

Spring 2018

# Oasis

Your WaterAid magazine



Creative  
ideas for  
behaviour  
change

Life after  
the Nepal  
earthquake



WaterAid/Jerry Galea

## Coming up

**World Toilet Day - 19 November 2018**

**Gifts for Life - Festive season**  
[www.wateraidgifts.org.au](http://www.wateraidgifts.org.au)

**Water Challenge - 1-31 March 2019**  
[www.waterchallenge.org.au](http://www.waterchallenge.org.au)

**Walk for Water - 18-22 March 2019**  
[www.walkforwater.org.au](http://www.walkforwater.org.au)

**International Women's Day - 8 March 2019**

**World Water Day - 22 March 2019**

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

## The crisis

- 844 million people in the world – one in nine – do not have clean water close to home.
- 2.3 billion people in the world – almost one in three – do not have a decent toilet of their own.
- Around 289,000 children under five die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation.

## About WaterAid

WaterAid is an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

**Cover photo:** Sonia, 9, washes her hands at a new tap in her village in Liquica district, Timor-Leste. Photo: WaterAid/Jerry Galea

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## Chief Executive message

Where is the hardest place in the world to access water?

In this edition see our top 10 lists of the countries where it is most difficult to access water and those with most improved access.

Our near neighbour Papua New Guinea is one of the worst countries in the world to obtain water, with only 37% of the population having clean water. Pleasingly Cambodia is in the top 10 countries with most improved access to water, with a 22.6% improvement over 15 years.

When people don't have clean water, their health, safety and dignity suffers, girls miss out on education, people are less able to earn a living and gender inequality is reinforced.

With your support we are working to get clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere within a generation and unlock people's potential. Together we can make a lasting difference.

*Rosie Wheen*

**Rosie Wheen**  
Chief Executive  
WaterAid Australia



## Achieving gender equality in the Asia-Pacific

Given that global water, sanitation and hygiene issues disproportionately affect women and girls, it's critical that WaterAid's work has a focus on gender equality and female empowerment.

In Cambodia we're doing this by focusing on study, career and leadership opportunities for women in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. We're supporting women with ongoing training, skills development and mentoring. We're also supporting work experience, networking and learning opportunities for students, with a strong focus on women's leadership. Likewise, in Timor-Leste we're partnering with Engineers Without Borders to support a professional network of women engineers.

As part of our water and sanitation programs in Timor-Leste, we have also been facilitating conversations between women and men on sharing community and household work more equally. We've distilled these lessons into a community dialogue manual to guide Timorese community facilitators in leading practical activities for positive change towards gender equality.

For community member Laranjeira, these activities have opened her eyes and influenced her husband's attitudes. "It's not dramatic change yet, but on many occasions he starts to ask me what (house) work I'm doing and without talking much he starts taking on one or two responsibilities," Laranjeira explains. "He is also looking after our children more often."

We're now rolling out this manual more broadly, collaborating with the Timor-Leste Government and others to deliver facilitation training about gender, while also supporting the water, sanitation and hygiene sector to better address gender through delivery and monitoring of services.

Women and girls in Timor-Leste like Philomena and her daughter Selvia benefit from WaterAid's gender equality work.



WaterAid/Jerry Galea

## Innovative ways to influence hygiene behaviour



Changing hygiene behaviour is one of the most difficult aspects of WaterAid's work. Hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap are critical to halting the spread of diseases and maximising the benefits of access to clean water and decent toilets.

Simply informing people about good hygiene practices isn't enough to lead to sustained behaviour change. That means we need to find new and creative ways to challenge norms and motivate people to change their behaviour.

In Cambodia, we've been working closely with local organisation Epic Arts to produce original songs to communicate hygiene messages in a fun way. We engaged a singer with a disability to record the song "Love Saboo (Soap)" to promote handwashing with soap as well as inclusion of people with disabilities. The song was launched on Valentine's Day with the message "To love is to protect! Washing your hands with soap is one important way to love yourself and your beloved."

In Timor-Leste, we have been trialing print and radio advertising as part of our sanitation marketing program. This is part of efforts to convince people to purchase and install a hygienic toilet for their home.

In Papua New Guinea, we're continuing to use netball clubs as a vehicle to build leadership skills and provide hygiene education through our innovative Sports for Development program.

We're also excited to be partnering with Marie Stopes International in both Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. Together, we will be delivering sexual and reproductive health services and menstrual health education alongside upgrades to school toilets so that girls can manage their periods hygienically and with dignity.



In Papua New Guinea WaterAid is working with Netball PNG to engage adolescent girls with hygiene messages.



A still from WaterAid Cambodia's "Love Saboo" music video, which has been watched over 50,000 times.

## State of the World's Water



WaterAid's *State of the World's Water 2018 Report: The Water Gap* reveals which countries in the world have the lowest levels of access to clean water. The report also ranks countries based on how much they have improved their water access since the turn of the century. Today 844 million people globally still do not have access to a clean water source close to home.

