The global water crisis doesn’t always make headlines. But the truth is that it claims more lives each year than war.\(^1\)

Globally, 1.8 billion people – that’s about one out of every four people – drink from contaminated water sources. Unsafe water leads to illnesses that claim the lives of 840,000 people each year, almost half of whom are children under the age of 5.\(^2\)

What’s more, women and children spend hours each day collecting water. This keeps them from school, work, and time with family. This keeps families and communities from learning, earning an income, and contributing to the local economy.


**HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES A PERSON USE PER DAY?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gallons per Person per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research in eastern Uganda found that a family spends an average of **660 hours a year** collecting water. This represents two full months of labor.

Water-related illnesses result in the loss of **443 million school days** each year.

Close to **half of all people** in developing countries **are suffering** at any given time from a health problem caused by contaminated water or unsanitary conditions.

**2.5 billion people** live without basic sanitation.

More people have access to a **mobile phone** than a **toilet**.


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**THE WATER IS NOT GOOD IN THIS POND. WE COLLECT IT BECAUSE WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE. ALL THE ANIMALS DRINK FROM THE POND AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF THE WATER WE ARE ALSO GETTING DIFFERENT DISEASES.**

—ZENEBECH JEMEL, CHOBAK MINO, ETHIOPIA

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**OF COURSE I WISH I WERE IN SCHOOL. I WANT TO LEARN TO READ AND WRITE, ...BUT HOW CAN I? MY MOTHER NEEDS ME TO GET WATER. YOU HAVE TO GET IN LINE EARLY BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE COME HERE.**

—YENI BAZAN, AGE 10, EL ALTO, BOLIVIA

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*United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report, 2006*
Clean water is one of the most powerful ways to create change in the world. When a community gains access to clean water, close to home, everything changes.

Women don’t spend hours gathering water. They are healthier than ever. They can work and farm. Earn money and grow food. Send their children to school. Support the local economy. And then teach neighbors how to do the same.

"With clean water, I don’t feel sick anymore. I don’t have to wait in line and can go home and continue with other activities. I go to the market ... and sell our family’s crops."

- Diko Marie, age 15, Central African Republic

Watch Diko Marie’s story at www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources.
WHAT IS ELCA WORLD HUNGER’S WALK FOR WATER?

The Walk for Water is a year-long, youth-driven, fundraising challenge to support the water-related projects of ELCA World Hunger. Many youth and youth groups will raise funds in advance of the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in July, and many will bring their offerings to the Gathering. At the Interactive Learning space at COBO Center in Detroit, youth and young adult leaders will have the chance to participate in an unforgettable walk designed to simulate the experience of collecting water miles away from home, while raising questions about access to water in the U.S., too.

NOT HEADED TO THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING?

No problem. We still need your help and you can still be a part of this historic challenge. See the back cover for details.

The Water Crisis: A Heavy Burden

On average, women in Sub-Saharan Africa walk more than three miles each day to fetch water for their families. A traditional 5-gallon jug, usually used for this purpose, weighs 40 pounds when full!
Get creative! Design your own fundraising event. Create team and individual fundraising Web pages to benefit ELCA World Hunger’s Walk for Water at www.ELCA.org/walk4water. The opportunities are endless!

5K FOR $5K
The average woman in Sub-Saharan Africa walks a little more than three miles each day to fetch water for her family – the same distance as a 5K. Organize a run, walk or ride event in your community to raise funds. You can even try a “5K for $5K” and set a goal at $5,000.

SPONSOR MY WALK
At the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, youth will have the opportunity to experience the reality of walking for up to three miles with heavy water containers. Each lap around the track is one-tenth of a mile. Set a goal: How many steps, laps or miles will you or your youth group try to reach? Create personal or team fundraising pages at www.ELCA.org/walk4water.

NOISY OFFERING
Fill jerry cans or empty water bottles with change for two, three or four consecutive Sundays. Pass the containers at youth group, confirmation, congregation council and other meetings.

TRAVELING TOILET
More people have mobile phones than toilets. Raise awareness for water and sanitation issues by creating a “traveling toilet.” Paint and decorate an old toilet and place it around town – at members’ homes and local businesses, for example, and leave it there until a donation is made. Your group can also sell “insurance” and leave people off the hit list for an early donation.

SET A GOAL
Working with global companion churches and trusted partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger spends more than $1 million per year on water-related projects. Your gifts make this work possible. Below are some examples of how your gifts can make a difference. Pick a project or two to inspire your goal-setting.

- $10 provides a clinic visit for a child suffering from water-borne illness
- $150 develops 100 feet of an irrigation canal
- $1,000 could train a team to educate their community about water, sanitation and hygiene
- $2,500-$15,000 constructs a water source for a community (from harnessing a local spring to drilling a deep borehole)

WATER PLEDGE
Challenge the congregation to drink only tap water for a week or month. Ask them to donate the money they would normally have spent on bottled water, coffee, soft drinks and other beverages.

WORLD WATER DAY
World Water Day is Sunday, March 22. Organize a special worship service and offering to benefit the Walk for Water. A life is claimed by water-related illness every 20 seconds. Consider ringing a bell each 20 seconds to remember those lives that are lost.

REMEMBER:
All gifts to ELCA World Hunger’s Walk for Water will be matched until we reach a grand total of $1 million!
Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support projects in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the U.S. Many of these projects help provide clean water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene and agriculture to those in need.

WHERE WILL THE MONEY GO?

IN CHINA, irrigation canals bring water to people in rural communities who were otherwise without access to water for drinking and farming.

IN THE UNITED STATES, ELCA members and leaders are speaking up to protect the human right to water and to educate others about lack of access to safe, affordable water in their own communities.

IN ZIMBABWE, toilets installed with the help of local villagers reduce the spread of disease in towns where less than half of the residents have access to proper sanitation facilities.

The projects in this flier are examples of work being done in programs supported by funds from ELCA World Hunger. In order to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, the ELCA does not track individual gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad. These gifts will support water-related projects where needed most, so that your donation has the biggest impact.
WHAT DO I DO WITH MY OFFERING?

The 30,000+ young people attending the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in July will bring their offering (individual or collective cash or checks) to Detroit – look for ELCA World Hunger’s Walk for Water in the Interactive Learning space at the COBO Center in Detroit.

Not attending the ELCA Youth Gathering? No problem. You can still be a part of this historic challenge. Create your own fundraising event in your congregation, and send your checks to:
ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

Please make your check payable to “ELCA World Hunger” and include “Walk for Water” in the memo line so it can be included in the national total. You may also give online at www.ELCA.org/walk4water.

RESOURCES

ELCA WORLD HUNGER’S WALK FOR WATER VIDEO
This two-minute video provides an overview of the water crisis and introduces the Walk for Water. It’s great to preview with your youth group and congregation.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER’S WALK FOR WATER BULLETIN INSERT
Order copies of this bulletin insert to share information about the Walk for Water with your youth group and congregation.

DIKO MARIE’S STORY
Years ago, DIKO Marie and her family had no alternative but to drink from contaminated water sources. Now, with access to a newly constructed spring box, life is different. Find the five-minute video and discussion guide at www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources.

WATER AND HUNGER CONNECTIONS TOOLKIT
Find tools and activities to teach your group about the water crisis and its greater connections to hunger and poverty.

ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.