



2023 Year in Review

# Achieving Excellence Together

*"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday."*

— Isaiah 58:10



Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than 8 million people through the Lord's provision and friends like you.



Because you decided to come alongside Water Mission in 2023, together we served more than 1.9 million people with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) solutions. In addition to meeting these critical physical needs, we had the privilege of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with nearly 13,000 men, women, and children. Your love and support reached far and wide: From the Amazon to the Nile, families and entire communities have received lifesaving safe water and the priceless gift of eternal Living Water. Thank you for saying “yes” to God’s call to love and serve our global neighbors.

**Because of your partnership, we achieved the following impact in 2023:**



Served **more than 1.9 million** people physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



Provided solutions to people in **13 countries**.

## SAFE WATER FOR COMMUNITIES

### Impact in 2023

Safe water is one of the most basic needs for survival, yet 2 billion people around the world lack access. 3.6 billion people live without adequate sanitation, and one out of four people don’t have basic hygiene services at home.

**Thanks to your partnership, millions of lives are being transformed through WASH solutions!** In 2023 alone, you helped us provide ongoing access to safe water to more than 650,000 men, women, and children and first-time access to nearly 136,000 people. More than 16,000 people received sanitation solutions that can lead to healthier, happier, and more productive families.

**When WASH needs are met, children can consistently attend school, women no longer walk for hours each day to collect water, and families can invest in their futures.**

Water Mission tailors our solutions to each specific context in which we work. In remote communities around the world, we empower leaders to take an active role in the design, construction, and ongoing management of safe water systems. In 2023, we partnered with 51 communities to provide comprehensive WASH solutions, including access to safe water and the promotion of safe sanitation and hygiene practices. These rural communities are now experiencing collective transformation because of your generosity.

## 2023 Safe Water for Communities Impact



Provided nearly **136,000 people** with first-time access to safe water.



Served more than **650,000 people** with ongoing access to safe water.



Built more than 7,000 latrines that provide sanitation to more than **16,000 people**.



Partnered with **51 communities** on new projects.



*For Cecilia, convenient access to safe water makes being a mom and running a business much easier by saving precious time and money.*

## Safe Water in Makere, Tanzania

In the far northwest region of Tanzania near the border of Burundi is Makere, a community that nearly 3,300 families call home. Women used to walk long distances to the river to collect water that made their children sick and limited their time for productive work.

Cecilia Vincent, a restaurant owner and mother of three young children, lives in Makere. Lack of access to safe water was not only a burden for her personally, but it also impacted her small business. Cecilia shared:

*“In the dry season, it was very challenging to get water. We had to walk for one hour to the river [and then one hour back]. Sometimes we went three days without getting any water.”*

This was difficult enough for Cecilia as a mother, but trying to earn an income to provide for her family made the water situation even harder. She could not leave her restaurant for two hours each day to collect water and still have enough time to cook for and serve her customers.

*“Running a business without water was very challenging,”* Cecilia said. *“I had to pay a local vendor to collect the water for me, and that affected the income I made from the restaurant.”*

In 2023, Water Mission completed a water project that is meeting the safe water needs of more than 19,000 people who live in

Makere. Now, the main borehole produces plenty of water, which people collect from 35 community tapstands. This is the first time the community has access to treated, safe water and enough water to meet everyone’s needs. The system was designed with the future in mind and is capable of serving up to 22,000 people. The challenging nature of this project required Water Mission to use innovative technology and special drilling techniques to identify a viable underground water source. Thankfully, our team in Tanzania was up for the challenge.

Water Mission has taken this project one step further by piloting metered private connections throughout the community, starting with a connection right outside Makere’s executive office and marketplace. To date, a select number of household connections with pre-paid meters have been installed, paving the way for another 100 to be completed in the coming months. These metered connections provide convenient safe water access to people just outside their homes and places of work.

With this water project completed, Cecilia has safe water close to home for her family and close to her business, too.

