



international **h₂O** collaboration

The International H₂O Collaboration is a new worldwide alliance of Rotary International/The Rotary Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“We intend these projects to be models for future projects with strategic partners and in this way to enhance our contribution to world understanding, goodwill, and peace.”

— Past RI President William B. Boyd, chair of the International H₂O Collaboration Steering Committee

THE PURPOSE

The alliance is dedicated to implementing long-term, sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in the developing world.

THE NEED

More than one billion people lack access to a safe reliable source of drinking water, and more than two billion lack access to any sanitary means of excreta disposal. Combined with unsafe hygiene practices, the result is nearly 1.8 million deaths — the vast majority children — from diarrhea every year. The poor suffer disproportionately from inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene, which helps perpetuate a cycle of disease and poverty. Further, many women and girls spend hours each day fetching water for their families, time that could be spent learning or on other productive activities.

LAUNCH

March 2009 in conjunction with World Water Day

PROJECT COUNTRIES

The International H₂O Collaboration is initially developing alliance projects in three countries: the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines. These countries were selected based on need as well as the ability and experience of local Rotary clubs and USAID missions to address the challenges faced. As it progresses, the alliance will strategically consider expanding to other countries.

FUNDING

The alliance is currently working to determine specific funding levels in each focus country that will permit interventions at a strategic and meaningful scale. An estimated minimum of US\$2 million joint investment per country will be sought for alliance projects. Each partner will provide half of the funding from a variety of sources within each partner organization. The alliance will also work actively to raise additional funds from other sources to supplement core project funding.

THE PARTNERS

The International H₂O Collaboration brings together the institutional strengths and resources of two leading international organizations:

Rotary International/The Rotary Foundation

Rotary International, the world's first service organization, is made up of 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas. Its 1.2 million members make up a global network of business, professional, and community leaders who carry out service projects worldwide. Rotary offers a grassroots approach to problem solving as Rotary club members understand the needs of their communities and have boots on the ground to develop and implement effective, sustainable projects. Many Rotary projects receive support from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary's philanthropic arm. The Foundation awards about \$80 million annually for Rotary projects and programs that provide humanitarian aid and promote international understanding. In 2007-08, the Foundation awarded 561 grants totaling \$8.6 million for water and sanitation projects throughout the developing world.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

The United States has a long history of extending a helping hand to people overseas struggling to make a better life, recover from a disaster, or striving to live in a free and democratic country. USAID is an independent federal government agency that supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade, global health, and democracy, conflict prevention, and humanitarian assistance. As part of its overall programming, USAID works to ensure accessible, reliable, and economically sustainable water and sanitation services. In the 2007 fiscal year, USAID obligated \$212 million for drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. These investments reflect

the urgent need to improve public health, as well as to safeguard water resources for the world's poor.



USAID-supported hygiene behavior change training for teachers in the Brong-Ahafo and western regions of Ghana builds technical excellence and long-term sustainability for community water/sanitation programs.



U.S. Rotarians provided bio-sand water filters to the Dominican Republic through a Rotary Foundation 3-H Grant.

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

To realize alliance goals, USAID and Rotary International will work together to support the three pillars required for sustainable access and use of improved water supplies and sanitation. These are:

- Access to appropriate hardware — municipal and community water supply and sanitation systems, household sanitation facilities and other household-level technologies and products
- Behavior change and hygiene promotion — community mobilization for sustained management of water supply and sanitation infrastructure; social marketing campaigns to increase demand for water, sanitation, and hygiene; hygiene promotion programs
- Enabling environment — community organization, improving policies, institutional support, sustainable financing, and cost recovery for improving the sustainability of projects

“Through this important collaboration, the service ethic and commitment of hundreds of thousands of Rotarians around the world will be joined with the global development expertise and technical leadership of USAID to yield a significant, sustainable increase in water supply and sanitation coverage for the planet’s poorest and most vulnerable populations.”

— USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham



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