



MedWater

2017

Annual Report





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From the Executive Director

A solid foundation

After years spent creating a solid base, nurturing relationships, and investing in our community health promoters, I am amazed at the growth that has unfolded this year. When you create a program where communities lead, you create a system of sustainability. Give them the knowledge, the tools, and the support and step back because amazing things will happen.

This year, our community health promoters initiated and formed partners with eight new communities across the Napo province. These installations have occurred at a pace twice as fast as the previous three years.

This year MedWater also explored a new relationship with Katosi Women Development (KWDT), a strong, female led

organization working to improve the lives of rural Ugandan women. In line with the mission of empowering local community members, MedWater trained women on the use of the chlorine generator as well as to repair shallow wells, an integral part of maintaining local water security. The women will use their training to set up a business, servicing the over 50 wells installed by KWDT.

Thank you for your interest in MedWater. We truly believe safe water, sanitation, and hygiene are the foundation to a healthier future. Without your support we couldn't move the mountains that we do.

Sincerely,

Darrell Adams,
Executive Director



Collaborations in the Napo Province, Ecuador

Summary of work

MedWater has made a mission of building relationships with the communities in which we work. The most constructive way to get things done is to use relationships that already exist. Through the direction of our local community health promoters and their existing long term relationships with other communities, MedWater was able to dramatically expand the reach of our services.

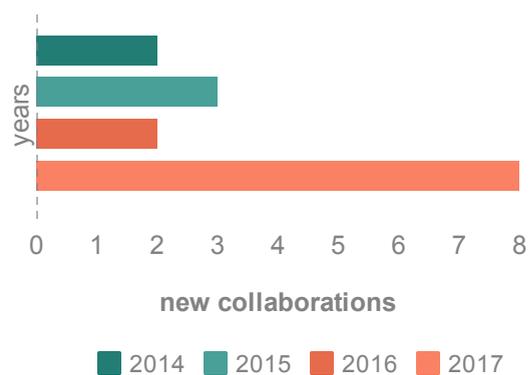
New community partners include

Raya Yaku
Union Venecia
Selva Viva
Machuakuyaku
Nueva Esperanza
Tamiahurcu
Malta Pura and
Canambu

These eight installations have created access to safe water for over 1600 people.

If used consistently, access to safe water can cut cases of diarrhea by a third. Healthier communities mean that fewer hours are spent out of work and away from school.

MedWater community collaborations



MedWater will continue to use the model of health promoter driven collaborations. With local knowledge as the touchstone, our programming has a promising future.

Community Highlights

Malta Pura

The Napo River is the largest river in the Napo province and flows through Ecuador into the Amazon River in Peru. Most of the communities along the Napo where we have worked are on the more populous southern side of the river. Malta Pura is an isolated community on the north side of the Napo. Members of Malta Pura approached Jaime and Lucilla Tapuy and asked if MedWater would help them have safe water. Jaime and Lucilla began teaching them about the issues that effect water and helped them form a community health council of ten intergenerational members.

Darrell Adams, Executive Director, and Deborah Payne, Director of health education, visited Malta Pura in August 2017. The community was very excited to begin work and about 30-40 members of the community gathered to visit with us and show us the community. Their organization and commitment was impressive. The municipality provided the materials for building the safe water station and MedWater provided the chlorinator and filters. When we returned in November they had completed their safe water station and we celebrated with an inauguration.



Community Highlights

Union Venecia

Creating access to the best water possible is the first step in creating safe water. Community members of Union Venecia had been collecting water from an unprotected spring that flowed into the local river. To improve access, the community built a small dam to increase the quantity of water. The community then acquired their own water pump to draw water up into a tank on a raised platform created by the community. This would allow treated water to flow from the tank directly into the kitchen of the community building.

An additional tap was designated for community members to access safe water to fill up their backpacks.

Both activities were initiated by community members without direction from MedWater. Such initiative shows that when communities are provided to meet their own needs, they invest in projects and design it the way they want. We believe this is the true model of sustainable community development.



Community Highlights

Tamiahurcu

Set amongst volcanic rock, deep in the jungle lies the community of Tamiahurcu. A community of 400 who's water source was a pipe that fed water from the mountains, yet still contaminated. On the day of the inauguration of their new system, MedWater was greeted with open arms, bright smiles, amazing traditional soup, plantains, traditional music and even dance. We finished the day with a cutting of ribbon made from a local plant and speeches from the community as to how thankful they are to now have safe water to improve their lives for many generations to come.



Monitoring and Evaluation

MedWater developed a system of monitoring and evaluation to determine the impact of our work. Pilot surveys conducted in the communities of Malta Pura and Raya Yaku were successfully implemented by MedWater personnel and well received by the communities.

