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World Water Day

World Water Day is held annually on March 22.

Recognized by the [United Nations](#) and the global community, World Water Day reminds us that much of the world still faces a global water, sanitation and hygiene crisis, and that it is our obligation to act.

Why Is World Water Day Important?

World Water Day is an opportunity for people to raise awareness of the WASH crisis and talk about how we will solve this challenge. It is unacceptable that:

- **663 million** people—almost entirely the poorest and most marginalized in the world—live without access to safe drinking water. **2.4 billion** people lack access to improved sanitation (a pit latrine or better).
- Lack of access to WASH contributes to **two of the three leading killers of children** under five years old in the world. These diseases are **pneumonia**, which could be prevented by handwashing with soap; and **diarrhea**, which comes from drinking unsafe water and a lack of sanitation around the world. With safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, children's lives will be saved

What can you do?

Faith communities are raising money to provide safe drinking water to millions of people worldwide. **Students** are learning about the WASH crisis and how they can help. They are also creating life-long relationships with their partner schoolchildren through service learning trips. **Civic organizations** work with universities and local partners to address urban water issues through effective business models.

Advocacy

Call your member of Congress at 202-224-3121 and say you want to support efforts already underway to solve the global water, sanitation, and hygiene crisis. You can also [visit their office](#) or write a letter.

Get Involved

Do you work for a company interested in sponsoring an event or providing an opportunity for your employees to celebrate? Are you a student or teacher interested in celebrating World Water Day? Are you a part of a nonprofit organization? Are you a member or leader of a faith-based community? Contact our Communications Manager, [Billy DeLancey](#), for more information. **Make a difference for WASH!**

Past World Water Day Events

World Water Day 2014



UNICEF Tap Project

The UNICEF Tap Project invited participants to go without their phone to help children in need of clean water. For every ten minutes participants didn't touch their phone, UNICEF Tap Project donors and sponsors funded one day of clean water for a child in need!

March 18-30: Washington, DC: [Environmental Film Festival](#)

The focus of last year's Environmental Film Festival was "Our Cities, Our Planet." Films covered a broad range of

topics; many focused on water.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM FESTIVAL
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL**



March 19-21: Malaysia: [AsiaWater2014](#)

Asia's finest water and wastewater exhibition returned in 2014 in conjunction with World Water Day. This exhibition featured the most cutting edge products, new trends and leading technologies around the world. The theme of 2014 was "Leading the Way to Sustainable Water Technology."

March 20-21, 2014: Tokyo, Japan: [UN-Water World Water Day 2014](#)

The main celebrations of World Water Day took place at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. The World Water Development Report 2014 on Water and Energy was launched, and the UN-Water "Water for Life" Best Practices Award was given.

March 21, 2014: Virginia: [World Water Day Symposium](#)

The University of Virginia held a day-long [symposium](#) that highlighted the challenges, actions, and global importance of sustainable water and energy practices.

March 21, 2014: Washington DC: [International Water Day Conference](#)

The Women and Water Project, a State Department-funded project at GW's Elliott School, and WASH Advocates hosted a roundtable breakfast event from 9am to 11am to discuss energy and water challenges and share knowledge on improving management and governance through enhanced participation of women and social inclusion.

March 21, 2014: NYC: [Middlesex Water Company celebrates at NASDAQ MarketSite](#)



At 4:00pm, the Middlesex Water Company observed the beginning of World Water Day at NSADAQ MarketSite by ringing the NASDAQ Stock Market Closingn Bell at 4:00pm ET. 2014's World Water Day Theme centered around the collaboration between water and energy, key aspects reflected in Middlesex Water Company's strategic initiatives.

March 22, 2014: Ontario, Candada: [Rain Barrel Fundraiser Begins](#)



In observation of World Water Day, over 100 non-profit organizations across Canada launched [rain barrel sales](#).

These rain barrels were instrumental in the conservation of both water and energy, especially during outdoor watering restrictions and emergencies.

March 22,2014: Whole World Water Campaign 2014

Whole World Water, a campaign that began in March 2014 to unite the hospitality and tourism Industry to help provide water for the people in the world without access to safe, clean water. See Whole World Water's campaign schedule [here](#).



