



Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education in Haiti

“Water isn’t supposed to be a luxury, due to the fact that no one can live without it. But the water that we have access to here, that our children gather in the river, is literally killing our people.

When we heard about PWW and the work they were doing, we were so excited. For me and the people in my community, we felt it was such a blessing. We quickly learned what safe water tastes like. Then, we started to realize a huge decrease in the number of diseases in our neighborhood.

I am so happy. I feel like a privileged person now! It is hard to say this, since water is not supposed to be such a big deal, but PWW’s water program has changed my life and the lives of my family members.

I hope it will be the same for the rest of my people in this country, suffering so much, waiting for safe water.” - Jesula Jean-Jacques, Bernard, Haiti



Pure Water for the World, Inc. (PWW) envisions a world in which all people have safe water, proper sanitation and the knowledge to sustain it for future generations.

PWW was launched as a Rotary club project in 1994 by passionate Rotarians in Brattleboro, VT who saw the need for safe water and took action. The success of the project outgrew the club’s capacity, and, in 1999, Pure Water for the World, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, was born.

For over 20 years, PWW has worked tirelessly to change the course of the devastating global water crisis by bringing integrated and comprehensive solutions to the most underserved communities in Central America and Haiti. The health of communities reached changes entirely, *almost immediately*, at a surprisingly low cost.

Focused on long-term sustainability, **PWW’s mission is to improve lives by empowering people with access to life’s most basic necessities: safe water and sanitation.** We do this by partnering with underserved communities, in Central America and Haiti, providing the tools and education to establish sustainable safe water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) programs.

PWW IN HAITI

PWW opened its doors in Haiti in 2008, serving schools, orphanages, health clinics and hospitals with clean water filters, as well as providing education to schools and communities about safe hygiene and sanitation practices.

After the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010 PWW shifted focus to emergency response, reaching children and families heavily impacted through funding in partnership with Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, and others.



Following the earthquake, cholera was introduced into the waters of Haiti, resulting in widespread illnesses and deaths. PWW advanced our commitment to serving Haiti's most vulnerable citizens by expanding safe water and hygiene programs to reach individual family homes, located in underserved communities that were heavily impacted by cholera and other deadly waterborne diseases.

In Haiti, communities are often densely populated, with hundreds of families living in relatively small areas. Schools have very limited resources and typically no adequate water or sanitation facilities. The primary source of income varies, with most families living on less than \$2/day. The opportunity for good health and educational achievement is marred by perpetual poor health due to lack of basic needs, most specifically, clean water and suitable sanitation.

Today, PWW partners with communities to empower families with safe water and hygiene education programs, working closely with community members to increase engagement, understanding, and efficacy. Communities served are often located within a few hours' drive from Port-au-Prince, where the PWW Haiti office is located and PWW staff members reside.

PWW continues working in schools, consistently expanding efforts to implement comprehensive WASH programs. These programs include clean water filters, rainwater harvesting systems, gender-specific latrines, handwashing stations, hygiene education (incl. menstrual hygiene education), teacher training, monitoring and evaluation follow-up.

Comprehensive WASH programs reduce waterborne illnesses and their related consequences, empowering community members to regain health and opportunity for success.



STRIFE IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

Since 2019, PWW operations out of Port-au-Prince have been significantly disrupted by the political, economic, and social unrest proliferating the area. This unrest has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

PWW's work in and around Port-au-Prince has been very difficult and, in some cases, impossible to fulfill. The persistent unrest, including perilous gang activity, has meant travel to communities in the greater Port-au-Prince area has not been safe for PWW team members, resulting in disappointing consequences, including having no choice but to cancel scheduled projects and programs.

ENDURANCE IN THE NORTH

PWW's more recent expansion of work into northern Haiti, which initially began in 2017 with WASH in schools, has *not* realized the same obstructions caused by the instability experienced in Port-au-Prince. In fact, PWW has continued to make consistent progress and has effectively launched and implemented new projects.

Haiti's largest city in the north, Cap-Haïtien, experiences a much more stable and safer environment, as do the surrounding regions. In fall 2020, in spite of the global pandemic, PWW was able to successfully launch a new project, funded by Rotary International, which will empower 400 families in the rural communities of Pistère and Deréal (located in the Limonade commune, SE of Cap Haïtien) with reliable access to safe, clean water along with critical safe hygiene and sanitation practices.

