

## at a glance: the sanitation crisis

### Improved sanitation facilities could reduce diarrhea-related deaths in young children by more than one-third.

If hygiene promotion is added, such as teaching proper hand washing, it could be reduced by two-thirds.

UNICEF, [www.unicef.org/media/media\\_39569.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_39569.html) 2008

### Almost 2 million children under the age of five die of diarrhea each year.

UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 2008

In the past ten years **diarrhea has killed more children** than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II.

Wateraid and Tearfund, Human Waste Report, 2002z

Children in developing countries commonly carry up to **one thousand hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms at a time**, causing **anaemia, stunted growth and other debilitating conditions**.

UNICEF 2000, quoted in Human Waste Report, 2002

**One gram of feces can contain ten million viruses**, one million bacteria, one thousand parasite cysts, and one hundred parasite eggs.

UNICEF 2000, quoted in Human Waste Report 2002.

More than **half of all girls who drop out of primary school do so for lack of separate toilets** and easy access to safe water.

UNICEF, "Women, Water and Hygiene Are Key to Change in Africa," 2005

Indicators show **sewage levels in Asia's rivers are fifty times higher** than the World Health Organization guidelines for safe levels.

UNICEF, "Time to wake up to the Sewage Crisis," 2008

"It is clear that **investing in sanitation generates massive returns on health, the environment and the economy**. In fact, the overwhelming evidence is that there is no single development policy intervention that brings greater public health returns than investment in basic sanitation and hygiene practices. The UN estimates that **for every \$1 spent on sanitation, the return on investment is around \$9.**"

Wateraid 2008

Over 150 nations are working to **halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation** (Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 10). At current rates of progress, **the target is not expected to be met** in sub-Saharan Africa until at least 2076.

