

Oasis

The WaterAid Journal

Summer 2010/11

WaterAid/Caroline Irby

All inclusive

How we strive to reach marginalised people with safe water and sanitation

Timor-Leste

Dean Sewell's stunning images

 WaterAid



Welcome to the latest edition of *Oasis*

I'm delighted to introduce a newsletter full of great stories about our work. We never forget that all of our activities are only possible because of your generous support – thank you.

In this edition we explain how we work with those who have been marginalised in certain communities; older people in particular. We report on how our simple interventions have transformed people's lives. There are also some great images from Timor-Leste and updates on supporter involvement with WaterAid. However you get involved, please remember that your support is vital.

I hope you enjoy Oasis and please pass it on when you've finished.

Adam Laidlaw

Adam Laidlaw
Chief Executive *WaterAid in Australia*

News in brief

Stop
Press

Human Rights Day

WaterAid, in partnership with other organisations, re-launched a website about the right to water and sanitation on December 10th. The day is celebrated across the world every year to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Visit www.righttowater.info

Cholera

Floods in Nigeria and Pakistan have sparked devastating outbreaks of cholera, and the same disease has infected thousands in Haiti following last year's devastating earthquake.

However, the life-threatening disease is not unique to disaster-struck areas. Cholera can spread rapidly in any area with inadequate sanitation and drinking water.

Cholera as a major health threat is a thing of the past in developed countries such as Australia, and by working to uphold the universal right to water and sanitation, we can help put the deadly outbreaks of the disease firmly in the history books.

For more information go to: www.wateraid.org/international/about_us/newsroom/8851.asp

Walk4Water

WaterAid's annual fundraising event, Walk4Water, was held last October. In total more than \$75,000 was raised and hundreds of people walked 10,000 steps a day in support of WaterAid. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make it a success.

All inclusive

Unclean water and poor sanitation are realities faced by millions worldwide. But for some the daily struggle is even harder, reports Alison Gentleman (WaterAid in the UK).

Imagine waking every morning knowing you will have to walk miles to collect water and find somewhere secluded to go to the toilet. Now imagine you are an older person, you have a disability or a chronic illness. A terrible hardship now becomes a physical impossibility.

When new latrines are built and water points installed, some vulnerable people can be left out. So, we work closely with our partners, talking to everyone about their different needs.

Something as simple as lowering the height of a tapstand or raising a latrine can transform dependence into self-reliance. Through being equitable and inclusive, we are one step closer to achieving our vision of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation.