Here is a sample of what families in Pistère, who have worked with PWW, are saying:

- ◆ *"We are empowered to take care of our own health now. There is a new sense of connection and community."*
- ◆ *"All of the family is healthy with no more stomachaches. Thank God for bringing us clean water."*
- ◆ *"This project is very good for our health. Everyone in our family only drinks this water now. We have to drink it to feel good. This project is very good for the whole community."*
- ◆ *"We used to have so many sicknesses with our children. Now we have none!"*





PWW's work in Pistère and Deréal has been further enhanced by a strong and growing alliance with Soaring Unlimited (SU), a US-founded nonprofit that has a medical clinic located in Pistère. They have operated in the Cap Haïtien /Limonade area for more than 25 years. SU's mission is focused on enhancing the quality of life among Haitians by empowering them in the areas of medical services, education, and community development

“Soaring Unlimited Haiti is so pleased, privileged, and proud to be partnering with Pure Water for the World in Northeast Haiti! PWW’s WASH emphasis fits so well with Soaring’s long-term community programming in health and sanitation at our rural medical clinic in the Pistère Village.

We look forward to continuing to serve in common and partner with PWW in the future, at the intersection of hygiene and health, as we work together on community training, education, and outreach to assist and protect Haitian families and children.” - Rev. Dr. Laura Alexander Elliott, Executive Director, Soaring Unlimited



With PWW and SU working in collaboration, families in the greater Limonade commune are able to secure the necessary tools, resources and education to support their overall health and wellbeing.

TIME FOR CONSIDERATION

Due to the enduring uncertainty and increasing obstacles to working out of the Port-au-Prince office, in January 2021, PWW's Board of Directors created a Haiti Task Force. The goal was to fully assess the political and economic climate, WASH needs and PWW's ability to fulfill those needs, funding opportunities, as well as an assessment of potential partners and alliances to advance PWW programs in the north and northeast regions of Haiti. The Haiti Task Force hired a consultant, with significant experience working in the WASH sector in Haiti, to assist with more detailed and on the ground research to inform the recommendation.

Input from the Haiti Task Force resulted in a strong and positive recommendation to the board and an organizational decision to officially move PWW Haiti offices to the Cap Haïtien area and to continue work in the surrounding high need communities that are more reliably accessible and eager to play an active role in owning their safe water and sanitation programs.



The Haiti Task Force recommendation included research that demonstrated:

- Significant need for clean water and sanitation among families living in the north and northeast regions of Haiti. There is a particularly high need for WASH solutions in Limonade, of which Pistère and Deréal are a part. A surging increase in the population in Limonade has resulted in substantial challenges to meeting the water needs and addressing sanitation.
- Indication of strong reception among local residents to actively participate in community-focused WASH programs, including volunteering, investing financially, participating in required training programs, and assisting with implementation activities.
- Widespread collaborative opportunities for PWW with entities that have recognized the WASH needs and are focused on development. These entities include active community-based organizations, governmental agencies, other NGOs, and the University of Limonade.
- Appreciably lower security risks.

“Haiti needs organizations who decide to be here not despite of the situation but because of it. Because there is so much difference that PWW can make in the communities.”

– Gentile Senat, Haiti Consultant

LOOKING AHEAD

PWW has learned a great deal over the past 22+ years, with 13 years working in Haiti. From the beginning, PWW has focused on serving families who live in remote and underserved communities, where there are high incidences of waterborne diseases and a scarcity of development assistance. PWW strives to reach those who live *beyond the last mile*.

With this commitment, PWW has gained an understanding that to establish truly sustainable WASH programs, it is vital to create a structure that includes: gaining buy-in and trust from all community leaders and local government agencies, involving the community in the design and implementation of their WASH programs, delivering multiple layers of education to all community members, selecting and educating Community Agents to support families and reinforce learned practices and behaviors, and staying engaged with the community via long-term monitoring to proactively address potential problems and support lasting efficacy.

PWW will be working in the Limonade commune, focusing on the many underserved communities that lack access to clean water and safe sanitation.



