

PROCLADE Internazionale onlus, a Foundation created to promote integral social development, is part of a network of NGOs from various countries in the 5 continents, which actively collaborate with the Claretian Missionaries, supporting the processes of empowerment of urban, rural and indigenous communities.

In the framework of the process towards the Water Conference 2023 we would like to present our contributions to the Preparatory Meeting. Our statement will focus on Theme 1: Water for Health. PROCLADE has been accompanying communities in the implementation of health care projects whose central axis is water as a fundamental element for the empowerment of communities, the search for food sovereignty and an autonomous and sustainable development through healthy life.

Potable water, improving the quality of life of populations

Water is one of the most important elements in the daily life of a society, it determines the conditions for promoting development or not. In Djaba, (Cameroon) and in Tenali, Andhra Pradesh, in the district of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh (India) as in other regions of Africa and Asia suffer from the scarcity of drinking water. The rainy seasons last 3 to 4 months a year and in the dry season, water is scarce and mostly undrinkable. In these areas, diseases are observed due to the consumption of contaminated water. And people are also exposed in these places to multiple situations like displacement due to violence that threaten their dignity.

In Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, India, the Yanadies are the most impoverished group in the region. They experience extreme poverty due to lack of drinking water, lack of proper treatment of diseases, unhygienic lifestyle, lack good nutritious food, frequent epidemics such as cholera, brain fever, etc. Infant mortality is very high due to poor health of the mother, poor childcare, and unfavorable climate. Women also develop serious complications after birth control operations. To get drinking water they have to travel long distances and sometimes pay high prices.

The main objective of our projects is to facilitate access to drinking water for the populations of these regions and to reduce water-related diseases and deaths through the construction of wells and water reservoirs that will ensure quality of life of all the people of the region.

Access to water to end hunger

Linamnutu is located in Timor Tengah Selatan (TTU), in the center of the Island of Timor, in Indonesia, where we are developing a project, whose fundamental focus is agriculture. For this, it is necessary to ensure access to water and irrigation of crops. It is a large agricultural project to plant Albazia trees, chili and papayas. This project aims to assist the poor farmers to market their products in their own region.

On the other hand, in Honduras, the rural community of Nueva Esperanza, Arizona, Atlántida, did not have access to drinking water. In addition to this, there was a threat of a mining by a company that devastated part of their forests. But the communities managed to get the company to withdraw through an open town hall meeting. We have developed a project that consists of the construction of a drinking water distribution system to assist the community to have safe drinking water to improve their health and have nutritious food.

Thus, access to water would help reduce poverty and improve the quality of their income and to live a healthy life.

Call to Action

- Governments must guarantee free drinking water for all and recognize it as a fundamental human right.
- Ensure water's fundamental importance for human development and for the safe environment.
- Member States must establish laws that prevent water sources from being privatized. Water must not be sold, for which a UN convention on the non-commercialization of water must be created.
- Legislation should be established to punish the contamination of water sources especially in drilling for fossil fuels.
- Get the consent of the fishermen to the sea-related development projects.
- We offer our experience and work with communities on the issue of drinking water to network with other organizations and promote the campaign for water as a human right.