



Papua New Guinea



Cambodia



Philippines



Siem Reap

IMPACT & PROGRESS REPORT • UPDATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Our impact and progress in 2026

This year our volunteers and local partners put working water systems in place in DR Congo, the Philippines and Cambodia, delivered a water filtration pilot in Papua New Guinea, began funding a new local NGO there, and sponsored five university students from DR Congo. Here is what happened, what each part costs, and what comes next.

~250

people in Goma drink filtered water from our first 10 filters

5

university students from DR Congo, all sponsored

100–200

people a day drink safe water in Mariveles

6

countries and 10 projects, with local partners

What your support made possible

~250 people in DR Congo (Goma) drink filtered water from our first 10 shared filters ESTIMATE PALPER: 50 households	5 students from DR Congo (Goma) sponsored for university; classes begin October 15 RECORD Sep 2026	100–200 people a day drink safe water from the system we installed with a local church in Mariveles, Philippines REPORTED Local partners	5 biosand filters funded for farming families near Siem Reap, Cambodia RECORD Apr 2026
1 water filtration pilot delivered in Papua New Guinea, where we are also funding the formation of a new local NGO REPORTED Sep 2026	30 bacteria tests we donated so our partner KCCO can check the finished water at schools in Kampot, Cambodia RECORD Aug 2026	3 local government bodies in Ghana approved or support the pilot RECORD Aug 2026	15 versions of a cyanide-free gold process for Philippine miners, with an independent technical review RECORD 2026

6 countries 10 projects 45+ volunteer experts, about 25 PhDs and 6 PEs about 2,500 volunteer hours to date

100% of public donations to projects

RECORD From our own payments, contracts and correspondence.	REPORTED From a partner's field report. We have not measured it ourselves.	ESTIMATE Calculated from other numbers. The method is in the project report.	PLANNED A target or next step, not a result yet.
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FROM OUR LEADERS AND PARTNERS

This was the year our work reached families directly

Clean Water Help was incorporated in January 2024. In 2026 our work moved from advice to results on the ground.

Our local partners did the hardest part: PALPER in DR Congo, Philip Wayaki Bongi and PNG Safe Water, KCCO and YourAid in Cambodia, Nyankonton Aid Foundation in Ghana, Trailblazer, GOLD, and the church volunteers who run the system in Mariveles. Our volunteers diagnose the water problem, design a practical fix and help find the money.

ON SPONSORING STUDENTS

“Sponsoring students is such a heartwarming, directly beneficial program. Having read *King Leopold’s Ghost* recently, I’m really grateful to be able to play a positive role in that region.”



Stephen McCord, PhD, PE

President, Clean Water Help

ON THE SCHOLARSHIPS

“It is heartbreaking to read about their struggles. We should fund everything for the top candidates so they can study without distraction or interruption.”



Deena Hannoun, PhD

Vice President, Clean Water Help

ON THIS YEAR

“This is the most meaningful thing I have ever been a part of, and it is just the beginning.”



Byran Fuhrmann, PhD, MBA

Executive Director, Clean Water Help

ON NORTH KIVU

“The community in North Kivu Province has welcomed these water filters with great joy. I promise that we will continue to work hand in hand to improve the living conditions of the people we serve.”



Martin Mashagiro

 President, PALPER, DR Congo

ON PNG SAFE WATER

“We will make a greater impact in the communities with this new NGO initiative and I am excited to lead that. This is an opportunity I can’t ignore. I am willing to return home soon and start work.”



Philip Wayaki Bongi

 Executive Director, PNG Safe Water, Papua New Guinea

Shared water filters for families in DR Congo

● Scaling up to 60 filters



A mother pours water into a shared filter



One shared filter serves about five households



Filter buckets ready for households in Goma



Collecting untreated water in North Kivu



Pouring water into a new filter bucket during installation

Photos: PALPER. Shared with permission.

~250

people drinking filtered water from the first 10 filters

ESTIMATE

60

filters when the scale-up is complete

PLANNED

~1,500

people reached by all 60 filters

PLANNED

Goma sits in a conflict zone where cholera is a constant risk. It is built on volcanic rock, which makes wells impractical, and many families drink untreated water carried over long distances. Our partner PALPER installed our first 10 gravity filters between June and August 2026. Five households share each filter, so the pilot reaches about 250 people. The filters need no power or chemicals, and families call them *chombo ya maajabu*, Swahili for “instruments of wonder.”

