# **The Water and Sanitation Crisis**

2018 International Initiatives

Access to improved drinking water and sanitation is one of the most fundamental issues facing the global community. Around the globe, the numbers are staggering. Approximately 2.5 billion people worldwide do not have access to improved sanitation and 768 million people rely on unimproved drinking-water sources. These challenges directly correlate to negative public health and economic outcomes. Complicating this challenge is the fact that by 2025, twothirds of the world's population is projected to be living in severe water stressed areas. By focusing on these issues, the IAPMO Group is saving lives and communities.

## The Challenges

The challenges surrounding improving access to water and sanitation services are systemic. Many countries face hurdles related to inadequate infrastructure, poor system maintenance, lack of trained personnel, and transforming cultural or social norms related to sanitation. These hurdles are compounded by the continuing urbanization and growth of the world's population which is projected to add 2.5 billion people to the urban population by 2050. According to the UN, sustainable development challenges will be increasingly concentrated in cities, particularly in the lower-middle-income countries where the pace of urbanization is fastest. To combat these challenges integrated policies are needed to improve the lives of both urban and rural dwellers.

## The Unique Role of the IAPMO Group

The IAPMO Group is uniquely positioned to help the international community address many of the technical and systemic challenges they face. We work with government ministries, national standards bodies and officials at all levels of government to create a policy and regulatory technical framework focused on expanding access to improved services. This framework serves to become a national plan for moving populations up water and sanitation value chains. We also work to create an environment where innovation and transformative technologies best suited to an individual country's needs can be readily adopted into these frameworks. The IAPMO Group recognizes the integral role the private sector plays in this process and has proven expertise in identifying and partnering with local stakeholders; working with them to address systemic issues through the development of a skilled workforce and reliable supply chain mechanisms.



The IAPMO Group is a proud member of the U.S. Water Partnership. Announced on World Water Day in March 2012 by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the U.S. Water Partnership (USWP) unites and mobilizes U.S. expertise, resources and ingenuity to address water challenges around SHIP the globe, particularly in the developing world. The IAPMO Group is proud to be only codes and standards developer to be a member of this collaborative.

## The IAPMO Group's Work in Action

### INDONESIA

The IAPMO Group is focused on improving urban water and sanitation services and creating an enabling environment through improved governance and regulatory reform. Through a project jointly funded by USAID and the U.S. Department of Commerce, the IAPMO Group signed an MOU with Indonesia's national standards body in 2013 that laid out a roadmap for the development and implementation of a new national





standard for plumbing. This comprehensive body of regulations, released in March 2015, is now the technical basis for how Indonesia's critical water/sanitation infrastructure will come together. Additionally, the IAPMO Group partnered with government ministries and universities to develop new curriculum so the multiple levels of skilled labor required to design, install, and maintain these systems can be trained to this new advanced level. Through our work, U.S. exports to Indonesia have increased by 53% and new plumbing manufacturing facilities are under construction near Jakarta.

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#### INDIA

India's challenges related to water and sanitation are well documented. The IAPMO Group worked with stakeholders in the private sector to standardize plumbing practices and to further develop India's skilled labor workforce in order to promote the reliability and availability of their water and sanitation services. After developing a complex regulatory framework that addresses



basic needs to advanced green building systems, the IAPMO Group is now working with provincial governments to adopt and implement this framework in their communities. IAPMO India is working to add to the 30+ institutions who currently offer our advanced educational programs. In 2018, IAPMO India will be partnering with USTDA, ANSI and the Confederation of Indian Industry on a series of workshops to address governance issues related to water and sanitation as well as on smart, sustainable cities. Additionally, IAPMO India will be focusing on water quality processes to protect Indians from negative health outcomes as metals and chemicals leach into unsafe systems.

#### JORDAN

The IAPMO Group has a long standing tradition of working in Jordan. As a partner in USAID's Instituting Water Demand Management in Jordan (IDARA) project, the IAPMO Group provided technical expertise helping Jordan to establish a national plumbing code that was adopted into law. In addition, IAPMO was tasked with creating a Master Plumber program to train professionals in Jordan on water conservation practices. In December 2017, the IAPMO Group partnered with the USAID Standards Alliance and signed an MOU with 3 ministries in Jordan to further expand policies related to grey water, water reuse, solar water heating, and water catchment systems, expand workforce development initiatives and establish reliable supply chain mechanisms that protect the market from unsafe products.

#### PHILIPPINES

Since 2000, IAPMO has partnered with the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers (PSSE), soon to be renamed to the Philippine Society of Environmental and Sanitary Engineers. This partnership has culminated in the development of the Uniform Plumbing Code - Philippines. While based on international codes and standards, provisions of this code have been modified to suit the local practice of plumbing in the Philippines. The new code provides the necessary framework for how plumbing systems can effectively be developed and provides local regulators with the ability to enforce these practices. The IAPMO Group is currently working to see that this new code is appropriately recognized and implemented at the national and local levels. Additionally, the public is invited to participate in the IAPMO-PSSE open code development process. This code will be updated every three years.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

The IAPMO Group has been proud to engage with government ministries in Saudi Arabia as they continue to focus their efforts on preserving the kingdom's precious water resources. The focus on this effort has been to update regulations related to water efficiency and to improve implementation through better training and enforcement. The IAPMO Group has been engaging on helping Saudi Arabia recognize international conformity assessment schemes as well as on providing technical assistance to a recently opened, water-related, government testing laboratory.

#### AFRICA

The IAPMO Group is beginning to address water and sanitation services in Africa by focusing on national governance issues - engaging regional communities including the Southern African Development Community, East African Community, African



munities including the Southern African Development Community, East African Community, African Organization for Standardization, and the African Ministers' Council on Water. Recently, the IAPMO Group via IAPMO's philanthropic arm, IWSH (International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Foundation, hosted a Community Plumbing Challenge near Johannesburg, South Africa, where participants repaired and installed communal toilet facilities for the township of Diepsloot. IAPMO and IWSH also partnered with a local nonprofit to maintain the new sanitation facilities moving forward.

#### For More Information Contact:

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