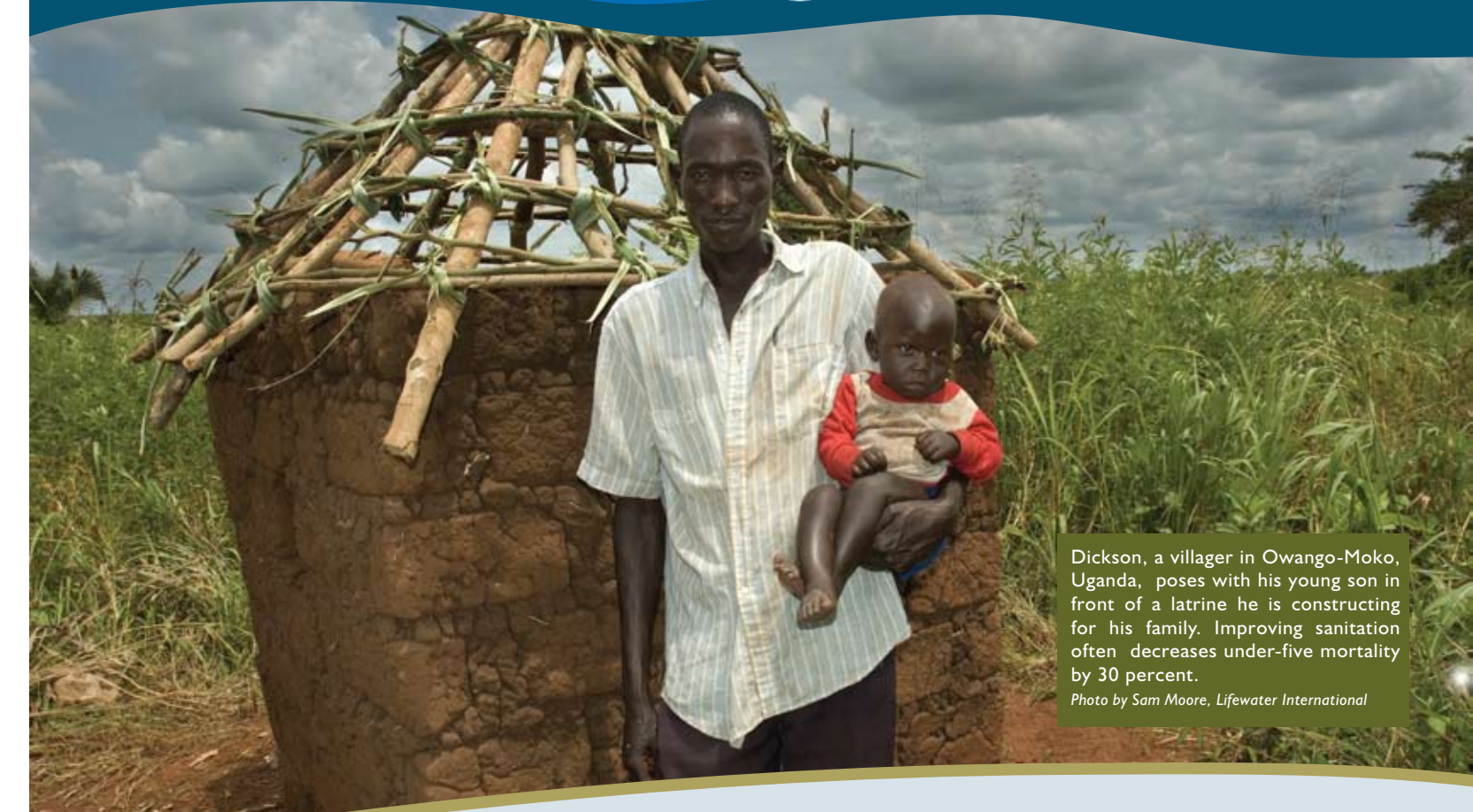
Footsteps 73, Tearfund, 2007



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**lifewater news**  
2008 Issue One



Dickson, a villager in Owango-Moko, Uganda, poses with his young son in front of a latrine he is constructing for his family. Improving sanitation often decreases under-five mortality by 30 percent.  
Photo by Sam Moore, Lifewater International

## issue focus: the global sanitation crisis

### Worth the Sacrifice: Striving for Sanitation in Ecuador

by Leslie Hawthorne Klingler, Communications Manager

Teams of muscled young men play soccer in the twilight while children banter and chickens weave through the tall stilts supporting village homes. A small river community in the Ecuadorian jungle, Zapallo Grande appears strong and peaceful, belying the fact that just yesterday two baby girls died of diarrheal disease.

A horn blows, announcing to the eighty-seven families of Zapallo Grande that the "Engineer"—César Cortéz of Lifewater partner organization HCJB—has arrived, and the long-anticipated town meeting is about to begin. A school classroom quickly fills with indigenous Chachi and Afro-Ecuadorians, representing the two major ethnic groups that make up the population in this part of the jungle. In many nearby villages these groups live in tension or indifference to one another, but life in Zapallo Grande is different: the two groups live together harmoniously, and the village's Afro-Ecuadorians are fluent in the indigenous language. The Gospel, presented there two generations ago, has made a difference.

Community members slide into dilapidated desks and chatter like family. Juan, a handsome young Chachi, opens the meeting by encouraging those gathered. "Zapallo Grande is walking toward development," he says, "slowly like a tortoise, but always walking." Juan invites people to express their concerns about their efforts to improve their quality of life. One after another, individuals affirm their eagerness to obtain safe water and latrines. "Now that we know our water is contaminated, we long for good

Cont. on page 4

Below: Zapallo Grande's "main street" along the Cayapas River. In December 2007, Lifewater partner HCJB helped the community construct latrines in every home and at the school. They are now preparing to install a new water system. HCJB strives to reach as many river communities as possible, many of which have infant mortality rates of 30 percent. Photo by Martin Harrison, HCJB



## from the director's desk



I use the bathroom unthinkingly—until I go to one I don't like. Using a dirty restroom disgusts me. "Why don't they keep this place clean?" I fume and mutter that I'll never patronize the place again. Then I remember that two of every five people in our world don't have a bathroom to complain about.

Every day over 40 percent of the global population faces the dangers of exposure to human waste. Every day women are assaulted when they go out alone in search of privacy. Every day adolescent girls drop out of school for lack of private restrooms. This simply should not be.

God has given us knowledge about disease transmission through human waste and the ability to construct hygienic latrines with easily available materials. It is time to share this knowledge with those who have never heard about sanitation's benefits.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation. I invite you to make addressing the sanitation crisis one of your goals in 2008. In this newsletter you will find practical suggestions on how to do that.

In His Love,

Dan Stevens, Executive Director



**Significant Sacrifice: An Easter Journey has begun, but it's not too late to join in!** Give up an activity during Lent to remember Christ's sacrifice and those who drink the cup of suffering every day. Use the **Significant Sacrifice** Lenten devotional guide found on Lifewater's website, [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) (or call for a printed copy), to enrich your journey. After Easter, share the joy of the resurrection by donating the money you saved by abstaining from your chosen activity during Lent. Lifewater will use your gift to help people gain health and hope through safe water, sanitation, hygiene education, and the good news of Christ's love.

