project in Yemen's Marib Governate. To ensure dignified living conditions, the project provides conflict-affected populations with urgent WASH support through emergency water supplies, installation of water points, mass hygiene promotion and hygiene kit distribution. To date, 1,417,500 liters of clean water have been provided.

Multisectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Health and Opportunities for Women (MECIHO)

The Starbucks Foundation-funded MECIHO project, implemented by Lutheran World Relief, empowers women and improves the health, hygiene and living conditions of households and communities in Indonesia. Complementing the Indonesian government's nutrition and stunting interventions, MECIHO responds to significant needs in coffee-growing communities in Karo Regency where one in four households lack clean water, sanitation challenges endanger public health and current systems of local governance regularly exclude women. MECIHO will directly benefit 8,183 people and empower 4,605 women to improve health, hygiene and living conditions for themselves and their families.



The Corus Effect

Corus International unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, each with specialized expertise — from health to technology to economic development to emergency response. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, our expert teams integrate disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome poverty and suffering for those living in the world's toughest and most difficult circumstances. Our traditional and nontraditional approaches bring together the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

Corus features global public health leader IMA World Health, international development and aid organization Lutheran World Relief, technology for development consultancy CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct-trade company Farmers Market Brands.

