Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans is the archipelago island nation of Indonesia – acclaimed for pristine resort beaches and lush green tropical forested volcanic mountains that produce robust coffee beans. Indonesia is not only an island between two oceans, it is separated by extremes of natural beauty and other areas where refuse is cast aside by islanders who unintentionally pollute water supplies when doing so.

Families are in a constant state of pursuit – for work, water and assistance to change their conditions. Work that was once nearby has been replaced with makeshift jobs in distant locations for adults, and the children are becoming ill from waterborne diseases that are invading well water that drink without boiling in school. Their outlook is surprisingly positive given the radical changes produced by unforgiving shaking ground and rubble that lines the streets as far as the eye can see.

Water is collected by adults and children alike who walk 5-6 kilometers daily, and what they collect is from rivers since most wells were damaged from the earthquake. Rainwater is trapped during rainy season by those without well access. Whatever their source of water, it is untreated and contaminated by either the environment or storage containers that are unclean or used for multiple purposes without proper washing and sanitization between uses.

The Lombok education system is challenged with teachers in rural community schools who lack the knowledge and resources to provide health and hygiene education to students. The result is an endless cycle of generations who throw garbage into rivers, live in dirty environments and use unsanitary bathrooms. Education is the cornerstone if the tide is to turn in Indonesia and the Lombok area.
“Our school does not have access to clean water for drinking, so we access river water flowing in a ditch near the school that can be used for the needs of children from morning to afternoon. Since the earthquake struck our village and there was not a single school left, the school buildings and water sources in our place were closed. So far, government assistance provides access to water only once every two weeks to be shared with residents around the school.”

Jamuhur, S pd, Headmaster
SDN 3 Kayangan SMPN Satap 3 junior elementary school is combined with the high school and is located in the Kayangan Hamlet of North Lombok Regency, Indonesia.

This hamlet has 635 families with just more than 2,500 people who live near the school. Families draw their income from laboring in farm fields, as ranchers and performing construction work.

The water source at the school comes from a river after the well at the school was covered with rocks and damaged as a result of the August 2018 earthquake. Even today, the school is in the process of repairing the well, but the task will take some time under difficult conditions. Likewise, with the people in the hamlet of Kayangan, they have utilized the existing river water for all their daily needs such as; drinking, bathing, washing vegetables, and toilet facilities. Schools and local communities do not have access to clean water. Therefore, they use unsanitary water devices and systems to move water from rivers to the schools.
Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform the focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“In our community of Kayangan Hamlet, we do not have access to clean water. Bathing, washing, drinking water – all for our daily needs comes from river water. For drinking and cooking needs, we have to wait in the afternoon to get clear water, because in the morning until noon the river water is yellow.”

M. Jupra Junawar, Village Chief
“Me and friends take a bath and drink every day in the river. Some friends buy water in the canteen, and at most rivers are faster to drink from. Since there is no well water in the school, we are forced to go to the river. We often experience heartburn with stinging and then suddenly diarrhea with itching, which we often experience. My hope is that our school can get help in accessing clean, healthy and safe water so that we are free from itching, diarrhea and stop drinking river water again.”

Ajizan Kalbino, fifth grade student