## TRANSFORMING Communities

Lifewater International 2008 Annual Conference

Friday, June 20 to Sunday, June 22

Chapman University, Orange, California

Lifewater International's annual conference is an exciting opportunity to learn and connect with others who are passionate about God's work in the world through efforts to meet people's basic needs. Join Lifewater supporters, field trainers, staff, and international partners to learn about Lifewater's current work, the global water and sanitation crisis, and how to get involved. This year's conference focuses on how God transforms communities through water, sanitation, hygiene education, and the good news of Jesus' love.

**Former chair of the board of World Vision**, pastor, professor, and author **Roberta Hestenes** will provide the keynote message, and **Mike Yankoski**, author of *Under the Overpass*, will share about recent experiences in East African communities.

Saturday workshops include **case studies** on communities in transformation, the **International Year of Sanitation**, **tax-wise tools** to leverage giving, Lifewater's new **photojournalism** program, water development **technologies**, and foundations for **sustainable community development**.

Food, lodging, and childcare will be provided on-site. Visit Lifewater's website at [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) for details and registration, or return the registration form provided in this newsletter.



## WASH works

News on Lifewater's work in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

### Why Sanitation Matters

An interview with Sam Moore, Sanitation Specialist

#### So what is sanitation?

Sanitation is the disposing of human feces so that it does not come into contact with people, animals, or insects. The term "adequate sanitation" is used to describe the basic conditions – including hand washing –necessary for people to dispose of feces hygienically. Sanitation is closely linked to water resources and hygiene.

#### Why is sanitation so important?

Sanitation is critical to health. A reader's survey in the *British Medical Journal* recently identified improved sanitation the most important medical advance in the last 150 years. Human feces harbor many pathogenic agents such as those causing hepatitis, cholera, and typhoid. Every year diarrhea largely caused by fecal contamination kills almost two million children. In addition, millions of men, women, and children suffer from the loss of productivity that comes from sanitation-related diseases.

Sanitation is also a crucial component of human security and dignity. We all need to be able to go to the bathroom without feeling danger or shame. For lack of the privacy that latrines offer, many women wait until night to relieve themselves, and countless girls drop out of school when they begin menstruating.

Without adequate sanitation, it is impossible to reduce poverty and make significant improvements in community health and well-being.

#### Why should Christians care about sanitation?

In Matthew 22, Jesus states that loving God completely and loving our neighbor as ourselves is at the heart of Christian faithfulness. We are compelled to help our neighbors gain access to the things that have brought health and well-being to our lives. We have 2.6 billion neighbors in the world without adequate sanitation. It's time to love them by addressing their basic need for a hygienic latrine.

#### How is Lifewater addressing the sanitation crisis?

Lifewater has developed its sanitation training programs over the last seven years. Many of our partners who once worked exclusively in water development are now implementing sanitation and hygiene education as well. Five Lifewater partners are currently working in community latrine promotion and construction. They are using creative approaches to promote sanitation that include drama, sporting events, and radio spots.

#### What is the International Year of Sanitation?

To raise greater awareness of the global sanitation crisis, the United Nations named 2008 the International Year of Sanitation (IYS). Throughout the year, governmental and non-governmental organizations will encourage greater commitment to global sanitation by seeking funding, innovative technological solutions, and greater community involvement for sanitation programs. The IYS supports the Millennium Development Goals, which is a concerted effort by over 150 nations to reduce poverty by 2015. The goals include halving the number of people in the world without access to adequate sanitation.



A teacher in Kisumu, Kenya, cleans a school latrine.



This original drawing for Lifewater's IYS logo was sketched during a sanitation training at Lifewater's East Africa Partners Conference in Zambia in June 2006. Unfortunately, the artist's name was not recorded.

### You and the International Year of Sanitation (IYS '08)

Every time you see Lifewater's IYS logo, think about the 2.6 billion people in our world who lack adequate sanitation and what you can do to make a difference. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Be thankful.** Every time you enjoy the security and dignity of a hygienic place to go to the bathroom, remember that it is a blessing.
- **Be healthy.** Remember to wash your hands thoroughly every time you use the bathroom, and teach your children to do the same. Also remember to properly dispose of infant and animal feces.
- **Conserve.** Lifewater endorses "When it's yellow, let it mellow. When it's brown, flush it down."
- **Become a Lifewater field trainer** and specialize in sanitation. For details, visit [www.lifewater.org/get\\_involved/field\\_trainers.html](http://www.lifewater.org/get_involved/field_trainers.html).
- **Give.** Financially support Lifewater's work in sanitation.
- **Learn.** Attend the sanitation workshop at Lifewater's annual conference in June. Set up a weekly Google alert for "sanitation crisis." Visit [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org).
- **Spread the word.** Share with others about the International Year of Sanitation and the importance of addressing the global water and sanitation crisis.