Residents report fewer stomach illnesses and have asked for more filters. In September we ordered 50 more. The first 10 are paid for and on a truck from Kenya. Each filter costs about \$80, all-in, and serves about 25 people for about 5 years: about \$3.20 per person, and an estimated cost per life saved of about \$1,000.*

“The people can now attest to the benefits of this support through their access to safe drinking water treated with filters.”

Martin Mashagiro, President of PALPER, September 2026

WHAT'S NEXT

- Install filters 11 to 60 as each truckload arrives, reaching about 1,500 people by early 2027.
- Track every filter: households served, cleaning routine and reported illness.
- After the filter rollout, bring lake water to families by truck.
- Find new funders and partners, and write grants in PALPER's name.

Project page: cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/drc **Detailed report:** cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/drc

* Estimate, not a measured result. Contaminated drinking water causes about 505,000 diarrheal deaths a year (WHO). We attribute about 450,000 of them to the 703 million people without a basic drinking water service (WHO and UNICEF): about one death a year for every 1,500 people. A filter costs \$80 and serves about 25 people for about 5 years, or \$0.64 per person per year, and $\$0.64 \times 1,500 = \$1,000$. The same method gives about \$450 for Papua New Guinea and \$500 for Cambodia. It assumes families drink the treated water every day. Full method: cleanwaterhelp.org/technical

Scholarships for DR Congo Students

● All five sponsored · enrollment being finalized



Photos: PALPER and Philip Wayaki Bongii.

33

students from Goma applied in June

RECORD

5

scholarships, all fully funded

RECORD

\$1,500

per student per year, stipend included

RECORD



Lareine

Civil Engineering



Faustin

Civil Engineering



Chantal

Public Health



Ruphin

Public Health



Bienvenu

Public Health

Shared with each student's written permission. First names only.

In June, 33 students from Goma, in eastern DR Congo, applied through PALPER. Volunteer reviewers ranked them and we awarded scholarships in August. When the University of Goma was suspended for the 2026–27 year because of the conflict, we moved the program to ULPGL (Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs), a private university in Goma. By September 22, sponsors had covered all five students.

Two will study Civil Engineering (four years) and three Public Health (three years); enrollment is being finalized. The award pays a living stipend as well as tuition and books, because many capable students must work to support their families instead of studying. From 2027, each student will have a CWH volunteer mentor and an internship with PALPER.

Papua New Guinea is next. Philip Wayaki Bongii, whose own donor-paid tuition changed his life, is gathering applications from the Eastern Highlands. We aim to fund five PNG students in 2027.

"The PALPER organization and our entire team stand ready to support these students until they achieve success and earn their university degrees."

Martin Mashagiro, President of PALPER, August 2026

WHAT'S NEXT

- Classes start October 15; first-semester results in January 2027.
- Collect PNG applications, December 2026 to January 2027.
- Find sponsors for the later years so every student can finish a degree.

Project page: cleanwaterhelp.org/scholarships

Detailed report: cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/scholarships

A filter at the tap for a pipeline the community built

● Pilot unit delivered · local NGO forming



A family at the water tank the community built



Community members dig the pipeline trench by hand



Materials carried up the mountain on foot



Creek water collects in the concrete catchment



Mixing concrete for the catchment

Photos: Philip Wayaki Bongi and the community. Shared with permission.

3,500+

people on the community's own gravity pipeline

REPORTED

1

ultrafiltration pilot unit delivered in September

REPORTED

4

more systems if the pilot works

PLANNED

Philip Wayaki Bongi and his community built a gravity pipeline, digging its trenches by hand. Writer Elan Head, whose mother Carey Lafferty knew Philip, told the story and raised the money for its 2025 extension. It now carries mountain water to more than 3,500 people. That is the community's achievement. What the water still needs is a reliable germ barrier.

The prefilter and gravity ultrafiltration pilot unit was delivered in September 2026, and a plumber is being arranged to install it. It needs no power or chemicals and will be tested through the rainy season, when the water is muddiest. If it works, four more systems follow. If sediment clogs it too often, chlorine added by families at the point of collection is the fallback. We ruled out in-line chlorine and UV for this site.

We are also funding the formation of PNG Safe Water, a new PNG-based nonprofit led by Philip that will own and run the systems. We manage the work until PNG Safe Water governs itself, then step back as a technical advisor, the same model we follow with PALPER and KCCO.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Install the pilot at a tap stand and test it through the rainy season.
- Register PNG Safe Water (target January 2027).
- Raise about \$25,000 (estimate) for filtration on the existing line, an extension to about 1,500 more people and a new pipeline for about 3,500 more: about 5,000 more people, 8,500 in all, at an estimated cost per life saved of about \$450.