March 22, 2014: Philadelphia World Water Day 5K Walk/Run

The walk/run will supported Keiyo Soy Ministries, an organization dedicated to raising funds to combat the urgent need for clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education in the Kerio Valley in the Rift Valley Province of northern Kenya.

March 22, 2014: Columbus, OH: [PackH2O showcased at APTE Conference](#)

PackH2O was honored at the [Alleviating Poverty Through Entrepreneurship](#) (APTE) conference for providing 100,000 water packs in 2 years. PackH2O will collaborated with APTE student leaders to raise awareness about the Achilles' heel of the global water crisis – carrying water from source to home. Students raised money to send 10,000 water backpacks to women and



children in Kenya with Partners for Care.

March 22, 2014: Worldwide: Nestle Waters and Project Wet educate children

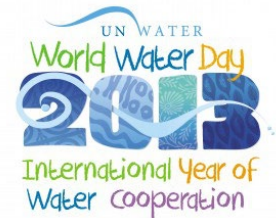
More than 500 employees in around 30 countries welcomed 15 000 children, as well as fellow collaborators and local communities, to fun, interactive events focused on increasing awareness about water conservation and healthy hydration.

March 22, 2014: WaterAid World Water Day 2014 Toolkit

WaterAid put together a World Water Day Toolkit that provided ways to take action! The toolkit suggested showing support for the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act which was signed into law on December 19th by President Obama.

World Water Day 2013

[Click here](#) to read the 2013 World Water Day Report



Across the United States, people celebrated World Water Day through learning events, walks and runs, performances, and social media. Here are just a few examples:

March 11 and 12: Washington, DC: WASH Sustainability Forum This forum examined the role of collaboration, particularly with governments, in ensuring lasting WASH services. Bringing together a broad mix of stakeholders, the day's conversation provided a practical foundation for strengthening collaboration with governments and other development partners around the world. Further, this event fostered initial conversations around coordination, the 2013 theme for World Water Day. [Click here for WASH Advocates' press release on the Forum, "Governments Are Key to Sustainable Solutions to the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Crisis"](#) Hosted by The World Bank Group, UNICEF, Global Water Challenge, WASH Advocates, Aguaconsult, and IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. A webcast of the day's events will be available soon. Check [here](#) for more details.

March 16: Springs Preserve, NV

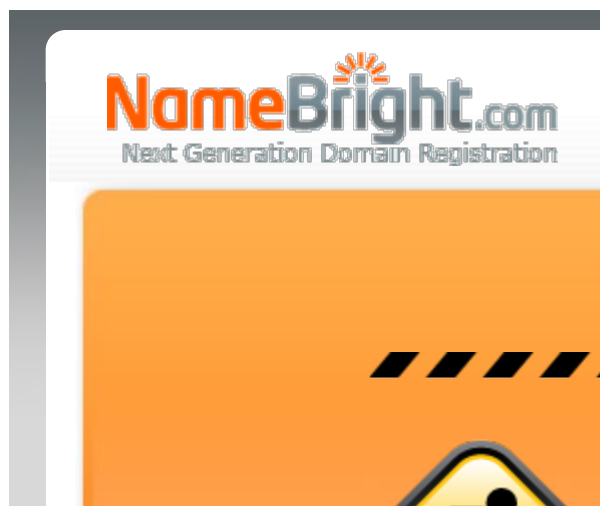
[Cirque du Soleil 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk](#) The week before World Water Day started with the "Run Away with Cirque du Soleil 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk" with all proceeds going to the Springs



Preserve, a natural park and cultural center devoted to commemorating the history of Las Vegas and promoting sustainability.

March 16-24: [World Walks for Water and Sanitation](#)

Thousands of people across the globe [walked together](#) to demand political change. The walks took place around World Water Day and built on the success of past campaigns. Because of these global actions, governments took notice and made promises both nationally and internationally which we now have to make sure they keep.



