

# OASIS

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair holding a baby. They are positioned under a brass water tap that is dripping water. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The woman is wearing a red top, and the baby is wearing a light blue top.

**PNG - worst in the world for water**

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**Women lead the way**

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**Solomon Islands strives for water and toilets**

## Coming up

**Pay to Pee – November 2016**

[www.itsnojoke.org.au](http://www.itsnojoke.org.au)

**World Toilet Day – 19 November 2016**

[www.itsnojoke.org.au](http://www.itsnojoke.org.au)

**Gifts for Life - Festive season**

[www.wateraidgifts.org.au](http://www.wateraidgifts.org.au)

**The Water Challenge – March 2017**

[www.waterchallenge.org.au](http://www.waterchallenge.org.au)

**World Water Day – 22 March 2017**

[www.waterchallenge.org.au](http://www.waterchallenge.org.au)

## The crisis

Over 650 million people in the world do not have access to safe water. This is roughly one in ten of the world's population.

Over 2.3 billion people don't have access to adequate sanitation, one in three of the world's population.

Around 315,000 children under five die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That's almost 900 children per day, or one child every two minutes.

## About WaterAid

WaterAid transforms the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Cover image: Leonie and her daughter Madison have access to clean, safe water in their village in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea, following a WaterAid project. Photo: WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

## Keep informed

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

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## Chief Executive message

# Will you pay to pee in honour of World Toilet Day in November?

We are encouraging people to donate when they use the toilet on World Toilet Day to raise awareness and money for the 2.3 billion people around the world without a toilet.

Alternatively the Water Challenge is coming up in March and is a fantastic opportunity to get healthy by walking for water or drinking just water while also helping to provide safe water to some of the world's poorest communities.

In this edition read about how our neighbour Papua New Guinea is one of the worst places in the world for household access to safe water.

Find out about our new program in the Solomon Islands, our work in healthcare and the areas of equity, inclusion and women's empowerment. And see how corporate membership can help your organisation and WaterAid at the same time.

With the festive season coming up please visit our Gifts for Life website ([www.wateraidgifts.org.au](http://www.wateraidgifts.org.au)) for life-saving ways to change lives.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Oasis*. Thank you for your ongoing generous and dedicated support of WaterAid and those without access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

**Paul Nichols**  
Chief Executive  
WaterAid Australia



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

## To be a woman

What is it like to be female in 2016?

### Walking to collect water

Around the world women spend hours every day walking to collect water which is often unsafe to drink. It is exhausting work and limits time for productive activities.

### Boiling dirty water

Women have to boil and strain water in an attempt to make it safe for their families to drink. The smoke can lead to respiratory problems and the water can still be unsafe.

### Looking after sick kids

Dirty water, going to the toilet in the open and lack of hygiene practices mean children are often sick with diarrhoea, cholera, pneumonia and worms. Mums worry about the health and future of their children and spend time nursing them.

### Finding somewhere to go to the toilet

Many women don't have a toilet in their house and have 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.

### Missing and dropping out of school

If you are a student there is often nowhere to go to the toilet at school. It is a major reason for girls dropping out of school when they reach puberty. This curtails their education and the opportunity to take the first essential steps out of poverty.



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood



WaterAid/Poulomi Basu



WaterAid/Kim Hak

## Women lead the way

Women are being empowered in leadership positions through WaterAid projects and helping their communities to access water, sanitation and hygiene. They are also learning key skills and gaining the respect of community members.

In the traditionally male dominated society of Timor-Leste, Uvaldina is the newly appointed President of her village's water committee. She is excited about the prospect of safe water improving the lives of community members as they currently have a long journey to collect dirty water.

Water committees are established to guide communities through the process of accessing water, toilets and hygiene, and then ongoing maintenance. "It is important to prevent disease in the community and that is why I am the water committee President. In the future people can change their daily life so it is better than before...I like being President because I love my village and I love my community and I received the job because the community chose me...Everyone trusts me and we always work together."

In another Timor-Leste village, Juliana is Secretary of her village's water committee. While they gained access to water and toilets several years ago, the active water committee ensures the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of the borehole water system, toilets and hygiene practices.

