



Water Engineers for the Americas & Africa

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WEFTA's Contribution to WASH in Healthcare Facilities (2015–2030)

Background

Since 2001, Water Engineers for the Americas and Africa (WEFTA) has partnered with in-country organizations, healthcare providers, WASH networks and faith-based organizations to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services across Africa and Latin America. From 2015–2025, WEFTA significantly expanded its WASH in Healthcare Facilities (HCFs) portfolio in alignment with the global initiative led by WHO, UNICEF, and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, with the overwhelming need to address the critical gap in safe water and sanitation in healthcare settings.

Partnership-Driven Impact (Faith-Based Organizations)

WEFTA's success is built on strong, mission-aligned partnerships that enable effective implementation and long-term sustainability with:

- **Daughters of Charity International Project Services (DCIPS):** A cornerstone partner in WEFTA's global WASH in HCF portfolio, supporting project identification, coordination, and implementation across Africa and Latin America. Through this collaboration, WEFTA has delivered comprehensive WASH improvements in hospitals and clinics in countries including Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cameroon, DR Congo, Mexico, and beyond.
- **Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes:** In partnership with the Sisters and Sanitation and Water Action (SAWA) and supported with resources by the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese, John Nidimbo, of Mbinga, WEFTA has implemented and sustained WASH improvements across multiple rural healthcare facilities in Ruvuma and Njombe Regions of southern Tanzania. These projects emphasize not only infrastructure development, but also long-term system functionality through hands-on training and circuit rider support.

These partnerships ensure that WASH interventions are locally grounded, technically sound, and sustainably managed.

Vatican 150 Initiative – Flagship WASH in HCFs Projects

Through the Vatican 150 Initiative, WEFTA has implemented high-impact WASH projects in mission hospitals and clinics serving vulnerable populations.

Vatican 150 Initiative - Representative Projects:

- **Ethiopia – Danka Catholic Hospital in Coordination with Daughters of Charity:** Comprehensive water supply, distribution, and sanitation systems for patients and hospital staff
- **Ghana – Immaculate Conception Health Center in Coordination with Daughters of Charity:** Borehole, storage, sanitation, medical waste management, and system optimization
- **Nigeria – St. Catherine's Hospital in Coordination with Daughters of Charity:** Reliable groundwater system supporting maternal and clinical care

- **Tanzania – Mpapa Health Center in Coordination with Bishop John Ndimbo and the Benedictine Sisters:** Water source and storage improvements for rural service delivery and upgraded sanitation systems for human waste disposal
- **Burkina Faso – Notre Dame de Esperance Hospital in Coordination with the Daughters of Charity:** Full WASH upgrade for rural and refugee-affected populations

Across these projects, WEFTA has delivered:

- Source water development (groundwater wells and springs), and solar-powered water systems
- Water storage, distribution, and facility-wide access
- Sanitation and healthcare waste management infrastructure
- Handwashing and infection prevention systems

These integrated improvements strengthen healthcare delivery, reduce infection risks, and improve patient dignity.

Sustaining Impact Through Circuit Riding

A defining feature of WEFTA’s model is its **Circuit Rider Program**, which ensures long-term system functionality through:

- Routine monitoring and preventative maintenance
- Water quality testing and performance evaluation
- On-site O&M training for healthcare staff
- Strengthened operations and maintenance (O&M) systems

This approach minimizes system downtime and protects long-term investments.

2026–2030 Commitment

Over the next five years, WEFTA will:

- Expand WASH improvements across additional healthcare facilities
- Scale the Circuit Rider model as a standard for sustainability
- Strengthen local technical capacity and workforce development
- Enhance monitoring systems to ensure long-term performance

Goal: Ensure healthcare facilities not only gain access to WASH services but sustain them, improving health outcomes for millions.

WEFTA remains committed to delivering sustainable, partnership-driven WASH solutions that strengthen healthcare systems and the communities they serve.

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