A mining town built into the mountainside



Small-scale gold processing at a workbench

Photos: Clean Water Help site visit, February 2026.



Taking the cyanide out of small-scale gold

● Two-week pilot in early 2027

500+

Philippine mines our partner helped move off mercury

REPORTED

15

versions of the design, with an independent technical review

RECORD

2 weeks

side-by-side pilot against cyanide, early 2027

PLANNED

Around Baguio, small-scale miners already recover much of their gold with gravity methods instead of mercury. Our partner AppelGlobal has helped more than 500 Philippine mines make that switch. Cyanide is still used for the gold locked in copper-rich ore. Our chemists designed a process that uses thiosulfate in that second step instead of cyanide.

We are now securing the licenses and chemicals. In early 2027 the process will run for two weeks at full scale, side by side with the normal cyanide process. The work has the support of local government and the local small-scale mining association. If the results are promising, the plan is to invite local universities to help optimize the method.

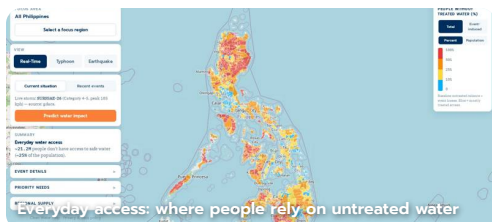
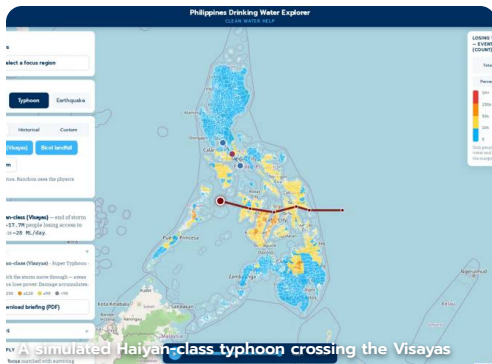
What decides success: miners adopt what pays. The pilot compares gold recovery, time and cost directly against cyanide.

Project page:

cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/baguio

Detailed report:

cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/baguio



Screenshots from the live prototype. Model outputs are estimates and are not yet calibrated.



Keeping drinking water flowing after typhoons and earthquakes

● Prototype live

46.2%

of Philippine households drink refilling-station water

CENSUS

539

past typhoons the app can replay

RECORD

Free

and open source for Philippine agencies

RECORD

Nearly half of Philippine households get their drinking water from small refilling stations. After a typhoon or earthquake, many of those stations stop working, and emergency agencies cannot see which ones will fail or which are still running.

Our free prototype app estimates which stations are likely to go down and points agencies to nearby stations that can keep supplying water. The goal is that agencies get water faster, station owners earn income during the emergency, and communities recover sooner. The prototype is live. Its numbers are estimates until we test it with the people who would use it.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Interview refilling-station owners and local disaster offices.
- Run a tabletop exercise using a past storm.
- Agree a 2027 pilot with one local government.

Project page:

cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/typhoon

Detailed report:

cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/typhoon



Students drink from their school's new system



A school community gathers beside its water system

Photos: ISZA and YourAid. Shared with permission.



Safe water for rural schools

● Program audit in December

300+

school systems installed by our partners since 2020

REPORTED

~60

new schools a year at about \$700 each

REPORTED

200–300

students aged 5 to 13 at each school

REPORTED

KCCO, funded by YourAid, runs the school water program in Kampot Province. Our role is technical: protecting the source water so the filters last longer, and testing the finished water for pathogens. Byran Fuhrmann visited the schools in May 2026. In August, KCCO ran the first bacteria tests with kits we donated: treated water tested negative for bacteria and untreated tank water tested positive. Each school system costs about \$700, for an estimated cost per life saved of about \$500.

From December 4 to 15, we return to audit the program, including how the systems handle pond water in the dry season, when rainwater runs out. We will also share ideas on hygiene education, grants, and partners for deep wells and pipelines, so the program can reach more children.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Test water at 10 to 15 schools in December, including schools that use pond water.
- Recommend practical fixes for dry-season treatment, such as washable prefilters.
- Deliver an audit report with funding ideas early in 2027.

Project page:

cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/cambodia-uf

Detailed report:

cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/cambodia-uf



Land scarred and flooded by gold mining



Residents cross a river by canoe

Photos: Nyankonton Aid Foundation.