"I lead the community to collect money from households to maintain the water system. I visit community members to collect \$1 each month to maintain the water system. People are happy to pay the money. The community maintains the water system. We work together to fix the



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

Top: Juliana is Secretary of her village's water committee. Bottom: Uvaldina is President of her village's water committee.

system if it is broken. Last year there was a problem with the water because it was coming out slowly so I used a tool to fix the PVC pipes."

WaterAid undertakes gender training in villages which challenge the usual notions of men's and women's work in the community and inspires people to think differently about gender roles.

## Solomon Islands strives for water and toilets

Just north east of Australia, across hundreds of islands, the Solomon Islands is home to a predominantly rural based population, many without access to basic toilets or drinking water.

Open defecation is common and handwashing with soap is not widely practised. Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contributes to the prevalence of diarrhoeal and other communicable diseases, high levels of undernutrition and infections at time of birth.

WaterAid established a program in the Solomon Islands last year to help address these issues.

The Solomon Islands Government has approved an ambitious Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy with a 2024 target to reach universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, six years ahead of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

A first step was for the Government to undertake a statistically representative assessment of the rural water, sanitation and hygiene coverage across all provinces

to provide a baseline for plans to improve coverage rates.

WaterAid and UNICEF supported the Government-led data collection and 60 staff and 16 survey teams collected 1,739 household water, sanitation and hygiene surveys, 71 school surveys and 28 healthcare facility surveys across the country. Preliminary results for the rural regions show almost half are without access to basic drinking water and 87% are without access to a basic sanitation facility.

Recently, WaterAid has been awarded an Australian Department of Foreign Affairs contract to support the Solomon Islands Government to implement a national sanitation and hygiene campaign.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene in rural Solomon Islands

**46%**  
of people without access to basic drinking water sources.

**87%**  
of people without access to a basic sanitation facility.

**84%**  
of people without access to appropriate handwashing facilities.

Solomon Islands Government, 2015



Women in the Solomon Islands collect water from a dirty creek.

# Clean, safe healthcare saves lives

Hospitals and healthcare centres should be hygienic places for people to seek care and leave healthier than when they arrived.

In many parts of the world healthcare facilities lack water, toilets and good hygiene practices, increasing the likelihood of them becoming hotspots for untreatable infections.

This puts patients and staff at risk of illness. It deters people from trusting health services and seeking care, and compromises health workers' ability to provide safe care.

WaterAid is committed to improving hygiene, water, toilets and waste systems in health facilities to ensure everyone, everywhere, can enjoy dignified and quality healthcare services that improve their lives.

We are creating new partnerships with ministries of health, medical professionals and health organisations to help fulfil this ambition. The World Health Organization (WHO) is engaging WaterAid's advocacy experience in influencing health experts to make sure that improving hygiene, water and

sanitation at health centres is at the top of the global health agenda.

In Cambodia, WaterAid is working with WHO to advise the Cambodian Ministry of Health on guidelines for water and sanitation in health centres across the country to ensure standards meet those set by WHO. We are also trialling an approach to routinely collect information on water supply, toilets, hygiene and waste management in health centres across the country so that progress on improving hygiene and reducing the risk of infection can be tracked as part of national health plans.

In the Solomon Islands, WaterAid has conducted a survey with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health to collect baseline information on water, toilets and waste management at health centres across the country.

## Healthcare centres globally

**38%**  
do not have a water supply.

**19%**  
do not have improved sanitation.

**35%**  
have no water and soap or alcohol hand rub for handwashing.

WHO & UNICEF 2015

Improving hygiene in healthcare facilities in Cambodia is now an important issue for Cambodia's Ministry of Health.

Children with disabilities in Cambodia will benefit from the Government's new National Guidelines on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.



WaterAid/Rhiannon King

# Reaching the most marginalised

**The human rights to water and sanitation are enshrined in international law, which means everyone everywhere has the right to essential and safe water and sanitation.**

However some people get better access to services than others. That is why addressing inequality is one of WaterAid's aims. We work to empower citizens to demand their own rights while also working with governments to improve the quality of service provision.

WaterAid has advanced its work in women's empowerment and gender equality. In Timor-Leste, WaterAid has rolled out strategies which encourage women and men in communities to discuss the underlying constraints to equality in water and sanitation services.

