

My Coins Count Water Stories for Children's Time 2024

printable



Nepal



When you think about how your family gets their water, most of us think about going to the kitchen or bathroom sink and turning on the faucet and using the water that comes out of it. While this is also true in many cities and towns around the world, this is not the case for many people in smaller villages around the world. Often finding clean water means walking on paths through the woods or mountains to find sources of water – a pond or river, or maybe a spring where water comes up from the ground.

People use water for many things. What are some ways that your family uses water? (drinking, cooking, washing, watering the garden, flushing the toilet, cleaning...). Do you think about how much water your family might use in a day? In this country, the average family uses 300 gallons of water a day! Can you imagine carrying that much water? If water doesn't come from a tap into your house and needs to be carried from a distance, you can imagine it would be very precious.

Nepal



When families need water, it's often the kids in the family who are assigned go to the water source and bring it back. Walking long distances with big jugs of water on their backs or on their heads takes lots of time and energy. Can you imagine walking two miles with a big jug of water? (Have kids pick up a gallon jug full of water to demonstrate how much it weighs, then pick a well-known location about a mile or two from the church to give a perspective on the distance someone might have to walk with the jugs.)

Think about the amount of time and energy it takes kids to fetch water and then all the things kids could be doing instead of fetching water, things like going to school, studying their lessons, reading a book, learning to make something, helping with cooking and cleaning, or playing with their friends.



Ethiopia



When MCC partners use your MyCC collections to help make water available closer to people's houses, it makes a big difference in the lives of the families – especially the kids! Now the kids don't have to walk as far to get water, and if they are lucky, the water might actually come into their house. Everyone is happier and healthier when clean water can come into their house.

Your My Coins Count money helps to bring water to people's homes and makes a big difference in the world!

Lesson 1 Photos: background information

Photo 1 (Nepal)

Urmila Tamang (left) and Changa Tamang show their baby, Rojina Tamang, a water tap that was installed at their home in fall 2019 through an MCC project with partner Shanti Nepal. A reservoir tank and pipe system now brings water to this and 20 other households in the small village of Kitchet Deurali, Dhading district. (MCC photo/Daphne Fowler)

A new phase of this project (2021-2024) aims to provide similar taps to 240 households in this mountainous, rural area, bringing water to the homes of approximately 2,600 people. Plans include constructing 12 water systems in small villages, with an average of 20 households per water system.

Photo 2 (Nepal)

Bikalpa Golea, student in grade two at Gupteshwor Primary School drinks from a filtered water tap. The water filter, which is installed near the tap, was funded by MCC partner Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD) in Bhardeu Village Development Committee of Lalitpur in 2019. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)

MCC partnered with RICOD in implementing earthquake recovery project in South Lalitpur mainly in the areas of reconstruction support, livelihoods, agriculture and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support after the earthquake of 2015.

Photo 3 (Ethiopia)

Children in a community in North Achefer woreda demonstrate to visitors from MCC and partner Afro-Ethiopia Integrated Development (AEID) their excitement about having access to clean drinking water from a well built in January 2023. (MCC photo/Paul Mosley)

Girls and women are significant beneficiaries of clean water in nearby communities as they often bear the primary responsibility for carrying water to their households.

AEID's objective is to improve access to clean and safe drinking water, by drilling 15 sustainable shallow wells, with supporting services and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) training for better sanitation and hygiene services for 15 rural communities in West Gojjam Zone, in Amhara, Ethiopia.

Nepal



I want to share some photos with you. What do you think these buildings are? Do they remind you of anything you have in your house? If so, it's for a good reason, because these buildings are places that are built for people to "use the bathroom." Sometimes they are called "outhouses" but we're going to call them by a more common name - "latrines."

We are fortunate in our houses to have toilets that safely take all the waste from our bodies into the sewer system to get the waste out of our houses and help us keep our houses clean and healthy.



