

Spring - Summer 2019

Oasis

Your WaterAid magazine



WaterAid/ Yousos Apdoul Rashim

2019 highlights

Projects you support

The Clean Water Chain

Meet the people behind clean water solutions

A day in Rasoa's life

Collecting water in Madagascar



WaterAid/James Kiyimba



WaterAid/nest Randriamalala



WaterAid

Coming up

World Toilet Day
19 November 2019

Gifts for Life – Festive season
www.wateraidgifts.org.au

Water Challenge
1-31 March 2019
www.waterchallenge.org.au

International Women's Day
8 March 2019

World Water Day
22 March 2019

Find out more: wateraid.org.au

The crisis

- 786 million people in the world – one in ten – do not have clean water close to home.
- 2 billion people in the world – one in four – do not have a decent toilet of their own.

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: Children in Tboung Khmum Province, Cambodia enjoy clean water, provided free to the school. This photo was taken as part of the 'Water is Life' exhibition (see page 3).

This copy of Oasis was edited and written by Kevin Hawkins. For feedback or article suggestions, please email info@wateraid.org.au

From our Chief Executive

If you've been supporting WaterAid for some time, you may notice a slight change to the statistics on the left-hand side of this page. Since our last edition, global numbers on water and toilet access have been released and these reveal the great progress that is being made. Over the past two years, 59 million people have gained access to a clean water source close to home, while 300 million have gained access to a decent toilet of their own.

This is great news, however there's obviously still more work to be done. WaterAid will continue to work hard until every person on earth has access to the basic water, toilet and hygiene facilities they need.

This issue of Oasis gives a unique insight into some of the ways we are working towards this outcome. On pages 4 and 5, you can read about 'the clean water chain'. This photo piece, created in partnership with H&M Foundation, reveals some of the people who you may not have realised play a vital role in the provision of clean water. There's the obvious ones like plumbers and teachers. But just as important are the engineers, chemists and government decision makers who play their part behind the scenes. WaterAid recognises the importance of everyone along this chain and this is why we build relationships with them all.

Rosie Wheen
Rosie Wheen
Chief Executive
WaterAid Australia



Around the world

What has WaterAid been up to recently? Here are some of the things you and our partners have helped us achieve.

Timor-Leste

The municipality of Liquiçá in Timor-Leste held a ceremony to celebrate becoming officially 'Open Defecation Free' (right). That means that people living in all 15,820 households in the area now exclusively use toilets rather than defecating in public areas. This is a major milestone for WaterAid, who has been working in this municipality since 2007.



Madagascar

Thanks to WaterAid, Ifaliana's remote village in Madagascar—four hours' drive from the capital of Antananarivo—now has a gravity fed water system. This new system saves girls like Ifaliana (far right) from walking long distances up and down hills to collect dirty water. She used to do this up to three times a day.

Cambodia

Cambodian youth living in rural and marginalised communities were invited to share their lives through a camera lens as part of the "Water is Life – Leaving No One Behind" photo exhibition (right). Renowned photo artist Remissa Mak trained the young people, empowering them to tell their own stories and shine a light on the water, sanitation and hygiene issues facing locals who live along the Mekong River.



Stay informed at: wateraid.org.au

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The Clean Water Chain

WaterAid in partnership with H&M Foundation

Getting water to 13-year-old Catherine's school is a team effort, requiring the involvement of many people. At WaterAid, we call this the clean water chain. We build relationships with all links in the chain, from teachers to water treatment plant staff to policy makers, because a break in the chain could affect Catherine's ability to access water.



WaterAid/James Kiyimba

This is Catherine. She has access to clean water, flushable toilets and soap at school. She sings in the school choir and wants to become an Accountant when she grows up.

Miss Rose.
Educator.



For Catherine to learn about handwashing, she needs a teacher.

Miss Rose helps coordinate the school's 'WASH club', where students are trained to become ambassadors for good sanitation and hygiene among their peers and families at home.

Peter. The
Plumber.



For the tap to work, we need a plumber.

Peter installs and fixes tap and toilet systems in the local community. He proudly wears his royal blue uniform which says "Water is life" on it. "I think it is very important to make sure people have access to clean water. I don't mind getting up in the middle of the night to go out and fix things."

Chris.
Community
Leader.



For water systems to be well maintained, we need community leaders.

