

A close-up photograph of a child's hands cupped under a running faucet. The water is clear and flowing. The child's skin is dark, and they are wearing a red sleeve and several thin, light-colored bangles on their wrist. The background is slightly blurred, showing other faucets in a public water station.

a child's right
2008 annual report





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message from the director

Great epiphanies that stop us in our tracks and alter the course of our lives may be rare, but slight, life-changing events are around us more than we realize. A Child's Right had some very big successes in 2008. We brought unlimited access to pure, safe drinking water for over 100,000 children - that's big. But in looking back over the year I found it wasn't the days or the numbers, but the small, often unnoticed moments that had stayed with me.

In China it was listening to children laughing and splashing each other with water in a setting that looked like a battlefield. The May earthquake had killed tens of thousands of people. It had devastated families and destroyed whole cities. Displacement camps aren't easy places for children to live, and the children watching us work were quiet and stoic - careful not to let strangers see their heartache. But we encouraged them to think about what we were doing, and to understand why, and by the time our filter system was installed they were clambering to drink the water and marvelling that it was no longer laced with the foul tang of sulfur, but now tasted "sweet, like candy." And then someone flicked someone else with a few drops of that sweet water, and for a brief time they acted like children again and our clean water was at the center of their play.

In Cambodia it was hand delivering new 5-gallon water jugs, filled from our water system, to families who live in Southeast Asia's largest garbage dump. Carrying those full jugs was hard, humbling work. Many of the families live around and within the waste in heavily polluted surroundings with rainwater collection jars as their only source of water. For the first time in their lives, these families and their children now have free, unrestricted access to safe, purified drinking water.

In Tibet it was taking a work break and playing basketball at an elevation of 13,000 feet with some of the smallest residents of the region's largest orphanage. It was no-rules basketball and they were absolutely terrible - but we couldn't compete with the extreme altitude, and they ran ecstatic circles around us while we wheezed across the court like old men.

In Nepal it was watching dozens of children cycle back through our hygiene education courses - pretending they hadn't gone through once, twice or even three times before - simply to take part in our efforts, enjoy the playfulness that our volunteers bring, and of course to receive the stickers and stamps that come with completing the course.

Ethiopia was a whirlwind. It was the end of the year, my wife was nearly eight months pregnant and I was tasked with installing seven systems in four days. Fortunately I had terrific help in a young local volunteer who not only invested 16 hours a day of his own time, but understood ACR's mission, embraced it and championed it as his own. Despite the long days his smile and commitment never wavered, and he made as lasting an impression on me as the parents who walked miles to and from the schools each day to pick up their children.



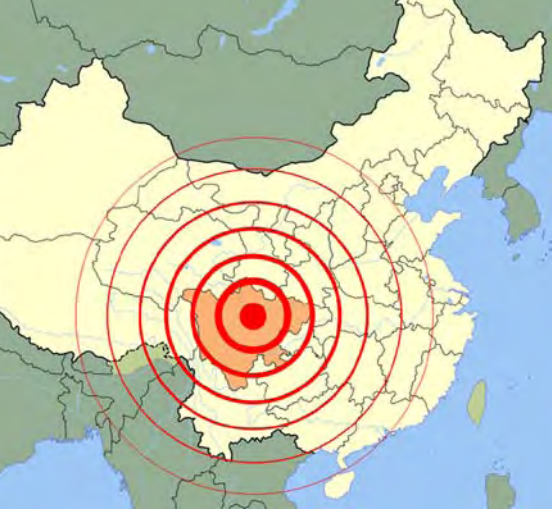
Individually, these vignettes are insights into a role that allows me to experience the world and to bring something broader back, but collectively they tell a story of why we work so hard - and even more importantly, who it is we work for.

The children we serve are not only the ultimate arbiters of taste, they are our reason for being. The greatest part of A Child's Right's unique genesis has been in bringing clean and safe drinking water to suffering children in urban institutions - children who have been chronically ignored by too many for too long. Rural to urban migration trends are fast increasing, as is the inescapable reality that the highest concentrations of vulnerable children are found in cities big and small. As growing urban populations continue to overburden and compromise inadequate municipal water supplies, our mission becomes more vital than ever - as does rigorous assessment of our programs and our process.