Download The Water Gap report at [www.wateraid.org.au/watergap](http://www.wateraid.org.au/watergap)

### Top 10 countries with lowest access to water, by %

Rank	Country	At least basic access (%)
1	Eritrea	19%
2	Papua New Guinea	37%
3	Uganda	38%
4	Ethiopia	39%
5	Dem Rep of Congo	39%
6	Somalia	40%
7	Angola	41%
8	Chad	43%
9	Niger	46%
10	Mozambique	47%

### Top 10 countries most improved in access to water, by %

Rank	Country	% change 2000 to 2015
1	Afghanistan	35.8
2	Laos	34.7
3	Yemen	27.7
4	Mali	25.1
	Mozambique	25.1
6	Paraguay	23.9
7	Cambodia	22.6
8	Ethiopia	22.4
9	Nigeria	21.2
10	Sierra Leone	19.4



# Welcome to my life: Walking for water in Nepal

**Name:** Bijay  
**Age:** 14  
**Grade:** 10  
**Lives in Nepal**  
**Daily steps:** 5175



**How old were you when you started collecting water?**

After the devastating earthquake in April 2015, I started carrying water. The nearby water source (which was 10 minutes away) dried up. I was 11 years old then.

**What time do you collect water?**

I collect water twice daily. Sometimes I have to carry more than double but usually I go in the morning at about 6 AM before going to school and then after returning from the school at about 4 PM.

**Describe your walk to water**

Going to the source is easy because it is downhill but when coming back with heavy Gagri [a traditional Nepali water pot] full of water it is very exhausting. The path is steep and not smooth. Generally, it takes around an hour if there is no queue at the source, but if I have to wait and be in a queue it will take... up to an hour and half.

**What do you use the water you collect for?**

The water I collect is used especially for drinking. We all go to the source if we have to take a bath and wash clothes. It is not possible to carry water back home for baths and washing clothes. We used to have buffalos, cows, ox and many goats, which we had to sell because we couldn't provide enough water for them.

**Have you ever missed school to collect water?**

Yes, I have missed my school while collecting water. I miss around one week in a month. When there is no water, the food is not cooked on time and I get late. If I am very late then I don't feel like going to school because my teacher would scold me.

For the full interview with Bijay, visit [www.wateraid.org.au/stories](http://www.wateraid.org.au/stories)



Bijay spends up to three hours a day collecting drinking water for his family



## 'Act now', WaterAid tells world leaders



WaterAid has warned world leaders not to break their promises to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people at the High Level Political Forum meetings in New York. The meetings, held at the United Nations headquarters in July, were an opportunity for nations to review the progress made on Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" by 2030.

A contingent of WaterAid representatives spanning across four continents made sure their message was heard, marching through the streets of New York carrying buckets on their head, participating in bilateral meetings with governments, and speaking at 19 public events and sessions.

191 member states re-affirmed their commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 6, with Israel and the United States the only exceptions.

WaterAid used this opportunity to draw attention to concerning United Nations data that shows that people in 80 countries worldwide will still not, at current levels of progress, have access to clean water by 2030. The sanitation statistics are even more alarming, with 107 countries off track to meeting the 2030 goal of everyone, everywhere having access to a decent toilet.



WaterAid representatives carry 20-litre buckets of water on their way to the United Nations building in New York.

"We have only 12 years left to keep the promise made to those living without clean water or a decent toilet," WaterAid Australia Director of Policy and Programs Tom Muller said. "Every day that someone lives without being able to drink clean water, use a toilet that doesn't pollute their community or wash their hands is a day when their human rights are breached, their futures limited and children put at risk of fatal waterborne diseases."





## Thanks for fighting for clean water!

Every day is a fight for clean water for millions of people around the world.

Last year you generously gave to our Water Fight appeal to help stop this everyday battle. Here is an example of how your support has helped unlock people's potential.

In one of the communities in Timor-Leste where we work, people used to have to wash with salty water from the nearby beach. Meanwhile, drinking water was collected by walking to a distant spring, where water had to be boiled before consumption.

Recently, WaterAid has worked with the community to install a gravity-fed water system and toilets, as well as provide hygiene training. Now the community is thriving!

Children now enjoy the taste of clean water straight from a tap. "Compared to the old water which was salty, this water is fresh," 15-year-old Adelia told us.

Her sister Sonia, 9, agrees: "The water makes me feel fresh inside."

Amandio, 23, can see a future for his family: "I am happy because with the water we can develop our life because water is very important in our life."

Now grandmother Graciana grows fruit and vegetables, which she can feed to her family and sell at the market. "Before we didn't have any income and now with water there is lots of income from the vegetables," Graciana explained. "With the income we can buy food, we can improve our home and buy new clothes."

For this community, water has transformed their lives. "The change overall is people feel that life is easier. Many activities are linked to water. There was a burden that now is gone. We feel free."

Thank you again to everybody who supported our Water Fight appeal.