Chris leads the Weyonje community action group, a network of people who teach locals how to use their water and toilet systems and keep them clean and functioning. "Many people appreciate our efforts, because they have learnt the value of safe water, sanitation and hygiene good practices".

Zion. Water
Testing
Chemist.



For the water to be safe, we need a quality control officer.

Zion works for the public Water Treatment Plant, where she is responsible for ensuring that tap water meets the national standard. "Water is a unit that controls everything. I wanted to be serving humanity and have pride in what I do."

Lillian.
Senior Shift
Overseer.



For the water to meet standards, the treatment plant needs to be clean.

Lillian is responsible for checking water quality, reporting faults in the systems and ensuring the facilities are clean and free from contamination. "I have been in water engineering for 15 years, and I love that new women are joining."

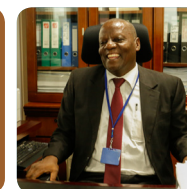
Olivia.
Electrical
Engineer.



For water to be clean, equipment needs to be working.

Olivia's job is to make sure the systems work consistently. Her team attend to faults and troubleshoot problems. "If there is a problem, we need to react very quickly and fix things... I find solving problems very fulfilling."

Christopher.
Policy
Maker.



For good decisions to be made on water, we need buy-in from official leaders.

Christopher works for the Ministry of Water and Environment and oversees the performance of water utilities. He ensures "the person who pays for water... (gets) water all year round, 24 hours of the day and in the right quality and quantity."

Welcome to my life: Sharing a dirty well

Name: Rasoa
Age: 50
Lives in Manjakandriana,
Madagascar
Married with 5 children

What is it like living here?

For a family like mine, life is really tough here, as we have to fight every single day that God gives us to survive. We struggle every single day and not having water nearby is making it harder.

Where do you get your water from?

Our water source is a well located nearby the main road and a garage down the hill. A long time ago, it used to be clean, but not anymore. The well is not protected, it is covered by algae and tiny creatures. It is not covered. The mechanics use the same well as us. Sometimes they repair cars and trucks and the engine oil goes into the well. Sometimes they use a dirty bucket they have used in their work in the well. I have tried many times to tell them, but you know, they don't care.

How long does it take you to collect water?

We have to carry heavy jerrycans more than five times a day from the well down the main road to our home and our shop. It is very tiring, and takes up too much of our time.

Do you have any other options?

We know that the water from this well is dirty, but we have to use and drink this water every single day. There are few other cleaner water sources in the village, but most of them are far away from us. The commune has a fountain nearby their office, but it is very far from my house, and often there is a long queue there, so we prefer to fetch water at the well - even we know it is dirty.

What gives you hope for the future?

As a parent, I will push my little boy in his studies. I hope that at least he will succeed in his studies so he can help us.

What would clean water mean for you?

If we get a fountain in our village, our life would be so different. We will no longer have to fetch and drink dirty water. We will have more time to work and improve our life.



In The Name of Love

"I love you," Mengheang tells me during our interview. This exclamation catches me by surprise, but it's reflective of the 24-year-old's affectionate nature. As I spend more time with him, though, I learn that I'm not the only person Meangheang loves.

"I really love the mother," he tells me. 'The mother' is his nickname for Mrs. Kim, the inspirational chief of Mong Riev Health Centre in Tboung Khmum, Cambodia. "If I had 3000 riel in my pocket, I wouldn't want to spend it on myself. I would buy a banana for the mother."

"I don't discriminate between race, between people of different countries. For me, I love them all. We are all human, we are the same."

Mengheang could be forgiven for having a less optimistic view of the world. A few years ago, his life changed when he received injuries to his head, clavicle bone and legs during a motorcycle accident. His second cousin died in the accident.

He is now a regular visitor to the health centre, where the nurses and 'the mother' look after him. Over the years, he has noticed the water, toilet and hygiene facilities at the centre become more accessible for people with disabilities like him. "Now I can use this toilet independently. The toilet upstairs I can also use without help, I just need to bring my walker."



Health care centres around the world

WaterAid's advocacy for clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene in health care centres has extended beyond Cambodian borders. In May this year, the United Nations passed a Resolution calling on every health care facility on earth to have these fundamental facilities. WaterAid has been advocating for this Resolution for many years and used examples from our work to show evidence for its positive impact on mothers and babies.

These accessibility improvements have come off the back of WaterAid's recommendations, which have more recently informed national guidelines that will be applied to all 1100 public health centres in Cambodia.

