

Construction of Clean Water Systems, Vietnam



Villagers can access affordable, clean water from the new water filtration plant

Country Context

Ha Tinh province in central Vietnam is home to hundreds of coastal communities that rely on fishing for their livelihoods.

In 2016, a major contamination incident from a large steel factory's waste treatment plant led to irreparable and widespread ecosystem damage along the coast that destroyed the livelihoods of 510,000 people in 730 villages across 22 coastal districts of Ha Tinh and neighbouring provinces.

Affected residents relocated inland to take on farming but all the surface-level natural water sources are contaminated by chemical agricultural activities and by landfill waste from the steel company. The local communities must rely on expensive bottled water for drinking and cooking. At \$2 per day from a daily income of \$11, many farming households cannot afford it.

Instead, they are forced to use contaminated water that causes digestive illnesses and increases the risk of serious and terminal disease in the longer term.

About the project

The Jesuits in Vietnam are helping to bring accessible and affordable clean water to communities affected by contaminated water by constructing UV-sterilisation and water filtration systems that communities are trained to operate and maintain.

The project aims to help affected residents in at least ten low-income villages of Ha Tinh and neighbouring provinces to access affordable, clean drinking and cooking water. The capacity of the ten new water systems will serve 20,000 people.

To achieve this goal, the Jesuits identify target communities and work with residents to:

- Construct concrete buildings (4m x 6m) to provide hygienic housing for the water system
- Drill deep water wells (70m deep) to access deep, uncontaminated water sources
- Install electric pumps to operate them and an electricity source for the operation of the water system
- Install UV-sterilisation water filter systems, and
- Conduct training for village residents on how to operate and maintain the facilities, with continued support from the technical staff as needed. Residents also contribute a small fee, far cheaper than bottled water, to help cover the electricity costs.



Project staff testing the new water system bringing clean and affordable water supply to the communities of Ha Tinh Diocese

Project outcomes and measures

The overall goal of the project is **to help disadvantaged households in 10 villages to access safe and affordable drinking and cooking water for improved health and wellbeing.** This is broken down into the following key objectives with measurable indicators that assess outcomes and impact.

Key Objective	Measurable indicators
Improve access to clean water facilities in 10 villages with capacity to serve 20,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten wells (70m depth) and filtration systems installed in ten villages • Community members trained to operate and maintain the water systems • Water systems well-maintained and functioning on routine inspections
Improve health status of community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households are regularly accessing new, clean water source and have a decreased reliance on contaminated water sources



Budget

\$72,000 funding is required to cover the full cost of the project in 2023 inclusive of JM Administration costs (10%). The partner budget has been converted from USD at 0.62

Potential for Pilgrims 100 members to visit

Visitors are welcome to visit and view the facilities and project activities which occur mainly from January to June each year. This project is the first year of a three-year project which will build 10 new water filtration systems annually.

Hear their Stories

Mrs Loan

Before a water station was installed in her village, Mrs Loan, a mother of five children and a widow from the coastal village Lang Khe, had to purchase bottled water daily to use for drinking and cooking. This cost her \$2 per day – a large portion of her total daily income of \$11 per day.

The cost of buying water was compounding Mrs Loan's poverty.

Mrs Loan's desperate situation changed when a new water station was installed in her village, providing her family with access to safe, clean water which she collects twice per week.

Now she pays only 50 cents for this water, as part of her community contribution towards the ongoing operation of the filter system.



Villagers can now transport clean water easily from the water system in their village