PWW will partner with the communities, working together to establish and implement sustainable WASH programs, serving their families, schools and healthcare facilities. With the success of the projects in the Limonade region, over the past few years, along with the establishment of relationships with local partners and community leaders, the groundwork has been laid. That foundation, combined with input from the research conducted by the Haiti Task Force, means that PWW is well-poised to effectively launch this comprehensive WASH model in northern Haiti.

Now. The PWW team in Haiti is completing the 400-family, Rotary International-funded project in Pistère and Deréal, already in progress, adding additional hygiene and sanitation educational training sessions that have been indicated as needed to further improve understanding and use of critical safe water and healthy hygiene practices.

PWW staff is preparing to move with their families from Port-au-Prince to Cap Haïtien/Limonade, where PWW is opening the new office. PWW will hire a Country Director.

PWW is continuing to advance alliances with local government in the north, DINEPA/OREPA (Haiti's WASH governing agency), as well as additional community-based organizations to better understand the WASH needs and determine the most effective solutions.

PWW is expanding the partnership with SU, planning collaborative programs to better serve community members, including expanding upon the WASH education programming (i.e. menstrual hygiene management) to promote sustainable good health.

2022 and Beyond. PWW's goal is to continue to develop its WASH programs in the Limonade region, working with vulnerable families (reaching 200-400 families per year) as well as addressing the WASH needs of schools and healthcare facilities.

PWW will work with community-based organizations and governing agencies to expand our WASH toolkit in Haiti to address the unique needs and appropriate solutions. We anticipate this will include: incorporating additional educational programming to address hygiene and sanitation, diversifying clean water implementation tools, and incorporating sanitation solutions.



INVESTING IN THE HEALTH & FUTURE OF HAITIAN FAMILIES

“The problems of Haiti are many. Our country has a great need for safe drinking water, sanitation, and personal and environmental hygiene. Over 80% of the population suffers from malnutrition; the hygiene conditions in the working-class neighborhoods are alarming.

***PWW’s support for Haiti is colossal and masterful for families, especially those living in the rural areas. The technical and educational support in the areas of hygiene, drinking water and sanitation directly contribute to reducing WASH problems.”** - Jean Pape Ferolus, PWW’s Chief Project Coordinator (pictured)*



PWW is seeking investment support with this important transition north. We are raising \$150,000 to fund the move, continue our work, and reach more families in need of safe water.

Three passionate, long-time PWW and Haiti supporters have come together to offer an incredible \$75,000 in matching funds to secure this transition. Every dollar given toward this advancement in the PWW Haiti program will be matched 100%. Your contribution, *no matter the amount*, is a long-term investment in PWW’s future in Haiti and in the empowerment of the people of Haiti. This investment will enable the PWW team to safely and effectively reach more deserving families, schools and communities with life-changing safe water and sanitation solutions.

Your investment today will:

- ◆ Facilitate PWW’s transition north, enabling the Haiti team and their families to relocate and open PWW’s office in the Cap Haïtien/Limonade area.
- ◆ Support the expansion of the PWW team, including additional training efforts.
- ◆ Allow for additional layers of WASH education to be provided to the 500 existing families served in Pistère and Deréal, as has been indicated necessary by recent monitoring results.
- ◆ Reach more vulnerable families in Pistère and Deréal with sustainable WASH programs.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We're asking you to consider making a donation to support PWW's smooth transition to northern Haiti. We also encourage you to consider continuing to support PWW's commitment to deliver effective and sustainable WASH programs to vulnerable families in northern Haiti for many years to come. **The need is substantial and your investment will make a transformational, lasting impact.**

The economic benefits of investing in water and sanitation are momentous. The World Health Organization reports *"for every dollar invested in water and sanitation, there is a \$4.30 USD return."* Your donation is a long-term investment that will impact generations.



"I am excited to see Pure Water for the World move its focus to serve Northern Haiti, where the need to improve quality of life is great and communities are welcoming of our partnership in providing the WASH technology and education to help them solve their health and water problems. Communities are excited about taking responsibility, which is the only sustainable solution. It changes everything.

After 40 years of involvement in Haiti, my wife, Phyllis, and I have always felt attached to the children who suffer so needlessly from contaminated water and poor sanitation. The PWW solution works and has saved lives. Many lives! The need is real. The solution is real. The impact is real. That's why we give!"



– Bill Donberg, PWW Board Member and Haiti Match Contributor

Dedicated to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All

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