

Save the Rain

SAVE A RAINDROP. SAVE A LIFE.

The Global Water Crisis

In the developed world, people do not have to collect and carry the water they use on a daily basis. If we did, most Americans would find themselves using a significantly less water than they currently do. The average American uses up to 100 gallons of water at home each day. The weight of that water is about 834 pounds, for a family of 5 that's 4,170 pounds a day! Imagine if your family had to work together to transport over 4000 pounds of water into your home!



For people living in many developing countries, distance to a clean water source is a critical. 200 million classroom hours are lost each day by student-aged children who must search for water for their family's survival instead of attending school. Collecting water in developing countries is rarely a family activity. It is a task largely designated to women and young girls. Because women are also responsible for the care of young

infants and children, girls begin carrying a small water jug as early as 3 years old. In Sub-Saharan Africa, women used to have to walk 4 hours to collect water for their family's survival. Due to climate change, that walk can now take up to 18 hours per day. Access to clean water and good health are tightly linked, and the need to carry water very long distances limits the amount women can bring back to their families. The dangers are not over even once water has been brought back home to the family. More often than not, the water collected is contaminated with microorganisms that cause diarrhea, typhoid, and cholera. These diseases are responsible for approximately 80% of all illnesses and deaths in the developing world, many of them children. Women and student aged girls who have to travel to collect water pay a high cost. Less time is available for caring for children, preparing food, receiving an education, or pursuing income-generating activities. In some regions, women and girls must travel through unsafe areas and are vulnerable to attack. Families, in many cases, must forgo sending their daughters to school, perpetuating the vicious cycle of illiteracy and poverty.

Statistics & Bad News...

- Every 15 seconds a child dies from the lack of access to clean water.
- Nearly 1 out of every 5 deaths under the age of 5 is due to a water-related disease.
- More than 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes. 99% of these deaths occur in the developing world.
- We can only survive 3 days without water. So, searching for water takes priority over everything, including income generation activities. Lack of access to clean water perpetuates poverty.
- An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country slum uses for an entire day.
- More people in the world have a mobile phone than a toilet.
- 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases.
- In developing countries, as much as 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions.
- Water-related diseases are one of the leading causes death in the world. 50% of the world's hospital beds are occupied by someone suffering from a water related illness.
- 2.6 billion people in the world lack access to proper sanitation resources.
- A person needs 4 to 5 gallons of water per day to survive. The average American individual uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day; The average African family uses about 5 gallons of water each day.
- Many well intended global water projects fail at a rate of 50% or higher because they are dependent on components recipients can not afford to maintain.
- Poor people who are likely to live in slum areas, often pay 5-10 times more per liter of water than wealthy people living in the same city.
- The Global Water Crisis is one of the fastest growing problems affecting the planet. It claims more lives than people killed by war, malaria and HIV combined each year.

HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS!

Save the Rain has been successfully harvesting the rain in water-starved communities since 2005!

Save the Rain is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching water-starved communities in East Africa to use rain as a sustainable water supply, stopping the needless deaths caused by the Global Water Crisis. With the help of supporters like us, Save the Rain can continue to help even more people receive life-long access to clean water.

Why Harvest the Rain? Because..

- Rainwater Harvesting projects can be built and managed by the local workforce in the communities we aim to help. To accomplish their mission, Save the Rain educates communities to harvest the rain through roof water collection, surface water collection, and groundwater recharge. Additionally, Save the Rain educates recipients on the importance of reforestation, sanitation, hygiene, and sustainable agriculture through permaculture design. Their Rainwater Harvesting Systems are built from local materials by a community elected local workforce. They require no electricity, pumping or filtration, ensuring sustainability.
- After 6 months of having clean water, on average there is a 45% decrease in kids suffering from waterborne illnesses.
- After just 1 year of having access to clean water, 96% of children will show drastic improvements in their health.
- By having access to clean water, school-aged children have the ability to continue their education into secondary school. Every extra year of secondary school increases earning potential by 15% to 25%.
- Diarrheal diseases are the second leading cause of death in children worldwide and can spread from person to person through poor hygiene. Hand-washing (without soap) for 15 seconds can reduce 70% of the bacteria on your hands. With each Rainwater Harvesting System built, Save the Rain constructs a hand-washing station off of the school's latrine pit. Students are educated on how to keep themselves healthy by teaching them to keep themselves clean. It can be essential to their survival. Sanitation alone can reduce water-related deaths by 37.5%. Together, clean water and sanitation make a world of difference.
- When rain water harvesting projects are complete, students no longer need to walk for water for their school's needs. Prior to clean water access, our metrics show a small number of students were able to continue school past 13 years old. Within the first year of access to clean water, Save the Rain saw 99% of students pass their national exam to be able to continue on to high school and more than 50% of them were girls!

TOGETHER ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Take a minute to imagine what the world would look like if we all worked together. Would there still be war? Hunger? A Global Water Crisis? There is no doubt these problems can feel overwhelming, no matter how old you are. If governments are failing to solve a giant issue like the Global Water Crisis, how can we be expected to make an impact? The answer is easy: stop imagining, and start manifesting. Choose to make a difference. Everyone has the power to help end one of the greatest crisis facing humanity.

How to Get Involved

To make the biggest impact, fundraise for a matter dear to your heart & educate others about why access to clean water is important to you. Pick an initiative that speaks to you and set a goal accordingly. Or if all the Save the Rain Initiatives are speaking to you, we can set up a general fundraiser which can be spread out across all initiatives. We can set our goal accordingly, here's an overview of what your fund-raised dollars can do.

- Support Save the Rain's Reforestation Initiative. For every \$1.50 raised, Save the Rain can plant a tree and teach classrooms about the important role trees play in the Water Cycle. We can additionally support by designing Water Cycle Posters to be distributed to Tanzanian Students. We can also use Save the Rain's Water Conservation activity to gauge our water use and make a plan to conserve our precious resource of clean water.
- We can help fund a Save the Rain 250,000-liter Rainwater Harvesting System on a primary school, so students never have to walk for water again for their schools drinking, cooking, and sanitation water needs. For every \$15 we raised, we will be providing a student life-long access to clean water and the lives of their future children. These school tanks are built to last 200+ years, creating a multi-generational fix to clean water access.
- Support Women's Empowerment through Save the Rain's Women's Water Initiative. For every \$500 raised, a mother in need will be provided her very own Rainwater Harvesting System on her home eradicating the need for her family to have to walk for water all together. These tanks are built for a woman by a Team of 4 Women who were all once recipients themselves. All Women's Water Initiative recipients are given the opportunity to come work for Save the Rain and help other women in need. It takes 1 week for 3 women to build the tank, while the 4th women helps the female head of household construct her very own permaculture designed garden while learning about sustainable agriculture practices. This not only gives her life-long access to clean water at home, but also gives her the education to sustain her family's food security.

Whether your audience is 1 or 100, or you are able to fund-raise \$1.50 or \$500, know there is no one action of compassion that is too small or too large not to change the world. You can make a difference. We have the power to change the life of another, and that changes the world because it changes their world.

It is so easy to act on your compassion, to come together and solve problems. Most importantly, like raindrops, imagine how much we can do if we each come together and do our small part. Like a storm of goodness, things will indeed get better for everyone. Now let's Save the Rain, because saving rain saves lives!

All tools to support these campaigns can be found under Resources on the Get Involved Page on Save the Rain's website: <https://www.savetherain.org/get-involved/>

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