March 19-20: Boulder, CO: [WASH Symposium: New Perspectives in Sanitation](#)

The intent of the Colorado WASH Symposium was to provide a platform for sharing and expanding knowledge in the field of water, sanitation, and hygiene in development context. The symposium brought together leaders and WASH practitioners in the private sector, social enterprises, NGOs, academia, and development agencies. The symposium provided a valuable opportunity to meet and network with local, national and international actors in the WASH sector and to learn about their past experiences as well as new approaches and perspectives. Wednesday, March 20th saw an opportunity for the wider public to participate through an international webinar. The webinar focused on novel approaches to the sanitation value chain. Webinar participants had the opportunity to ask questions and engage the speakers during portions of the event. Key speakers included: Carl Hensman, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Kara Nelson, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley; David Auerbach, co-founder of Sanergy based in Kenya; and Ryan Mahoney, Research Scientist working on the Sol-Char Toilet Research Project at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

March 20: Washington, DC: [World Water Day Advocacy Day](#)

Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene and integrated water resource management underlie many U.S. foreign policy priorities. By improving integrated approaches, we can enhance child survival, improve gender equality, protect the environment, and expand education. Supporters from around the United States



gathered on Capitol Hill to educate Congress on international water issues and build support for the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013.

March 20: Washington, DC; [Embassy of France: A Thirsty World](#)

Today, as the world's population increases and the impact of climate change worsens, water has become one of our planet's most precious natural resources. Filmed in 20 countries, "A Thirsty World" reveals the mysterious and fascinating world of fresh water through spectacular aerial images shot in regions that are difficult to reach and rarely filmed, like Southern Sudan or Northern Congo." "A Thirsty World" was co-presented by the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital and La Maison Française at the Embassy of France.

March 21: Worldwide, [FRAMEwebinar: Strengthening Water Resource Management through Cooperation and Multilateral Collaboration](#)

Chris Holmes of the USAID Water Office participated in a webinar discussing practical Water Cooperation on a community-, national-, and international-level to strengthen water resource management for populations around the globe. He introduced the water problem and discussed the Agency's upcoming release of the Water Strategy.

March 21: Los Angeles, CA: [Cocktails For Causes World Water Day Event](#)

Cocktails For Causes held their Annual World Water Day Event to support Drop In The Bucket, a non profit organization that builds wells and sanitation systems at schools in Africa. Guests enjoyed music by DJ Tiffany and violin virtuoso, DJ Manifesto. John Travis, President and Co-founder of Drop In The Bucket also addressed the audience.



March 22: Las Vegas, NV: [ONE NIGHT for ONE DROP](#)

In celebration of World Water Day on March 22, ONE DROP, the non-profit organization established by Cirque du Soleil Founder Guy Laliberté, presented One Night for ONE DROP. This original production specially created for a one-night-only performance in Las Vegas featured more than 230 Cirque du Soleil artists and guest performers. To share the experience around the world, the event was filmed and a 90-minute special was created. The mission of ONE DROP is to strive to ensure that water is accessible to all, today and forever.

March 22: Washington, DC: [U.S. Water Partnership Multiple Use Services Workshop](#)

The U.S. Water Partnership Multiple Use Services (MUS) Workshop at the US Department of State – This

event promoted MUS as a model intervention and engage the implementers, policy makers and donors in a dialogue regarding accelerating MUS adoption.

March 22, Washington, DC: USAID World Water Day Twitterfest

WASH experts held an [online twitter discussion](#) of the water-food security nexus from 12:00-1:30pm. [#WorldWaterDay @USAID](#)

March 22, Boulder, CO: El Porvenir Happy Hour

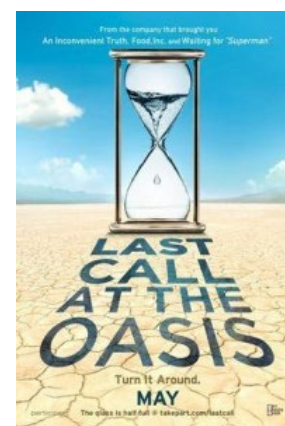
[El Porvenir](#) brought together WASH practitioners to celebrate clean water with water trivia, beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and friends from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The Hermsmeyer Home.

