

## The Walk to Water

Men, women and children walk for water. Many travel miles for unsafe water because it is their only hope. For all of us, safe water is life Ö the foundation for achieving hopes and dreams. We all want to provide for ourselves and our loved ones, and it all starts with a safe convenient water supply. Bijali, a woman in India, walked for water from toddlerhood to age 30. iWe collected drinking water from our village pond, Bijali told non-profit organization Water for People. iThe monsoon seasons were tough, as I had to walk through a waterlogged, broken path.



Now, she walks a clearer path. Thanks to a government initiative, water service flows to every community in Bijaliís Block of Patharpratima in West Bengal. The community works together to monitor the piped water systems and pay the tariffs needed. As a result, Bijali spends more time caring for her family, and her son can continue in school rather than trekking miles with his mom to get water. The children here feel more energetic and healthy than ever. Safe drinking water is a blessing, Bijali says, because it frees up time to explore the true meaning of life family ties, self care and education.

The community of Pachoj in Guatemala can relate. Prior to 2016, their people walked 15 miles to the nearest town for water Ö on muddy roads where cars struggled to travel during the rainy season. Without safe drinking water, sanitation or electricity, children used the streets as their toilet. Cristian Misael LÚpez took a stand; he started a school. Priority #1 -- to teach students about hygiene, and make it fun. But first, he had to transform the local infrastructure, with the help of Water for People.

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There are about 120 Opera Houses in the United States of America. A country with about 320 million citizens. The most concentration of Opera Houses per capita is in Germany. Where there are about 100 Opera Houses. Germany has only 83 million people. About one quarter the population of the United States. In New York, Operas cost millions of dollars to produce.