With gratitude, she shared: *“The water project has made the budget for my business much better, because the water is close. With the money I save, I can buy food and medicine for my family. I feel good knowing...our economic issues will be improved.”*

# SAFE WATER FOR REFUGEES

## Impact in 2023

Thanks to your support, Water Mission provided critical WASH services and tangible hope to more than 800,000 people who fled their homes due to war, human rights violations, disasters, and other significant challenges. In 2023, more than 108 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced, including 35 million with refugee status. These men, women, and children left their homes in search of safety. When they arrived at a camp, one of their most essential needs was access to safe water.

### Water Mission's approach in refugee camps includes:

- Increasing access to safe water by installing additional access points throughout camps;
- Training local operators to maintain safe water systems;
- Using remote monitoring to ensure safe water continues to flow;
- Providing handwashing stations and hygiene training to keep people healthy in crowded conditions; and
- Partnering with local churches to meet emotional and spiritual needs.

## Hope for a New Beginning

When Mindraa's husband was shot and killed during the violence in South Sudan, she fled with her five young children to Uganda for refuge. After a 10-day journey on foot, they reached Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. When they first arrived, the only available water was unsafe; bathing her children gave them terrible rashes and fevers.

*"I felt traumatized," Mindraa shared. "I brought my children here for safety, but now I still had to fear they would die—this time from the water instead [of the war]."*

But after Water Mission got safe water flowing, everything changed. She said, *"I've seen a great change in my children. Their bodies are healthy. They can even be bathed. They go to school healthy."*

Your generosity and love have allowed people like Mindraa, who have encountered some of the worst suffering imaginable, to experience a fresh start and hope for their futures.



*After everything she has been through, Mindraa is still able to smile, because she and her children have access to safe water.*

### 2023 Refugee Impact



Served **more than 800,000** people through our safe water and sanitation solutions.



Equipped **15** refugee and displacement camps with safe water systems.



At Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Uganda, Water Mission is managing day-to-day operations of safe water systems on behalf of The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They requested our support in 2018 because of Water Mission’s proven track record of operating and maintaining safe water systems in refugee camps. In 2023, in partnership with UNHCR, Water Mission made upgrades to some of the safe water systems at Bidibidi. These systems now have improved functionality and capacity to provide safe water for the influx of refugees fleeing South Sudan. In 2023, Water Mission actively oversaw operations for water systems that served 265,000 people in the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement.

In addition to safe water and sanitation, Water Mission offers a unique Trauma Healing program for refugees and internally displaced people. This program focuses on helping men, women, and children work through emotional, mental, and spiritual struggles caused by their circumstances.

**“This program meets people where they are. We listen to them. They listen to each other. We create a space to express themselves. They are angry. They have issues they have gone through. By listening to others, they start to feel relieved. They see they are sharing the same problems, and this is a time to encourage one another.”**

—Josue Mpayamaguru, Water Mission Program Design Specialist

## DISASTER RESPONSE

### Impact in 2023

Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe than ever before. Over the past 50 years, climate and weather-related disasters have increased fivefold, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable. While Water Mission cannot know when or where a disaster will strike, we stand ready to respond when the need arises. **As a result of your generosity, Water Mission responded to 6 natural disasters and humanitarian crises in 2023 in Haiti, Malawi, Pakistan, Tanzania, Turkey, and Ukraine.** We not only met immediate needs but also implemented sustainable solutions to provide long-term benefits and resilience against future disasters.

*(Right) In February 2023, a deadly magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey. Water Mission’s Disaster Assistance Response Team quickly deployed to assess needs, locate available water sources, and test water quality and safety.*



#### 2023 Disaster Response Impact



Responded to **6** natural disasters and humanitarian crises.



Impacted **nearly 281,000** people in crisis with WASH solutions.



Water Mission's safe water system in a temporary camp for displaced people in Maras, Turkey, serves Melek's family and 6,000 other people left homeless by the February earthquakes.

## Responding Around the Globe

Just days following the February 2023 earthquakes in **Turkey**, Water Mission was on the ground assessing the most urgent WASH needs. We quickly got emergency water flowing to those impacted by the disaster and distributed 65,000 water purification packets, 3,000 water containers, and nearly 1,500 hygiene kits. We also installed safe water systems in 11 camps, 7 temporary kitchens, and 1 temporary clinic serving internally displaced people who had lost their homes. We served 68,000 survivors of the Turkey earthquakes with WASH solutions in 2023.

