

## **Bank of America, Water.org Partner to Provide Clean Water and Opportunity in Southern India**

March 23, 2015 /3BL Media/ - Bank of America today announced a \$1 million grant to Water.org, a global organization that provides innovative, community-led and market-based solutions that change lives through safe water and sanitation. The grant will empower 100,000 people in southern India to obtain safe water and sanitation solutions, accelerating positive change in their homes and communities. This will be achieved through a Water.org program, WaterCredit, which enables people in need to access small loans for water connections and toilets.

According to Water.org, water-related illness worldwide, such as diarrhea, is among the leading causes of death in children under five years old, listed with deadly diseases such as malaria. Moreover, according to the World Health Organization, every dollar invested in water and sanitation generates approximately a \$4 economic return. The World Economic Forum, in its recently released 2015 Global Risk Assessment, ranked water crises as the number one global risk in terms of impact on people's health and quality of life.

Collecting scarce water in impoverished communities is usually the job of women and girls, often taking hours each day. Similar initiatives have shown that with the availability of clean, safe water, their lives can be transformed: Women have significantly more time to pursue paid work, and girls have more time to attend school. Women constitute 91 percent of WaterCredit borrowers globally.

"We are pleased to partner with Water.org to help provide clean and safe water to people who desperately need it," said Alex Liftman, Global Environmental Group executive. "Water access is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Through our connection with Water.org, we are improving environmental and global health, and creating educational and economic opportunities for women and girls."

Water.org said that the grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will benefit three of its local WaterCredit partners in the region, helping them to provide small loans for families to pay for water access and sanitation. As the loans are repaid, they will become a new, sustainable source of affordable water and sanitation financing in the region.

"With the ongoing support of partners like Bank of America, we can make great progress in providing access to clean, safe water where it's most needed – and to help hundreds of thousands of people break the cycle of disease and poverty," said Gary White, CEO and co-founder of Water.org.

Through its \$70 billion business goal to advance lower-carbon economic solutions through lending, equipment finance, capital markets and advisory activities, carbon finance and investment advice and solutions for clients globally, Bank of America remains committed to environmental sustainability. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Water.org

For more than two decades, Water.org has been at the forefront of developing and delivering solutions to the water crisis. Founded by Gary White and Matt Damon, Water.org pioneers innovative, community-driven and market-based initiatives to ensure all people have access to safe water and sanitation, giving women hope, children health and communities a future. To date, Water.org has positively transformed the lives of more than two million individuals living around the world, ensuring a better life for generations ahead. Learn more at [www.water.org](http://www.water.org) and [www.facebook.com/water](http://www.facebook.com/water).

## Bank of America

Bank of America is one of the world's largest financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small- and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving approximately 48 million consumer and small business relationships with approximately 4,800 retail banking offices and approximately 15,800 ATMs and award-winning online banking with 31 million active users and approximately 17 million mobile users. Bank of America is among the world's leading wealth management companies and is a global leader in corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 3 million small business owners through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and more than 35 countries. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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πηγή: justmeans

23/03/2015