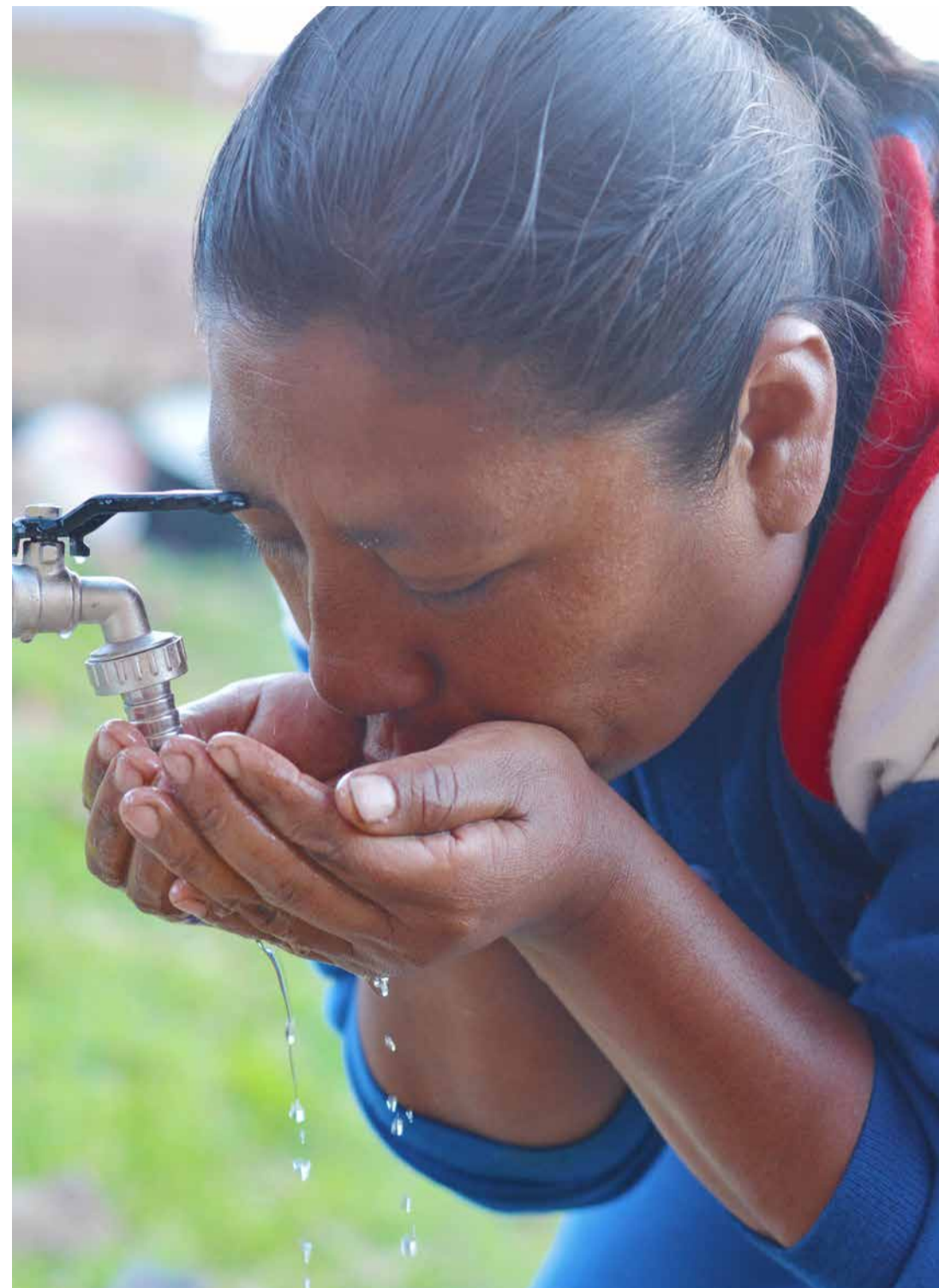


A year of crisis: Water, a non-renewable resource

CMT performs actions to guarantee access to healthy water systems

Through the water chain, CMT seeks to contribute to the generation or expansion of water supply and sanitation capacities in households, institutions and communities that benefit, preferably, vulnerable families.