Feedback on previous iterations of surveys from our community health promoters suggested that questions were not culturally informed and were too long.

Initial results of the surveys suggested most communities have a basic understanding around the values of safe water, good sanitation, and hygiene. However, prior to the installations of the water systems, there was no access to safe water. The communities also request improvements in sanitation so that every community member has access to a toilet. Improvements could also be made in the understanding how diseases spread.



Collaborations in Mukono District, Uganda

Katosi Women Development Trust

This year, MedWater initiated a collaboration with Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT), an organization working to improve the lives of rural Ugandan women.

As an organization led by women, KWDT recognizes that the key steps to moving out of poverty include business and financial literacy, increased access to safe water and sanitation, and increased education on agricultural management.

Through a collaboration, MedWater trained women to be well repair technicians. This skill set ensures that women can maintain local access to water while making an income as an engineer.

At any point in time, it is estimated that 60% of wells across the world are broken. Installing a well is only helpful if there is someone around that knows how to maintain it.

Through well user committees that collect small fees for the access to water, women can receive pay for their work to keep the wells in working order.

MedWater also trained women on the use of the chlorine generator. This system can treat an entire tank of rain water within an hour. As many households use rainwater for their primary source of water, the system is an appropriate match for improving water quality in these communities.



Collaborations with KWDT and Samuel's Kids Orphanage.

Safe water for Samuel's Kids Orphanage

After training women at KWDT how to use the chlorinator system, these leaders joined MedWater at Samuel's Kids orphanage to install the system at the children's residence.

With over 35 residents in the small house, safe water, sanitation, and good hygiene are critical for maintaining good health.

Older children in the home were trained by KWDT water champions to manage the system.

Younger children were designated to maintain tippy tap hand washing stations and ensure that toilet facilities were kept clean.

Women from KWDT also carried out health and hygiene education for the children at the orphanage. Using a ball, the children made a game of chanting various steps that they could take to improve their own health and hygiene.

Collaborations like the one between MedWater, KWDT, and Samuel's kids demonstrate that sharing knowledge, skills, and tools is more successful when all parties are involved.

Health and hygiene education for youth is the first step towards sustainable improvements in long term public health goals.



"When it comes to WASH management, gender matters."

Women are often the primary managers of water in the home, fetching water for washing, cleaning, and cooking. Ensuring that they are engaged in the water management process is critical for successful WASH programming. Director of Health Education, Deborah Payne, MPH, presented at the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. Her presentation, "Indigenous Kichwa women lead community water and sanitation management in Ecuador," instigated conversation on the issues related to women's roles in WASH management.



02

Annual Budget

INCOME	
Donations	\$128,110
TOTAL INCOME	\$128,110

MedWater works to impact as many lives as possible with a modest budget. Through investments in community health promoters, MedWater is able to extend capacity and improve public health.

EXPENSES	
Staff USA	\$61,530
Trip Abroad travel	\$14,300
Trip Abroad In-country Expenses	\$7,600
Ecuador staff and in-country expenses	\$26,232
Ecuador Expenses USA staff	\$7,600
Hardware/Technology for Public Health	\$11,460
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$128,722

Community
engagement is
the key to
sustainability.
When
communities
lead, good
things happen.

Placing communities at the center of our work has led to amazing outcomes. Water installations get done faster, ideas get shared, toilets are constructed, and health improves. This is the MedWater model.

Our community health promoters are the center of our work.

Lucila Tapuy

A natural leader who talks the talk and walks the walk, Lucila is passionate about giving children what they need to be successful, beginning with good health from safe water.



Jaime Tapuy

Whether it's hiking hours into the jungle or swimming across a river to make it back home, Jaime is a proud member of the Fundación MedWater team, believing every person should have access to clean water.



Jeremias Tapuy

Active with the National Ministry of Health, a personal initiative with medicinal plants, and various local health organizations, Jeremias helps bring together those who strive to develop healthy communities.



Carmen Tapuy

A great educator who loves to get people involved, she specializes in the public health aspects of Medwater's training.

MedWater Staff

Darrell Adams

As the Director of MedWater, Darrell believes the world's health challenges are too complex to be solved singularly. What is needed is a collaboration, the main objective of his work with MedWater



Tammy Truong

Director of Fundación MedWater, Tammy oversees all operations in Ecuador. As a resident of Ecuador, Tammy streamlines operations and facilitates collaborations between communities and the local government.



Chana Fisher

Project Manager, Co-Founder and event coordinator for MedWater, Chana drives the energy of the organization to make things happen and make MedWater visible.



Deborah Payne

As the director of Health Education, Deborah works to make sure that the community health promoters have the tools they need to educate and empower communities.



MedWater

1201 Story Ave

Box 211

Louisville, Kentucky 40206

info@medwater.org

Tel: 502-541-7683