



# Resilient WASH Access

# Table of Contents

[Introduction](#) ..... Page 3

[Hygiene Kit Build \(self-supply\)](#).....Page 4

[Soap Saves Lives](#).....Page 6

[Water-filter Build](#) ..... Page 7

[Volunteer with Engineers Without Borders](#)..... Page 9

[Other WASH Projects](#)..... Page 11

[Stay Engaged](#) ..... Page 12



# Introduction

Resilient WASH access is vital to human health, wellbeing, and children's success. WASH refers to the availability of clean drinking water, safe sanitation, and proper hygiene services that are reliable, sustainable, and able to withstand disruptions.

Currently, 703 million people lack access to basic drinking water, and 2 out of 5 people around the world still don't have access to safely managed sanitation (UNICEF). Without reliable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, communities are more vulnerable to health crises, environmental challenges, and the ongoing impacts of climate change. Resilient WASH access helps ensure that these essential services remain operational even in the face of environmental stressors or emergencies, contributing to better health outcomes, improved living conditions, and enhanced resilience in the face of future challenges.

By working to expand WASH access, we can all make a difference in providing communities with the resources they need to maintain access to clean water and sanitation—no matter the challenges they face.

This playbook is designed to provide instructions, tools, and the resources you need to host and attend a volunteer event that works towards expanding WASH Access.

The rest of this guide will walk you through the importance of ensuring resilient access to clean water, how to sign up and prepare to volunteer, tips for hosting your own volunteer event, and ideas for staying engaged in the cause. **The activities in this playbook are designed so that anyone can do them, anywhere.**



## What is a Hygiene Kit Build?

A "Hygiene Kit Build" refers to assembling a collection of essential personal hygiene items into a kit. These kits are often intended to be distributed to individuals in need, such as people experiencing homelessness, natural disasters, or emergency situations. The goal is to create a practical and helpful package that supports basic hygiene needs, which has a significant impact on a person's well-being, dignity, and health.



## How Does it Ensure Resilient WASH Access?

A Hygiene Kit Build contributes to resilient WASH access by providing essential items that support personal hygiene in crisis situations. These kits help prevent the spread of diseases when water and sanitation systems are inadequate, offering short-term relief and promoting long-term health and safety. They empower vulnerable groups, encourage hygiene education, and help communities maintain cleanliness until infrastructure is restored, ultimately enhancing overall resilience.

# How to Plan Your Hygiene Kit Build



Location: In-person



Volunteers:  
No limit (1+)



Time:  
1 hour

## Step 1: Recruit & Schedule!



You can do this activity yourself or find a group of people who want to participate in building hygiene kits! This can include colleagues, family members, friends, and anyone else you can think of!

Pick a date, time, and place to build hygiene kits.

Plan out where you will drop off your finished hygiene kits! Contact any homeless shelter, food bank, or local charity, and make sure they accept kits.

## Step 2: Pick up supplies:



Personal cleaning supplies: soap, wipes, toothpaste/toothbrush, mouthwash, deodorant, sanitary napkins

First aid supplies: band aids, wash cloths, antibacterial ointments

If dropping off at a homeless shelter, think about including items like socks and gloves.

Consider including granola bars, canned food, or other packaged items.

Make sure all items are new!



## Step 3: Assemble your kits

.



## Step 4: Drop the hygiene kits off!

# How to Plan Your Soap Saves Lives Event

## Hygiene Kit Build with Clean the World Events

Be part of the Global Hygiene Revolution. Clean the World is a social enterprise with the mission of saving millions of lives around the world. With the distribution of recycled soap and hygiene products to children and families in countries with a high death rate, they help prevent millions of hygiene-related illnesses and deaths every year.



Location: In-person



Volunteers: No limit (1+)



Time: 1 hour



### Step 1: Recruit

Select 2-3 volunteers to form a Soap Saves Live Committee to help organize the event.



### Step 2: [Visit their site](#) to learn more about the experience.

Available on their site:

- Overview Flyer
- Instructions
- Check List



### Contact Clean the World Events

To start the order process, fill out their [online form](#).



**CTW Events®**

**CTW Events will reach out and provide all the necessary information regarding event planning, logistics, shipping, and associated costs.**



## What is a Wine To Water Filter Build?

Wine To Water (WTW) is a global non-profit preserving life and dignity through the power of clean water. Founded in 2004, they develop WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) solutions in direct partnership with local leaders. The Wine To Water Filter Build® program engages participants at events as volunteers in a meaningful, impactful team-building experience that leads to the empowerment of communities around the globe, supporting environmental sustainability, education, women's empowerment, healthcare, and economic growth. Filters also contribute to WTW Disaster Response efforts.



## How Does it Contribute to Resilient WASH Access?

Each water filter provides clean, safe water for a household of 10 people for up to 10 years. The Filter Build is important for resilient WASH access as it provides a tool for communities without reliable water sources to consistently access clean and safe drinking water. The membrane filters provide a sustainable, long-term solution that reduces health risks, empowers households, and supports hygiene practices, even in areas with limited infrastructure. By addressing water needs, it helps communities remain resilient in the face of challenges like disasters, conflict, or resource scarcity.