After working in more than a dozen countries with persistent, contaminated water issues, we decided this year to have our water purification systems custom manufactured in the US to our exact technical specifications. This shift in design and technology has resulted in standardized filtration units that produce drinking water of a quality that far exceeds nearly every international standard, no matter in what country that unit is eventually installed.

One of our key advisors and technicians routinely states at the close of every project, "This was the most successful trip yet." He has worked through the practical progress of our system, seen the direct needs of the children we assist and the change our work has brought, traveled with us in every kind of political and cultural climate, and experienced the best and worst that developing countries have to offer. And he's absolutely right. From every angle, we're always trying to better ourselves - and each last trip has been our best.

Eric Stowe, Founder and Director



china

earthquake relief



How A CHILD'S RIGHT brought safe drinking water to 50,000 earthquake victims. 30,000 of those suffering were children.

On May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake struck China's Sichuan province, toppling thousands of homes, schools and factories. China's worst natural disaster in three decades killed an estimated 80,000 people, orphaned 5,000 children and left more than 5 million people homeless.



In addition to breaches in the municipal water system that caused massive leaks and reduced water pressure, debris, inorganic materials and bacterial contaminants were carried into the water lines and created optimal conditions for the growth and movement of many disease causing microorganisms.

In July ACR had rare permission to work in-country with the Chinese government in the most damaged areas of the epicenter to provide long term solutions for clean and safe drinking water to families and children. We delivered access to free, purified water to nearly 50,000 people - 30,000 of whom were children - by allocating and installing 30 clean water systems across ten children's schools, nine displacement camps and one hospital.

Within months of the earthquake, the Chinese government had created hundreds of displacement camps with stable and secure shelters for individuals and families left homeless by the disaster. Each site housed between 500 and 10,000 people and was fully equipped with electricity, security and management staff. Working with the local government, site management and hired engineers, ACR determined the best locations for filter installations and dedicated clean drinking water rooms, and set up 17 unique systems serving more than 25,000 people in these relief camps.

Our focus on the temporary learning academies that had been created in the area was to provide unrestricted access to clean water stations for all students and faculty, as well as for members of the surrounding communities. Ultimately the clean water systems and drinking water stations we established in these ten schools directly benefited more than 20,000 children affected by the earthquake. We also outfitted every site with more than five years of spare parts, provisions and maintenance to ensure each installation's success and sustainability.



According to Chinese officials, ACR's contribution was the single largest contribution of its kind from any organization after the earthquake. The success of this project would not have been possible without the support of Antunes Filtration Technologies and the generous financial backing of George and Dion Russell.



ethiopia

According to UNICEF, three-quarters of Ethiopia's 71 million people do not have access to clean water. In the landlocked capital city of Addis Ababa, home to more than 4.5 million people, waterborne diseases are widespread and often fatal, contributing to an overwhelming 46% mortality rate among children under the age of five.

Yet despite the risks posed by unclean water and dehydration, education is so precious here that children often walk miles to and from their schools to attend classes.

In December 2008, ACR was privileged to work with two orphanages for children living with HIV/AIDS, one HIV/AIDS clinic, one children's home and four schools to provide clean drinking water solutions that will now benefit more than 3,000 children annually. We assisted a broad range of children with this project, including HIV/AIDS patients, orphans in institutional care and children from extremely destitute families.

"At our AIDS Family Health Center, the WWO Academy and the orphanages where we provide orphans with medical services, we now have perfect water - and for HIV-infected children, this is paramount. We are not seeing as many skin infections and already our diarrheal disease has almost disappeared."

**Dr. Jane Aronson, Founder
Worldwide Orphans Foundation**



All of these young children are exceptionally vulnerable to devastating waterborne diseases, and the water systems and multi-tap drinking stations we installed are a life-changing step toward better health. As the majority of their water consumption takes place at the residential orphanages and schools, these special children will now have clean water daily and a better chance for improved overall health and development.

As part of our first Sub-Saharan Africa project, ACR also worked with the World Wide Orphans HIV Clinic, one of the preeminent facilities in Ethiopia dealing with AIDS prevention and Anti-Retro Viral treatments. The clinic has assisted more than 12,000 patients - more than 30% of them children.



nepal

Conflict is part of the human condition, and one of the forces shaming the creativity required to tackle Nepal's distinctive challenges. Daily 14-hour power outages are the norm, rather than the exception, and the country is also struggling to stabilize its economy and resolve decades of political turmoil.

