



The International Water, Sanitation
and Hygiene Foundation

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPACTFUL PLUMBING
AROUND THE WORLD

SOCIAL IMPACT ARM OF IAPMO™



OUR MISSION

At the International Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH), we mobilize the plumbing industry for good. By uniting skilled plumbers, leading manufacturers, technical experts, and NGO partners with the expertise of IAPMO, we deliver life-changing water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions where they're needed most. **Our proven formula—well-planned projects, skilled plumbers, quality products, and world-class training—creates scalable change** in disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

In 2024, this approach improved water access and sanitation for more than 1,000 people across seven communities worldwide.



Ed Gormley
Chair, IWSH Board
of Trustees

VIEW OUR 2024-2026
PROGRAM GUIDE BY
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MESSAGE FROM IWSH LEADERSHIP

Access to clean drinking water and safe sanitation is essential for health, dignity, and opportunity, yet billions worldwide still live without these basic services. Low-income and indigenous communities are disproportionately affected, leaving them at greater risk of waterborne illnesses and poor quality of life.

In 2024, your support powered various IWSH demonstration projects where we showcased plumbing upgrades and repairs, wastewater solutions, workforce development, and alternative water supply solutions. In 2024, your support powered various IWSH demonstration projects where we showcased plumbing upgrades and repairs, wastewater solutions, workforce development, and alternative water supply solutions. **100% of your contributions directly supported our projects and programs.**

Through these efforts and ongoing programs like IWSH Plumbing Champions, Community Plumbing Challenge, and our new Hygiene Bucket Challenge we demonstrated the transformative power of plumbing. Together, we're not just funding projects—we're building an ecosystem of sustainable change that supports United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, uplifts communities, and showcases the plumbing industry's vital role in public health and environmental sustainability.

Thank you to every partner, volunteer, and supporter who joined us in 2024.

When you support IWSH, **100% of your contribution directly supports our work.** Together, we're changing lives through plumbing.

WHERE WE HELPED IN 2024



In 2024, IWSH implemented “Community Plumbing Challenges” and social impact initiatives in the **United States, Australia, France and the Philippines.** The “Community Plumbing Challenge” is a program in which IWSH and its volunteers work alongside community members to identify water, sanitation, and hygiene issues and then provide appropriate plumbing solutions.





ACHIEVED IMPACT

In our third Community Plumbing Challenge collaboration with the Black Belt Unincorporated Wastewater Program (BBUWP), we delivered immediate plumbing improvements to underserved households while building local capacity for future impact. **Through hands-on training, local high school students gained valuable exposure to plumbing careers while conducting assessments of failing home systems.** This enabled skilled plumbers to focus on critical repairs, showcasing a scalable model for addressing sanitation challenges in other communities.

Empowering Youth and Communities Through Plumbing in Lowndes County

DATE & LOCATION

April 2024
Lowndes County, AL

THE PROBLEM

Lowndes County, a historically underserved region, faces a sanitation crisis, with 80% of households lacking adequate plumbing. A global shortage of skilled plumbers slows the ability to make the necessary repairs and upgrades, increasing health risks and limiting long-term progress.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

As part of a weeklong demonstration project, IWSH and BBUWP engaged six high school students, combining classroom learning with practical fieldwork. Using the IWSH Household Plumbing Survey, students assessed plumbing in 12 homes, enabling licensed plumbers to focus on critical repairs. Partnerships with local schools laid the foundation for vocational training programs, and plans are underway to scale these efforts to 80 additional homes.

PROJECT PARTNERS

BBUWP, LIXIL America, UA Local 52, Local 91, South Central Pipe Trades.