Bolivia



Now, I know this isn't a pleasant topic to think about for children's time, but I want you to know why these latrines are so important for kids around the world who need clean water. Without latrines, all that body waste ends up on the ground and when the rain comes, the rain water washes the waste along the ground, sometimes going down into people's wells or into the rivers where people get their drinking water. This waste can carry germs that can make kids sick, giving them stomach aches or worms or even deadly diseases.



Haiti



When MCC partners around the world help communities build latrines, the latrines trap all that waste safely in a hole where it can't contaminate people's drinking water. It keeps the well water cleaner and helps kids to be healthier so they can do the things that kids like to do – like help with the housework!, go to school to learn, help in the garden, tend the animals or play with their friends. That is a great reason to collect coins for My Coins Count, to help communities build latrines to protect the clean water for families so that kids can be kids and can grow up healthy and do their part to make the world a better place.

SANITATION & SAFE DRINKING WATER
65
Mennonite Central Committee
Implemented by
Economic Rural Development Society



India



Remember when you leave here that latrines aren't really nasty things, they are beautiful things that keep kids safe and healthy! When you are collecting coins for My Coins Count to keep water clean for kids, you are making a positive difference in their world.

Lesson 2 Photos: background information

Photo 1 (Nepal)

Binadevi Tiwari stands in front of the new public toilet built by MCC partner Shanti Nepal in Dobantar village of Dhola VDC (Village Development Committee) in South Dhading, Nepal. Tiwari is a local member of the management committee for the public facility. The toilet especially serves pilgrims who go to a nearby Hindu temple every Tuesday. Members of the community and wanderers will also use the toilet, since the area is a designated ODF (open defecation free) zone.

MCC in partnership with Shanti Nepal supported projects to restore basic healthcare, and water and sanitation facilities in Nepal's southern Dhading district after the April 2015 earthquake. MCC also supports livelihoods recovery projects through Shanti Nepal. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)

Photo 2 (Bolivia)

An MCC supported food security project with partner organization, Baptist Organization of Social Development (OBADES), provided partial funding for 100 latrines as part of connecting households to piped-in water from a natural water source in the region. The water is for both sanitation and irrigation for home gardens. Behind the latrine is a greenhouse used for cold, dry climates at high altitudes. Families receiving support for their latrines also agreed to provide partial financing and their own labor for the building of the latrines. (MCC photo/Nathan Toews)

This project responded to food security and nutrition needs in Cochabamba, Copacabana, Bolivia, addressing three strategic areas: nutritional health, agriculture and livestock production-income generation, and natural resource management; with cross-cutting themes of community organization and gender equality. The project encouraged families to invest in agricultural micro-enterprises and associations in order to take full advantage of the potential of the communities and regional markets, diversifying agricultural production to be more marketable and of greater nutritional value.

Lesson 2 Photos: background information

Photo 3 (Haiti)

Latrines contribute to improved health in the community of Wopisa, Haiti. Latrines were built in Wopisa as part of a cholera prevention project implemented by MCC after Hurricane Matthew hit the island in 2016. In addition to assisting community members in building simple latrines, MCC provided training on hygiene, use and maintenance of the latrines to ensure their effectiveness. Each latrine looks different, because while MCC provided the basic material for the latrine (a cement base, tin roof and PVC piping), community residents supplied labor and local materials for the walls. This ensures not only that the latrines are cost-effective and culturally appropriate, but that community members are invested in the use and upkeep of the latrines. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

In communities without latrines, residents have no choice but to defecate on the ground, making it easy for infected waste to enter community water sources when rain washes topsoil into community water sources. The latrines are well constructed and a cost-effective method of keeping waste contained and offer other benefits including increased safety and privacy.

Photo 4 (India)

Sunita Murmu (32), from Chengtor village in Malda district, West Bengal, India, stands in front of her family's newly constructed latrine in January 2021. Even though Murmu and her husband Bheem Soren both work as daily wage laborers to support their family of six, they live at the poverty level. MCC's partner Economic Rural Development Society (ERDS) installs latrines to reduce the spread of intestinal illnesses and disease, part of a project to provide safe drinking water and improved sanitation for 331 households in five villages in West Bengal. The project raises community awareness of the importance of clean water and latrines for improved health and helps them access available government resources. (ERDS photo/Nepal Sarkar)

The couple said, “ERDS helped us to bring sanitation closer to home, as they aim to make a society open defecation free. Really, we are highly privileged to get help from the organization.”