Cleaner water for communities hit by galamsey

● Approved at the district level

3

local government bodies approved or support the pilot

RECORD

4

filter materials communities can source locally

PLANNED

1–2

pilot communities to start, chosen with the districts

PLANNED

Galamsey, small-scale gold mining that is often unregulated, has clouded rivers in Ghana's Ashanti Region and released mercury and other metals. With Nyankonton Aid Foundation, we are developing filters that communities can build themselves from biochar made from uncontaminated local plants, sand, scrap iron filings and bone char.

With AppelGlobal, we plan to teach legitimate small-scale miners about the dangers of mercury and show them gravity methods, such as sluicing and panning, that recover gold without it. In August 2026 the project received district-level approval.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Hold an inception meeting and sign an agreement with the districts.
- Test water and fish in one or two pilot communities.
- Build and lab-test the first community filters.

Project page:

cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/ghana

Detailed report:

cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/ghana



The finished ultrafiltration and UV system



Installing the filtration system

Photos: Clean Water Help and local partners.



PHILIPPINES · MARIVELES, BATAAN

PROJECT 8 OF 10

Safe drinking water in Mariveles

● System one running

100–200

people a day drink from the first system

REPORTED

\$533

cost of the first system

RECORD

~500

people a day planned at an indigenous school

PLANNED

A small system of prefilters, ultrafiltration and UV, run by church volunteers, has served safe drinking water since spring 2026 and passed its post-installation bacteria test. Next is a simplified version for the Biaan Aeta Integrated School, a school for indigenous Aeta children and low-income families, where it could serve about 500 people a day.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Finish a simpler design for the school: passive ultrafiltration and UV, with no storage tank or booster pump.
- Raise about \$700 and build the system with school staff.
- Train two caretakers, and test the water after installation and again after six months.

Project page:

cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/ph-villages

Detailed report:

cleanwaterhelp.org/reports/ph-villages

ALSO IN 2026

Smaller roles



GUATEMALA · WITH GOLD

PROJECT 9 OF 10

Water for a hospice on Lake Atitlán

GOLD is building a small hospice for about 10 patients and 5 volunteer caregivers. Our volunteers act as on-call advisors on a safe drinking and medical water system that deals with pathogens, arsenic, heavy metals and an unreliable town supply. GOLD leads the project.

More: cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/guatemala



CAMBODIA · WITH TRAILBLAZER

PROJECT 10 OF 10

Five biosand filters for farming families

In April 2026 we funded five biosand filters through Trailblazer Foundation. Trailblazer Angkor built, delivered and installed them and trained each family. Each filter serves about 7 to 20 people and should last more than 10 years.

More: cleanwaterhelp.org/projects/cambodia-biosand

2026 milestones

JAN	● Ghana partnership begins with Nyankonton Aid Foundation. ● First meeting with Philip Wayaki Bongi about Papua New Guinea.	FEB	● Site visit to small-scale gold mines near Baguio. ● Ghana partnership letter signed and sent to Nyankonton Aid Foundation.
MAR-APR	● First Mariveles water system installed. ● Five biosand filters funded in Cambodia. ● First 10 DRC filters ordered.	MAY	● Disaster water app made free and open source. ● Visit to Kampot schools and the Trailblazer workshop in Cambodia. ● Mariveles system passes its bacteria test. ● DRC filters arrive in Goma.
JUN	● 33 students in DR Congo (Goma) apply for scholarships. ● PNG team chooses the ultrafiltration pilot. ● DRC filter pilot starts with PALPER.	JUL	● DRC phase 1: 125 people drinking filtered water. ● Disaster app refocused on water refilling stations. ● New cleanwaterhelp.org and palper.org websites launch.
AUG	● First bacteria tests at Cambodian schools. ● DRC phase 2: 250 people drinking filtered water. ● District-level approval in Ghana. ● PNG pilot unit shipped. Scholarship winners announced.	SEP	● Board approves 50 more DRC filters; the first 10 are on their way. ● PNG Safe Water holds its first board meeting; pilot unit delivered. ● Scholarships move to ULPGL; all five students sponsored. ● Baguio two-week pilot set for early 2027.
COMING	○ Oct 15: classes start at ULPGL. ○ Dec 4–15: Cambodia program audit. ○ Dec–Jan: PNG scholarship applications. ○ Early 2027: Baguio pilot; PNG Safe Water registration.		

HOW WE WORK

Science first, local partners in charge

1

We diagnose the problem

Volunteer scientists and engineers test the water and find out what is actually making people sick or holding a community back.