“ *I think it's very important to get young people involved in the trade because here in our county we don't have a lot to offer the children, and with the plumbing challenge, it's an idea to learn how to become a plumber. ”*

Chequita Surles-Johnson
BBUWP Chaperon and Mother
of Participating Student



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

Through our Community Plumbing Challenge at the Baca-Prewitt Navajo Chapter, we upgraded wastewater systems for two key communal facilities, benefiting hundreds of residents. By partnering with local leaders, **we delivered sustainable sanitation solutions that were tailored to the unique community and regional challenges.**

Improving Sanitation for the Navajo Nation Community Centers

DATE & LOCATION

May 2024

Baca-Prewitt Chapter, Navajo Nation

THE PROBLEM

Over 30% of Navajo Nation residents lack basic plumbing, leading to severe health and environmental risks from untreated and unmitigated wastewater. Traditional septic systems will fail in the area given difficult soil conditions, while limited resources inhibit communities from implementing more effective, lasting solutions.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

Our skilled plumbing volunteers installed pressurized mound septic systems at the Baca-Prewitt Chapter House and Senior Center. These systems, which included oversized grease tanks and alarms, were designed for sustainability and reduced maintenance, given the financial and skilled labor constraints the community faces. Every step of this project—from soil testing to compliance with Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) requirements—was powered by community collaboration and your support.

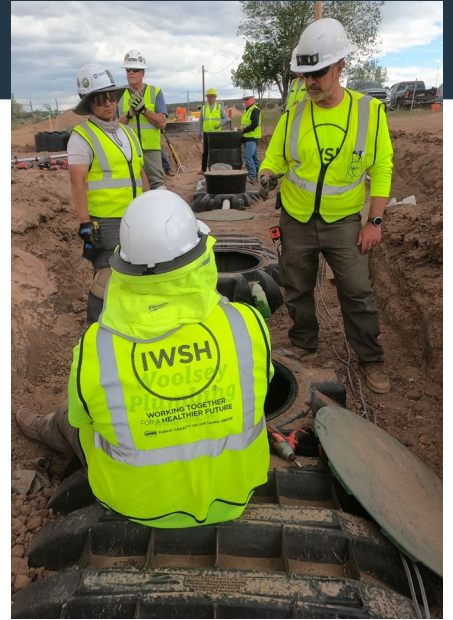
PROJECT PARTNERS

DigDeep, Infiltrator Water Technologies, UA Local 400, UA Local 412, UA Local 78, Dahl Plumbing of Albuquerque, ACCO Engineering, Indian Health Services, Navajo Nation EPA, Baca-Prewitt Chapter leaders.

“ *It was a privilege to be able to assist on a IWSH project and to be able to use my skillset to help others in need. I really enjoyed interacting with members of the community and the rest of the crew. As soon as I came home, I shared my experience with my crew at work and fellow union members. I explained what IWSH was all about, and they would ask how they could help too. It's heartwarming to know so many of my union brothers and sisters wanted to also be a part of the next projects.* ”

Stephanie Mendias

ACCO Engineered Systems, member of UA Local 78



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

Launching a new *Plumbing for Health* pilot program in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Plumbing Council (WPC), **we improved water, sanitation, and hygiene systems in four Manila healthcare facilities.**

This effort established a three-year plan to expand health-focused plumbing solutions nationwide, as part of the global WHO-UNICEF WASH in Healthcare Facilities program.

Plumbing for Health: Enhancing Global WASH in Healthcare Facilities

DATE & LOCATION

June 2024

Manila, Philippines

THE PROBLEM

Outdated plumbing and inadequate sanitation infrastructure in Manila healthcare facilities disrupt essential services, risking the safety of patients and staff. Current assessment tools, like WHO's Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT), were used to reveal gaps in plumbing infrastructure that require further technical expertise and industry input.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

In collaboration with the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE) and the National Association of Master Plumbers of the Philippines (NAMPA), we completed various repairs guided by WASH FIT. With 45 participants, including healthcare facility staff and City of Manila representatives, we addressed issues like leaking tanks and faulty valves. Leveraging the codes expertise of IAPMO, we supported a Plumbing for Health addendum to national codes and laid the groundwork for youth engagement and broader implementation of tailored WASH solutions. Your support not only improved infrastructure but also strengthened the tools and collaborations needed for long-term, scalable impact in the Western Pacific region.

PROJECT PARTNERS

WHO Philippines, Philippines Department of Health, PSSE, NAMPA, World Plumbing Council.