March 22nd, Minnesota: H2O for Life Poster Contest

H2O for Life, the Minnesota Department of Health, Dow Water and Process Solutions, Elkay, and the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association sponsored a poster contest for Minnesota youth, K-12. They asked students to create a poster to raise awareness about our drinking water. The winners can be found [here](#).

March 22, Portland, OR: Last Call at the Oasis film screening

People all over the Portland area celebrated World Water Day by viewing the film Last Call at the Oasis at the Clinton Street Theater. Learn more about water management, successful water initiatives, and how we can all work together to create and maintain sustainable water resources.



March 22, Washington, DC; Carnegie Institution for Science: La Source

The Carnegie Institution for Science and the Environmental Film Festival presented a film that follows the Lajeunesse brothers as they work together to rally the support of a group of Princeton students, a Los Angeles-based charity called Generosity Water and the people of La Source to fulfill their dream of improving the conditions of their impoverished village. The film captures the story of one man, empowered by a vision, who was able to ignite the passion of people thousands of miles away to change lives in La Source forever. In Creole and English. Directed by Patrick Shen. Produced by Patrick Shen, Brandon Vedder and Jordan Wagner. Discussion followed with filmmaker [Patrick Shen](#) and Raymond Joseph, Former Haitian Ambassador to the United States and Founder, A Dollar A Tree For Haiti.

March 22: Worldwide: Google Hangout

In partnership with Google+, 452 people logged on for a hangout celebration on World Water Day, March 22nd! The event was focused on raising awareness for the 780 million people that do not have access to clean water — and what we can do together to solve the water crisis. The hangout featured representatives from [+charity: water](#), [+Water.org](#), [+Water For People](#), [+WaterAid](#), [+PEOPLE WATER](#), [+WHOLE WORLD](#)

[Water](#), and was moderated by YouTube Star + [Justine Ezarik](#). The participants discussed the water crisis at large, and how we can take action. [#WorldWaterDay2013](#)



March 23: Los Angeles, CA: World Water Day Awareness Raising
Radio Disney partnered with Tetra Tech and Drop in the Bucket to host a fun World Water Day awareness event at the [2013 El Segundo Run for Education 5K](#).

March 27: Progress – Gaps – Solutions in Education, Health, and Security The Georgetown Club of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., for a special reception and discussion. “[Hoyas in Action: In Service to Children Around the World](#)” discussed the progress, gaps, and solutions in education, health, and security as they relate to children around the world.

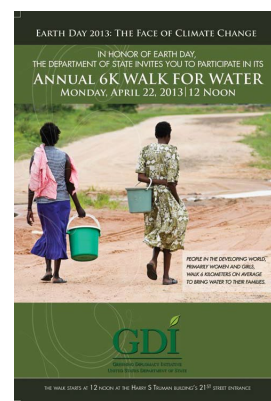
April 9: SMU Panel Discussion: [Water and Women: The Ripple Effect](#) (6:30-8 p.m. EDT/5:30-7 p.m. CDT)

A discussion on the impacts of water, sanitation, and hygiene on the lives of women in the developing world. Featured speaker was Gary Edson, global health fellow at the George W. Bush Institute and former CEO of the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund. The panel was moderated by Ben Mann, Director of Global Partnerships at WASH Advocates, and featured Edson, Tanvi Nagpal (Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies), Katherine Bliss (Center for Strategic and International Studies), Katie Spatz (Safe Water Activist), and Vanessa Tobin (Catholic Relief Services). Hosted by SMU’s Hunt Institute for Engineering & Humanity, the Bush Institute, Living Water International, and WASH Advocates. **Location:** Vestor Hughes Auditorium, Caruth Hall, SMU. Free and open to the public, but seating is limited