2

We design a practical fix

We choose the simplest solution that will keep working locally, and we write down the options we set aside and why.

3

Local partners lead

A local organization runs the work and makes the final decisions. We help raise funds and write grants in its name.

4

We step back

Once the partner can run on its own, we become its technical advisor. PALPER and KCCO work this way today, and PNG Safe Water will too.

100%

of public donations go to the project the donor chose.

\$0

in salaries. No one at Clean Water Help is paid.

Founders

personally cover every operating cost.

LOOKING AHEAD

What we look forward to in 2027

Papua New Guinea and DR Congo come first. These are plans, not results yet.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA · WITH PNG SAFE WATER

Reliable, safe water for about 5,000 more people

- Help local leaders register PNG Safe Water, a new PNG-run nonprofit that will own and run the water systems.
- Extend the community's pipeline and build a second one, bringing water to about 5,000 more people in the rural Eastern Highlands (about 8,500 in all).
- Add filtration to remove the germs that cause waterborne disease, starting with four more systems if the rainy-season pilot works.
- Sponsor five young adults from the Eastern Highlands at university, \$1,500 each a year, with PNG Safe Water supporting them locally.

DR CONGO · WITH PALPER

Filtered water for about 5,000 people in Goma, and support for our five students

- Grow the filter program from about 250 people today to about 1,500 by early 2027, when all 60 filters are in use, and about 5,000 by the end of 2027. Reaching 5,000 takes about 200 filters in all (\$16,000 at \$80 each), then a used truck, pump and tank to deliver lake water: a \$20,000 goal.
- Mentor our five scholarship students and give them internships with PALPER, so they learn safe water work in their own community.
- Find sponsors for the later years, so all five students can finish their degrees.

CAMBODIA

Audit, then reach more children

Two weeks in Kampot in December 2026 auditing the KCCO and YourAid school program, then proposals such as wells, portable filters and stronger hygiene teaching.

PHILIPPINES · BAGUIO

Cyanide-free gold pilot

A two-week, full-scale pilot side by side with cyanide, with local partners in early 2027. We will share the results with local government and universities, and hope a local PhD student will carry the work forward with the community.

GHANA

Filters made from local materials

With Nyankonton Aid Foundation, teach communities to build filters from 100% local materials, designed to reduce mercury and other metals and checked by lab tests. Explain how mercury builds up in fish and food, to protect pregnant women and children. With AppelGlobal, help legitimate small-scale miners use less mercury.

PHILIPPINES · NATIONWIDE

Disaster water app, built with Filipinos

Develop the free app further with a Filipino co-lead, refilling-station owners and local disaster offices, then pilot it with one local government.

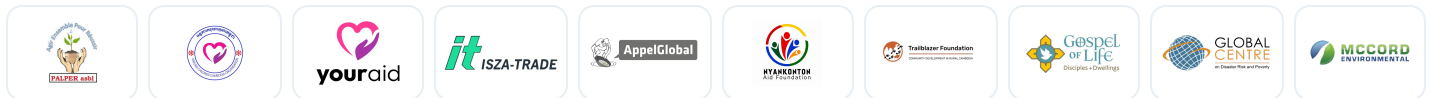
PHILIPPINES · MARIVELES

A larger system for an indigenous school

Build on our first system with a simpler design that serves more people: about 500 a day at the Biaan Aeta Integrated School, for about \$700.

THANK YOU

The partners who make it work



Corporate sponsors. LakeTech, our first corporate sponsor, is funding a full year of university for one of our DR Congo students and paid \$1,000 to cover every cost of our September 30, 2026 evening at the California Lake Management Society conference in Davis. It also offers its lake management software to our partners free of charge. Limnological Solutions International and McCord Environmental also sponsor our work. Thank you to every individual donor, sponsor and volunteer.

Go deeper. Each project has a detailed report covering the background, technical choices, risks and open questions, at cleanwaterhelp.org/impact#reports.

BE PART OF 2027

What your gift does

\$20

Safe school water for 3 children in Kampot, Cambodia, for 5+ years.

\$80

A shared gravity filter for five families in DR Congo (Goma), about 25 people.

\$500

A year of university tuition for a student. We add books and a living stipend.

Any amount

Toward safe water for about 5,000 more people in Papua New Guinea.

Give: cleanwaterhelp.org/donate Volunteer: cleanwaterhelp.org/contact impact@cleanwaterhelp.org 501(c)(3) · EIN 99-0765687