



## Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Oasis

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed a refreshed look to our Oasis Newsletter - we hope you like it. We have also introduced some new features so there's something for everyone. You'll find an introduction to our exciting new Global strategy and a photo story from Bangladesh.

Our new Global strategy marks the beginning of a new era in the WaterAid story. To date internationally, with your support we have reached over 21 million people in Africa, Asia and the Pacific with safe water and sanitation. By 2015 our ambition is that a further 25 million people will have access to safe water, hygiene and improved sanitation through our direct work, in addition to influencing local, national and international policy to reach another 100 million people internationally. So we'll need your continuing support to bring about these ambitious goals and we look forward to having you with us as in the exciting period ahead.

Thank you again for helping to transform the lives of people living the world's poorest communities and for helping us raise awareness of the water crisis faced by billions of people around the world. You are helping to change the world. Please let us know what you think of Oasis.

Happy reading, and when you've finished please pass it on!

Adam Laidlaw Chief Executive WaterAid Australia

## News in brief

### Launch of Global Strategy

Recently we launched our new Global strategy, with ambitious plans to directly and indirectly reach 25 million and 100 million people respectively through our work by 2015, we enter a new era of making more significant impacts upon the lives of some of the world's poorest communities.

Get a copy of the strategy from [www.wateraid.org.au](http://www.wateraid.org.au)

### Millions reached in Bangladesh

Our Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health project in Bangladesh, funded by the UK Department for International Development, ended this year having reached over five million people with sanitation and almost two million with safe water since 2003. The project used a 'total sanitation' approach where whole communities worked with partners to build sustainable facilities and put a stop to open defecation. We estimate that the people reached have saved in the region of US\$10 million in medical expenses due to improved health.

Find out more at [www.wateraid.org/bangladesh](http://www.wateraid.org/bangladesh)

### Walk 4 Water

During October over 1400 inspired supporters participated in Walk 4 Water, a fundraising challenge where participants walk 10,000 steps every day to symbolise the average daily distance to collect water for those in the developing world. The incredible walking army from every state in Australia clocked up a sensational 50,000 kilometres worth of steps and burned over 2 million calories... and raised over \$60,000 for WaterAid's essential work.

Our warmest thanks to all who participated.

# WaterAid's work around the world

WaterAid's new 2010-2015 strategy is going to take us into new countries, working with new partner organisations to help more people gain access to safe water, sanitation and improved hygiene.



### East Africa

Our new programmes in East Africa will be in Rwanda and Kenya. WaterAid left Kenya in the 1990s but the subsequent lack of progress on water and sanitation has led us to re-establish a presence. Our plans in Rwanda include water point mapping to ensure services reach those most in need.

### West Africa

In West Africa we will be expanding into Niger, Liberia and Sierra Leone. WaterAid used to work in Sierra Leone but had to pull out in 1997 when the conflict escalated. As in the rest of the region, we plan to use community-led approaches to providing sanitation with a focus on hygiene education.

### Southern Africa

New work in Angola, Swaziland and Lesotho will focus on influencing the government to prioritise water and sanitation in national policies. To tackle unsafe hygiene practices WaterAid will focus its efforts on developing hygiene education programmes.

### South Asia

Our Bangladesh programme will move into a new phase after completing a five-year project that reached seven million people. WaterAid in India is currently registering as a national charity. In Pakistan and Nepal we are continuing our work while monitoring the security situations.

### Asia Pacific region

In Papua New Guinea we are developing a new strategy, while in Timor-Leste there are plans to open a new country office. We plan to start new programmes in Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu over the next five years.

See WaterAid's work through Google Earth. Visit [www.wateraid.org/googleearth](http://www.wateraid.org/googleearth) to find out how. Call **1300 858 022** for copies of our country information sheets or simply visit [www.wateraid.org/australia](http://www.wateraid.org/australia)

### West Africa

- 1 Burkina Faso
- 2 Ghana
- 3 Mali
- 4 Nigeria
- 5 Niger
- 6 Liberia
- 7 Sierra Leone

### East Africa

- 8 Ethiopia
- 9 Tanzania
- 10 Uganda
- 11 Kenya
- 12 Rwanda

### Southern Africa

- 13 Madagascar
- 14 Malawi
- 15 Mozambique
- 16 Zambia
- 17 Angola
- 18 Swaziland
- 19 Lesotho

### South Asia

- 20 Bangladesh
- 21 India
- 22 Nepal
- 23 Pakistan

### Asia Pacific region

- 24 Timor-Leste
- 25 Papua New Guinea
- 26 Laos
- 27 Cambodia
- 28 Indonesia
- 29 Solomon Islands
- 30 Vanuatu

### Countries where WaterAid works in 2009/10

### Proposed new countries and areas of work

## First person

# The source of all their problems

If the spring was protected then this water could be clean, clear and safe.

