



# WORLD WATER DAY March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Photo: Phil Lampron

The United Nations have designated March 22<sup>nd</sup> as World Water Day, devoting this day to focusing public attention to the critical water issues worldwide, the most pressing of which is the fact that a staggering 884 million people in the world lack access to safe drinking water.

At Habitat for Humanity Macedonia we wanted to mark this day by remind our friends and supporters about the important role that providing access to clean and safe drinking water has in the work that we do in Macedonia. Since 2008, we have provided 240 families with individual water connections, ending dangerous practices of individual water pumps placed in close proximity to septic tanks - a common occurrence in rural Macedonia.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Project is a very simple yet effective concept based on partnerships with local municipalities and public water enterprises. With their help, we select the families in need of individual connections and, depending on the community, we provide safe and clean drinking water to a family with as little as \$300. The family then pays an additional \$10 dollars to their water bill over the next three to five years to repay their individual water connection.

## Water Facts

- Less than 1% of the world's fresh water is readily accessible for direct human use
- More than 3.5 million people die each year from a water-related disease
- 84% of water-related deaths are children aged 0-14
- Nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe water
- In Macedonia, 35% of the rural population do not have direct access to clean and safe drinking water



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On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2010, Habitat for Humanity Macedonia donated a public water fountain to the residents of the municipality of Vasilevo. The donation was made to mark World Water Day and the idea behind it was to provide clean and safe drinking water to the community that Habitat has been working with for a second year now. Habitat for Humanity Macedonia will be bringing clean and safe drinking water to an additional 100 families this year, but there is still a lot of work to be done, and there are still many families that lack access to clean water. It is precisely for those families that HFHM decided to donate the public water connection, which is now fully functional in the village center. In addition to HFHM staff and families, the mayor of the municipality of Vasilevo also attended and spoke at the ceremony, supporting and welcoming our efforts to help the families in his community get the safe water they deserve.

## How you can help

If you share our conviction that access to safe water is not a privilege but a fundamental right and want to help us out in serving even more families, you can send us a donation for the Water Supply and Sanitation Project. For as little as \$300, you can make sure that a family gets safe and clean water for life. And if you send your donation before March 31<sup>st</sup> through the Habitat International website ([www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)), your amount will be matched and we will be able to help an additional family. (Please make sure you designate your gift to Macedonia once you've submitted your billing information)

For other ways to get involved in our Water Supply and Sanitation project, please contact  
Tanja Maleska  
[tmaleska@habitat.org.mk](mailto:tmaleska@habitat.org.mk)  
+389 72 214 596

