



World Water Day and Beyond: Americans Doing Their Part

On March 22nd (World Water Day) and 23rd, Americans will gather to show their support for safe, affordable and sustainable water, sanitation and hygien (‘‘WASH’’) worldwide.

Two days of events in Washington D.C. will provide an unprecedented platform for the American public and private-citizen sectors to redouble efforts for the life-saving work of extending safe water and sanitation. Increased support for WASH internationally will be announced by representatives from the U.S. Government, foundations, universities, corporations, civic groups, faith communities and non-profit development organizations.

Nearly 1 billion people around the world still lack access to clean drinking water, and more than 2.5 billion people lack even basic sanitation. The need for adequate water and sanitation affects every aspect of development: diseases caused by inadequate WASH account for 80% of sickness in the developing world; women in developing countries spend much of their lives hauling water rather than in productive activities; half the world’s schools lack water and sanitation.

On World Water Day, 2010, Americans will join governments and citizens across the globe in strengthening commitments to extend safe water and sanitation. Renewed efforts by all are necessary to achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goal target of reducing by half the proportion of people who lack water and sanitation.

These events in Washington D.C. will let the world know what Americans are doing to increase support for WASH internationally, but even more importantly, they will let other Americans

know what they can do to make sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene a reality for millions of people around the world.

Planned Events:

Monday, March 22 (World Water Day)

9:30 am – 11:30 am – *World Water Day 2010: Uniting for Safe Water and Sanitation*. This marquee event in Washington D.C. will spotlight Americans' expanding commitments for water, sanitation and hygiene internationally--the world's most critical public health and development issue. National Geographic Society, Grosvenor Auditorium, 1600 M Street Northwest, Washington, DC (invitation only).

2 pm – 4:30 pm – *Paths Forward for the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector*.

The event will feature expert round-table discussions focused on WASH program, policy, and advocacy issues. Four sessions will be organized along the themes of making WASH investments count, increasing funding for WASH programs, building the momentum for WASH advocacy and the integration of WASH programs with other areas of development such as health and food security. Center for Strategic and International Studies 1800 K St NW, Washington DC (Open to the public).

Tuesday, March 23

9 am – 5 pm – *Capitol Hill Advocacy Day and Exhibition*. The advocacy day will bring together WASH supporters from around the country to advocate for increased Congressional backing for sustainable WASH-related programs and funding. A morning training session will provide WASH supporters with the information and tools they need to effectively advocate with Congress. In the afternoon, they will meet with Members of Congress and their staff, seeking additional support for WASH programs and funding. The day will feature an event on Capitol Hill with exhibitions on successful WASH interventions from around the world. In this exhibition space, there will also be a lunchtime briefing for Members of Congress, their staff, advocates, and the general public in which expert will discuss critical issues related to WASH.

Supporting organizations include: Action Against Hunger, Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, InterAction, Global Water Challenge, H2O for Life, ONE, Millennium Water Alliance, NRDC, PATH, PSI, P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water Program, US Coalition for Child Survival, Water Advocates, WaterAid, Water For People, Water.org