# How to Plan Your Wine To Water Filter Build

Xylem has partnered with Wine To Water, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving life and dignity through clean water, to participate in building water filters. Wine to Water will provide the water filter parts, and your built water filter will be sent to a family anywhere in the world to give them access to safe WASH.



Location: In-person



Volunteers: No limit



Time: 1 hour

## Step 1: Recruit & Schedule!

Think of any colleagues, family members, friends, and anyone else you can think of who would be interested in participating.

Pick a date, time, and where you will build the filters.

## Step 2: Order the filter build kits:

Visit Wine To Water's website to place your filter build order ([Our Filter Build Events | Wine To Water](#))

Filter build kits include individual bags for each filter with required parts, a print-out of building instructions, and a prepared shipping label to mail back completed filters.

This activity requires funding which can be accessed by a Community Grant (up to \$10,000), can be funded directly by the site, or relevant business with Xylem.

Request a community grant here: [Xylem - Community Partnership Program](#)

## Step 3: Get organized for your event:

Make sure there are tables or mats for volunteers to construct the filter on

Bring markers/pens to write notes to personalize the filters.

## Step 4: Build the filters!

Use the print-out instructions or scan the QR code to gain access to a how-to video!

## Step 5: Post!

Tag #MakeYourWatermark #WatermarkFilterBuilding @winetowater





# Volunteer with Engineers Without Borders

Engineers Without Borders USA is a nonprofit building a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs. However, you don't need to be an engineer to volunteer!

## Spotlight Project: WASH at Rural Health Clinics and Schools in Malawi

Since 2016, Xylem has collaborated with Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA) and our local partner, Freshwater Project International (FPI), to advance water access and WASH infrastructure at rural health centers and schools across Malawi. These projects have included the design and construction of water supply systems, installation of latrines and handwashing stations, and rehabilitation of deteriorating piping systems. These projects have impacted 428,000 community members in Zomba. Read more about one of our projects [here](#). Together, we are dedicated to promoting healthier and more resilient communities around the world through sustainable engineering solutions and local knowledge.

EWB-USA and Xylem are also engaged in Water Access projects here in the US and are looking to expand the partnership to other communities in need around the world. **We invite you to join us by [signing up as an EWB-USA volunteer](#).**



# Participate in EWB USA's STEM Outreach Program

[Engineers Without Borders USA](#) (EWB-USA) is launching a new STEM outreach program specifically designed for community college students to promote diversity in STEM and explore real-world global challenges—particularly how engineering contributes to community development. Clean water, essential for life and the most common need requested by communities partnering with EWB-USA, is the initial focus of the program. See below for ways in which you can get involved.

## **Facilitator Training**

Watch this training and learn how to facilitate a clean water workshop at your local community colleges.

### *Recordings*

To watch the facilitator training, you can access the it here: [EWB-USA STEM on Vimeo](#)

# WASH Projects and How You Can Make a Difference

Water is essential to life, yet millions around the world still lack access to clean water and proper sanitation. Our partners are leading the charge to bring WASH solutions to communities in need, working at the heart of each project to improve access to clean water, better sanitation, and hygiene education. Together, we can make lasting changes that save lives and ensure clean water is accessible to all. Here are a few examples of how their efforts are making a tangible impact.

## Planet Water Foundation

In 2024, our continued partnership with Planet Water Foundation made a significant impact in the global effort to provide clean water and promote hygiene education. Over the course of the year, we successfully completed 27 AquaTower installations in communities across 8 countries and provided support for disaster response initiatives in 3 countries, bringing clean, safe drinking water to a combined 114,600 individuals. In addition, we reached 236,575 students through comprehensive hygiene education programs, empowering the next generation with the knowledge to stay healthy. You can donate today and help support their mission to provide clean water to everyone, everywhere.

## Restoring Water Access in Jordan with Mercy Corps

For the past years, we've partnered with Mercy Corps, to tackle Jordan's water crisis by rehabilitating and expanding critical water infrastructure. This collaboration focuses on repairing wells, improving water distribution systems, and promoting sustainable water management practices in rural and underserved communities, ensuring long-term solutions by empowering local communities with the knowledge and tools to manage water resources effectively, helping to secure a more resilient water future for Jordan. Read more about this project [here](#).

We also support Mercy Corps through their Rapid Response Fund, ensuring rapid, lifesaving assistance for communities impacted by the growing frequency of climate-related disasters and humanitarian emergencies around the world.

Donate to Mercy Corps [here](#).

## Solving Water in Rural America with the Chris Long Foundation

Our partnership with The Chris Long Foundation is dedicated to addressing the water crisis in rural America by installing wells and enhancing access to clean, safe water through their HometownH2O initiative. These initiatives aim to provide sustainable water solutions to underserved communities across the United States, where families frequently face challenges with unreliable and contaminated water sources. Read more about this project [here](#).

Donate to the Chris Long Foundation [here](#).





## Stay Engaged!

Track your participation to activate a donation to our nonprofit partners!

Stay connected on LinkedIn!

Stay up to date with our website and look out for upcoming volunteer activities!