

Spring 2017

Oasis

Your WaterAid magazine



Fighting
infection
in health
facilities

Climate
change
resilience

Learn on
the Loo

COMING UP

Learn on the Loo – Nov 2017
learnontheloo.org.au

World Toilet Day – 19 Nov 2017
learnontheloo.org.au

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

The Water Challenge – Mar 2018
www.waterchallenge.org.au

Walk for Water – 19-23 Mar 2018
www.walkforwater.org.au

World Water Day – 22 Mar 2018
www.wateraid.org/au

The crisis

- 844 million people in the world – one in ten – do not have clean water.
- 2.3 billion people in the world – one in three – do not have a decent toilet.

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 symbol: On the cover of this edition we introduce our new hand symbol which represents our three goals of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Cover photo: Narsizu, 7, and Fideris, 10, outside a new toilet in their village in Timor-Leste. Photo: WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

Chief Executive message

This November I am looking forward to dedicating some quality time to a new skill, while I am on the loo.

I'll be participating in Learn on the Loo, a new WaterAid activity which encourages people to do just that in the lead up to World Toilet Day.

Why you may ask? There are over two billion people in the world without access to a decent toilet. Many people have no choice but to face the indignity of going to the loo in the open, where they are exposed to disease and vulnerable to harassment and even attack.

I am still deciding what I will learn, perhaps a language or improve my memory or practise meditation.

What will you learn on the loo?

Rosie Wheen
Chief Executive
WaterAid Australia



Stay informed at:
www.wateraid.org/au



Sign up for our regular e-newsletter by emailing info@wateraid.org.au

Fighting infection in health facilities



Aranhya, a nurse in Cambodia, washes his hands at a hospital basin.

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are essential for ensuring infection prevention in health facilities and to fighting antimicrobial resistance.

Without optimal infection prevention practices, germs, including those resistant to antibiotics and other frontline medication, spread. Resistant infections lead to longer hospital stays, higher risk of death, prolonged illness and are more costly to treat.

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the major global health threats of our time. Improving infection prevention and control, and ensuring clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene in health facilities is essential to address this. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms that cause infections such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, change in a way that means the frontline medications



we have to treat those infections no longer work.

WaterAid is committed to improving water, toilets, hygiene and waste systems in health facilities to ensure everyone, everywhere can enjoy dignified and quality health care services that improve their lives. We are creating partnerships with ministries of health, medical professionals and health organisations to help fulfil this ambition.

The risk

About **700,000 people die** each year from resistant infection; this is predicted to rise to **10 million by 2050** if action isn't taken to address antimicrobial resistance.

From sport to goals



WaterAid's Program Coordinator in Papua New Guinea (PNG) Lua Rikis is also the Captain of the national netball team, the PNG Pepes, and now the United Nations in PNG and the PNG Olympic Committee has appointed her a Sustainable Development Goal Champion.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are 17 goals which aim to transform the world by 2030 by ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. Goal 6 commits nations to delivering clean water and sanitation to everyone, everywhere by 2030.

Along with four other PNG athletes, Lua will promote the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals across the country to raise awareness of the goals and advocate for their implementation at sports events, educational programs and in the media. Lua will particularly promote Goal 6 for clean water and sanitation.

"This role will allow me to advocate to a much wider audience through UN programs and will also provide an avenue to share the work that WaterAid is doing using netball as a vehicle to bring about hygiene behaviour change," said Lua Rikis.

WaterAid is working in partnership with national sporting federations in PNG to deliver hygiene messages and catalyse change and opportunities for women and girls.



United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal Champion Lua Rikis with student Taita outside her school's toilet facilities in PNG.



Lonita carries water collected from a waterhole to her house in Papua New Guinea.

Wild water

Papua New Guinea is among the worst performing countries in the world for rural access to clean water, putting the nation at greater risk from climate change.

In Papua New Guinea, over two thirds of the rural population live without access to clean water. It also ranks in the top 13% of nations worldwide most vulnerable to climate change and least ready to adapt, according to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index.

Extreme weather events resulting from climate change – including cyclones, ruinous flooding and prolonged drought – could make it even harder for the world's poorest people to access clean water.

Today over 800 million people globally are without clean water and the vast majority of them live

in rural areas. These communities face particular challenges in gaining access to water due to their often isolated location, inadequate infrastructure and a continued lack of funding.

Papua New Guinea

87% of population lives in rural areas.

71% of rural population without access to clean water.

Top 4% of countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Top 13% of countries least ready to adapt to climate change.

Period taboos

Every day, 800 million women around the world have their period, yet many consider it embarrassing and taboo. This secrecy makes it difficult for women and girls to get the help and support they need to manage their periods hygienically and with dignity – particularly the one in three without a decent toilet.



In Nepal WaterAid undertook a photo project to help break taboos. Teenage girls took photos of life during their period to bust menstrual myths that imposed numerous restrictions on their lives. They ran a local exhibition to open up discussions around periods in their small rural village and pass on lessons about menstrual hygiene they had learned from WaterAid.

The girls taught community members that menstruating women are not contaminated, and brought an end to traditional customs such as not being allowed to sleep in their own home or touch male relatives. Studying and looking in the mirror

Nepalese photo project participants, Manisha, Rabina and Sabina.

were once forbidden during menstruation as it was believed they would be cursed.

Following the project most of the girls have had such restrictions lifted. Sabina, 15, said: "A year back my parents didn't allow me to play, visit relatives or go out during my menstruation but, when I expressed my feelings through my photographs, my parents understood me and now they never restrict me in anything. I am very happy that I can do what I want."

Climate change resilience



Rosalie with daughter Laura in Timor-Leste at an open water tank where pollutants contaminate the water and storage levels are low during dry season.

No one is immune to climate change.

