

Autumn 2018

Oasis

Your WaterAid magazine



The worst
place to
find a toilet

The last
taboo

COMING UP

Victoria WaterAid Ball
1 June 2018

Queensland WaterAid Ball
23 June 2018

South Australia WaterAid Ball
21 July 2018

New South Wales WaterAid Ball
October 2018

World Toilet Day
19 November 2018

Find out more: 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 – one in three – 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: Carolina, 19, inside the new inclusive toilet at her school in Liquica district, Timor-Leste. Photo: WaterAid/Jerry Galea

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Chief Executive message

Do you know where in the world is the worst place to find a toilet?

It is something you might only need to know on your travels, but for 2.3 billion people without decent toilets it is a daily reality.

Not having a toilet at home, work or school has a huge impact on people's health, education and productivity, especially girls and women.

Without toilets, people have to go to the toilet in the open, anywhere they can find a spot.

Without toilets, girls miss out on school and curtail their education.

Without toilets, people get sick and remain trapped in a cycle of poverty. And without toilets, children die from diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor sanitation.

This is why your support is so important, and we sincerely thank you for it.



Rosie Wheen
Chief Executive
WaterAid Australia

Low cost toilets

A lack of money is often a barrier to people having a toilet, so WaterAid Timor-Leste found a low cost way to help people access toilets.

SaTo Pans are affordable, water-efficient and durable toilet pans for pit latrines with a self-sealing trap door to block out flies, insects and odours, developed by American Stand Brands. To help build local supply chains, WaterAid introduced these innovative toilets to an importer in Dili and encourages small retailers such as community kiosks and market stall holders to stock SaTo Pans to sell to community members.

Retailing at US\$5-6 per pan, with the additional cost of materials for installation, they are much cheaper and easier to install than the ceramic alternative. WaterAid and its partners also provide technical education on installation and use.

Right: To promote the launch of a shop selling SaTo Pans at Maubara market in Timor-Leste, WaterAid and its partners held a promotional stand displaying SaTo Pans and showing a video on the importance of toilets.



WaterAid/Jerry Galea

Above: Maria sells SaTo Pans at her kiosk in Timor-Leste, "It helps the family to have income. And it helps the community to be healthy...I feel proud because we can support others on low incomes. Otherwise if they want to buy a toilet they have to go far away and pay for transport costs."



WaterAid/Jerry Galea

The worst place to find a toilet

Ethiopia is now the worst country in the world for the highest percentage of its population without toilets (93%), while India remains the nation with the most people without toilets.

Globally, one in three people still have nowhere decent to go to the toilet and suffer the fear and indignity of relieving themselves in the open or in unhygienic toilets. For more than 1.1 billion women and girls, this injustice results in an increased risk of poor health, limited education, harassment and even attack.

If the women and girls without a toilet in India stood in a queue, it would stretch around the Earth more than 4 times!



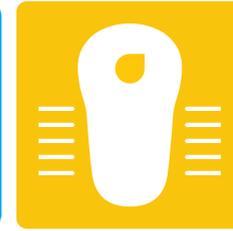
Maheshwari in India experienced difficulties defecating in the open during her pregnancy: "We cannot afford a toilet, nor do we have any space here. When I got pregnant, it was hard to walk to the field to defecate as the path was not safe. My mother-in-law used to accompany me because I needed help sitting down and getting up."



WaterAid / Tejswi Batasundaram

With more than 355 million women and girls still waiting for access to basic sanitation, India tops the list for the longest queue for the toilet. In fact, it would stretch around the Earth more than four times. However, there has been progress in improving access to sanitation through the government's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission, putting India in the top ten for reducing open defecation and improving access to basic sanitation.

Cambodia: one of most improved countries for toilets



Cambodia has emerged from decades of conflict to become one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, and is making progress in reducing open defecation as well as improving access to basic sanitation.

Cambodia has improved sanitation coverage by more than a third since 2000, helped by the government's action plan for achieving universal access to water and sanitation by 2025.

There are still challenges, including how to provide sanitation in its floating villages. Tonlé Sap lake, home to more than 100,000 people, is used for fishing and washing; it is also where the community goes to the toilet. As a result, diarrhoea is rife and children have drowned.

WaterAid worked with Wetlands Work to introduce household floating toilets known as Handy Pods which break down waste and filter pathogens before they pass into the lake. Innovations like this are enabling Cambodia to help even the hardest to reach communities to access toilets.



WaterAid / Laura Surmer

Suon Ny lives on the banks of the Tonlé Sap lake: "Our whole family used to go to the toilet in the field behind the house. When it flooded, I would have to go further away or would go out in the boat. It was very difficult because I was scared of snakes and insects and worried I might meet other people. I felt ashamed. The Handy Pod is easier to use and better for my health."

Cambodia

51% of people lack decent toilets

41% of people practise open defecation

A third of schools without water or toilets



Rofina (left), 19, from Timor-Leste is pleased that her school now has a clean, private toilet for girls to use when they have their period:

“Compared to the old toilet it has water, all the things girls need and is very clean. I feel so happy that it helps girls when we are menstruating. We can just go to the toilet. In the past when girls had their periods we would always go home because we want to use pads, but we didn’t have them at school and the toilet was dirty. So we would go home to use the toilet. We would talk to the teacher if we had a problem, but the teacher would get angry when we missed class. When I missed class I felt sad because I lose some of the lesson and it stops my study if I go home.”

One in three schools around the world have no clean water or toilets, detrimentally impacting education.

Around 263 million children aged between six and 17 do not go to school at all, with a lack of water and decent sanitation being an obstacle for many. Some children are unable to go to school because of the time they have to spend collecting water or because there is nowhere for them to go to the toilet at school.

Girls often skip school when they start their period, or drop out altogether, if there are no decent toilets or space to wash themselves and stay clean and healthy.

