

Frequently Asked Questions

Water and Sanitation Hygiene / Water for Life

1. What is WASH and WFL?

WASH stands for “Water and Sanitation Hygiene” and WFL stands for “Water for Life” WASH projects include providing sanitation thru access to basic toilets and latrines at schools, refugee camps, and rural villages; and hygiene thru projects such as Hand Wash Stands which promote better health through the practice of handwashing and cleanliness.

WFL projects include providing access to safe and clean water through the installation of Afrediv & Submersible Water Pumps, Shallow & Deep-Water Wells, Gravity Flow Water Projects, Water Filtration Plants to purify water, and other similar water infrastructure projects.

2. Can we do WASH / WFL projects in the name of our loved ones, as Sadaqa Jariyah?

Yes. When sponsoring a complete project, donors can request a plaque bearing the name of the sponsor, or the names of the loved ones, be placed at the site so beneficiaries can pray for the sponsors of the project. (Please provide this information at the time of donation in the comments section, or write details on a separate piece of paper if mailing a check.)

3. Are WASH / WFL projects Zakat eligible?

There are various opinions among respected Islamic Scholars about this. In areas hit by disasters and/or drought stricken, some Ulema-e-Karam (Scholars) allow the use of Zakat money for water projects. However, generally speaking, scholars do not allow water projects as Zakat eligible. HHRD does not spend general zakat donations on these projects, but if some donors send Zakat money for a water project, we do not object, as patrons are responsible for making this choice based on their own school of thought.

4. How long does it take for WFL / WASH projects to be completed?

Projects usually take 3-10 months to complete. Timelines are dependent on each country’s project permitting process requirements and the site-selection process which involves finding suitable terrain with adequate water levels.



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5. How do you choose the location of WASH / WFL projects?

Usually, HHRD projects and programs are chosen based on already initiated emergency relief efforts in the area. Whenever HHRD is involved in providing emergency relief services, WASH & WFL projects are considered wherever feasible, and needed, as long-term strategies. Often times, these projects require more effort and resources for proper implementation, which is reflected in the price and longer construction schedules of the WASH & WFL projects.

6. What are the reasons for water shortages?

There are four main reasons for water paucity (shortage):

1. Arid weather
2. Drought--a period in which rainfall is much lower, and evaporation is higher than normal
3. Dehydration of the ground due deforestation and overgrazing by cattle; and
4. Water stress due to increasing numbers of people that rely on limited levels of run-off

7. Who implements WASH / WFL projects?

Usually, local HHRD country teams--with the help of credible contractors and suppliers--implement the projects. Sometimes collaboration is done with other reliable local NGOs, who may have better access to good vendors, contractors, and laborers to implement the projects. In such cases, HHRD teams monitor and evaluate the implementation of the projects.

8. What is the lifespan of WASH / WFL projects?

All water projects involve digging until a water source is discovered. On average, the life of the materials and the infrastructure can be 3 or more years, varying from project to project, country to country, and usage. Regular maintenance and replacement of materials can extend the life of these projects. Specific information about the lifespan of each type of project is given in the description of projects on our WASH-WFL webpage.

9. How is the maintenance and sustainability of WASH / WFL projects ensured?

After providing maintenance training to local water committees and/or humanitarian forums, HHRD transfers the responsibility of maintenance and sustainability of WASH and WFL projects to the local community being served.



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10. Does HHRD perform water quality laboratory tests?

Yes. Local HHRD teams perform two water quality tests. One test is done before the start of a WFL project to test the soil of the area to determine the approximate quality of water at the source aquifer. After the water project is finished, another comprehensive water quality test is done, at a credible laboratory, to determine the safety of the drinking water, as per various international and national standards.

11. Why do WASH / WFL project costs differ for each country?

The cost of WASH & WFL projects are dependent on the terrain, soil conditions and digging requirements of the project site; easy availability of necessary materials; local availability of good & competitively priced vendors, suppliers, laborers and experienced contractors; regulations of the governments, etc. As such, project costs can fluctuate from region to region, country to country.

12. Will I get a report when my project is completed? What is included in the report?

Yes. Each report includes pictures of the project and information about the host country. It may contain official documentation from the host country and photos of the handing over ceremony where the community takes ownership of the water project. Please see a sample report on the WASH website [here](#) or at: hhrd.org/water

13. How can I donate towards a WASH / WFL project?

You can make a general donation, in any amount, to the general WASH/WFL fund. This donation will be put towards any of the general projects being completed by HHRD. Or, you can choose to sponsor a specific water project by donating the full cost of a selected project in the country of your choice.

Donate @ hhrd.org/water