Over 80% of all illnesses in Nepal are attributed to inadequate access to clean water supplies, poor sanitation and inappropriate hygiene practices - more than 44,000 children die here every year due to waterborne diseases.

Yet it is here that the Himalaya's most complex cultures were shaped, and it is here that one of the world's most ethnically rich and diverse populations has developed.

Starting with Kathmandu, a city capable of sustaining 750,000, yet burdened by more than two million individuals, ACR's team of staff and dedicated volunteers traveled in February 2008 to three cities in Nepal to install water purification systems in rescue homes, schools and orphanages.

"Diarrhea and other waterborne diseases are killer diseases, and people forget that they take people's lives. After the installation of the water filter system at Maiti Nepal's rehabilitation home by A Child's Right, diarrhea and other waterborne diseases in the residents have been so drastically reduced that one can say they're nil."

**Anuradha Koirala, Founder, Maiti Nepal
Rescue and Prevention of Sex Trafficking**



As well as the bacteriological and aesthetic water problems faced by the institutions where we were working, chronic low water pressure necessitated flexible thinking and plumbing solutions.

In one school in particular we were tasked with incorporating a rooftop storage tank that routed water down to our ground-floor purification systems, and then back upstairs again to secondary tanks used solely for drinking water storage. Thanks to the ingenuity of our local engineers, this school will have a full storage tank of water every morning for its 1000+ students, and our water system will automatically fill the tank whenever the water level decreases.

By the close of this year's annual project, over 8,000 children had been provided clean and safe drinking water. The ACR team also installed systems in three orphanages in Tibet and brought a team of hygiene educators to work with the children at each site.





cambodia

After a troubled political history and devastating genocide, Cambodia is at last moving away from its war-torn past. With the help of foreign aid and business investments, the country has seen rapid economic growth - yet many issues remain that threaten the health and well-being of the children that constitute more than half its population.

Cambodia has the highest infant and under-five mortality rates in Southeast Asia, statistics in part attributable to waterborne diseases. With growing urbanization, water quality issues and little intervention in place, Cambodia looks to become ACR's second largest project outside of China.

In November our ACR team traveled to Cambodia to work with two children's hospitals, three educational academies, one shelter for street children and one village for children orphaned by AIDS. Through our 2008 project, more than 50,000 children every year will now have daily access to clean and safe water.

"It has always been our goal to provide comprehensive care to these children, and with the help of ACR we are now able to consistently offer one of the most essential basics of health care - clean water. In a country where so many of the families simply do not have access to clean drinking water, this simple measure will go a long way in improving the health of Cambodia's children."

Dr. William Housworth MD, MPH
Director, Angkor Hospital for Children



Our largest installation of the trip - and the one with arguably the greatest effect - took place at Angkor Children's Hospital in Siem Reap. AHC's outpatient department sees 300 - 400 children each day, and treats more than 110,000 children per year. Our goal was to make sure that every patient, as well as the family members who accompany them, has access to safe drinking water during their stay in the hospital.

Much like the AHC's site, the external water station installed at the Children's Surgical Center in Phnom Penh can be used by any of the children and families at the facility, while the internal faucets we established are used for cooking and consumption within the hospital. Families of the 5,000 patients seen here annually also have free access to clean water in the waiting area.

New Hope for Cambodian Children (NHCC) is an inspiring NGO attending to the needs of the 200 orphaned and abandoned children living with HIV/AIDS, and we were also gratified to work with Friends International to offer safe drinking water to the 1,600 street children who utilize their services. We were delighted to learn that Cambodian Children's Fund has used their systems to benefit hundreds of families beyond the intended 600 students and staff in their education centers.





china project

clean water for orphans

ACR's progressive mission to bring clean and safe, purified water to every orphan in China

After many years of experience working with international adoption agencies in China, ACR Director Eric Stowe was personally familiar with the illnesses caused by the poor water quality that exists throughout many of China's 31 provinces. He witnessed extraordinarily high incidents of giardiasis, a highly infectious disease that is typically spread by drinking contaminated water, and one of the most common parasitic infections found in orphanages and day-care centers in China.

With customized ultrafiltration (UF) and ultraviolet (UV) water purification systems - and with the exceptional access afforded him by his previous work with the Chinese government - Eric vowed to bring much-needed health improvements to China's institutionalized orphans.

