



Frequently Asked Questions: Water & Sanitation

Why is water and sanitation such a concern?

Water is essential to life. It affects health, food supply, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

More than a billion people globally do not have access to clean water. These families must fetch the water they need for cooking, bathing and drinking from polluted water sources that are often far from home. Here are the shocking statistics:

- 2.5 billion people – lack improved sanitation facilities
- Over 884 million people still use unsafe drinking water sources
- One child dies every 15 seconds from a water-related disease

How does Episcopal Relief & Development address these needs?

Water and sanitation programs are part of an integrated strategy that focuses on preventing the spread of disease while promoting overall community health and well-being. Episcopal Relief & Development partners with communities to:

- Build wells and piping systems to prevent waterborne illnesses.
- Integrate clean water programs with proper sanitation and hygiene practices to prevent the pollution of land and water
- Support the construction and improvement of sanitary toilets and composting latrines to prevent contamination
- Enable the installation of hand-washing stations next to latrines in homes and schools
- Protect land and water through integrated sanitation, hygiene and water programs



What type of health education do you provide in this particular program?

Training and education is an important part of this work because it builds awareness on how to prevent waterborne illnesses. Classes about basic hygiene promote community health and give residents the tools they need to make the most of their new resources.

Episcopal Relief & Development trains community members on the use and maintenance of water systems and provides critical education on proper hand washing and other hygiene practices. Furthermore, the organization empowers local community health workers to train residents in safe garbage and waste disposal.

What kind of impact have you made?

In Nicaragua alone, Episcopal Relief & Development and their local partner El Porvenir, worked in 164 communities on their Clean Water Project reaching 32,000 people through building water systems and holding community workshops for more than 10,000 people.