



## **Ready to take steps so children in Africa never have to again? Walk 15 steps, a mile, or run a 5k and change their lives forever.**

We are so excited you've decided to join us on the journey to alleviating the devastating effects caused by the Global Water Crisis. In the developing world, women and children lose 200 million hours each day walking to collect water. Your efforts will guarantee they never have to take steps to collect water out of necessity again. For every \$15 you raise, we can provide a child life-long access to clean water. If you do not have the capacity to fund-raise, you can still host an event to raise awareness and get your peers talking about the Global Water Crisis. Both will send a rippling effect of compassionate action into the world, making an immense impact on those living in water-scarce regions.

Now let's get started planning your walk or run today! Save the Rain's symbolic walks and runs are lovingly called "Miles for Maji" events. "Maji" is the Swahili word for "Water". The following plans were originated by student supporters, and Miles for Maji is a movement designed to inspire. We are here every step of the way to support you in organizing a walk or run in your area and can couple it with Online tools to help you succeed. Direct all questions to [getinvolved@savetherain.org](mailto:getinvolved@savetherain.org), we are excited to help you!

### **Planning your Miles for Maji Event :**

- **Design your Objective. Here's an example:** For participants to compare their own experiences with the availability of water to those in developing countries. This can be achieved by calculating personal water use and what the weight of that is, demonstrating the weight of a 5gallon bucket of water, or by asking your audience to carry jugs of water throughout their day or your event. Check out our [Water Conservation Activity](#) on the Get Involved Page of our website, this is a great tool to get you started. Whenever possible, a fundraising component is partnered with your event. Every dollar raised will go towards providing access to clean drinking water to those living in rural Tanzania, a region devastated by the Global Water Crisis.
- **Present to your audience:** To announce your event, and again at the beginning of your event, we encourage you to present your objective to your audience. The presenter (student or community member organizer) will discuss facts relating to the difficulty and sociological implications of the unavailability of water. Review statistical information regarding average distances traveled for water. Form a hypothesis about the difficulty level of performing the task of carrying a gallon of water 1 mile. You may use our [Save the Rain Presentation](#), found on the Get Involved Page on our website, or you may create your own. We do encourage you to share your own story while presenting, what has moved you to join Miles for Maji?
- **Activity Option 1, Host a Community Walk for Water:** Community members will be asked to gather at a designated location for a Miles for Maji group walk or run along a predetermined path. Some events incorporate containers full of water, which can be carried along the walk to better empathize with those you are aiming to help. A registration component can be added for a "race" style event. The suggested registration fee would be \$15, which funds 1 Tanzanian child getting water access for life. To discuss ideas or to add a registration component to your event, please contact [getinvolved@savetherain.org](mailto:getinvolved@savetherain.org).
- **Activity Option 2, Online Fundraising:** Join the existing Save the Rain Campaign found on the Get Involved Page of our website and adapt your personalized page text to reflect your efforts. Alternatively, we can happily create a special campaign for your event! Please contact [getinvolved@savetherain.org](mailto:getinvolved@savetherain.org) to arrange this! For those interested in participating that have difficulty or cannot walk, we can discuss alternative options to involve everyone.

**Activity Option 3, Change for Change Get your School Involved:** Student organizer(s) will present to their peers. They will then ask fellow students, teachers, and administrators to join them in a Miles for Maji day. As an example, participants will be asked to fill gallon containers with water and to carry it with them throughout the school day. To highlight gender inequality, as the burden of water collection in the developing world falls on girls (see the [Save the Rain Presentation](#) for more details), we've had schools where boys carry water half the day and the girls all. Then discuss. Administration should agree to the activity and date in advance. To raise funds the event, organizer(s) should partner with an adult mentor to send letters home, circulate their Online campaign, or find classrooms willing to host change donation locations. This means the teacher agrees to have a container in their classroom which is a designated coin donation center. You can make fun signs for the containers and come up with classroom competitions for reaching container fill goals. Penny wars is a fun competitive angle to get those coin jugs filled quickly! Encourage students, teachers, and administrators to donate their "change for change" into the container leading up to and during the duration of the event. In partnership, we can help you come up with fun prizes. For a great example of what it looks like to get your school involved, check out this awesome video provided to us by a supporting school highlighting their efforts! <https://youtu.be/ZnHbhTxWmlw>

**Option 4, Get Creative!** Rather than host a walk, you could organize a mile race, relay, or any other creative spin you'd like to put on your event! We'd love to discuss your ideas! Check out this video from a supporting student group highlighting their campaign efforts! <https://youtu.be/uz3J1FMGnmc>

### **Materials:**

**For Activity #1-4:** For your convenience, we have several tools for you to use (mentioned throughout this document) which can be found here: <https://www.savetherain.org/get-involved/#resources>  
We encourage you to tell the story in your own words, and to share why you were moved to get involved!

**For Activity #2-** The organizer will need to determine how many containers of water will be carried during the walk, who will provide the containers, how will they be filled and disposed of. For community-based events, you can often find local sponsors to provide snacks and even raffle prizes for added entertainment value! Hosting raffles or selling Save the Rain merchandise at your event, or during the time leading up to it, is another great way to bring in additional funds. We can assist you in asking for donations by providing you with a 501c3 donation letter. If you'd like to sell Save the Rain merchandise, please contact us via email and we can make arrangements. [getinvolved@savetherain.org](mailto:getinvolved@savetherain.org)

**For Activity #3-** Participants will need to bring in clean, empty gallon jugs from home to carry with them throughout the day. The organizer will pre-determine the amount of time the participants must carry their jug, as well as when and where they should be filling and responsibly disposing of the water (Be green! Drink it or water a plant!).

### **Post Activities:**

**Facilitate a discussion:** What was our Miles for Maji event meant to simulate? Is anyone better able to empathize with people living in water-starved conditions after the activities? Why or why not? What words would you use to describe your event? Was it easier or more difficult than expected? If you were walking to collect water in a country facing a water crisis, what other challenges might you face? Review the statistics again regarding gallons needed and miles carried by people living in Africa.

**Send Thanks:** Be sure to send a warm thank you to all participants and donors. And remember, *"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."* – Margaret Mead