"Before, we strictly forbade children from drinking water from the tap [even though] the boiled water was not always available. This is a very good water system - it cuts the germs and bacteria from the tap, and we feel it helps against diarrhea tremendously. Now, we can let the children drink water and they enjoy it very much."

**Mr. Zhu, Office Manager
Tongliao Orphanage**

In May of 2008, ACR officially launched our China Project - Clean Water for Orphans in Inner Mongolia, one of the country's most impoverished provinces. Working with the China Association of Social Work and the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the project is a massive five-year mission that will assist more than 500 Chinese orphanages and welfare institutions, bringing clean and safe drinking water to improve the lives of over 200,000 orphaned children.

By the close of 2008, we installed pure water systems in every orphanage in Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Shaanxi, Qinghai and Tianjin provinces, as well as multiple sites in Guangdong, Anhui, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Beijing and Shandong provinces, thereby ensuring that children in these centers benefit from clean water not only for drinking, but also in baby formula preparations, handwashing and cooking.

Through our working partnership with the Chinese government and the amazing support of Dion and George Russell, Western Kentucky University, USAID and adoption agencies, adoptive families and larger adoption groups, we are achieving our goal of providing every orphan in China with purified drinking water.

Given the scope of this ambitious project, our office and staff in Beijing are working full-time to complete installations in 5 - 15 orphanages per month, and operate jointly with our US office to ensure that every installation and every cup of water meets the same rigorous standards we have established for all the countries where we work.

"A Child's Right is doing a wonderful project for helping the children in different institutions - this work impacts a lot of children in need. I feel that working together we can improve the orphanage hygiene and health situation very much. We have the need for clean water and ACR meets the need."

**Wu Jianying, Director of Children's Welfare Department
China Association of Social Work**



China Project

Children We Helped: 32,000

Total Project Cost: \$348,952

Primary Donors: Dion and George Russell, Western Kentucky University, USAID, Homeland Children's Foundation, Zhanjiang Kids Organization

Sites Assisted: 2 Anhui orphanages, 1 Beijing school, 6 Gansu orphanages, 3 Guangdong orphanages, 12 Inner Mongolia orphanages, 2 Jiangsu orphanages, 13 Shaanxi orphanages, 4 Shandong orphanages, 1 Tianjin orphanage, 3 Tibet orphanages

Volunteers: Jerry Bennett, Jim Bennett, Vickie Bennett, Cordelia Chen, Kitty Cheng, Melanie Colwell, Charles Day, Rebecca Field, Andy Johnson, Stuart Johnson, Jim Loerop, Howard Luan

China Earthquake Project

Children We Helped: 30,000 (+20,000 adults)

Total Project Cost: \$225,000 (including \$190,000 in donated water purification systems and spare provisions from Antunes Filtration Technologies)

Primary Donors: Dion and George Russell, Antunes Filtration Technologies.

Primary Partners: The China Association of Social Work, national Chinese government, US Embassy, local government in Sichuan province: Civil Affairs Bureau, Water Resources Department, Construction Bureau, Office of Disaster Relief Management

Sites Assisted: 30 clean water systems in 10 schools for children displaced by the earthquake, 9 displacement camps and 1 hospital



Ethiopia Project

Children We Helped: 3,000

Total Project Cost: \$29,553

Primary Donors: Gibson Foundation, Worldwide Orphans Foundation, Mothers Fighting for Others, Children's Home Society and Family Services, Wide Horizons for Children, Dion and George Russell.

Sites Assisted: WorldWide Orphans Academies 1 & 2, WWO HIV clinic, AHOPE orphanages 1 & 2, Horizon House orphanages, Children's Home Society- Addis Ababa and Hosana schools

Nepal Project

Children We Helped: 8,000

Total Project Cost: \$33,452

Primary Donors: SurveyMonkey, Seattle Rotary Service Foundation, Dion and George Russell, Huesdash family, Coleman family, Johnson family, St. Thomas Episcopal & Grace Lutheran churches.

