

Global Water Presentation

updated 10-30-08

SLIDE 1 TITLE

Hello, my name is _____ and this presentation is about Global Water, an international, non-profit humanitarian organization founded in 1982. They're focused on creating safe water supplies, sanitation facilities and hygiene-related facilities for rural villagers in developing countries. This presentation will show you what these facilities look like and why they're important.

SLIDE 2 GLOBAL WATER FOCUS

Global Water is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization which was started to help support the United Nation's "International Drinking Water Decade Program". The "Decade" Program was very successful and resulted in clean water access to over 700 million people worldwide and dramatically increased awareness of water problems in the developing world.

Today, Global Water has become a project-oriented and equipment-oriented organization and that is what we'll talk about today.

SLIDE 3 PICTURE OF KIDS AT TAP

This photo shows two little girls in Nicaragua receiving safe water at their home for the first time and their smiles show you why Global Water is able to find good people to work as unpaid volunteers for the long hours their projects require.

SLIDE 4 GW STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Water affects every aspect of life. At Global Water, they firmly believe lack of access to safe drinking water is the primary cause of hunger, disease and poverty throughout the world today. For the most part, hunger problems are due to insufficient water for agriculture and livestock, and on daily basis tens of thousands of men, women, and children die from diseases directly related to drinking contaminated water.

The World Health Organization estimates that almost a quarter of the children in the developing world, 14 years of age and younger, die because of a preventable disease caused by drinking and bathing in contaminated water; and some believe the number is much higher than this.

When you're suffering from hunger and water-borne diseases, poverty is a forgone conclusion. For these reasons Global Water says hunger, disease and poverty are all directly related to water.

The villagers Global Water is helping are the rural poor who, in terms of water, are basically living as humans did thousands of years ago. Without a safe water source at their village, villagers are hiking down to rivers or streams or often puddles to fill jugs with contaminated water.

To correct this situation, Global Water is funding water systems, sanitation systems and hygiene facilities that are appropriate for remote, rural environments.

SLIDE 5 OUR APPROACH FOR FUNDING PROJECTS

Global Water's approach to funding projects is to –

Identify experienced local non-profit organizations (called NGOs) that have expertise with water projects in a developing country

Work closely with NGOs to identify suitable water projects

Provide partial to full funding of those projects identified

Help determine equipment needed and provide specialty hardware and technical expertise

Involve villagers by 1) having village leaders help make decisions, and 2) having villagers provide manual labor, such as digging trenches and building water tanks, to allow them a sense of ownership once the project is completed

Inspect completed projects and maintain continuity with a project site through local NGOs

With this approach, Global Water empowers local NGOs to organize projects and provide expertise and supervision, while requiring the men in a village to perform all the manual labor during the project.

In order to be more cost effective, Global Water does not routinely send teams of volunteers to work in developing countries. Rather they fund local NGOs to develop the expertise to build water-related facilities. This allows local workers to gain the knowledge necessary to maintain these facilities thereby allowing projects to be sustainable in the long term.

SLIDE 6 PICTURE OF HAND DUG WELL

One of the typical water-related facilities built by Global Water are wells, both hand-dug and drilled. This picture shows a hand dug well in Nicaragua that is about 30 feet deep, which is close to the maximum depth for this type of well.

SLIDE 7 PICTURE OF CENTRALIZED WATER SUPPLY POINT

Once a well is dug, a centralized water supply point, such as this, can be built to service a whole community. The home-sites in this village were too spread out to provide individual taps. So Global Water designed this well, sealed it properly and installed extensive concrete-works to prevent contamination from rain and debris. They also installed a simple and reliable rope pump so women wouldn't have to lower small containers down into the well to access water.

SLIDE 8 PICTURE OF WOMAN AT ORIGINAL WATER WELL

As you can see here at the old well.

As you can imagine, the well's original open-top allowed contamination of soil and debris loaded with harmful microorganisms during heavy rains.

SLIDE 9 PICTURE OF WOMEN AT ORIGINAL WATER WELL

Before the rope pump, women used small plastic containers attached to strings to bring up small amounts of water over and over and over until they filled larger water jugs. It was very tedious and time-consuming work; all to gather contaminated water.

SLIDE 10 PICTURE OF NATURAL SPRING IN RURAL AREA

In developing countries all natural water sources, such as springs, are used for every water-related activity. This woman is cleaning clothes next to a spring used to procure water for home-use -

SLIDE 11 PICTURE OF WOMEN PROCURING WATER AT NATURAL SPRING

- as you can see here.

SLIDE 12 PICTURE OF NATURAL SPRING WATER

Natural spring water is often used for good-tasting bottled water here in the US, but in developing countries natural spring water is not protected and therefore is contaminated by forest and domestic animals, as well as human interaction.

SLIDE 13 PICTURE OF SPRING PROTECTION BOX

This next sequence of pictures will show what is called a Spring Water Supply System. It's the simplest design for creating a new water supply in a rural area where natural springs exist. Since most of the communities where Global Water is working do not have electricity, water systems most often must rely on gravity to allow water to flow to a village without the need for pumps.

This picture is looking into a concrete box that was built around a spring as it flows out of a hillside. This is called a "Spring Protection Box" and it's built to protect a water source from future contamination by animals and humans.

As you'll see, most of the projects Global Water develops use very simple, low-maintenance equipment to create a new water supply because today that is the most sustainable and most maintainable in the developing world.

SLIDE 14 PICTURE OF SPRING PROTECTION BOX

Most often, spring water is not contaminated as it exits a hillside and the "Spring Protection Box" is literally built all around the spring to prevent anything from touching the water.

