



The International Water, Sanitation  
and Hygiene Foundation

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

## PLUMBING SOLUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD



## OUR MISSION

At the International Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH), we mobilize the plumbing industry to provide clean drinking water, safe sanitation, and new career pathways to underserved, low-income and indigenous communities. We believe that clean water and safe sanitation are basic human rights, plumbing can change lives, and there is no equity without clean water and safe sanitation.



**Ed Gormley**  
Chair, IWSH Board  
of Trustees

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## MESSAGE FROM IWSH LEADERSHIP

Around the world, too many people still live without access to clean drinking water and safe sanitation — conditions that shape health, dignity, and opportunity. Low-income and Indigenous communities face the greatest barriers, with limited infrastructure, aging systems, and higher risks of waterborne illness. As the public charity of IAPMO focused on plumbing's role in delivering sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) solutions worldwide, we address these challenges by following our success equation: **well-planned projects + skilled plumbers + quality products + community education = scalable and measurable change**. In 2025, your support helped IWSH deliver scalable and measurable change across four continents.

Together, leveraging IAPMO's expertise, we expanded plumbing access and education through IWSH Community Plumbing Challenges®, promoted workforce development through IWSH Plumbing Champions events, and launched new collaborations with like-minded organizations to accelerate WASH access and strengthen training networks. Through our global IWSH Essay Competition and Hygiene Essential Kits, volunteers and students alike advanced awareness, compassion, and innovation.

In total, **IWSH impacted around 5,000 individuals** with vital plumbing interventions. Each initiative reflected our shared belief that plumbing changes lives — and that when we work together, those changes last. Thank you for helping make 2025 a year of collaboration, compassion, and measurable impact.

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

WHERE WE HELPED IN 2025



In 2025, IWSH impacted **5,000+ individuals** across **7 communities, 5 countries** and **4 continents**.



## IWSH IMPACT

IWSH returned to the Baca-Prewitt Chapter of the Navajo Nation to complete critical plumbing upgrades that improved water access and sanitation for the community of 789 residents. These improvements strengthened daily operations at essential community facilities, including the Senior Center, allowing for food to be safely prepared for elders and for community gatherings to take place once again. This project demonstrates how investments in skilled labor and quality plumbing can transform entire communities.

# Transforming Lives Through Repairs and Upgrades in Navajo Nation

## THE PROBLEM

At the Baca-Prewitt Chapter, the community's plumbing infrastructure had severely deteriorated. The Chapter House had been without a functioning water heater for more than eight years, while the nearby Senior Center faced aging pipes and fixtures that disrupted food service and hygiene for elders. A shortage of skilled labor limited access to affordable and sustainable water and sanitation solutions.

## IWSH ACTIVITIES

Building on critical septic system upgrades IWSH provided in 2024, our staff and volunteers returned to expand improvements in the two community facilities. They installed water-efficient fixtures and kitchen appliances at the Senior Center to support meal service for elders, replaced the water heater at the Chapter House, improved wastewater and drainage systems, and added a public drinking fountain with a bottle refill station — restoring hot water and expanding access to safe drinking water for the broader community.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

Baca-Prewitt Chapter leadership, Caleffi, DigDeep, Grundfos, Kohler, Milwaukee Tool, UA Local 68, UA Local 290, UA Local 342, UA Local 400, UA Local 412, Viega, and Zenten Tools.