The last taboo

WaterAid, the Burnet Institute and the International Women’s Development Agency have undertaken a landmark study to uncover issues that prevent adolescent girls and women in the Pacific from managing their menstruation hygienically, effectively and with dignity.

Commissioned by the Australian government, ‘The last taboo’ is the first multi-country study of menstrual hygiene in the Pacific. Research took place in Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands across 2016 and 2017.

The voices of women and girls were central to the study; they were asked to share challenges they face and their aspiration for solutions to make it easier to manage their menstrual health.

Findings revealed many adolescent girls lack comprehensive knowledge about menstruation and are unprepared for their first period which often results in feelings of shame and embarrassment. Without access to quality sanitary products, women and girls fear leakage, which distracts them from school or work. Water and toilet facilities in schools and workplaces are often inadequate to their needs.

WaterAid works to help girls and women to manage their menstruation through access to improved water and toilets. Recently in PNG, WaterAid and the International Water Centre worked together with the National Department of Education to design a teachers’ guide to teaching menstrual hygiene management in public primary schools in PNG.



Before a shower room was installed at Georgina’s school in PNG she had to go home when she had her period:

“When it wasn’t built we used to go home and change and come back. Instead of going home when I have my period I go to wash and then go back to class.”

A better start



Last year we asked for your support to help ensure clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are available in health care centres which are operating without these basics.

Thanks to supporters like you, WaterAid is able to work to improve conditions in health centres. Access to clean water means patients and their families don't need to walk to collect water or pay to bring bottled water to hospital, and doctors and nurses can wash their hands properly in running water. Clean water, sanitation and hygiene help protect patients from infections including newborns and mums from serious infections like sepsis.

Dr Palaan Pok, a Deputy Director of Maternal Health at a hospital in Cambodia, explains how clean water has improved health for patients: "When there was no clean water, there were lots of infections. Clean water has reduced the infections in the hospital...Now it is very easy for me to wash my hands, unlike before when I had to take water from the well and it was not that clean."

"Clean water is very good for the health of the patients. Because water is life. So if the water is not clean, it means they will get infections."



Dr Palaan Pok talks to new mother Daraneath at a hospital in Cambodia.



Srey Leak and her four day old son Tola rest in a maternity ward in Cambodia:

"I want him to be healthy, no sickness. I just want him to grow up and be healthy. I hope that can happen for him."

Nutrition key to health

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are needed to fight malnutrition.

155 million children under five globally are stunted, which can inhibit both their physical and cognitive development. These developmental delays occur as a result of undernutrition early in life and are largely irreversible after age two. Up to 50% of undernutrition is related to infections and worm infestations caused by dirty water, poor sanitation and poor hygiene, leaving children's bodies unable to absorb nutrients properly, regardless of what quantity or type of food they eat.

For this reason, expanding access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services must be part of efforts to end malnutrition. These services, when delivered community-wide, will help reduce incidences of diarrhoea and other infections, as well as anaemia in pregnant women, all of which are linked to stunting.

Cambodia, where one in four children under five are underweight and one in three are stunted, is taking action. The Cambodian government's National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition has led to greater cooperation across ministries, including the establishment of a cross-government working group to lead joint actions on nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene. WaterAid helped establish this group and remains an active member.

We're hoping this high-level political commitment will translate to large-scale efforts to deliver clean water, good sanitation and change hygiene behaviours as part of broader nutrition programs, giving Cambodian children a healthier start to life.

Build a loo challenge



Teams from City West Water, Melbourne Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water competed in a 'Build a Loo' challenge which was judged by model, television show *The Block* winner and WaterAid Ambassador Elyse Knowles and WaterAid Chief Executive Rosie When at Melbourne Water's office in the lead up to World Toilet Day.

The teams had 20 minutes to create their own DIY toilets out of everyday household materials. Congratulations to our tied winners Melbourne Water and City West Water for taking out the prize for best model toilet.

Winnovators winners

In our signature employee development program, teams compete from across the world to solve a real challenge from our work. Winnovators share ideas, raise money and develop new skills and leadership qualities along the way.



Congratulations to all the WaterAid Winnovators Asia Pacific region winners who worked on Nicaraguan challenges:

Overall Asia Pacific Winner:
Seqwater's 'Agua Viva' team

Best Presentation Award:
TRILITY's 'TRInnovators' team

Best Community Approach Award:
Queensland Urban Utilities' 'Aqua' team

Best Fund Award:
City West Water's 'Team Potability'

Best Learn Award:
Yarra Valley Water's 'Winnovators' team

Best Solve Hygiene Award:
Sydney Water's 'El Agua De La Vida' team

Best Solve Sanitation Award:
Sydney Water's 'Mot Mot' team

Best Solve Water Award:
GHD's 'Guerreros Hidricos Dinamicos' team

Seqwater's 'Agua Viva' team was the overall Asia Pacific winner of Winnovators 2017.

Gifts for Life



Transform lives and do your gift shopping at the same time with a WaterAid Gift for Life card! Whether it's a tap or a toolkit, every Gift for Life makes a lasting difference.

Do you have a loo loving friend? Or one that likes to make a splash? If so, there are plenty of fun gift card options at WaterAid's online shop which is full of water-giving, life-saving ways to change lives through a gift.

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



AVEDA Earth Month

Eco-conscious and cruelty free beauty brand AVEDA is an ongoing supporter of WaterAid through its annual Earth Month activities in April which help people gain access to clean water around the world.

You can support WaterAid by purchasing a limited-edition AVEDA Light the Way candle in April for \$18. 100% of the purchase price will be donated to WaterAid.

Find out more at:
www.aveda.com.au
or call 1800 292 069



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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East Melbourne VIC 3002
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.

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.

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