“ *We are delighted to have convened government and industry partners for the first project of this kind under WHO-World Plumbing Council collaboration. Our initiative has led to the preparation of new government resolution for developing plumbing for health standards in the Philippines. We are excited to build on this progress together in the coming years.* ”

Dr Bonifacio Magtibay

Technical Officer, WHO (Philippines)



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

In collaboration with Mimal Land Management and the Reece Foundation, we upgraded water and sanitation infrastructure at the Mimal Ranger Base in Central Arnhem Land, benefiting over 100 local employees. **These improvements empower the community and provide a blueprint for addressing water challenges in other Indigenous regions.**

Addressing Indigenous Water Security Through Alternate Water Systems

DATE & LOCATION

August 2024
Northern Territory, Australia

THE PROBLEM

The Mimal Ranger Base, a critical hub for land management, vocational training, and cultural programs in Central Arnhem Land, faced severe water security issues due to outdated water and sanitation infrastructure. Limited access to reliable water and sanitation not only affected daily operations but also hindered the base's ability to expand its essential community programs and support the ambitions of their ten-year Healthy Country Plan.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

Working alongside Mimal Land Management and the Reece Foundation, our skilled plumbing volunteers connected a new borewell, installed rainwater tanks, and improved plumbing systems. We also conducted educational activities with local schoolchildren and offered hands-on training for staff at the base, so with your support, we ensured the community could sustain and build upon these improvements.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Mimal Land Management, Reece Foundation.

“ *The role of the Ranger Base goes beyond land management. It is a hub for the community and provides on-country learning programs and different services to support the community. But without water – good, safe, clean water – there isn't a community. Having access to water solutions that are both safe and culturally appropriate is essential to helping our community thrive and delivering our Healthy Country Plan.* ”

Michelle Dunscombe

Program Manager, Bidwern Butj Uni (Australia)



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

Our IWSH Plumbing Champions program transforms perceptions of the plumbing industry through installation projects in local communities that are hosting high-profile events. Donated materials from these events are repurposed to move beyond showcases into sustained, real-world impact.

Promoting Skills and Social Impact Through Plumbing Competitions

DATE & LOCATION

September to December 2024
Lyon, France

THE PROBLEM

Despite its essential role in public health and safety, plumbing is often misunderstood and undervalued. Events like WorldSkills offer an opportunity to inspire new talent while delivering tangible benefits to under-resourced areas within host communities.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

At WorldSkills Lyon 2024, IWSH collaborated with GROHE, part of LIXIL — a longtime IWSH partner — who, along with IAPMO, is a WorldSkills Global Industry Partner. GROHE contributed products to the WorldSkills Plumbing and Heating competition, while IAPMO contributed its deep expertise in plumbing codes and standards toward assessing the competition. After the event concluded, IWSH organized the transfer of GROHE competition fixtures for reuse at the BTP CFA Rhône Apprenticeship Training Centre in the nearby town of Dardilly, enabling local apprentices and their instructors to install a new mixed-use washroom for the construction school training area. Allied trade apprentices completed the washroom renovation as part of their training.

PROJECT PARTNERS

World Plumbing Council, BTP CFA Rhône, Grohe, WorldSkills.

“ *If there were no plumbers, there would be no world. So it's us... we bring water back to people, that's us. We clean up water damage at people's places, we check if there are leaks and we repair them. So in itself, without us, the world wouldn't thrive - I don't think so!* ”

Drion Gashi

Plumbing Apprentice, BTP CFA Rhône (France)



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

Through our new IWSH Hygiene Bucket Challenge, **we mobilized volunteers to assemble and distribute more than 250 hygiene kits to shelters in two underserved communities in the United States.** This initiative not only delivered immediate support but also raised awareness of the broader challenges related to hygiene access for unhoused individuals. It also allows non-technical supporters to volunteer for IWSH's mission.