Sites Assisted: 8 urban schools

Volunteers: Elizabeth Bamber, George Flanigan, Lalaine Gedal, Doug Graves, Uttara Mandandhar, Rob Steiner, Randal Samstag

Cambodia Project

Children We Helped: 72,000

Total Project Cost: \$44,839

Primary Donors: Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation, Greatergood.org, Ashurst, Huesdash family, Fitz family, and the Rurik family

Sites Assisted: Angkor Hospital for Children, Cambodian Children's Fund sites 2, 4, 6, Children's Surgical Center, Friends International, New Hope for Cambodian Children

Volunteers: Toni Boersig, Rajan Burlakoti, George Flanigan



clean water stations

In 2008 we dedicated much of our work to creating clean water stations that offer sanitary and safe environments where children, staff and community members can access clean and safe drinking water at any time. This important new piece of our programs has brought remarkable results.



hygiene education

Although clean water is our primary passion and mission, sanitary conditions and proper hygiene practices are crucial pieces to the larger puzzle of keeping children healthy. In 2008 we expanded our operations to provide consistent sanitation standards and hygiene education to our projects in Nepal and Ethiopia.



system overview

In 2008 ACR began having custom made water purification equipment manufactured in the US per our technical and water quality specifications. With effective removal of more than 99.99999% of all bacteria, 99.999% of all viruses and 99.95% of all cysts, as well as all odors and smells, we can consistently provide clean and safe water to children around the world at standards exceeding those of most international businesses and food chains. As always, to ensure successful practices and sustainable water supplies to the children, our domestic and international staff oversee all installations, monitoring and maintenance. Once installed, ACR staff members are always the first to drink from our systems.

financials

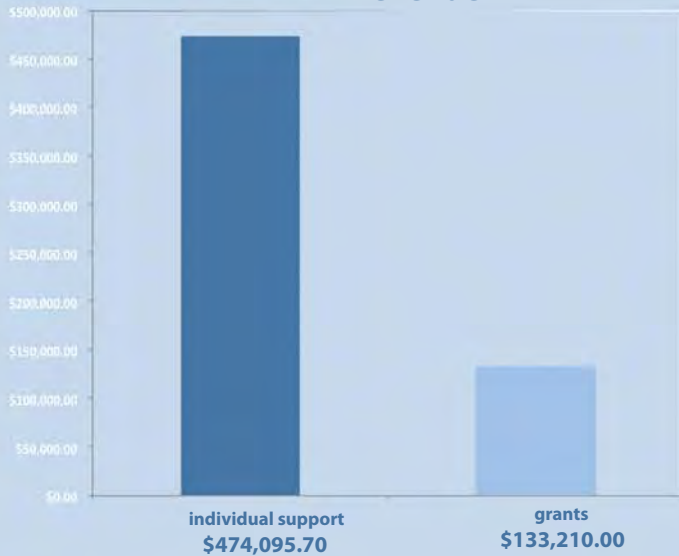
In 2008, nearly 92 cents out of every dollar donated to A Child's Right went directly to our clean water projects overseas and immediately benefited the defenseless children who lie at the core of our mission.

All children should have access to clean and safe water, and we have been diligent not only in fulfilling this right, but in ensuring the efficient and effective use of our funding to achieve our goals.

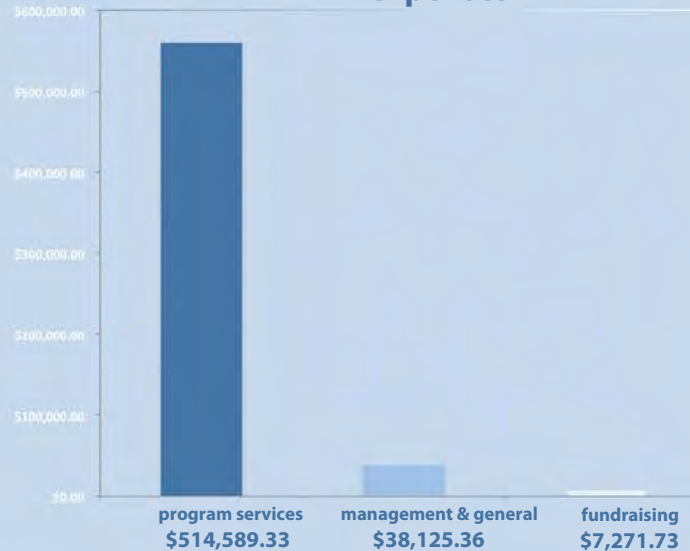
Ours is a collaborative effort. We have been fortunate in our work to meet teachers, readers and donors from many traditions, and to receive from them much guidance and help. Our determined and dedicated supporters have taught us the meaning of respect and kindness, but it is the extraordinarily resilient children living in the shadows of poverty who have taught us acceptance, humility and joy.



