

Spring 2020

# Oasis

Your WaterAid magazine

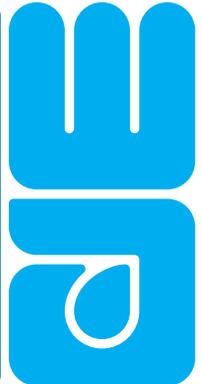


WaterAid/Vlad Sokhin



## Highlights

- The Largest Donation in Who Gives A Crap's History
- A Day in the Life in rural Cambodia
- COVID-19 in remote Papua New Guinea



**WaterAid**



## The crisis



Two in five households globally lack handwashing facilities with soap and water.



785 million people in the world – one in ten – do not have clean water close to home.



Two 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:** *Agustinho (left) and Valentino, 9 (middle) washing their hands from a community tap in Lautekas, AI Technology Community, Timor-Leste*

**Credit:** *WaterAid/ Vlad Sokhin*

This copy of Oasis was edited and written by Tegan Dunne and the WaterAid Australia team. For feedback or article suggestions, please email [info@wateraid.org.au](mailto:info@wateraid.org.au)

Stay informed at: [wateraid.org.au](http://wateraid.org.au)



Visit [wateraid.org.au/](http://wateraid.org.au/) **subscribe** to sign up for our regular e-newsletter



WaterAidAustralia



WaterAidAus

## Fast facts on handwashing



Only **1 in 5** (19%) people globally wash their hands with soap after using the toilet.

**1 in 3** primary schools worldwide do not have handwashing facilities.



Around **310,000** children die each year from diarrheal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That's over 800 children each day, or one child **every two minutes**.

**443** million school days are lost every year because of water-related illnesses.



Handwashing with soap reduces the risk of diarrheal diseases by up to **47%**.

Lack of access to sanitation and poor hygiene contribute to approximately **88%** of childhood deaths caused by diarrheal diseases.





## From our Chief Executive

How do you wash your hands without soap or water? The answer, you can't. That's why our work is as important as ever. At the beginning of March 2020, faced with a global pandemic, we began urgently assessing how we could scale up our work to ensure people had the ability to wash their hands with soap and water, the first line of defence against COVID-19.

Our teams on the ground in Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea have faced the incredible challenge of not only reaching their urban populations with COVID-19 and hygiene awareness information, but accessing some of the hardest to reach rural villages to share these messages. You'll read several inspiring stories in this edition of Oasis about the work of our dedicated country program staff, including riding motorbikes through rough and muddy terrain to reach some villages!

We're also thrilled to be able to share with you in this issue the news that our incredible corporate partner Who Gives A Crap have made the largest donation in their history towards our global water, sanitation and hygiene projects! In the current COVID-19 world, we are urgently scaling up our work to help keep the most vulnerable people safe and Who Gives A Crap has been a critical partner

in progressing our work, and this year's amazing donation takes that to another level. Find out more about this life changing donation on page eight.

We can then take a trip together to Cambodia, where we'll hear from Mr. Kheng about the struggles he and his family face in rural Cambodia, and how clean water has changed their lives.

Our COVID-19 Crisis Appeal continues to run, ensuring we can deliver good hygiene to those who need it during this critical period, and beyond. The generous donations we have received from our wonderful supporters has helped us maintain our COVID-19 response activities.

These and many other inspiring stories are to follow in this issue of Oasis. I hope you enjoy taking a virtual journey through our country programs and hearing about the incredible work being achieved, I know I did.

Stay safe, stay calm and stay well.

*Rosie Wheen*





## Around the world

### Papua New Guinea

Our team in Papua New Guinea have been working hard to ensure communities, both urban and rural, are aware and prepared for COVID-19. This has included training locals to make soap from locally available products such as coconut oil. Our team have also travelled to hard to reach and very remote communities to educate locals on COVID-19 prevention behaviours, such as handwashing with soap, respiratory hygiene, maintaining social distancing, cleanliness and food hygiene.



Members of WaterAid PNG teaching hand hygiene and COVID-19 practices in schools in the traditional Motu Koita villages.



### Cambodia

In Cambodia we have continued to consider how COVID-19 could disproportionately affected marginalised people in the population, and kept this at the forefront of our response. Our team began community outreach shortly after news of the virus broke, travelling around the country to ensure even the most remote communities were informed on what the virus was and how washing hands with soap and water is the first line of defence against the pandemic.

**WaterAid Timor-Leste conducting COVID-19 awareness in some of the most remote villages in the country.**



## Timor-Leste

Facing the current global pandemic, WaterAid Timor-Leste has been urgently scaling up their hygiene work, ensuring the poorest and most remote households in Manufahi are reached. Many villages are hard to reach, and as such, our WaterAid team must broadcast information from loudspeakers on the back of their motorbikes, as they ride the muddy and winding mountain terrain from village to village. The information includes how to properly wash hands with soap and the critical times to wash hands, including before cooking and after going to the toilet.



