

WASH

While IOCC's work has spanned operations in more than 60 countries and myriad program areas, its work today is focused on five core competencies: emergency preparedness and response, WASH, sustainable livelihoods, food security and agriculture, and health. IOCC continues to serve communities where we work in other program areas, as needs and local priorities indicate, but our core work and depth of expertise and experience reside in these five key sectors. IOCC works with and through local partners, including the local Orthodox Church's development agency and other local NGOs. Capacity building for these partners is an integral part of IOCC projects. IOCC helps local communities address the needs they prioritize for themselves and to leave behind local structures better able to manage the developmental challenges communities face.

Lebanon



IOCC has constructed communal water reservoirs and installed solar-powered systems to run water pumps, providing better access and water storage to vulnerable communities across Lebanon and reaching thousands in refugee settlements, schools, and communities while focusing on sustainable energy and a "greening" approach to infrastructure.

Hygiene-awareness campaigns bring together communities to learn best practices in family hygiene, mother-child hygiene, household and food hygiene, COVID-19 prevention, and sanitation procedures. About 17,700 beneficiaries were reached during 2022.

In 2021, IOCC transformed Al Manara public school in West Bekaa into a green building,

installing a comprehensive water-treatment and collection system for 1,000 students and school staff. A solar-powered system now provides green energy; blackwater is treated, and greywater is combined with rainwater, treated, and used for toilet flushing. A student garden uses the school's food waste as compost and the treated water for irrigation. IOCC also equipped a solid-waste-management facility in Amioun, North Lebanon, with a solar-powered system and waste-sorting equipment, benefitting 10,000 individuals, and constructed and equipped a solid-waste-management facility in Aarsal, Bekaa, benefiting 11,400 individuals.

Since 2021, IOCC has been transforming eight health centers in North Lebanon, the Bekaa, and areas affected regions by the Beirut explosion into environmentally friendly "green" buildings. Health services such as consultations and laboratory tests are also subsidized there, reaching 26,350 beneficiaries by the end of 2022.





Syria

IOCC has provided WASH services to over 2,704,000 people since the onset of the Syria conflict in 2011. Work has comprised over 70 water infrastructure projects, including drilling and repairing wells and providing water-storage tanks and water-distribution systems. IOCC also provided nearly 500 hygiene

awareness sessions, reaching over 16,300 people. IOCC has facilitated water trucking to ensure clean water for more than 49,600 people, including those living in camps in Northeast Syria, and delivered over 14,500 water tanks to vulnerable families—serving over 254,900 individuals.

Uganda

Water-borne diseases associated with poor sanitation remain one of the greatest causes of illness and death in Uganda. As part of IOCC's work improving Church-run boarding schools in rural areas, IOCC constructed a new central sanitary block in 2021–2022. Work included a septic system and separate latrines for boys and girls. All work was done in collaboration with the Uganda Orthodox Church, applying engineering best practices and meeting or exceeding all Ugandan government standards.

Additionally, to make clean water easier to access in rural areas, IOCC has dug wells and installed rain-water-harvesting systems on school buildings to collect water that boarding students use for laundry and bathing. This pilot project trained partner and school staff on these techniques so that IOCC can scale up this intervention moving forward.



Ethiopia

Between 2011 and 2015, IOCC implemented numerous WASH-related projects in Ethiopia, including emergency services for refugees from Somalia and South Sudan hosted in Ethiopia's southern camps. IOCC has also responded to droughts in the region. Accomplishments include the following:

- 41,000+ refugees and members of host communities gained access to potable water
- 20,000+ people received improved access to water through the construction of reservoirs, rainwater-harvesting structures, and water distribution points.
- 2 million liters of water were delivered via truck for livestock consumption (2015) and 5 five-thousand-liter water-storage tanks were installed in Amhara.
- 1,020 people and 1,290+ domestic animals benefited from increased water supply through capping two springs, installing a 10-cubic-meter reservoir and laying 1.2 kilometers of pipe, and constructing three water-distribution points, two cattle troughs, and two laundry washing basins.
- Serving rural communities in Amhara, IOCC capped natural springs and built distribution points and cattle troughs—improving access to safe, sustainable water and reducing the risk of both water-borne diseases and COVID-19 as the pandemic took hold.



Bosnia and Herzegovina



During its reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in 1998–2000, in order to support the economic recovery of rural areas after the conflict, IOCC expanded the water infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Projects included the reconstruction of two complete water-supply systems over 25 km long, repairing the pump facility, and installing a 7.5 kW water pump and a 20 kW generator.