Interview by Kevin Hawkins

From Local to Global

The recent drought affecting rural Australia has been difficult for many people. VicWater—which represents 19 water corporations across Victoria—understands this struggle well.

The scale of the water crisis in Victoria may be different to that being experienced in other parts of the world, but VicWater Chief Executive Officer Peter Morison believes rural Victorians and their water utilities are able to empathise with those experiencing water scarcity issues abroad.

"It's the best thing we can do as an industry, not just to service our customers but also to have a global context in which we're operating"

Peter Morison

"It's not easy for our members, particularly in rural areas where (the drought) is stark and real every day," Morison explains. "For those people, they can really... appreciate to some extent what it's like at a global level."

This empathy has been a key factor in VicWater's long-running support for WaterAid Australia, having been one of our original founding members back in 2004.

VicWater are Silver Members of WaterAid. If your organisation is interested in starting a conversation about corporate membership with WaterAid, email Leigh Mawby at leigh.mawby@wateraid.org.au or Michael McLennan at michael.mclennan@wateraid.org.au

The flipside of that coin is that the knowledge and experience of VicWater and its members on water management issues has given it the ability to play a meaningful role in contributing to WaterAid's work abroad. "It's a two-way street," Morison explains. "We have some innovations that we can give back."

Just as Morison understands the challenges of water scarcity, so too can he appreciate the benefits of clean water. "Water is essential no matter where it is," he says. "To play a part in servicing people in great need in a global context is fantastic."



VicWater staff Lauren Vines (Events Coordinator), Jo Lim (Operations and Strategic Projects Manager), James Cleaver (Policy and Regulation Manager), and Peter Morison (CEO).

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Shop online today at wateraidgifts.org.au



☐ A card for your friend you give a s*** about

This Poop-up card is the perfect gift for anyone who hasn't quite outgrown toilet humour!

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☐ For the person who already has everything

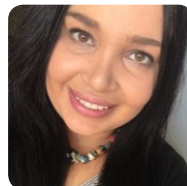
For just \$40, buying this Christmas card can help provide a family with a toilet, preventing the spread of deadly diseases. Shop online for our full range of cards.



☐ Eco-friendly merchandise

Check out our new range of environmentally friendly t-shirts, tote bags and coffee mugs. All proceeds help people gain access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Get a health kick from the Water Challenge



Ashleigh is just one of 7000 Australians to have taken WaterAid's Water Challenge, making water her only beverage for the month of March. You will have the chance to join her when the event rolls around again early next year.

The Water Challenge challenges Aussies to resist coffee, beer, wine, juice, soft drinks and tea for all 31 days in March. 87% of participants who took the Water Challenge earlier this year said it changed their drinking consumption in a positive way.

Funds raised by Water Challenge participants (including the \$170 that Ashleigh raised) go towards WaterAid's work helping people gain access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. Stay tuned to www.waterchallenge.org.au for our 2020 launch!

"Doing the challenge has helped with starting a real health kick. I am more aware of when I haven't had enough water and how much I need it! Plus my coffee addiction has gone! 🙌🙌🙌" – Ashleigh Bruza



Supporter Spotlight



Sharon has donated \$35 a month to WaterAid for over 10 years now. Here she tells us why. . .

Did you know women and girls are responsible for water collection in eight out of ten households?

This is one of the key reasons Sharon decided to become a monthly donor to WaterAid. Sharon has been donating to WaterAid regularly for almost 14 years.

She recalls stories she heard from her partner who used to work in Papua New Guinea: of young girls not going to school because they were menstruating, or whole communities not having access to clean water. "For women, in particular, the impact of inadequate hygiene is devastating," Sharon says.

Sharon is an extensive traveller herself and used to regularly visit Vanuatu, where she saw poverty in the local area. Feeling blessed to grow up in Victoria, Sharon realised "my house was like a palace compared to overseas."

Sharon loves reading WaterAid's monthly e-newsletter and Oasis magazine as they remind her of the great work WaterAid does at the community level.

She is inspired by WaterAid's focus to free women from collecting water to improve their lives.

"Hearing about a new well or toilets... makes it worthwhile," she explains. Sharon shares the information she receives with her family to spread the word on WaterAid's impact.

Interview by Jodie Greenaway



Know a WaterAid supporter you think we should profile? Nominate a friend, a family member or yourself by contacting us at info@wateraid.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:
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Or call **1300 858 022** or visit www.wateraid.org/au

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

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

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



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