April 9: Emory University Panel Discussion: “[Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Transforming Lives](#)” (5:00-6:30 EDT/4:00-5:30 CDT) This panel moderated by Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH, Vice President for Global Health at Emory and former director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Featured panelists were Dr. Robert Tauxe (CDC), Dr. Christine Moe (Emory’s Center for Global Safe Water), Dr. David Addis (Task Force for Global Health), and Ms. Lourdes Mindreau (CARE Peru). Hosted by CARE, Emory’s Center for Global Safe Water, CDC, Habitat for Humanity, and the Task Force for Global Health. **Location:** Claudia Nance Rollins Auditorium, Emory University

April 22: Washington DC: [Walk for Water](#)

The U.S. State Department and USAID will be participating in [6K Walk For Water](#), in honor of the millions of women and children who must walk that distance every day to fetch safe drinking water; and to raise awareness of the world’s water and sanitation crisis. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.





For more information, please contact Cecilia Snyder at csnyder@WASHadvocates.org

World Water Day 2012

In a speech commemorating World Water Day 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton today launched a new partnership to improve water security. The U.S. Water Partnership (USWP) is a public-private partnership that seeks to mobilize U.S.-based knowledge, expertise and resources to improve water security around the world – particularly in those countries most in need.

A diverse coalition of organizations came together for World Water Day 2012. The goal was to optimize awareness, visibility of world water crisis and call for stronger commitments and more robust action to ensure universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

The 2012 coalition includes Action Against Hunger, Africare, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Church World Service, Conservation International, Dig Deep, Earth Day Network, Emory University, FHI 360, Foundation Center, Global Soap Project, Global Water Challenge, Helen Keller Institute, Improve International, International Housing Coalition, Lions Clubs International, Living Water International, Millennium Water Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, PATH, Plan, Procter & Gamble, PSI, Save the Children, Tetra Tech, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, The Nature Conservancy, The Original Brooklyn Water Bagel, WASH Advocates, WASRAG, Water4 Foundation, WaterAid, Water and Sanitation Program, Water For People, Water.org, and World Vision.

“Get Schooled on WASH” Learning Sessions

On March 21, in honor of World Water Day, WASH Advocates coordinated “Get Schooled on WASH” with sessions on WASH basics, WASH sustainability, emerging issues in WASH, WASH as it relates to other development sectors, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Over 120 participants from over 75 organizations gathered to learn from colleagues and share knowledge with those familiar with WASH and those new to the sector. The participants and presenters represented a wide range of NGOs, multi-laterals, corporations, foundations, academia, as well as civic and faith-based organizations.



Sec. Clinton announces the U.S. Water Partnership (USWP), a public-private partnership that seeks to mobilize U.S.-based knowledge, expertise and resources to improve water security around the world.

2012 Advocacy Day

To support the Secretary's remarks a group of more than 100 advocates from around the country met with Members of Congress on the afternoon of March 22, urging Members to pass the Water for the World Act. The new legislation would create greater U.S. leadership on access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the world's poor by finding efficiencies in current programming, without spending new money.

World Water Day 2011

In 2011, a coalition of diverse U.S.-based organizations hosted several events in Washington calling for increased commitments by the U.S. government and private citizens to reduce poverty, disease and hunger by helping to improve sustainable access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation for many millions around the world. These events included:

- A *Making Progress Learning Forum*, a series of interactive sessions designed to share successes and failures in WASH programs around the world.
- Three Cross-sectoral Working Groups, which included WASH as it relates to health, education and environmental conservation. To learn more about each working group, check-out the [Defeat Diarrheal Disease blog](#).

On World Water Day, the World Bank and the U.S. State Department co-hosted an international event where U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President of the World Bank Robert Zoellick signed a memorandum of understanding on water. The signing event at The World Bank also celebrated new commitments by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Coca-Cola Company to water and sanitation projects worldwide. To view the event and read about the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Coca-Cola Company commitments, please click on the links below:

- [World Water Day event at The World Bank](#)
- [Coca-Cola Africa Foundation pledges \\$6 million to WASH projects for women and girls](#)
- [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation pledges \\$50 million to WASH](#)

After World Water Day, the coalition hosted Advocacy Day with Members of Congress. Members of the coalition had meetings with Congressional Offices and a Capitol Hill briefing with Congressional staffers from both the House of Representatives and the Senate.