## DATE & LOCATION

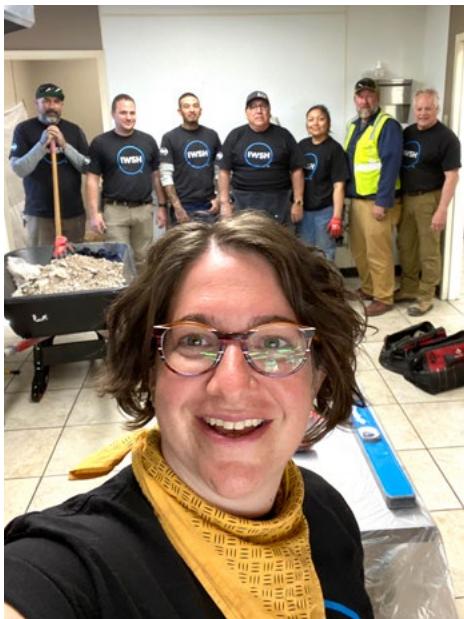
May 2025

Baca-Prewitt Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico

*“We’re grateful to IWSH for doing these repairs. We’ll be able to reopen the facility for community members and they can come take showers and have a working kitchen to cook traditional Navajo foods. That’s the highlight of this whole thing: it gives back to our community. Having reliable water and sanitation means that they [community] have hope – they have faith they’ll get it one day on their own. This is something they’ll cherish because they’ve never had it before ... especially young kids living with no water; they know they need it but don’t get it. ”*

## Sharon Loley

Baca-Prewitt Chapter Manager



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## IWSH IMPACT

At Walpole Island First Nation (WFIN) in southwestern Ontario, Canada – home to about 2,500 Anishinabe community members – volunteer plumbers from three UA Locals partnered to modernize plumbing systems at the community's central gathering space. The project improved water efficiency, eased demand on local infrastructure, and introduced Indigenous youth to the skilled trades, demonstrating how plumbing improvements can build community resilience and future workforce capacity.

# Developing Pathways for Skilled Trades in Walpole Island First Nation

## DATE & LOCATION

August 2025

Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada

## THE PROBLEM

The Walpole Island Community Centre – a hub for recreation, cultural events, and food distribution – faced aging and inefficient plumbing systems that strained the community's water treatment facility and the building's undersized septic system. Across many Indigenous communities, limited access to licensed plumbing services and technical training compounds these challenges. Without reliable infrastructure and skilled local professionals, essential facilities become harder to maintain and affect community WASH access.

## IWSH ACTIVITIES

Qualified volunteer UA plumbers from southern Ontario province replaced nearly 40 outdated fixtures with high-efficiency toilets, faucets, urinals, and showerheads, reducing water use and easing demand on the community's water treatment facility. Alongside these upgrades, IWSH facilitated plumbing 101 awareness sessions where local youth worked directly with professionals to learn installation basics and gain exposure to potential career paths. The collaboration combined immediate infrastructure improvements with long-term workforce development for the community.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

Indigenous Skills, Employment, Apprenticeship and Development (ISEAD), Dean Lane Contractors, Nelco Mechanical, UA Canada, UA Local 46, UA Local 527, UA Local 663, and Walpole Island First Nation leaders and members.

*“Our allies are here with us this week, IWSH, the UA and many others, plumbers and steamfitters and welders, who I never could have imagined, would come into this community to do this work for free. And as we look back on this, we will realize that what we've done this week is transformative change that will have impact upon future generations here in this community. ”*

**Danny Deleary**

Manager of Special Projects, ISEAD



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## IWSH IMPACT

IWSH organized Hygiene Essential Kits for vulnerable communities in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Quebec City, Canada. Volunteers assembled and delivered critical hygiene supplies to local shelters serving low-income and unhoused individuals. These efforts improved health and dignity for hundreds of people and demonstrated how simple, hands-on collaboration can make an immediate, meaningful difference.

## Expanding Access to Hygiene Essentials for Vulnerable Citizens

### DATES & LOCATIONS

January & July 2025  
San Juan, Puerto Rico & Quebec City, Canada

### THE PROBLEM

For people experiencing homelessness or poverty, basic hygiene is often out of reach. Shelters frequently struggle to provide enough soap, toothpaste, and other essentials that most people take for granted. Lack of access to hygiene products can affect personal health, confidence, and job readiness. In both Puerto Rico and Quebec City, local organizations expressed growing need for hygiene support to meet increasing demand among vulnerable individuals and families.