In addition, IOCC built a completely new water-supply system over 5 km long for a remote village and reconstructed 47 private wells or reservoirs. In this way, over 500 households received a stable supply of a clean, high-quality water; an additional 1,000 were subsequently connected to the water networks.

Greece



In 2015, IOCC provided WASH assistance benefitting 37,000 refugees at the Samos refugee camp, including portable toilets, showers, and technical work at the new reception center. On the island of Chios, IOCC renovated existing sanitary facilities inside the refugee camp, including shower units and toilets.

In addition, still in 2015, IOCC proceeded with the repair, maintenance, and upgrading of sanitation facilities and hygiene-promotion activities at six refugee sites on the mainland – Agios Andreas, Rafina, Lavrio, Malakasa, Elefsina, and Oinofita – as well as through

interventions at the sites of Thermopiles, Oraiokastro, and Softex. The project assisted over 4,375 people.

In 2016, IOCC continued to provide WASH assistance to a number of refugee camps in Greece. Seven sanitary containers (showers and toilets) were installed at the Softex and Oraiokastro sites in northern Greece, and others were installed at Malakasa (7) and at Oinofita (3).

This WASH assistance continued in 2016–2017. Activities addressed infrastructure repairs, replaced damaged parts, and completed minor upgrades necessary to ensure that all facilities were in operating order. As a result of this aid, at least 3,100 refugees and migrants received access to clean water.

Cameroon



In 2013, IOCC supported projects that secured potable water supplies for three schools in northwest Cameroon, serving more than 9,000 students and teachers. IOCC supported the development of the engineering design and installation of custom rainwater-harvesting and water-distribution systems, with a total capacity to collect and store over

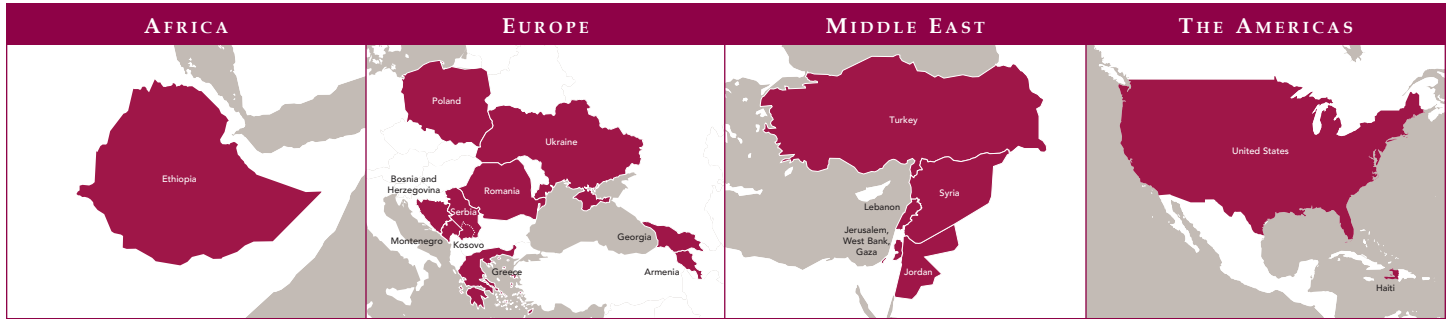
2,270 cubic meters of water per year. This project built the capacity of the local Orthodox Church and the school's staff to replicate these initiatives.

As a complement to the water-supply program, IOCC distributed personal hygiene kits to students at the school. In coordination with the Orthodox Metropolis of Cameroon and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yaoundé, about 700 students and teachers at a local Catholic school also received hygiene kits.



THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IOCC continued its projects around the world while taking steps to protect staff, partners, and beneficiaries. All projects are continuously evaluated for multiple risk factors, and appropriate modifications made. IOCC ensures that all staff and beneficiaries receive information about COVID-19, including testing locations, and integrates this information into ongoing projects, as indicated by local health authorities.

Active Worldwide Programs



- Ethiopia
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Greece
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia including Kosovo
- Ukraine
- Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Turkey
- Haiti
- United States



● Emergency Preparedness & Response	150,044
● Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH).....	40,362
● Sustainable Livelihoods.....	2,869
● Food Security & Agriculture.....	129,203
● Health	607,594
● Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	2,917

IN 2023, IOCC SERVED 932,989 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$800 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.



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