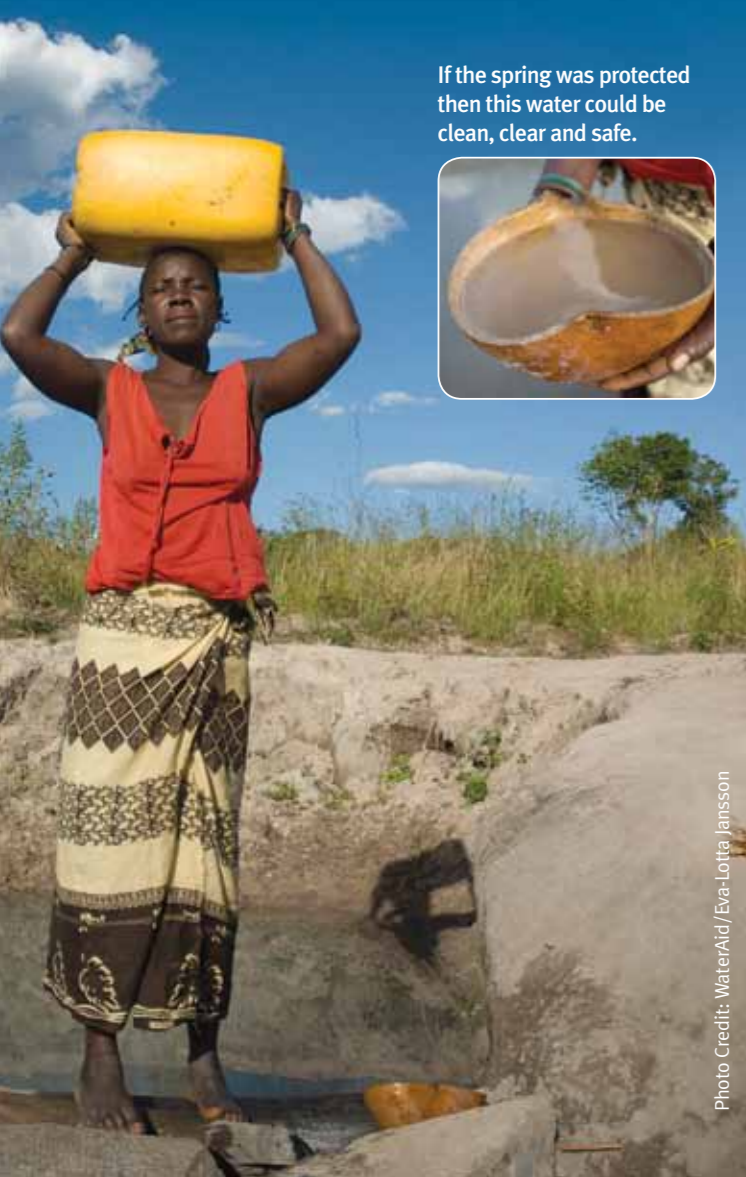


Photo Credit: WaterAid/Eva-Lotta Janisson

Lydia Sestone, from Mozambique's Zambezia region, has no choice but to collect water from a source she knows will make her children seriously ill, reports *Mary Trafford from WaterAid in the UK.*

Lydia's family are constantly suffering from diarrhoea. She knows that the village's only water source is to blame. She says, "I have no other way of serving my thirst, I have to go to this source even though I know it is not clean."

"Every two days at least one child suffers from diarrhoea. When the children are sick sometimes I have to take them to the hospital – this happens every month. It takes three hours to get there. It's very difficult for a sick child to walk all that way."

Lydia lives in Diba, in Mozambique's Zambezia region. This small village sits high above sea level. Breathtaking mountain views give the impression that to live there would be idyllic. Until you see the only water source – a shallow body of grey water.

This turbid pool is fed by a mountain stream which, with a little investment, could flow with cool, clean water. Spring protection is a simple, sustainable way to bring safe water to people who need it most; families like Lydia's, whose lives are being blighted by the water they are forced to drink every day.

There is hope for the people of Diba. Thanks to WaterAid supporters their water worries will soon be a thing of the past. Over the next year work will begin on a spring protection project that will ensure a healthier future for Lydia and her family.

Find out more about spring protection at [www.wateraid.org/technology](http://www.wateraid.org/technology)

## Salt water tears

Photographs of Satkhira, Bangladesh, by Munem Wasif

"When I went to Satkhira and I saw that people don't have fresh water, for me it was really, really strange because I can see water in front of me everywhere. But the water was saline, the water was not fresh to drink and women have to walk five to six hours every day, mile after mile to have fresh water. So to me it was unthinkable." Photographer, Munem Wasif.



Photos: ©Munem Wasif courtesy of Prix Pictet 2008

A quest for water. Bolabaria, Satkhira.

Life in Satkhira is dominated by water. These low lying areas are increasingly affected by flooding, salinity has risen because of commercial shrimp farming and the search for fresh water gets harder all the time. Usable land is at a premium and, as the human population and wildlife that live here are forced closer together, tiger attacks and diseases are rising.

WaterAid will be working in Satkhira to enable the communities to access safe, clean water close to home.

To see more images visit: [www.wateraid.org/wasif](http://www.wateraid.org/wasif)



Photos: ©Munem Wasif courtesy of Prix Pictet 2008

## More from WaterAid

### A day in the life of...

James Longwe, Programme Officer WaterAid Malawi. Read James's story at [www.wateraid.org/australia/aday](http://www.wateraid.org/australia/aday)

### WaterAid Global strategy

Check out the interactive version of the strategy, visit [www.wateraid.org.au](http://www.wateraid.org.au) and follow the links.

## Get involved

### WaterAid Events – where to be seen!

Check out some of our great events, organised by our many special volunteers at [www.wateraid.org/australia/get\\_involved/events](http://www.wateraid.org/australia/get_involved/events)

### Shop for Life

Give the gift of life today, visit <https://shop.wateraidaustralia.org> for great gift ideas for Christmas and all other occasions.

### Christmas Cards and hampers

For a great range of Christmas cards and hampers visit [www.wateraid.org/australia/donate](http://www.wateraid.org/australia/donate)

### Stay in touch with our monthly newsletter

Sign up at [www.wateraid.org/australia](http://www.wateraid.org/australia)

Thank you for your continuing support

**WaterAid**  
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# Oasis

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## New Global strategy

Exciting new global strategy for 2009-2015 launched

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Photo: WaterAid/Laydon Thompson

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Australia