Nepal



Wash your hands!! Have you ever heard your mom or dad tell you that? Sometimes it feels like parents are too concerned about kids having clean hands. But look at your hands right now, do they look dirty? Can you see germs and things on them that could make you sick if too many of them got into your body?

The problem is that many of those germs that can make you sick are so tiny that you can't see them. Fortunately, you and I have the option of going to our sinks and using soap and water to wash most of those germs off our hands so when we pick up food or touch our mouths or nose or eyes, there aren't enough germs on our hands to make us sick. But imagine that no one has told you about germs and you can't figure out why you keep getting stomach aches and often feel like throwing up. Imagine that you don't have water to wash your hands so when dinnertime comes around, all the germs that you've picked up on your hands all day now end up going into your mouth while you're eating your food. This is one of the problems that MCC and our partners are trying to help solve with your collection of coins with My Coins Count.



Nepal



MCC is working with schools and partners all around the world to help people stay healthy. In Nepal an organization named Shanti Nepal is helping teach families how to stay healthy through a program called “Clean and Healthy Village.” If families in the village work together to build handwashing stations and teach kids how to use them to stay healthy, then the village can get a certificate from the government showing that they are a “Clean and Healthy Village.”



DR Congo



A “Clean and Healthy Village” is a happy village, because the kids don’t get sick as often; the parents don’t have to spend their time and money taking care of sick kids. Everyone wants their kids to be healthy so they can do things that kids like to do, like go to school, help with the garden or housework or play with their friends.

Learning about what make you sick and what you can do to prevent getting sick is an important part of the water projects funded by My Coins Count. When you collect coins for My Coins Count, you are helping kids stay healthy and make a positive difference in the world!

Lesson 3 Photos: background information

Photo 1 (Nepal)

Bishwas Chepang (Age 10), cleans his face using clean water supplied to his home. (MCC photo/Luke Jantzi)

The water tap is part of a water scheme constructed as part of the Integrated Project for Community Nutrition and Food Security carried out by Mennonite Central Committee Nepal partner Shanti Nepal with financial support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Each water tap has a meter to measure usage and residents pay a fee based on this usage to ensure that the entire water scheme is properly maintained.

Photo 2 (Nepal)

Project participant Nirmala Tamang stands beside a Clean and Healthy Village (CHV) checklist hanging on the outside of her home. (MCC photo/Luke Jantzi)

Photo 3 (DR Congo)

Jacqueline Kafuti, member of the CEFMC local committee, drinking clean water from the boreholes in Kikwit 3, a section of the city of Kikwit. Kafuti oversees the boreholes in Kikwit and helps displaced people to resettle. CEFMC-MCC is putting in place boreholes to facilitate access to clean drinking water for the people in the community. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara)

The Church of the Mennonite Brethren in Congo (CEFMC) project consists of the construction of three boreholes for drinking water for displaced persons from Kasai and their host families in Kikwit. (In February 2023, two were built and one was in the planning stages.) In total, nearly 3,000 people will be the direct beneficiaries of this project. Each borehole will benefit 1,000 people. This will improve their access to drinking water and thus prevent water-borne diseases. Each borehole includes a 2000-liter water tower with 2 public standpipes that will be used to sell water at a reasonable price. The money from the sale of water will be used for the upkeep (maintenance) of the equipment and the remuneration of the vendors.



**FORAGE CEFMC
MANZOMBI
FINANCÉ PAR MCC
Executé par
MN INGENIEURIE
Août 2021**

DR Congo



We've been talking a lot about water and keeping kids healthy during the past few weeks. One more thing that your My Coins Count collection helps support is getting water to gardens to help people grow vegetables that make food more nutritious.

People collect water in a variety of ways. Sometimes they drill wells to pump it up from underground.