### IWSH ACTIVITIES

In January 2025 IWSH volunteers assembled 100 Hygiene Essential Kits for La Fondita de Jesús, a shelter serving impoverished residents across 35 counties throughout the island. In July, IWSH organized another event in Quebec City, where volunteers provided Hygiene Essential Kits to Lauberivière, a shelter supporting low-income and unhoused populations. Each kit included essentials such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, and feminine care products – restoring dignity and comfort through community generosity.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

IAPMO Conference Planning and Special Projects Committee, La Fondita de Jesús (Puerto Rico), and Lauberivière (Quebec City).

*“ We are immensely grateful for this donation! Thank you for choosing La Fondita de Jesús as the benefitted organization – our homeless participants are in much need of these articles. This collaboration benefited many participants throughout our programs [as] our mobile clinic visits more than 35 municipalities all over the island, and we distribute hygiene kits to mostly older adults with disabilities and homeless people. ”*

**Dr. Geraldine Bayrón Rivera, Ph.D.**  
Development & Programs Planning Director, La Fondita de Jesús



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## IWSH IMPACT

Helping launch the inaugural ISH Festival at ISH Frankfurt 2025 – the world's leading trade fair for HVAC and water – IWSH's Plumbing Champions program brought together young professionals from around the world to renovate washroom facilities at Frankfurt arts center serving 1,500 musicians and community members. The collaboration showcased plumbing's essential role in public health and sustainability while inspiring the next generation of skilled tradespeople through hands-on global teamwork.

## Celebrating Young Champions on the Global Industry Stage

### DATE & LOCATION

March 2025  
Frankfurt, Germany

### THE PROBLEM

The Kulturwerkstatt Germaniastraße arts center needed updated, fully functional washroom facilities to better serve its musicians and community members. Many of the existing fixtures had deteriorated over time, creating maintenance challenges and limiting accessibility during large events. Without reliable plumbing infrastructure, the center's ability to host rehearsals, performances, and community programs was increasingly constrained, affecting a key gathering space in Frankfurt's cultural network.

### IWSH ACTIVITIES

During the five-day ISH Frankfurt trade fair, IWSH Plumbing Champions conducted a demonstration workshop with young plumbers who built the framework of the new bathroom systems. IWSH then united those young plumbers with local apprentices and professionals to install the new plumbing systems at the arts center. The team transformed demonstration into practice by modernizing restrooms and upgrading sanitation infrastructure for the cultural center.

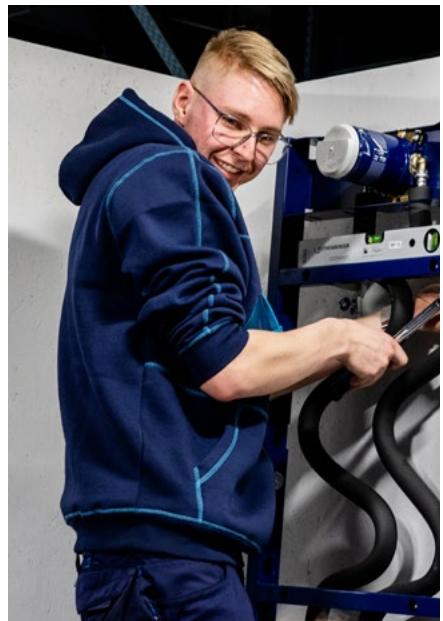
### PROJECT PARTNERS

World Plumbing Council (WPC), Innung SHK Frankfurt, Wagggong e.V., Messe Frankfurt, Geberit, GROHE, Buderus, Rothenberger, IAPMO.

*“The plaster had crumbled off the ceiling, the tiles were coming off the walls underneath, and there were loose cables everywhere because for 30 or 40 years, no one had taken care of the place. Now when we have events outdoors or in our concert hall, people no longer have to line up for a single toilet – we can simply make more toilets available. It means we can think on a completely different scale. ,”*

**Katrin Zurborg**

Cultural Affairs Officer, Wagggong e.V.