SLIDE 15 PICTURE OF SPRING PROTECTION BOX

It's built right into a hillside as you can see.

SLIDE 16 PICTURE OF SPRING BOX OUTFLOW

From the "Spring Box" a plastic pipe drain will attach to piping to allow water to gravity-flow down a hill or mountain to a village below.

SLIDE 17 PICTURE OF MEN DIGGING TRENCHES

Often, the spring is a considerable distance from a village.

SLIDE 18 PICTURE OF A PIPE TRENCH

One project Global Water funded in Guatemala recently had a spring 5-miles from the village that owned it. So 5-miles of hand trenching had to be done in order to build the water system. This task took all the men in the village four months to accomplish working every day and it demonstrates how important a safe water supply was to the families in this village.

SLIDE 19 PICTURE OF MEN DIGGING TRENCHES

Another requirement of Global Water projects is that a village own (or have legal authority over) a water source such as a spring.

This is important to prevent ownership problems after a water system is installed.

SLIDE 20 PICTURE OF A VILLAGE-SIZE DISTRIBUTION TANK

Once their plastic piping gets near a village location, a distribution tank is built above the village to store water and provide the right amount of gravity-pressure for the home-sites.

SLIDE 21 PICTURE OF TAP AT HOME-SITE

Global Water tries to bring water to each individual home-site whenever possible and this is an example of a home-site water tap. This picture also shows a concrete drainage structure that includes an underground drainage pit to receive water in order to prevent wastewater from becoming a soil erosion problem.

SLIDE 22 PICTURE OF CENTRALIZED WATER SUPPLY POINT

But when it's not possible to bring water to each home-site, Global Water builds centralized water access points. This picture shows a centralized water point that was built for a rural community for two reasons: 1) the village home sites were too spread apart to install piping to all the home-sites, and 2) some of the home-sites were at a higher elevation than the spring water source, making gravity flow to all the home-sites impossible. These centralized water points allow villagers to access water throughout the community just a short distance from their homes.

SLIDE 23 PICTURE OF LATRINE

Besides water supply systems, Global Water also builds sanitation facilities, such as this latrine built in Nicaragua.

Global Water tries to install latrines wherever needed in all their water supply village projects because you need both water and sanitation facilities to create a healthy community.

SLIDE 24 PICTURE OF LATRINE AT HOME-SITE

During a visit to Nicaragua, one of the villagers thanked a staff member of Global Water for giving him and his neighbors DIGNITY by installing latrines. This was a village of over 200 people and they basically had no functioning latrines.

SLIDE 25 PICTURE OF RURAL HOME IN NICARAGUA

When you see the living conditions in the rural populations of developing countries you begin to understand why providing water and sanitation facilities are so important.

SLIDE 26 PICTURE OF SCHOOL HAND-WASHING STATION

Besides Global Water's work in rural villages, they also build water and latrine facilities at many rural schools, as well as this hand-washing station at a school in Guatemala.

This picture shows one of the many Peace Corps volunteers that Global Water works with that is involved with school projects to build water-related facilities.

SLIDE 27 PICTURE OF SCHOOL HAND-WASHING STATION

These facilities get a lot of use since they're used for everything – drinking water access, hand-washing, brushing teeth and sometimes even laundry.

SLIDE 28 PICTURE OF SCHOOL HAND-WASHING STATION

Global Water funds many of these facilities in Central America, especially in rural Guatemalan schools within a program called "Healthy Schools."

This program is a partnership between Global Water, the Peace Corps and a local NGO (Non-governmental organization) working in Guatemala.

The Peace Corps provides day-to-day project oversight; the NGO provides expertise for building the facilities; and Global Water provides funding and specialized equipment.

It's a great partnership of complementary responsibilities.

SLIDE 29 PICTURE OF CHILDREN AT SCHOOL WITHOUT HAND-WASHING FACILITY

Without real hand-washing facilities at a school it's impossible to teach proper hygiene education so there's an important educational aspect to putting these facilities at schools in addition to the obvious health advantages.

SLIDE 30 PICTURE OF WOMEN & CHILDREN BATHING & DOING LAUNDRY IN RIVER

This woman and child are bathing and doing laundry in a muddy river in Nicaragua because they had no facilities to go to at their village that would provide privacy and safety.

SLIDE 31 PICTURE OF LAUNDRY & BATHING FACILITY

Here's a picture of the laundry and bathing facility Global Water built for that rural village in Nicaragua providing both the privacy and safety that was needed.

SLIDE 32 PICTURE OF WOMEN DOING LAUNDRY & WASHING FOOD ON ROAD-SIDE

These women are endangering their lives doing laundry in a puddle next to the road, but not for the reason you might think. There's not a lot of traffic on this rural dirt road, but this same location is where pesticide sprayers fill their solution tanks. These tanks overflow routinely into the same puddle where laundry and food washing is going on side by side.

This is a classic example of an accident waiting to happen and is a common sight throughout the developing world as villagers do the best they can to survive among agriculture and commercial business interests.

When work was started on this village, Global Water made sure that the laundry facility was built first to get these women away from that road and the pesticide sprayers.

SLIDE 33 PICTURE OF LAUNDRY FACILITY

So there are advantages to providing safe, well designed laundry facilities for rural villages that goes above and beyond the obvious.

Those are the kind of facilities Global Water is building today in developing countries.

SLIDE 34 PICTURE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

I hope you've found this presentation informative and I hope it's given you an insight into some of the work that is being accomplished in rural areas of developing countries today. For the most part, this work is being performed by men and women volunteers who have dedicated their lives and careers to helping the poorest of the poor.

Thank you.