Supporting Hygiene Equity for Unhoused Communities

DATES & LOCATIONS

January & July 2024
Key West, FL & Boston, MA

THE PROBLEM

For individuals experiencing homelessness, maintaining personal hygiene is a daily struggle. Shelters face overwhelming demand for essentials like soap, toothpaste, and deodorant, while this lack of hygiene access affects health, dignity, and employability.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

For our first effort, our volunteers assembled and delivered 50 hygiene kits for clients at the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition. The kits featured full-sized, high-quality essentials stored in sturdy 5-gallon buckets, inspired by the plumber's tool bucket. Later in the year, we expanded the initiative to Boston, distributing over 200 kits to local shelters, including Rosie's Place and Pine Street Inn. This project elevates the need for access to hygiene services while connecting the plumbing industry to local needs, ensuring every contribution creates tangible support for vulnerable populations.

PROJECT PARTNERS

UA Local 12, Massachusetts PHCC, Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association (PCA), IAPMO Conference Planning and Special Projects Committee.

“ We were proud to have participated in the Hygiene Bucket Challenge. Our members work in our neighborhoods every day and understand the importance of access to sanitary products and clean water. We are happy we were able to do our part to help IWSH in this important effort. ”

Tim Fandel

Business Manager, UA Local 12

“ Keeping our communities healthy is a key mission of the plumbing industry. We all have to do our part to help vulnerable populations and it was an honor to play a part in providing so many men and women here in Boston with the essentials they need. ”

Andrew DeAngelo

Executive Director, Greater Boston PCA



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ACHIEVED IMPACT

Our annual IWSH Essay Competition encourages students to think critically about global water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges and the role the plumbing industry plays in solving them. Winning essays writers are awarded scholarships for their school expenses. **This year's competition garnered 257 entries and sparked fresh ideas from students worldwide**, raising awareness and inspiring the next generation of industry leaders.

IWSH Essay Competition: Inspiring the Next Generation of Industry Leaders

DATE & LOCATION

April 2024
Global

THE PROBLEM

Water and sanitation are fundamental human rights, yet billions of people worldwide still lack access. Inspiring young people to engage with WASH challenges is crucial for fostering awareness that will inspire future innovations and leaders for the plumbing industry.

IWSH ACTIVITIES

Our 2024 competition drew entries from a diverse pool of high school, college, and trade school students on the topic: "Why do you believe access to water and sanitation is a human right?" The winning essays demonstrated creativity and passion, highlighting the next generation's potential to drive meaningful change in water and sanitation access. This year's first-place prize went to Ava Hartman from North Carolina State University, with runners-up Samantha Eberl (University of British Columbia), Hannah Gilmore (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), and Stella Wang (Markville Secondary School). These winning writers were awarded with scholarships for their school expenses.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR 2025 IWSH ESSAY
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HUGE THANKS TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS...



IAPMO Cascade Chapter • IAPMO UPPA Chapter
IAPMO Gulf Coast Chapter • IAPMO Chapter of Minnesota
PHCC of Virginia

...AND SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS:

- **ACCO Engineering**
- **Baca-Prewitt Chapter Leaders**
- **Black Belt Unincorporated Wastewater Program**
- **BTP CFA Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (France)**
- **Dahl Plumbing Supply of Albuquerque**
- **Department of Health, Philippines**
- **Erickson Plumbing**
- **Geberit (Germany)**
- **Gormley Plumbing**
- **GROHE (France)**
- **Grundfos (Australia)**
- **IAPMO Companions Committee**
- **Indian Health Services**
- **Innung SHK Frankfurt (Germany)**
- **Jan Loving and Associates**
- **Lyon Métropole (France)**
- **Messe Frankfurt (Germany)**
- **National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines**
- **Navajo Nation EPA**
- **Navajo Tribal Utility Authority**
- **Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers**
- **PROVE Infrastructure (Australia)**
- **Southeast Pipe Trades**
- **UA Local 52**
- **UA Local 78**
- **UA Local 91**
- **UA Local 400**
- **UA Local 412**
- **Vinidex (Australia)**
- **Waggong e.V. (Germany)**
- **Winsupply**
- **WorldSkills International**
- **WorldSkills Lyon 2024 (France)**



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