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## IWSH IMPACT

IWSH Plumbing Champions returned to Australia, aligning with the WorldSkills Australia National Championships in Brisbane, Queensland. Volunteer plumbers and apprentices partnered with local organizations to deliver plumbing upgrades for a high-profile charitable organization centre. This social impact project sought to improve water efficiency and sanitation while demonstrating how vocational skills can strengthen public health, sustainability, and opportunity through meaningful community collaboration.

## From Skills Competition to Community: Social Impact in Brisbane, Australia

### DATE & LOCATION

June 2025  
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

### THE PROBLEM

Many charitable community organization facilities across Australia face aging or inefficient plumbing systems that strain local resources and limit access to safe, reliable water and sanitation infrastructure. At the same time, the plumbing trade continues to face workforce shortages and perception challenges – particularly among young people. Without initiatives that link skills training to community benefit, opportunities to highlight plumbing's essential role in health, sustainability, and local resilience are often overlooked.

### IWSH ACTIVITIES

Transferring resources from the Plumbing & Heating competition at WorldSkills Australia 2025, IWSH volunteer plumbers and apprentices worked to upgrade essential washroom facilities at the ADRA Logan Community Centre. The project provided modernized plumbing and showcased plumbing as a purpose-driven career. Through hands-on collaboration with industry and education partners, young tradespeople applied their skills in service of others, leaving a legacy of improved infrastructure and skills competition sustainability.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

World Plumbing Council (WPC), IAPMO Oceania, Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC), WorldSkills Australia, ADRA Logan Community Centre, Reece Group, Reece Foundation.

*“ADRA is there for people in Logan when they need help the most, and these upgrades will make a real difference to the comfort, wellbeing, and dignity of families and individuals who rely on the Centre every week. This is a terrific example of industry, apprentices, not-for-profits, and the community working together to support people doing it tough. ,”*

**Hon. Jim Chalmers MP**  
Federal Treasurer of Australia



HON. JIM CHALMERS MP, FEDERAL TREASURER OF AUSTRALIA



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## IWSH IMPACT

At WorldSkills Africa, IWSH with support from the World Plumbing Council (WPC) launched a first-ever plumbing capacity-building workshop in Lusaka, Zambia. The initiative brought together plumbing professionals and educators from across the region to advance technical training, promote regional collaboration, and lay the foundation for a stronger, more connected plumbing industry in the country.

## Launching New Capacity-Building for African Plumbing Associations

### DATE & LOCATION

September 2025  
Lusaka, Zambia

### THE PROBLEM

Across Africa, growing demand for clean water and sanitation services is challenged by limited technical training opportunities and fragmented professional networks. Many countries lack strong national plumbing associations, coordinated codes and standards, and sufficient access to modern materials and instruction. These gaps hinder workforce development and slow progress toward safer, more reliable plumbing and WASH infrastructure.

### IWSH ACTIVITIES

IWSH and IAPMO helped convene a new WPC partnership and run workforce development activities at the Fountain Gate Craft & Trades School in Lusaka. Leveraging IAPMO expertise and the WPC's network, IWSH coordinated a capacity-building program for plumbing instructors from five African nations, facilitating a hands-on masterclass for WorldSkills participants in collaboration with Rothenberger's Tools for Life Foundation (T4L) and providing additional training for more than 50 local Plumbers Association of Zambia (PAZA) trainees, who all received donated tools.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

World Plumbing Council (WPC), IAPMO, Rothenberger Tools for Life Foundation (T4L), Plumbers Association of Zambia (PAZA), WorldSkills Africa.

*“Plumbing has become a passion, and it's in my blood ... the biggest hope that I have, and that I have foreseen, is that Zambia is going to change — we are hoping that Zambia is going to be a center of excellence. We need to speed up and grow, in terms of plumbing aspects. ”*

### Moses Chongo

President/CEO, Plumbers Association of Zambia (PAZA)



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## IWSH IMPACT



The annual IWSH Essay Competition encourages students to think critically about global water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges and the plumbing industry's role in solving them. The 2025 competition drew more than 550 entries from high school, college, and trade school students worldwide, raising awareness of WASH issues and inspiring the next generation of industry leaders through creativity, research, and storytelling.