While Australia has the infrastructure and resources to adapt, the communities WaterAid works with are more vulnerable to extreme climate events especially when these impact on people's access to water – things like droughts, floods and contamination of freshwater sources from rising sea levels.

Simply having access to clean water and a toilet increases people's resilience and makes them better able to adapt. So every community that WaterAid works with is one that is better equipped to cope with climate change.

In Timor-Leste we have introduced a water tank level indicator, a simple adaptation that shows communities

how much water is left in their tank and how fast it's decreasing. We're also running climate vulnerability assessments to help communities analyse threats to their water supply and develop plans to build resilience.

In Australia our focus is on ensuring that water, sanitation and hygiene are prominently featured in climate change policy and ensuring that climate change finance is funding these services.

With Australia currently co-chairing the Green Climate Fund we've been advocating the Australian Government to push the Fund to increase support for projects that improve communities' access to water, sanitation and hygiene and ensure people are more able to cope with the challenges climate change throws their way.

Unlock potential

WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

Efijenia and her mother Evalina with their toilet in Timor-Leste.

Twelve year old Efijenia and her mother Evalina have clean water and a decent toilet in their village in Timor-Leste which allows them to live dignified, healthy lives.

"I feel happy because we have a toilet. Before we used the forest, but now the toilet is close and we can use it to shower and go to the toilet so we are really happy. Now I can take a shower three times a day, before I only showered once every two days. I am happy," said Evalina.

Her daughter is now able to go to the toilet near home, without fear of harassment or even attack and exposure to disease.

"I feel happy because our toilet is close to us and it is good to have because at night time I don't have to go far from here. Now it is easier for us to go to the toilet," said Efijenia.

With your support, together we can unlock people's potential with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Last spring our fundraising appeal focused on toilets, and this spring it's centred on water. Will you join the water fight?



Central Highlands Water

Uniquely yours

When one community gains, we all gain.

For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation there is a return of \$4 in increased productivity.

A WaterAid corporate partnership is more than numbers on a spreadsheet. It's a pledge to improve the lives of two communities: your local community and a marginalised community in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste or Cambodia. You can improve relationships with existing customers while distinguishing yourself from competitors in the eyes of future customers.

Make your next activity uniquely yours. Have a positive impact. A barbecue for staff, contractors and friends? A Melbourne Cup sweep? A mini golf day or movie night? Cow poo lotto? Use your WaterAid partnership to highlight your



Central Highlands Water sold pet bowls at their local festival to support WaterAid.

organisation, raise funds to make a lasting difference and bring your community together.

Through the 'Pets Choose Tap' campaign, Central Highlands Water sold pet bowls at their local festival. Proceeds supported WaterAid's work and it allowed Central Highlands Water to develop an invaluable connection with their local community.

A WaterAid partnership helps permanently change lives locally and internationally while improving both balance sheets!

Membership or sponsorship is available. Contact Leigh Mawby or Mark Thomas on 1300 858 022 or email info@wateraid.org.au to explore the potential.

LEARN ON THE LOO



We've all got something that we're aching to learn: a new language; the capital cities of the world; knitting skills; meditation; the list goes on...



WaterAid/Ernest Randriarimalala

Students in Madagascar in front of their new toilet block.

Regardless of what's sitting number one on your learning bucket list, it's easy for other things to get in the way. With our increasingly busy lives, when can we find the time for self-improvement?

Funnily enough, there are 10-15 minutes every day when we're not doing much at all. That's the average amount of time people spend on the toilet every day. Over the course of a month, that adds up to almost eight hours. Imagine if we used that time to achieve something more constructive?

Introducing Learn on the Loo, our new World Toilet Day activity, in which we're asking Australians to dedicate their November toilet time to memorising, meditating or mastering a skill from the privacy of their bathrooms.

Choose your learning objective, set up a fundraising page, and share your progress with your friends to raise money so that more people can get access to decent toilets.

Do what you can on the can, get something done on the dunny, and register for Learn on the Loo today at: learnontheloo.org.au

Water Challenge and Walk for Water

As we approach World Water Day in March, there are two opportunities for you to fundraise for WaterAid at the same time as improving your health.

Off the back of two years of strong growth, we'll be asking Australians to get involved with the Water Challenge and make water their only beverage throughout March. Challenge yourself to give up coffee, tea, soft drinks, and alcohol for the month by registering at: www.waterchallenge.org.au



WaterAid/Andrew McConnell

A child carries water from a borehole in Burkina Faso.

For our corporate supporters, we'll also be running Walk for Water again. From 19-23 March, walk for those who spend hours collecting water by taking 10,000 steps a day for five days.

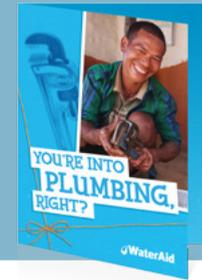
Register at: www.walkforwater.org.au

Gifts for Life

Give a gift and transform people's lives for good with a WaterAid gift card! Whether it's a tap or a toolkit, every Gift for Life makes a lasting difference. With the festive season approaching, visit our online store for original and fun water, toilet and hygiene themed gifts.

From tanks to toilets, your tax-deductable gift will help fund a range of WaterAid projects for clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene so people can live dignified and healthy lives.

Give a Gift for Life at: www.wateraidgifts.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 the form below and send it to us today. **Thank you.**

Please return to:
WaterAid Australia
Reply Paid 83992
East Melbourne VIC 3002
You can also donate by calling
1300 858 022 or by visiting
www.wateraid.org/au

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Suburb	State	Postcode	
Email	Date of Birth	/	/
Phone ()	Mobile		

I will give \$ _____
via the payment method below.

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(payable to WaterAid Australia)

Card No.

Card Holder's Name _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Signature _____ Today's Date _____ / _____ / _____

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.

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