Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies

Water is essential for a range of day-to-day human needs, including consumption, hygiene and irrigation. In developing countries where clean water may already be scarce, conflicts or natural disasters can devastate water and sanitation infrastructure, and reduce people’s abilities to access this key resource. As a result, contaminated water and poor quality sanitation services can increase the prevalence of diseases and deteriorate hygiene and productivity. Global Communities’ humanitarian Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs are designed to provide immediate access to clean water and sanitation facilities, while improving hygiene practices and laying the groundwork for longer-term, sustainable WASH solutions. As in all of our humanitarian activities, our WASH programming aims to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations, who often suffer from the biggest adverse impacts of any conflict or disaster.

Since 2013, Global Communities has increased hygiene and sanitation awareness for 186,925 individuals, and provided critically needed water and sanitation services to 165,394 people.

Global Communities provides hygiene kits to improve the quality of life of internally displaced people in Syria.

In volatile environments such as Syria and Yemen, we employ remote management and monitoring strategies through the use of electronic beneficiary registration cards, tablet-based data collection, GPS mapping, and tracking of water trucking and distribution points. These tools enable real-time status updates of all WASH services, as well as enabling us to pinpoint which families have benefitted from which services.

Global Communities’ WASH programming adheres to internationally recognized standards and best practices, ensuring that services are provided in line with the Do No Harm framework, Sphere standards, and humanitarian principles, and that services are of the highest quality. Our WASH programming aims to provide specialized services targeting the most vulnerable beneficiaries who cannot afford or physically do not have access to water or basic hygiene items, through activities such as provision of specially-designed hygiene kits for the elderly, disabled, pregnant women, and new mothers. Global Communities also rehabilitates or repairs water supply and sanitation systems and trains beneficiaries in their use, maintenance and oversight. Our programming includes simple picture-based hygiene promotion messaging to communicate proper WASH techniques.

As part of our humanitarian approach, Global Communities seeks to link our WASH activities with other humanitarian activities. For example, we incorporate hygiene information for children in schools into our Child Protection programming, and coordinate hygiene promotion campaigns with protection and other activities.

Delivering chlorine during the Ebola crisis, Liberia
Since 2013, Global Communities has:

- Raised awareness about hygiene and sanitation issues to **186,925 people**, including the importance of and correct method of handwashing, safe water storage, and prevention of communicable diseases;
- Trained over **33,000 hygiene promoters**;
- Distributed **136,632 hygiene kits** to families, **7,935 diaper kits** to infants and the elderly, and **1,987 mama-baby kits** to new mothers;
- Provided **water and sanitation services to nearly 187,000 people**, through water infrastructure repair and rehabilitation, water trucking, water supply operation and management including chlorination, waste management, and installation of handwashing stations and latrines;
- Provided **training and support to over 180 water committee members**;
- Rehabilitated or repaired **39 water and sanitation facilities**.

Our WASH work has been funded by the United Nations’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ Humanitarian Funding (UN/OCHA HF) and the United States Agency for International Development’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA).

**Syria**

Under our Syria Relief and Resiliency Program (SRRP), Global Communities provided hygiene kits to **13,165 households benefiting 89,098 individuals**, distributing **7,935 diaper kits** to infants and the elderly, **1,987 specialized kits** to pregnant women and women with newborns, and **500 waste bins to households**. In addition, we rehabilitated four water stations and six sanitation stations, and provided daily **WASH services to over 65,000 displaced people** living in an urban camp setting, providing **25 liters of water per person daily**, or **1.7 million liters of potable water per day total**.

In July 2017, we began implementing the Response and Intervention Support for Emergencies (RISE) program, which continues the work of SRRP and expands our geographic reach throughout northern Syria. Under RISE, we will distribute **87,800 hygiene kits**, **build 200 latrines**, **train 80 hygiene promotion volunteers**, implement hygiene promotion and clean-up campaigns benefitting **67,500 people**. We will also continue providing daily water trucking, water system maintenance, and sanitation activities to the internally displaced persons camp, and reach another **20,000 in non-camp communities**.

Through UN/OCHA funding, Global Communities is also implementing the Sewage Infrastructure and Household Latrines Construction project, which will construct a sewage system and provide **275 latrines** directly benefiting **50,192 camp residents**.

Water station, Syria
Yemen

In Yemen, through our Emergency Assistance to Support Yemeni Communities (EASE) program, we trained 235 health promoters, and distributed hygiene kits and provided hygiene awareness messaging to 15,869 beneficiaries. In addition, under the Yemen Early Recovery Support (YERS) program we trained 181 water committee members, rehabilitated 29 rural community water points, and rehabilitated sanitation facilities in five schools benefiting 5,729 students. We also distributed hygiene kits and provided hygiene sessions to 3,800 beneficiaries.

Under our Northern Support to Yemen for Infrastructure, Cash Assistance and Livelihoods (NSYNC Livelihoods) Global Communities will train 44 hygiene promoters, reaching 1,980 beneficiaries with WASH messaging, and distribute 4,820 cholera prevention kits. In October 2017, Global Communities will begin the Continued Recovery, Emergency Assistance, and Training Engagement in Yemen (CREATE Yemen) program, under which we will train 92 hygiene promoters to provide WASH messaging to 14,100 beneficiaries, distribute WASH kits to 4,500 households and 16 schools, reaching 9,600 students. Both CREATE and NSYNC will rehabilitate public water supply infrastructure, benefiting nearly 100,000 individuals in total.
Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. Please visit our website at www.globalcommunities.org for more information.

In Liberia, Global Communities trained teams on safe burial practices to limit the spread of the Ebola virus during the height of the crisis.

**Liberia**

Under our Assisting Liberians with Education to Reduce Transmission (ALERT) program, Global Communities provided rapid outreach and education to communities at risk of exposure to the Ebola virus. Through this program, we trained 32,861 Community Health Workers, 25% of whom were female, installed hand-washing stations in 1,926 households, installed 1,870 latrines in rural Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) communities, conducted 2,688 safe burials, provided sanitation services to 45,366 beneficiaries, and raised awareness of proper sanitation practices for 71,212 beneficiaries.

![Hand-washing station in CLTS community, Liberia](image)