



A young girl washes her hands before eating at a Group Counselling Session in Muvwa village, Mbeya district. [Will Baxter]

WASH in Sustainable Landscapes

Water Security for All

Access to water's role for health and development is the driving force behind Catholic Relief Services Tanzania's WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) program. The National Water Sector Development Program (WSDP) Phase II reported that 72.3% of people in the rural area and 86% in the urban area have improved water supply, 36% of rural households have access to improved sanitation resources, and 13% of households connected to conventional public sewer systems show improved sanitation. Our work in building up rural water supply systems and the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) ensures access to clean water and improved sanitation for the health and well-being of children and families. We contribute to the WSDP by supporting communities to develop sustainable and equitable water supply and sanitation systems and working with them to promote improved hygiene behaviors.

CRS APPROACH TO WATER SECURE COMMUNITIES



CRS WASH Programming

CRS focuses on comprehensive WASH interventions leading to increased health, resilience, and sustainability, making communities vested partners in the preservation, upkeep, and growth of existing water resources. The CRS WASH programs contribute to achieving multisectoral outcomes in

nutrition, health, shelter, livelihoods, food security, and good governance.



Developing good governance: as the success of a WASH project depends on community buy-in. Resilience is built from the inside-out by working with communities to build the necessary structures for sustainable management and equitable use of water resources. CRS provides technical support to committees including guidance on developing bylaws and needed background information on how to register with relevant district authorities.



Strengthening financial, management, and organizations capacities: CRS developed appropriate financing solutions to reduce the liquidity barrier for communities which hinder sustainability of WASH services. The engagement of the private sectors and youth entrepreneurs in sanitation businesses, and the empowerment of community based WASH institutions has enhanced financing for the sustainability of WASH services.

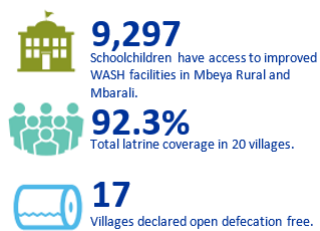


Integration across programming: CRS interventions emphasize on integration of WASH, health, nutrition, and agriculture programs for healthier communities.

UNICEF SWASH (2014-2018)

Leveraging on years of experience in promoting School Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) projects, CRS partnered with UNICEF to reach 12 primary schools in the Mbeya and Mbarali Districts with complete water sanitation packages including on-site rehabilitated water supply systems and

hygiene facilities. CRS and UNICEF aimed to support primary and secondary students to attend and complete their schooling with dignity in an environment free of water and sanitation-borne diseases. SWASH served as an entry point for the wider promotion of hygiene and sanitation in the 30 villages surrounding the schools. CRS employed the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) methodology which sensitizes communities to the health hazards of open defecation and promotes mass action to stop the practice. With the schoolchildren serving as behavior change catalysts, community members became motivated to improve their hygiene and sanitation practices. CRS engaged the community leaders to monitor the CLTS which led to 17 communities attaining the Open Defecation Free (ODF) II status from the Tanzanian government.



Revolutionizing Remittance Recovery in Water (R3W) (2015-2018)

In the Karatu District of Arusha, communities faced the dual challenges of non-functional water supply mechanisms and financial mismanagement that led to irregular water supply servicing. Partnering with UK Aid Direct and the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), CRS implemented the Revolutionizing Remittance Recovery in Water (R3W) project, an innovative prepaid water meter solution that made clean water more affordable and sustainable for the communities in Karatu. The R3W is implemented through solar-powered Grundfos AQtap water ATMs with an intelligent technical system that manages payments and alerts management to system failures. CRS trained Community Based Water Supply Organizations (CBWSOs) and community members to manage the financial and technical systems, allowing them to be self-sustaining and profit from their hard work. With the R3W's success in Karatu, the Tanzanian Ministry of Water has adopted the program and is now implemented throughout the country.



A prepaid water meter in Karatu. The Ministry of Water announced the national adoption of the prepaid water meter on 1 June 2021 [Photo by CRS]

Youth Engagement in Sanitation Business (YESB) (2018-2021)

CRS partnered with UK Aid Direct, HDIF, Local Government Authorities (LGAs), and the private sector to establish the Youth Engagement in Sanitation Business (YESB) program. YESB was a public-private partnership program that trained youth members of the Chunya, Mbeya, and Mbarali Districts in the Mbeya region to be Youth Sanitation Experts (YSEs). We provided the YSEs with technical skills in masonry and sanitation as well as entrepreneurial, financial, and marketing knowledge to manage their sanitation businesses. The program coordinated with CLTS, community savings and lending groups, and the district government to improve access to capital to build better latrines as part of their business. CRS was able to improve sanitation in the communities through the YSE-led businesses that were reached more households in need of better sanitation and hygiene systems. Given the success of the YSEs in the WASH facilities, our youth-entrepreneurs were able to access loans and better microfinancing opportunities through the Saving and Internal Lending Community (SILC) to expand their businesses and access more suppliers for their clients' needs.

Charity: Water (2022-Present)

Funded by Charity: Water and in partnership with the LGAs, the Rural Water Supply, and the Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and Sanitation and Water Action (SAWA), this Innovative WASH in Tanzania project aims to 1) increase access to safe, adequate, and affordable water supply services; 2) improved sanitation services and good hygiene practices; and 3) strengthen the capacity of CBWSOs in three districts in the Mbeya Region. In its first year of implementation in Ipwizi, Kibaoni/lhahi, and Ifumbo, CRS reached a total of 13, 834 individuals with the construction of three water systems with 83 public water points and 64 household connections, with each system managed by an established CBSWO for operations and management. SWASH was also introduced through the construction and rehabilitation of school latrines, SWASH club strengthening, and the establishment of three CLTS committees to oversee the WASH programs in the villages and in the schools. In its next phase from 2023-2024, CRS aims to expand the program to three additional villages in Mbeya, Chunya, and Mbarali.

Looking Forward

In the coming years, we aim to deepen our collaborations with government stakeholders and potential impact investment partners and diversify our portfolio in water resource management, and water supply. We look forward in the future of WASH to promote sustainable and context-appropriate WASH technologies and facilitate creation and adoption of community-based solutions to climate change.