WaterAid/Caroline Irby

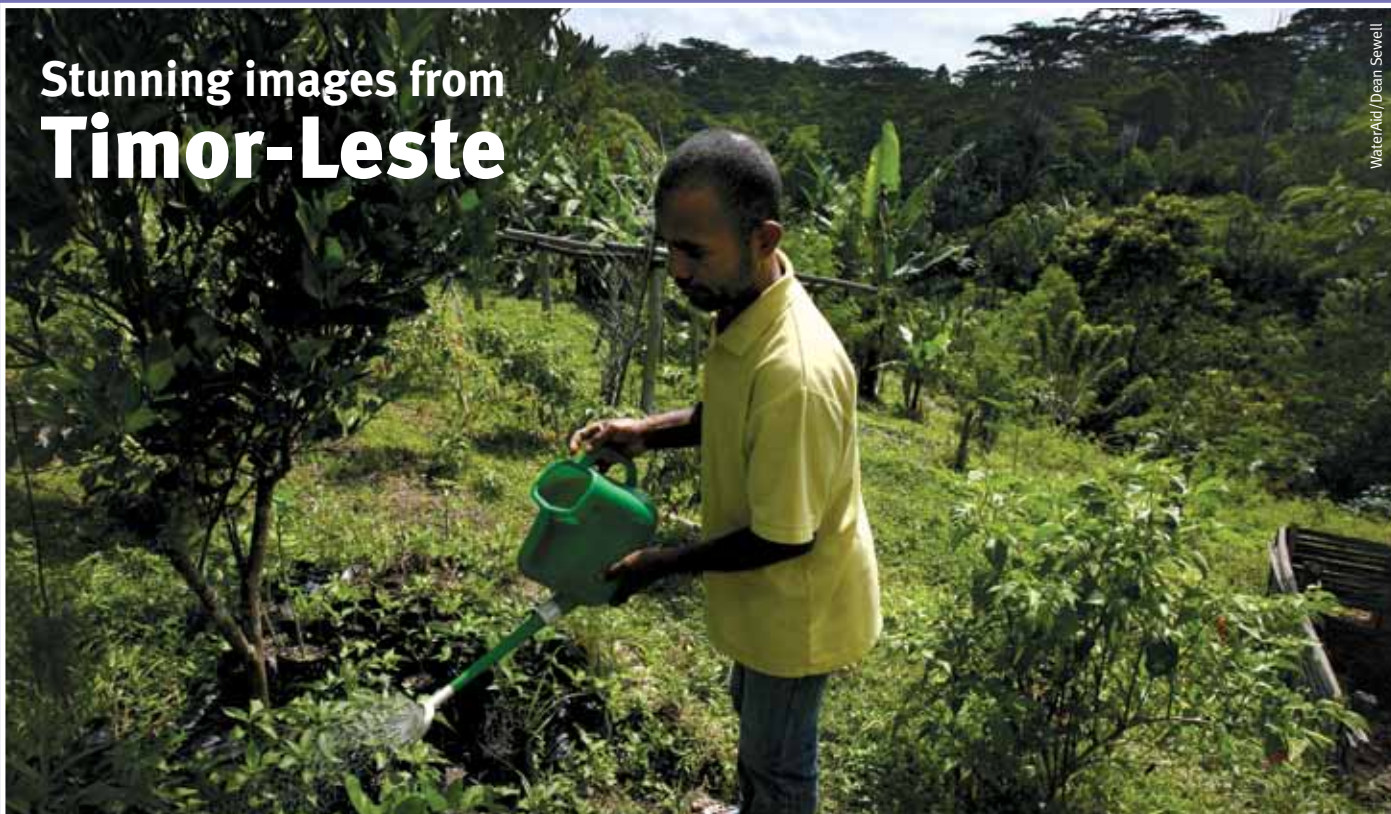
Dolatia Namoudu – Uganda

Steep, rocky paths become slippery in the rainy season and collecting water is hard. Dolatia Namoudu is 75 and was unable to collect water for herself, instead relying on her son. Now, a rainwater harvesting jar gives Dolatia water close to home. “I felt very reliant on other people and didn’t like to be a burden. Now I have independence.”

Did you know?

- One in five of the world’s poorest people are disabled or have a disabled family member. (World Bank)
- Between 40-60% of older people in the poorest countries are unserved by improved sanitation and water. (WHO)
- 64% of the world’s population over the age of 60 live in less developed countries. By 2050 this figure will be 80%.

Stunning images from Timor-Leste



WaterAid/Dean Sewell

Australian photo-journalist Dean Sewell travelled to Timor-Leste last year to document stories about health for WaterAid's campaign at the UN Millennium Development Goal summit.

Sewell's photographs show the poverty and suffering of villagers who live just one hour's drive from Dili, but lack fundamental services such as reliable clean water, sanitation and electricity. They also show what life is like for villagers in the same area, who have had clean water, toilets and good sanitation practices for two years.

For a full slideshow of Dean's photos visit:
www.wateraid.org/deansewell



WaterAid/Dean Sewell

A gift that will never be forgotten

John Isherwood is a retired solicitor with an impressive history of charitable work and volunteering. A former trustee of Oxfam Great Britain, John was also a founder trustee and chairperson of WaterAid UK from 1995-2001. John chose to leave a bequest to WaterAid in his will because he says “it is one of the most effective ways to help people out of poverty”.

“I witnessed WaterAid’s work in Tanzania where their WASH concept [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene] was first developed. I saw for myself the marked improvements in health and energy levels, and positive economic results, in Tanzania’s Dodoma district.

“I am inspired by WaterAid’s practical grassroots work, how it gives women a voice and an important role in bringing about change in their communities. Combined with safe water and sanitation, I can think of no more powerful catalyst for improving quality of life and bringing real hope to poor communities for a better future.

“A charitable legacy is your ultimate gift to a cause you believe in strongly. Personally, and as a lawyer who has made countless wills for clients, I see it as a lasting indicator of what you believe in and your hopes for a vulnerable planet and a growing population.

“I included WaterAid in my will because it is a cost-efficient, imaginative and innovative NGO. WaterAid’s methods have been copied by others but its cutting edge has yet to be surpassed.

“Of the many thousands of good causes you might support, WaterAid is one of the very best for spending money wisely and with greatest effect, for improving lives and for longer-term good”.

Remembering WaterAid in your will is easy to arrange and is an enduring statement of your beliefs and hopes.

For more information call 1300 858 022 or email watercharity@wateraid.org.au



WaterAid / Eva-Lotta Jansson / Layton Thompson / Marco Betti

World Toilet Day in Timor-Leste

November 19th is declared as World Toilet Day (WTD) to increase awareness of sanitation. As around 50% of the population in Timor-Leste has no access to adequate sanitation facilities, WaterAid has been organising a WTD celebration in Liquica District every year. This year the event was marked by declaring Nakalete – one of the communities in Liquica district where WaterAid has been working – Open Defecation Free (ODF). This means that everybody in the community now uses a toilet all the time and nobody goes to the toilet in the open.

The chief of the village declared Nakalete village

as “Open defecation free” on behalf of his community. The Country Representative of WaterAid in Timor-Leste stated that Nakalete is the first village in Liquica district to be declared ODF. In order to maintain ODF status, all members of communities, including children, adults and disabled people, must continue to use latrines and they must be monitored by the Village Water and Sanitation Management Group.

Mr. Carlito Correia Gutteres is one of the delegates from the Ministry of Health (MoH) who also attended the celebration. He stated that three years ago the MoH began to prepare a sanitation policy. From 2011 the Government will start to implement the policy along with national and international agencies who are working on water and sanitation, such as WaterAid.



Shop for Life

Give the gift of life today, visit:

<https://shop.wateraidaustralia.org> for great gift ideas for all occasions.

More from WaterAid

Ian Ross has been writing an informative and insightful blog during his time working with WaterAid in Timor-Leste. Check it out at: <http://ianintimor.blogspot.com/>

Get involved

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Call to Action: Sanitation and Water for all campaign.

For more information, or to sign the petition visit:

www.wateraidcommunity.org/petition

Check out our great events at:

www.wateraid.org/australia/get_involved

Visit and sign up to our social media sites:



www.facebook.com/WaterAidAustralia



www.twitter.com/wateraidaus

Monthly eNews

It's a great way to stay up to date.

Sign up at: www.wateraid.org/australia

Thank you for your continuing support



Contact details:

Private Bag 1, Mitcham Vic 3132

Tel: 1300 858 022

Fax: +61 3 9872 1132

Email: watercharity@wateraid.org.au

Web: www.wateraid.org/australia

ABN: 99 700 687 141



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