Nepal



Sometimes they run pipes or canals from a water source to their fields and villages.

Sometimes they catch rainwater in ponds or big rain barrels called cisterns. They can even grow fish in the ponds to eat and sell.



Cambodia



And sometimes, there's too much rain, and it creates a flood that can wash away people's gardens and ruin all their hard work.

Around the world, MCC partners are helping farmers get water to their homes and gardens. In Nepal and Bolivia, that includes building greenhouses that prevents too much rain from washing away the vegetables. It also helps to control the temperature inside so the plants have the right temperature to grow the most vegetables possible. Every farmer wants to have a good crop, because they need the vegetables to feed their families. If they have extra vegetables, they can sell them at the market to help pay for clothes and school and other things they need.



सगरमाथा
200 Ltrs
x'tra Heavy

Nepal



MCC partners in Nepal are also helping families save the water they use in their house so they can re-use that water for the plants in their gardens. It allows them to use it two times!

Your collections of coins for My Coins Count helps families make the most of the precious water that they have available, to keep clean, healthy and to grow their gardens. It is making a difference in the lives of families around the world.

Lesson 4 Photos: background information

Photo 1 (DR Congo)

The borehole in Kanzombi, an area of the city of Kikwit, was drilled by CEFMC to help the community gain access to clean, affordable water. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara)

The borehole fills a 3,000 litre tank two or three times a day. Water from the tank is distributed to two different fountains where people come to get potable drinking water.

Photo 2 (Nepal)

Fatta Bahadur Shrestha (left), chairperson of an irrigation canal construction committee, and Purnalal Shrestha (right), a member of the committee, stand on the side of the new irrigation canal in Kiranchowk VDC (Village Development Committee), South Dhading, Nepal. The canal irrigates about 250,000 square meters (500 ropanies) of land in Simtari village. MCC partner Shanti Nepal shared the construction costs with the community which provided more than half of the total amount. MCC has partnered with Shanti Nepal in implementing earthquake recovery projects in Dhading district since 2017. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)

Lesson 4 Photos: background information

Photo 3 (Cambodia)

Khy Chya holds up a fish he caught while a recently harvested rice paddy is being turned over and prepared for the next crop of rice to be planted. Natural fisheries are an important part of the diet for many Cambodians, especially for people living in rural areas. One of the major opportunities to harvest fish from rice paddies is when rice is between seasons when the fields are transitioning between crops. (MCC photo/Isaac Alderfer)

Photo 4 (Nepal)

Sunita Tamang holds her child, Emma Tamang, 2, in front of her newly built plastic house and the drip irrigation system she will use to grow vegetables in South Lalitpur, Nepal.

Previously, Tamang received vegetable farming training, a variety of seeds and materials to build a tunnel from MCC partner Rural Institute for Community Development (RICOD). Already an experienced gardener, this is Tamang's first attempt at growing vegetables in a tunnel. With help from RICOD, Tamang used her own savings to buy posts and plastic nets for pest control and water pipelines for irrigation to increase the outcome of her farming venture.

MCC partners with RICOD to provide reconstruction materials, livelihood support, agriculture training and supplies, and water and sanitation recovery for communities in the southern part of Lalitpur affected by the devastating earthquake in April 2015. It's also a mountainous region where regular rains have become irregular but torrential. (MCC photo/Avash Karki)

YouTube Videos on MCC water projects:

Welcome with Water – DR Congo

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s_rvuo9zjQ

How far do you walk for clean water? DR Congo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOyBU1RmbvE>

Download link:

<https://cdn.mcc.org/assetspace/2d6bad484403185afdd346e3f17667a5.mp4>

Thank you from Kikwit DR Congo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYldzix7o7Q>

Download link:

<https://cdn.mcc.org/assetspace/92ebf7bb5e89984000579756c36e9000.mp4>

Water, sanitation and hygiene in Chad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYldzix7o7Q>

Download link:

<https://cdn.mcc.org/assetspace/be8a493aae1f0437c6a9a03fdf29fa23.mp4>

My Coins Count Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4rV2cl0LJA>