Water is a vital element for life, it is not a coincidence that 70% of the planet is water, and 70% of our body is also water. However, not all people can have this liquid every day, even when it is basic to keep hydrated, wash our hands and our food, taking a shower, etc. Water is life, and life is a result of water but, can you imagine life without water? Do you know the consequences that situation may have? Unfortunately, four out of 10 inhabitants on the planet do, because they do not have that essential liquid.

If rivers and seas disappeared, the planet would face an apocalyptic catastrophe, just like the ones we have seen in several science-fiction movies. That is the reason why we can say that water is the source of all life on earth, even if some places have a lot, and some others just a little.

97.5% of water on earth may be found in oceans and seas, so it is salty water; only the remaining 2.5% is freshwater. 69% of freshwater is in the poles and at the top of the highest mountains in solid state, 30% of it is found in humidity on soil and deep aquifers, and only 1% of it travels through river basins in creeks and rivers to end in lakes, lagoons, and different water bodies and aquifers. That 1% is the amount of water that humanity uses to survive.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in the world there are more than 2.1 billion people without access to drinking water services safely managed. About 4.5 billion people lack safe sanitation services, and at least 1.800 million people in the world drink water that is not protected against fecal contamination. Due to this fact, more than 340 thousand children under 5 die from diarrheal diseases.

The United Nations (UN) recognizes formally water as a human right, so it constantly expresses its will to fulfill that right by international communities and governments to make bigger efforts. It is important to remember that basic human needs have to be fulfilled in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Nevertheless, lack or absence of access to water may cause serious diseases to people who drink contaminated water. The international confederation Oxfam considers the following diseases as the main reasons to die:

- **Dysentery:** it is caused by bacteria that results in diarrhea; it is more common between children, adults are occasionally infected.
- **Cholera:** a severe bacterial infection in the intestines that results in intense diarrhea and vomit that may lead to severe dehydration or death.
- **Malaria:** it is caused by a parasite, typically transmitted through certain types of mosquitoes breed in standing water or in sites where water is not clean enough.
- **Schistosomiasis:** it is caused by parasites that come in contact with the skin of people who take showers with contaminated water. It results in infections that harm liver, intestines, lungs, bladder, among other organs.
- **Typhus:** it is caused by bacteria that results in fever, diarrhea, vomit and swelling in spleen or intestines.
- **Trachoma:** it is an infection in the eyes caused by weak hygienic practices due to the lack of water or contaminated water in some places.
- **Typhoid fever:** it is a bacterial infection caused by drinking contaminated water. Patients diagnosed with this disease suffer from headaches, nausea, and loss of appetite, among other symptoms.

Solutions CMT

- Systems to store water
- Peripheral water pump
- Water purifier filter
- Works to install drainage systems
- Drainage channels
- Bio digester systems
- Solar heaters
- Decent toilets



Actions CMT

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT), through the Water Network promotes access to water in houses and productive sectors. This network consists of a set of integral solutions that impulse the improvement of public services in charge of potable water, drainage and sewage systems, water treatment, and sanitation of wastewater. Through this network, families are given subsidies to get optimal water containers in order to guarantee a safe storage of water.

With these actions, CMT wants to help institutions and communities to improve the conditions to deliver and treat water, specially to families in vulnerable situations, by encouraging ideas to have positive impacts in communities to use water with responsibility.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria implements programs to make people aware of their situation through basic principles such as respect. We must respect others, but we also must respect the planet because it is our home so, we should think more about the reconstruction of social union. If we do not follow organized actions, they will certainly fail because it takes more than a few people to make a real change.

Data

- ▶ The **source of water should be located less than 1,000 meters away from houses**, and the time to collect it should not exceed more than 30 minutes
- ▶ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** recommends that **money to pay for water services should not be more than 3% of the amount of money used for house expenses**



Solutions CMT

- Pipelines for water systems
- Pipelines for drainage systems
- Expansion of drainage networks
- Reactivation of wastewater treatment plants
- Implementation of wastewater treatment plants
- Systems to collect and reuse rainwater