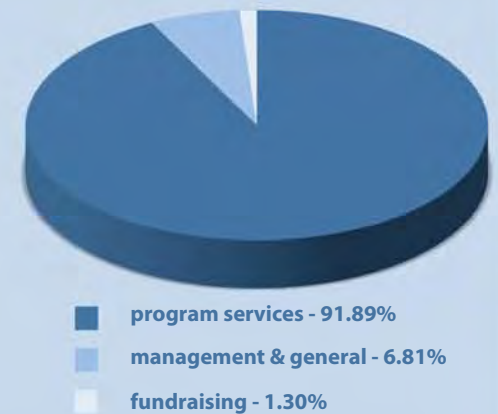
revenue



expenses



expense allocation per dollar donated to ACR



A Child's Right is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Tax ID #56-2600599. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. For more information regarding our funding and expenses, please visit the financial page on our website: www.achildsright.org/financial.html. A Child's Right's end of year net assets were \$47,471.83

in gratitude

“Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water.”

- Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

In two short years we've brought clean and safe drinking water to over 150,000 children. The individuals and organizations listed below were with us every step of the way.

The sum of our success is not the result of intellectual solutions, but the intersection between inspiration, technology, purpose and hope – and the passion and encouragement of our donors. There is no ACR without their support.

\$10,000 +

Anonymous
Gibson Foundation, Inc.
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Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation
Dion & George F. Russell, Jr.
USAID
Western Kentucky University



\$5,000 – \$9,999

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Seattle Rotary Service Foundation
Worldwide Orphans Foundation



\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Glenn & Jane Bullock
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Charles & Leslie Day
Rebecca Field

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Zhanjiang Kids Organization



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Our ongoing work and expansion would not be possible without the incredible generosity of the foundations and individual donors who give us so much support and encouragement.

Dion and George Russell graciously contributed the financial support needed to complete ACR's work in the most destitute provinces of our China - Clean Water for Orphans project by fully funding installations for every orphanage in the Qinghai, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan, and Xinjiang Provinces, as well as all orphanages in Inner Mongolia and the Tibetan Autonomous Region - nearly 100 orphanages in total.

Dion and George have also made contributions to our Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal and Ethiopia projects, and their combined contributions have had a direct, life-changing effect on more than 50,000 children to date. Their gifts have transformed problems into opportunities, and promises into action - and we are truly grateful.



“Of all that human beings consume, water is the number one for survival and health. ACR has created the tools and mechanisms necessary to transfer bad water into good water and it can be put to use anywhere in the world. What a fantastic contribution to human life!”

- George Russell



looking ahead

Our remarkable growth has changed us and empowered us to realize our goals and redefine our purpose in incredible new ways. It's also motivated us to do better, and to be better - to let only the limits of our imaginations determine the boundaries of our reach.

Our world has changed as well. Globalization and increasing migrant and urbanization trends are creating both opportunities and obstacles. The global financial crisis is marking a shift in the relationship between people's capacity to earn and their ability to give back. Now more than ever individuals want to understand the effect their hard-earned dollars are having on the world.

And yet life continues largely unchanged for the two million children who die each year from diarrhea and related illnesses caused by unsafe drinking water.

What can A Child's Right do to meet the challenges of the coming year?

In Cambodia we plan to open a regional and national office staffed by a Country Director with specialized experience in water-based projects. We intend to expand our scope with up to 40 clean water system installations that will benefit more than 50,000 children.

In Ethiopia we will solidify our inroads with the government and continue to develop our infrastructure there for a sustainable, regional project. More importantly, we will install 10 new systems and water stations at new partner organization sites.

In Nepal our annual project will see us installing eight systems that will give 10,000 more children access to clean water for consumption and improved hygiene.

In China we plan to increase our in-country staff to facilitate more than 100 system installs in eight of the nation's most densely populated provinces. We will also endeavor in 2009 to fulfill the complete funding obligations necessary to realize our goal of bringing clean, safe drinking water to every orphan in China.

We're looking to our creativity, our principles and the lessons of the past to guide us as we step into the future. Please join us in our mission to bring lifesaving clean, safe water to vulnerable children around the world.







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