Menstrual hygiene management is a taboo subject, often neglected by policy-makers. This directly affects the access that women and girls have to sanitation and good hygiene. In Myanmar, WaterAid and the Burnet Institute are researching menstrual hygiene management in monastic

schools. In Timor-Leste, we are delivering menstrual hygiene management training in schools, with the Ministries of Health and Education.

Recognising that people living with disabilities are often excluded from water, sanitation and hygiene services, WaterAid is focusing on influencing policy and social change. In Cambodia, WaterAid led a project with the Government to produce a set of National Guidelines on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to include people with disabilities and older people.

In Papua New Guinea, WaterAid led a situational analysis to understand the experiences of people with disabilities. The findings highlight how gender, disability and age impact a person's access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and are being used in advocacy with the disability rights and women's empowerment sectors.

Reducing inequalities in access to water, sanitation and hygiene is fundamental to reducing poverty, and a step towards a more fair and just world.



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

## Water in Papua New Guinea

4.5

Million

People without safe water

60%

% of population without safe water

54%

Cost of 50 litres of water as % of a typical poor person's salary

\$3.27

AUD

Cost of 50 litres of water from a water delivery service

## PNG – worst in world for water

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the most difficult place in the world for household access to clean water, leaving many households no choice but to spend more than half their income on this basic essential, according to a WaterAid report, *Water: At What Cost? The State of the World's Water*.

At 60% PNG has the greatest percentage of people in the world living without access to safe water. In PNG, an average person in poverty will spend 54% of their salary to access the World Health Organization-recommended minimum 50 litres per day to meet basic needs. In Australia 0.1% of the minimum wage is spent on 50 litres of water and average water usage is 500 litres per person, per day.

In PNG 4.5 million people live without safe water and 800 children die each year from diarrhoea. Without improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene in PNG, economic growth, gender equity, improved health and nutrition, and resilience to climate change will not be achieved.

But change is underway. WaterAid played a key role in the taskforce that developed a National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy which has been passed by the PNG Parliament, and the Government has secured some funding from the European Union and World Bank for water and sanitation activities.

Doris lives in a slum in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Her neighbourhood has just one water pipe to serve 100 families. Doris has to queue for a long time, especially if the water pressure is low. Those at the end of the queue often find the water has run out by the time they get there.

# GIFTS For LIFE

WaterAid

Thank you to everyone who has bought a Gift for Life! Your gift has given twice over, both to the person you bought the gift for and it has also contributed to people in the developing world gaining access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Every Gift for Life helps people like Clara in Timor-Leste get water for drinking, washing and cooking whenever they need it – without walking for hours each day. “I feel happy now because the water is closer to my home than before. I can take a bath because it is easy because the water is nearby. I can wash my hands. I can also grow papaya and vegetables.”

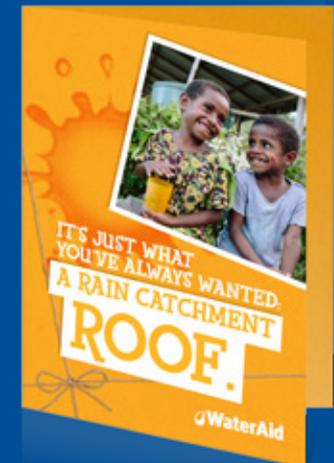
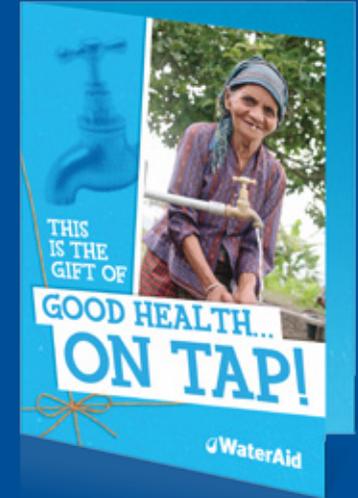
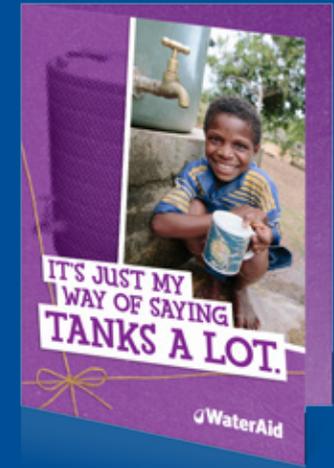
Or children like Deslyn and Sharon who can drink clean, safe water from their village's rain catchment roof, protecting them from diseases that take thousands of children's lives each day. Thanks to this roof they have a healthy future!

