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Fondazione PROCLADE Internazionale-onlus is a Foundation created to promote integral social development. It is part of a network of Non-Governmental Organizations from various countries of the five continents, which actively collaborate with the Claretian Missionaries. The foundation is known for supporting the empowerment processes of urban, rural, and indigenous communities.

In the UN 2023 Water Conference framework, we want to focus on the interactive dialogue: Water for Sustainable development. PROCLADE has been accompanying the implementation of projects whose central axis is water as a fundamental element for the empowerment of communities, for food sovereignty, and for autonomous and sustainable development.

Drinking water, improving the quality of life of populations

Water is a fundamental human right that the government, as a duty bearer, must fulfill by obligation. Water is one of the essential elements in daily life. It is a key determining factor for the promotion of development. For example, Sakdje (Cameroon), Tenali, in the district of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh (India), and other regions of Africa and Asia suffer from the scarcity of drinking water. The rainy seasons last 3 to 4 months a year, and water is scarce and undrinkable in the dry season. In these areas, there are diseases due to the consumption of contaminated water and exposure to multiple situations that threaten people due to the action of armed groups.

In the district of Guntur, the Yanadies are the most impoverished and disadvantaged group. This poverty is due to lack of drinking water, lack of proper treatment of diseases, unhygienic lifestyle, lack of conditions for good nutrition, frequent epidemics such as cholera, brain fever, etc. In these regions and others, infant mortality is very high due to poor water conditions or poor access to water, as they have to travel long distances and pay high prices to get drinking water.

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.

Access to water to end hunger

Linamnutu is a village in the district (Kabupaten) of South Central Timor (Timor Tengah Selatan; TTS) in Indonesia. There, we are developing a project with agriculture as its core focus. To accomplish this, securing access to water and crop irrigation is vital. Our project is an agricultural endeavor involving the cultivation of albizia, chili, and papayas. This project aims to help poor farmers produce and market their products in their region. Access to water would improve their income, help reduce poverty, and improve their quality of life.

The rural community of Nueva Esperanza, Arizona, Atlántida in Honduras, had no access to drinking water and the threat of mining exploitation by a company devastated part of their forests. But the communities managed to get the company to withdraw through an open town hall meeting. We developed a project that consisted of building a drinking water distribution system. This has helped the community to have access to clean water and to own the water resource and its distribution. As a result, they are able to improve their health and to be producers of their food for nutrition purposes. Thus, access to water contributes to alleviating poverty, improving health, and leading to the sustainable development.

Call for Action

- Since water is a fundamental human right, governments must provide financial resources, capacity-building, and international assistance to guarantee for all people free, clean, and safe drinking water.
- No one should sell water. Therefore, Member States must establish laws that prevent the privatization of water sources and foster community water management.
- To safeguard the waterways against pollution, governments must make defaulters take corporate responsibility to compensate for the damages caused by them and punish them for their actions both in the places of committing the act of pollution and in their area of origin.
- Make the consent of fishermen mandatory concerning development projects in territorial waters, contiguous zone, and Exclusive Economic Zones.
- Create legislation for the use of High Seas for development projects.

Submitted By:

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