### Sanitation Work Isn't Easy

by Sam Moore and Leslie Hawthorne Klingler

Here are a few of the challenges Lifewater and other organizations face when addressing the sanitation crisis:

- Many organizations have installed latrines in villages without educating or achieving "buy in" from recipients. When latrine owners are unconvinced of their importance or uneducated about maintenance, latrines quickly become dirty, smelly, and unsafe. Communities with negative experiences are reluctant to use latrines or get involved in new sanitation initiatives.
- Some organizations install latrines without asking families to contribute their time and resources, so communities sometimes expect Lifewater partners to do the same.
- Women typically place a higher value on access to household sanitation facilities than do men, but men have more control of household expenses and therefore are less likely to spend money on a latrine.
- It is very tempting to put a lock on well-constructed latrines and use them as a safe place for storage.
- Some people believe that evil spirits come up from the latrine pit and enter one's body when one uses the latrine.
- Latrine projects are not as "glamorous" as water projects, and therefore are harder to fund.
- The per-person cost of sanitation facilities is greater than the per-person cost of water facilities. This partially explains why over twice as many people lack access to adequate sanitation as lack safe water.



Staff members of Lifewater partner organizations Joy Drilling and Divine Waters participate in a skit at a sanitation promotion workshop in Lira, Uganda. In the skit, the man in the blue pants is a teacher who is caught red-handed engaging in open defecation. Humorous skits such as this one are friendly yet powerful tools for encouraging people to change their habits.

## lifewater volunteer corner

### Lifewater's New Photojournalism Program

by Lisa Zisa, Lifewater Field Trainer Manager

Sometimes it's easy for a team of field trainers to miss the forest for the trees—to focus so much on the task at hand, adjustments to culture, and meeting new people that we forget to fully appreciate other signs of God's work in the places we visit.

Lifewater's new photojournalism program will train field trainers to capture stories of how God is working in the lives of people in other countries. Our goal is to use the power of good photos and stories to bless and motivate others.

Field trainers accepted into the program will learn principles of ethical photojournalism, basic photography, and journalism skills. Before traveling, photojournalists will receive guidance from Lifewater's communications department. For example, next year's conference will focus on "Water and Children," so photojournalists may be asked to look for stories and photos of children.

Upon returning, photojournalists will submit brief stories and photos with detailed captions. Lifewater will use these contributions to share God's work through its website, newsletter, press releases, and other communications materials.

Keep an eye out for updates on this exciting new opportunity, and be sure to attend the photojournalism workshop at the annual conference in June!



Lifewater International 2008 Annual Conference



Connect. Learn. Empower.  
Attend the Lifewater Annual Conference  
June 20 to 22, 2008.

## growing giving

### Christmas Gifts Give Life to Many

by Lindsay Lange, Development Associate



This Christmas many people chose to "give something better" by participating in Lifewater's alternative gift-giving campaign, **Gift of Water: Gift of Life**. The response to this new opportunity was overwhelmingly positive, and **individual giving in December 2007 increased 36 percent from the previous year.**

**More than five hundred gifts were purchased**, including materials and equipment for two hundred latrines, fifty hand pumps, and twenty-five well drilling trainings. One engineering firm purchased twenty-five biosand filters as Christmas gifts for its employees, and several families gave Lifewater gifts to numerous family members. Latrines were especially popular gifts for brothers and brothers-in-law! Thank you to all who participated in **Gift of Water: Gift of Life** or made other year-end donations.

Lifewater is also grateful to those who have donated in the first months of the new year and supported current funding needs, including **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Primary Schools in Central Ethiopia**. Approximately \$140,000 is still needed to fund the well drilling portion of this project. Visit [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) or contact Erin Roberts at [eroberts@lifewater.org](mailto:eroberts@lifewater.org) for details.



A special "Thank You!" to field trainer Douglas Headrick for providing the main photo for the Christmas campaign. Here is what he says about it: "This photo was taken in 2005 in Ghana. I was there as a Lifewater drilling instructor on advanced well drilling. I met these children while on a survey trip to scout out new drill sites. The children were truly adorable and loved to use the Tara hand pump since it is so easy to operate. . . . If I remember correctly, all three were siblings and were headed home with their water." Lifewater will be using more photos like this from field trainers through the new photojournalism program (see article in the volunteer corner).