## WaterAid's Winnovators program a win-win for everyone

WaterAid's corporate partners are reaping unexpected benefits from participating in the annual Winnovators employee development program. Winnovators invites corporate teams from across the globe to solve a real-world development challenge while learning new skills and developing innovative fundraising ideas. This year's water, sanitation and hygiene challenges have focused on India, where over 55% of the population still don't have access to a decent toilet.

For first-time participants Steel Mains, the program has given employees the chance to showcase their previously untapped skills to management. "Our team has had the opportunity to explore and undertake activities that are not part of their normal roles and they have enthusiastically embraced the experience and achieved some great outcomes," Steel Mains CEO Dean Connell said. "The Winnovator program is not just a fun program for a great cause, it is a further opportunity for your business to identify and develop talent within the business."

The challenge has also unearthed creative talents within Yarra Valley Water. Staff member Marlene Vogel produced an oil painting based on a WaterAid photograph from India, which will be auctioned off to help the team raise money.



The Winnovators team that performs best will win the opportunity to see WaterAid's work in India firsthand. 2017 global winners Scottish Water recently had the opportunity to test out their innovative mobile app with local hygiene promoters in Nicaragua.

Also flying the flag for Australia in this year's Winnovators event are the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Arup, GHD, North East Water, Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater, and Sydney Water.

Interested in getting your company involved in Winnovators next year? Contact WaterAid Corporate Partnerships Manager Leigh Mawby at [leigh.mawby@wateraid.org.au](mailto:leigh.mawby@wateraid.org.au) or 03 9001 8263

## Gifts for Life

Looking for a fun and life-changing gift? Get Christmas sorted with WaterAid Gifts for Life.

Give a gift and a future this Christmas with a WaterAid gift card.

WaterAid's special Christmas-themed cards are on sale now! For those "dreaming of a pipe Christmas", give a card which helps pipe water to a village. You could also "help keep the plumbing

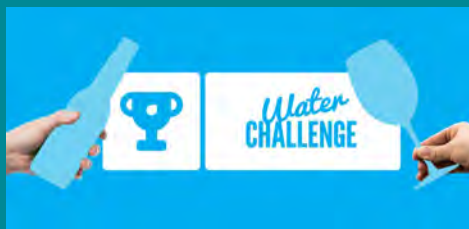


running" with a water system toolkit. Or give a "loo from me to you" to help provide a family with a toilet. Spread the word that 'tis the season to give toilets" by helping give a child decent toilets at school.

Give a Gift for Life at:  
**[www.wateraidgifts.org.au](http://www.wateraidgifts.org.au)**

## Water you doing during March?

This coming March, there are two exciting ways you can raise money for WaterAid's life-changing work.



The Water Challenge invites you to make water your only beverage during March. Test the waters by taking the fizz out of your drink, giving your coffee a wake-up call and raising a glass to the one drink the world can't live without. This event keeps growing and growing every year and you can be part of it by signing up at [www.waterchallenge.org.au](http://www.waterchallenge.org.au)



We'll also be inviting our corporate supporters to get together and walk 10,000 steps a day from 18-22 March or organise a customised walk. Take a step towards a healthier lifestyle, put your peers through their paces, and walk for those who walk too much by registering at [www.walkforwater.org.au](http://www.walkforwater.org.au)



# Your support makes a difference

You can help provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to the world's poorest communities. Simply complete this form. **Thank you.**

**Please return to:**  
WaterAid Australia  
Reply Paid 83992  
East Melbourne VIC 3002  
Or call **1300 858 022** or visit [www.wateraid.org/au](http://www.wateraid.org/au)

Title	First Name	Last Name	
Address			
Suburb		State	Postcode
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Email receipt	Date of Birth	/ /
Phone ( )		Mobile	

I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **AND** ☐ please make the amount indicated **a monthly gift** until further notice.  
via the payment method below.

**Credit Card** ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Diners

Card No.

Card Holder's Name Expiry Date /

Signature Today's Date / /

☐ **Direct Debit** (monthly giving only)

I/We (Surname/Company) Given Name/ABN

Name of Financial Institution

Address of Financial Institution

BSB  Account No.

Signature Today's Date / /

☐ **Cheque/Money Order** (enclosed) payable to WaterAid Australia.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

☐ Please send me information about including a gift for WaterAid in my Will.

☐ Please send me information about Workplace Giving.

Please note that all donations are used to support programs including, but not restricted to, the ones described in this mailing.



Your privacy is important to us. WaterAid may use your personal information to keep you updated about our work and offer you a range of ways you can help us transform lives by improving access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene in the world's poorest communities. We may provide your information to external suppliers to assist the fulfilment of these activities. WaterAid does not sell, rent, swap or otherwise share donor information with third parties. Please contact us on 1300 858 022 to check or amend your information, opt out of receiving information from us, lodge a query or file a complaint. To view our full privacy policy, please go to [www.wateraid.org/au/privacy-policy](http://www.wateraid.org/au/privacy-policy).

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