

Water for Rural Development (W4RD)

The Challenge

Around the world, 844 million people still lack even a basic drinking water service¹. This includes approximately 400 million people in sub-Saharan Africa and more than 2 million people in the United States, almost all of whom live in rural areas.

A Bold Solution

A single clean water source has a ripple effect within a community, positively impacting health and well-being for generations to come.

Reliable access to clean water leads to improved sanitation, decreased exposure to water-borne illnesses and infectious diseases, and better educational outcomes. Water is fundamental to growing crops that support household nutrition and generate income for women and families.

The Ohio State University's **Water for Rural Development (W4RD)** model is a scalable, evidence-based method for seeding economic empowerment and healthy communities. It is centered on local partnerships and builds upon community assets. Leveraging expertise and resources from vested partners, W4RD operates at the nexus of water, food, and business.

How It Works

The four pillars of the W4RD model improve water, food, health, and livelihoods across whole communities. Each pillar is critical to the success of the W4RD model.

Optimized Community Water Infrastructure



Upgraded, rehabilitated and/or new infrastructure distributing water to identified critical locations throughout the community

Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices Training



Modules tailored to community needs around household consumption, income generation, technology use, and peer-to-peer learning

Training and Education



Skills training for managers, operators, technicians, and entrepreneurs with links to formal education opportunities

Sustainable Services



Water tariffs with locally appropriate pricing generate funds for maintenance and upgrades, while monitoring supports ongoing operations

1. Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 2017 Update and SDG Baselines. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2017.

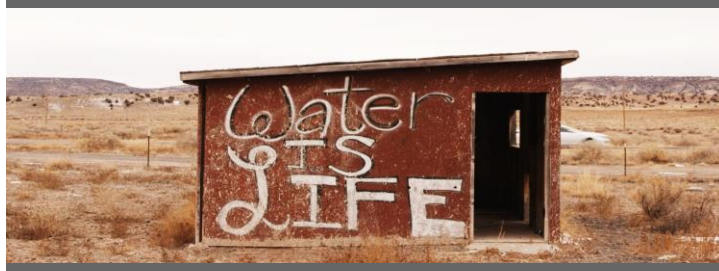


Water for Rural Development *Tanzania*



In Tanzania, 18 million people (one in three residents) don't have basic drinking water services, and 21 million people are food insecure. Unfortunately, improvement efforts have often been short-lived and sometimes destructive. There are approximately 46,000 non-functional water points in Tanzania alone.

With the support of our partners and the Government of Tanzania, The Ohio State University team is currently implementing W4RD in 15 rural villages in central Tanzania, impacting 85,000 people.



Alliance for Navajo Sustainability *Navajo Nation*

More than 40% of Navajo families must truck or haul water to meet their domestic and irrigation needs, and one third of residents on Navajo Nation lands lack running water in their homes. Three-quarters of Navajo Nation residents face food insecurity. Improvement efforts have been largely unsuccessful due to centuries of forced marginalization and decades of broken promises from outside entities claiming to have solutions.

Under the Alliance for Navajo Sustainability, The Ohio State University is working with the Navajo Nation and its partners to implement the four pillars of the W4RD model (water infrastructure, agricultural extension, training and education, and sustainable services) to benefit 100 rural communities.

Join us to improve water, food, health and livelihoods for even more communities by investing in this critical work.

\$1 MILLION supports:

W4RD in 2 rural communities, benefitting **10,000 people**

\$5 MILLION supports:

W4RD in 10 rural communities, benefitting **50,000 people**

\$10 MILLION supports:

W4RD in 20 rural communities, benefitting **100,000 people**



**BM Farm
Africa**



**TALUS
ANALYTICS**



WEDECO



Contact: Leanda Rix, Executive Director of Foundation Relations, rix.10@osu.edu, 614.292.3058

Learn more at globalwater.osu.edu

April 2021