

MISSION MOMENT

Water is Life

We are co-workers in God's garden, each with our own role to play in the planting and nurturing of God's future harvest. But no garden can grow without water. Water is life – and lack of clean water can be a death sentence.

On September 28, 2018, an earthquake and tsunami devastated the Indonesian island of Central Sulawesi killing over 2,100 people and destroying nearly everything in its path. ***“The disaster demolished gardens, houses, water systems, latrines and livelihoods...we defecated in the river, and often we [the women] had to wait because there were always men in the river and we felt insecure and uncomfortable,” recalls Sanuba, a survivor now living in an evacuation camp in Donggala.***

The river she mentions is about a quarter mile from the camp. It is difficult for some people to reach, especially at night. “After it rains, the river usually floods. That makes it even more difficult to use,” Sanuba told us. “We were also scared of animals and snakes.”

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are critical components of the Church World Service relief effort in Central Sulawesi. CWS is organizing skilled workers and using high-quality materials to build back safe, sanitary latrines and bathing facilities. With support from Week of Compassion, CWS delivers clean water to 13,000 people every day. These are important first steps to rebuilding God's garden in a place destroyed by disaster.

As recovery work continues for tens of thousands of people across Central Sulawesi, seeds that were nurtured begin to grow. Sanuba and her family were able to return to their farmland where they planted corn, chili and a few other vegetables. Since their house was destroyed, they continue to live in the evacuation camp but travel each day to their land. After long days nurturing their gardens, they appreciate returning to safe, sanitary bathrooms.

Sanuba and others like her are working diligently to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Though it will take years to be stable again, with the help of faithful and generous friends like you, they know their labor will yield a harvest.

In his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul states, “The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.”¹

Through Week of Compassion, your gifts provide life-giving water and sanitation that will nurture and grow God's harvest. Working together with the people of Central Sulawesi, your investment will help new life spring forth from the devastation that has displaced so many families. This is what it means not only to be co-workers – but co-creators – with God! Please give generously to help build a fruitful future for Sulawesi.

¹ Corinthians 3.8-9



Clean water and latrines are critical concerns following a disaster. photo credit: Church World Service; Central Sulawesi tsunami response