Melek moved to a displacement camp in Maras, Turkey, with her nieces and nephew after losing their home in the earthquakes. When they first moved to the camp, they struggled to access safe water. After Water Mission installed a safe water system, Melek's family, along with 6,000 other people staying at the camp, received access to safe water for drinking and cooking meals. Melek shared with gratitude: *"The water system Water Mission installed is very, very good. It has been especially good for our health. Thank you for coming here and installing this system."*

In **Malawi**, Water Mission responded to devastating floods following the March 2023 Cyclone Freddy and the worst cholera outbreak in the country's history. Through your partnership, we rehabilitated safe water systems in 8 camps for displaced people, providing more than 56,000 men, women, and children with much-needed access to safe water.

In **Ukraine**, we continued providing access to safe water for regions impacted by the ongoing conflict that started in 2022. More than 5 million Ukrainians remain internally displaced, and additional damage to critical infrastructure has left more than 1 million men, women, and children with severe water shortages. To meet this need, Water Mission installed 59 safe water systems around the country. Another 6 mobile water systems delivered safe water to communities on the front lines of the conflict each week. In 2023, 76,000 people were provided access to safe water to meet their daily needs.

Yulia, a Ukrainian woman benefiting from a Water Mission safe water system in Mykolaiv, shared: *"Water is life. It's clean. We can cook food and drink tea. Water is the most important [resource] because, without water, not one being on earth can survive...I never thought that strangers would think about me being able to drink clean water. It just...it leaves me speechless...that someone would think of us."*



Yulia and her partner received access to safe water through Water Mission's response in Ukraine.

# LIVING WATER

## Impact in 2023

Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the most important decision a person can make, yet more than 3 billion people remain unreached. Water Mission desires that all people have the opportunity to know the Living Water message of Jesus Christ. This is why we intentionally integrate our Living Water program into every aspect of our work. From sharing our faith with those we serve, to showing the Jesus Film in refugee camps, to equipping church leaders, **Water Mission is on mission to share God's love with others.**

**In 2023, because of your support, we shared the Living Water message with nearly 13,000 people through various events, including Bible distributions and Jesus Film showings. We also rolled out our Church and Community Mobilization Program (CCMP) in another two countries.** CCMP seeks to strengthen and equip the local church—God's primary agent of transformation—in its mission to help people come into a relationship with Jesus.

CCMP is now integrated with our community-based safe water programming in Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, and Uganda. **Thank you for partnering with us to bring physical and spiritual transformation to men, women, and children around the world.**

## Teaching God's Word

In the summer of 2023, Water Mission team members traveled to five locations throughout Mexico to conduct CCMP trainings with rural congregations. Church leaders learned how to identify the diverse gifts within their churches and about their capacity to work as one body to serve and share God's love with others.

*"We have learned about many subjects, including the unity of the church and the different gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows," said Dorys, a leader in the Lirio de los Valles Church in La Union, Mexico. "It is a great blessing to the church. We thank Water Mission for these trainings."*

*"Thank you, Water Mission," said Jesus Eliseo Perez Hernandez of Ebenezer Church in Montaña, Mexico. "The water project benefits many families in the community. We are very blessed by this project, and the Living Water trainings help us to know God better."*

Water Mission's nine-part CCMP empowers local church leaders with sound biblical knowledge and discipleship tools to help share the gospel and nurture believers in their communities. Pastor Yohane in Malawi shared about his experience, saying, *"This training has equipped me in many areas, especially in the area of helping people with their physical and spiritual needs."*

*In 2023, Water Mission's CCMP strengthened and equipped local churches in Mexico and around the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ.*



### 2023 Living Water Impact



Engaged more than **270** churches through CCMP trainings.



Conducted biblically based trauma healing workshops in **13** locations.



Tanzania Minister for Water Jumaa Hamidu Aweso visited Makere to inspect the completed safe water project. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, he praised Water Mission's work, saying:

*"I want to speak from my heart. I have been within the Ministry of Water for seven years, and this is the best project I have seen. It should be considered as an example of good work... I want to ask my team...to learn the same kind of water treatment system design and implement [it] in other places so that people will have increased access to clean and safe water. The Makere project is like a university: it's a college for people to come and learn. Please come and learn here."*