

Wells Bring Hope Information Sheet

www.wellsbringhope.org

MISSION & VISION

Wells Bring Hope (WBH) is committed to drilling wells to bring safe water and good sanitation to rural villages in Niger, West Africa—the second poorest country in the world according to the 2011 UN Development Index. Our vision is saving lives with safe water.

THE PROBLEM

Why do we work in Niger? For one very simple reason: the need is great. 1 out of 4 children die before the age of five, typically from a simple case of diarrhea or other water-borne diseases. 40% of the population has trachoma, which when left untreated, leads to blindness.

Women and girls typically walk 4-6 miles per day to find water for their families. Mothers must enlist the help of their daughters for this difficult task so young girls don't get an education. 85% of women in Niger are illiterate, compared to 43% of men. The tragedy is that while the Niger government recognizes the serious need to provide safe water for its people, they can afford to drill only 10% of the 11,000 wells needed. The wells we drill tap the artesian water level that is plentiful but expensive to access at 250-300 feet underground.

THE SOLUTION

When a borehole well is drilled in a village, premature deaths and water-borne diseases can easily be eliminated. Public health is dramatically improved, and infant mortality drops by up to 65%. Girls go to school, often for the first time in the history of the village. When girls are educated, they tend to marry later and bear children later, reducing the chances of death in childbirth and life-debilitating problems like obstetric fistula.

From our inception in March of 2008, we have partnered with World Vision. They have been responsible for drilling all of our wells as well as the on-going work in the villages. We have a very productive relationship and have great respect for their expertise.

WHY WE'RE UNIQUE FROM OTHER SAFE WATER CAUSES

- In partnership with World Vision, we continue working with a village for 15+years after a well is drilled, educating and monitoring people on good sanitation and hygiene practices to promote lasting change in health.
- We provide micro-financing to women to start small businesses.
- Every donation is multiplied 5x in impact, beginning with a dollar for dollar match by our partner, World Vision, who does all of our drilling, and followed by additional funds provided over 15 years.
- All water projects are fully sustainable, and maintenance training is provided to villagers.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 100% of donations go directly toward the funding of wells.
- Since our inception, operating expenses have accounted for an average of 3.4% of total donations, which are funded from a private family foundation and individual sponsors, not donor dollars.
- For an update on the number of wells drilled, please go to the "About Us" section of our website and locate the "Our Progress" page.