



## Wells Bring Hope Fact Sheet

**Mission:** We drill wells to bring safe water and sanitation to rural villages in Niger, West Africa—the poorest country in the world.

**Vision:** Saving lives with safe water.

### The Problems in Rural Niger

- 1 out of 7 children dies before the age of five, from contaminated water
- 85% of women in Niger are illiterate. (Compared to 43% of men)
- 58% has no access to clean water.
- 96% lacks the basic sanitation, a simple latrine.
- 60% live below the poverty line.
- 40% has trachoma, a water-borne disease, which if left untreated, leads to blindness.

### The Solution

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "No other humanitarian intervention produces a more dramatic effect on life than access to safe water and sanitation." When a well is drilled in a village, lives are transformed instantly and dramatically. The wells we drill tap the underground aquifers, yielding a water supply that is plentiful but expensive to access at 250-300 feet underground.

### When a well is drilled...

- Child mortality drops by 70% as the result of a combined program of safe water, good sanitation, and improved nutrition.
- Water-borne diseases are virtually eliminated.
- Girls, no longer having to walk 4-6 miles a day, can go to school
- When girls are educated, they tend to marry later and bear children later, reducing the chances of death in childbirth.

## WHY WE'RE WORTHY OF SUPPORT

**100% of every donation goes directly to funding wells.**

- We're an all-volunteer nonprofit, with the exception of the Director of Operations.

**We continue working with a village for 15+ years after a well is drilled to ensure sustainability.**

- We educate villagers on good sanitation and proper hygiene including:
  - How to keep utensils clean and protect the water from contamination
  - Why hand washing is important and when it is most critical
  - How to keep the faces of children clean to prevent trachoma

- We teach drip farming and show the villagers how to use the grey water.
- We help the villagers to build latrines, and we educate them on the importance of using them.

**The microfinance training we provide to women enables them to start small businesses and:**

- Contributes to the economic welfare of their families
- They feel pride and a sense of accomplishment
- They become role models for their daughters
- Family harmony comes from shared responsibilities, with men feeling less burdened about providing for their family

*\*Please refer to the [Progress](#) page of the website for the current number of wells drilled.*