Closing the Sanitation Gap

**CHALLENGE:**
Preventable water-related diseases kill thousands daily.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest sanitation coverage on Earth. Seventy percent of the Sub-Saharan population, approximately 600 million people, has no access to an improved sanitation source, and open defecation is still common among Africa’s poorest. Water-related illnesses cause incalculable suffering in Africa and undermine many development efforts.

**AFRICARE’S SOLUTION:**
Africa can close the sanitation gap.

**Clean Water Access:**
Since 2002, the African Well Fund has counted on Africare to implement numerous projects across the continent, constructing wells, rehabilitating water points and training communities on their proper use. Coca-Cola and DEKA Research and Development have also entrusted Africare to deliver clean water to African countries with the groundbreaking “Slingshot” water purification technology, which extracts clean water out of almost any source.

**Hygiene Education:**
Funded by President Barack Obama with a portion of his Nobel Peace Prize, Africare employed a behavior change campaign to stimulate demand for sanitation in four Ghanaian communities and trained masons to construct ventilated latrines. When the project ended, the communities had built 86 household latrines, and local nurses, teachers, students and parents had learned how to avoid water contamination and lead healthier lives in the future.

Through a project in Zambia, more than 65,900 children and adults were educated on sanitation practices and safeguarding their water. By the project’s end, 62 villages possessed 100% household latrine coverage and were declared open-defecation free.
With Africare’s help more than 111,000 Africans gained access to new or rehabilitated wells in 2012.

“This is the happiest day of my life. We have waited so long to get this well, and now it is a reality...Thanks to Africare and its partners for this gift of life to our village.”

-Mariama Walett
Africare Beneficiary, Mali
(Not pictured)

“Our partner Africare is committed to working in areas where the need is the greatest.”

-Diane Yoder
Board Vice Chairman, African Well Fund

About Africare
Africare, the largest and most experienced international non-governmental organization (NGO) focused exclusively on Africa, is committed to improving lives and building futures. In more than 40 years of partnering with local communities, NGOs, governments and the private sector, Africare has invested over $1 billion through thousands of projects in more than 35 African countries.