

Mission MOMENTS

WHERE THERE IS WATER

Think of all of the ways that you have used water so far today. Did you take a shower this morning? Did you flush your toilet? Or wash your hands? When you made breakfast, did you use water? How about when you cleaned up after the meal?

Now imagine walking each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Then for several months a year, you wouldn't have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up. How would you get by? What parts of your daily routine would you have to abandon? How would you provide water for your family?

Unfortunately, this is a reality for many people around the world.



Som Bee and her granddaughter now have access to clean water for cooking, drinking and gardening. Photo: CWS

In a rural community in Cambodia, the only water available was from a shallow, hand-dug well. Each day during the rainy season, a grandmother named Som Bee would walk to the well to collect the water for her family. But the water from the well was unclean, sometimes leading to health problems, including diarrhea.

Thanks to your support, the community was able to address the unclean water problem by installing a ring well. The members of the community also received training on how to filter the water, keeping it clean for daily use.

Because of your support, the members of the community now have access to clean water year round, and they are sick less often.

Because of your support, Som uses the clean water for her garden to help her grow tomatoes, pumpkins, spinach, gourds, cucumbers and mushrooms. Of course, her family eats the vegetables, so they now have a healthier diet!

Som's garden is so bountiful, she is able to sell her vegetables in her local community, earning money to support her family and buy other items that her family needs.

Your support has reached 16 villages in central Cambodia with clean, safe water. You were here with Som and her neighbors as they gathered to build their well with your support. Now, you are with Som each time she leaves her home and only walks a matter of yards to the well. You are here when she waters her gardens and prepares nutritious meals. You are here as her granddaughter grows healthy and strong.

You are here. And the future is bright.