Whether it's a tap or a toolkit, every Gift for Life makes a difference. Visit our online store to browse our range of water, toilet and hygiene themed gifts. They are original, unusual and fun, and there is something to suit everyone.

From tanks to toilets, your tax-deductable donation will fund a range of WaterAid projects that help give the world's poorest people access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. They are a water-giving, life-saving way to change lives.

With the festive season approaching, let us take the stress out of your shopping. You can purchase your presents in a fun and easy way and your loved one will receive an awesome card showing how your gift is helping save lives.

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



# Corporate membership contributes and challenges

WaterAid is extremely grateful for the essential support it receives from the corporate sector across Australia.

WaterAid membership provides organisations with a tangible connection to our programs to strengthen their corporate social responsibility and sustainability programs, commit action toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and access crucial engagement opportunities for staff to increase their understanding of the challenges facing communities without access to safe water and sanitation.

We have recently launched a new membership structure with three levels of membership. There are terrific benefits, including the opportunity to participate in WaterAid's annual employee engagement program, Water Innovators. It's an employee development challenge where teams compete to solve real challenges from WaterAid's work while developing their professional skills at the same time.

In 2016 the challenge has been to propose innovative solutions to real problems faced by WaterAid in Cambodia. The teams are focusing on one of three issues using skills

ranging from marketing to product and engineering design. The challenges are:

- Design a drinking water station and communications strategy for hospitals.
- Redesign and marketing of the LaBobo handwashing station.
- Design a wastewater treatment system for floating community schools.

Ten teams from eight companies have undertaken a *Shark Tank* style pitch of their initial fundraising and challenge solution ideas to win seed funding. Each team is now organising creative fundraising projects to raise more than \$5,000 to support WaterAid projects and working on their final challenge solution which they will submit for judging.

Team members are learning new skills and leadership qualities to bring to the workplace and beyond.

To become a corporate member of WaterAid, contact our Corporate Relations Manager on 1300 858 022.



WaterAid

A Water Innovators team from Goulburn Valley Water: from left, Erin Downes, Regan Barratt, Vicki Scott (team leader), Tyson Coombes and CEO Peter Quinn lending support to the team.



WaterAid/Ernest Randriamalala

## Get involved

### The Water Challenge

The Water Challenge is WaterAid's annual fundraising event, coinciding with World Water Day on 22 March.

We invite you to participate in the Water Challenge, improve your health and raise money to help provide life-saving safe water in some of the world's poorest communities.

Once again this March, you can Walk for Water by setting your personal distance goal and walking

or running your way to good health, or Drink Just Water by challenging yourself to make just water your only beverage for 14 or 30 days. Supporting the Water Challenge will not only raise money and awareness for WaterAid, but help create a world with access to safe water for all.

**To learn more visit:**  
[www.waterchallenge.org.au](http://www.waterchallenge.org.au)



WaterAid/Tom Greenwood

### It's no joke!

At WaterAid we love toilets. We're always looking for a chance to talk about them, which is why we love World Toilet Day so much.

In the lead up to World Toilet Day on 19 November, we invite you to get involved and acknowledge that it's no joke that 2.3 billion people do not have access to a safe and private toilet.

A day about toilets might sound silly, but for many millions of people around the world toilets are no laughing matter. Sadly almost 900 children die daily due to unsafe water and poor sanitation.

There are many ways to get involved in our It's no joke! activities this November. Host your own Comedy Night or Quiz, or simply Pay to Pee by making a donation to use the toilet.

**To learn more visit:** [www.itsnojoke.org.au](http://www.itsnojoke.org.au)

# Your support makes a difference

## Support

You can help provide safe water, sanitation and 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](http://www.wateraid.org/au)**

Title First Name Last Name

Address

Suburb State Postcode

Email Date of Birth / /

Phone ( ) Mobile

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

AND

please make the amount indicated  
**a monthly gift** until further notice.  
(credit card only)

Cheque/money order (enclosed)  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Diners  
(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.



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 safe water, sanitation and 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).