## 2025 IWSH Essay Competition: Inspiring Future WASH Leaders

### DATE & LOCATION

April 2025  
Global

### THE PROBLEM

Billions of people worldwide still lack access to safe, reliable drinking water. Meeting this challenge requires collaboration among governments, industry, and communities—but public understanding of how these sectors can work together remains limited. Engaging students in critical discussion of water equity and infrastructure helps develop future professionals who can bridge policy, innovation, and skilled trades to ensure clean water and sanitation for all.

### IWSH ACTIVITIES

The 2025 IWSH Essay Competition invited students to respond to the topic: “Why should the government and private sector come together to provide improved access to clean drinking water?”

The first-place prize went to:

- Saba Ahmed (Calvin University, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan).

Runners-up were:

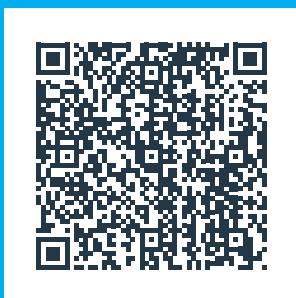
- Rifah Maulidya (Indiana University)
- Sakethram Ramakrishnan (Johns Hopkins University)
- Hannah Schaeffer (Sheridan College)

All winners received scholarships to support their studies.

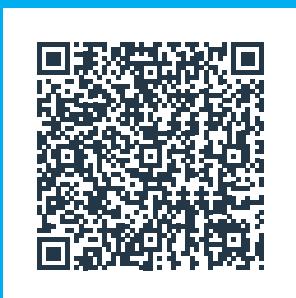
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COMPETITION BY  
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- **100% of donations go directly to water and sanitation projects.**
- **7 communities served across 5 countries and 4 continents.**
- **Over 5,000 lives transformed through safe plumbing and sanitation.**



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## California Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association (CPMCA)

- Dean Lane Contractors • DEKS Industries • Gormley Plumbing
- Innung SHK Frankfurt • Nelco Mechanical • UA Local 46 • UA Local 68
- UA Local 290 • UA Local 342 • UA Local 527 • UA Local 663 • Caleffi
- Connect Trade Union • FELDER Löttechnik • Grundfos • IAPMO Cascade Chapter
- IAPMO Gulf Coast Chapter • IAPMO Minnesota Chapter • Incolink • Viega

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

- **ADRA Logan Community Centre**
- **Association of Plumbing Professionals, Burkina Faso (APP-BF)**
- **Baca-Prewitt Chapter leadership**
- **Beenleigh Housing and Development Company (BHDC)**
- **Bluewater Plumbing**
- **BTP CFA Rhône**
- **CFI Mechanical**
- **Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE)**
- **Conestogo Mechanical**
- **IAPMO Conference Planning and Special Projects Committee**
- **IAPMO Oceania**
- **Indian Plumbing Association (IPA)**
- **Indigenous Skills, Employment, Apprenticeship and Development (ISEAD)**
- **InstallerSHOW**
- **Institute of Plumbing, South Africa (IOPSA)**
- **JH Kelley**
- **Kämpf + Co. Innovative Haustechnik GmbH**
- **La Fondita de Jesús**
- **Lauberivière**
- **LIXIL**
- **MLN Company**
- **National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines (NAMPAP)**
- **Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE)**
- **Plumbers Association of Zambia (PAZA)**
- **Professional Regulation Commission of the Philippines (PRC)**
- **RHP Mechanical Systems**
- **Roberts Onsite**
- **Rwandan Plumbers Organization (RPO)**
- **Sarnia Plumbing and Mechanical**
- **UA Local 67**
- **UA Local 290 LMC Trust**
- **UA Local 342**
- **UA Local 400**
- **UA Local 412**
- **UA Local 527**
- **UA Local 663**
- **Waggong e.V.**
- **Walpole Island First Nation leaders and members**
- **WorldSkills Africa**
- **WorldSkills Australia**
- **WorldSkills International**



# The International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation

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