**WaterAid staff visiting rural Cambodia with COVID-19 and handwashing information.**



## Myths and COVID-19 in remote Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a country of immensely diverse culture, with tropical beaches and stunning coral reefs. Moving inland from the coast, you will find active volcanos, dense rainforest as far as the eye can see and of course, the famous Kokoda Trail. Within PNG, over 800 different languages are spoken, making it the most linguistically diverse place in the world.

The stunning landscape and culturally diverse population are to be celebrated, however when it came to WaterAid responding to COVID-19, it presented a challenge. With so many different languages spoken, coupled with difficult to reach and remote communities, how could we ensure everyone in PNG was aware of COVID-19 and how to help slow the spread?

Adding another challenge, frequent handwashing with soap and water is one of the key components of

controlling the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, yet in PNG, only 28% of rural community households have handwashing facilities with soap and water.

To conduct COVID-19 awareness and preparedness, our team had to factor in these variety of challenges. We began by conducting direct community outreach with our government partners. In March 2020, WaterAid PNG mobilised six teams, who undertook COVID-19 awareness and preparedness across the Wewak District.

The teams visiting communities included key government staff, health promotion officers, community health workers, security and police. Several teams also included representatives from the East Sepik Council of Women, to support referral pathways for family-based violence and ensuring the inclusion of women and people living



**In PNG, only 28% of rural community households have handwashing facilities with soap and water.**

Members of WaterAid PNG holding a community demonstration on COVID-19 behaviours, such as greeting with elbows instead of shaking hands.



WaterAid

with disability in COVID-19 awareness and preparedness. Materials were made available in local languages and practical demonstrations were conducted for those unable to read.

We also ran demonstrations on how to construct low-cost solutions for handwashing infrastructure (tippy-taps), to enable more people to have the

ability to wash their hands with soap and water close to home.

Collectively, the COVID-19 outreach teams have trained 180 government staff, community health workers and head teachers who have reached over 62,845 rural community members and students with COVID-19 awareness.

# The Largest Donation in Who Gives A Crap's History

Thank you to  
**Who Gives A Crap** for  
including us in their recent  
**\$5.85 million donation!**

who  
gives a  
crap

Our amazing partner Who Gives A Crap announced their largest donation to date in July this year, donating \$5.85 million AUD to help fund the work of six charities around the world, including WaterAid! The donation is a 700% increase from last year's donation, and is more than double the combined amount of all previous yearly donations since the company's founding in 2013, bringing the grand total to over \$8.1 million AUD.



Dedicated to making the world a better place, founders Simon Griffiths, Danny Alexander and Jehan Ratnatunga founded Who Gives A Crap when they learned that two billion people across the world don't have access to a toilet.



For WaterAid, this is the second-largest corporate donation globally in the last two years. The funding will go towards our water, sanitation and hygiene projects, like building toilets, advancing disability-inclusion, and providing soap and handwashing stations across Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, India, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

## Gifts for Life

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

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

Items fit for every friend, family member or workmate (and every budget) including WaterAid's special Christmas-themed cards. For those "Dreaming of a pipe Christmas" give a card which helps pipe water to a village. Or "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 it "Tis the season to give toilets" by helping give children decent toilets at school.

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



WaterAid/ Kim Hak

**Pheurn Sophea, 24 years old, training her daughter how to use LaBobo for handwashing.**

## Please donate to our COVID-19 Crisis Appeal

Help us prevent the spread of COVID-19. Donate today and make a difference.

- Your \$50 can help us run a handwashing campaign to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Your \$85 will help us provide education to build low cost handwash stations to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Your \$100 can help us provide materials and education on how to make soap in Papua New Guinea
- Your \$140 will help us provide hygiene education to frontline healthcare workers to slow the spread of COVID-19



WaterAid Timor-Leste conducting COVID-19 education sessions in rural villages.

## Responding to COVID-19 in Timor-Leste



### How do we reach the poorest and most remote households in Timor-Leste?

Manufahi, on Timor-Leste's southern coast, faces Australia across the Timor Sea, but daily life for its 50,000 people is very different. The winding road to Manufahi from Timor-Leste's capital Dili passes mountain fields with herds of horses, coffee plantations and jungle.

Facing the current global pandemic, WaterAid Timor-Leste has been urgently scaling up their hygiene work. The messages for preventing COVID-19 are simple: wash your hands thoroughly and regularly with soap, cough into your elbow and maintain distance from others.

But ensuring these simple messages get to the poorest and most remote households in Manufahi municipality is not easy. With many villages almost impossible to reach, the team use motorbikes, where locals see them broadcasting hygiene and COVID-19 information from speakers, riding along the muddy mountain roads from village to village.

Community demonstrations were also held with local partners, to share information on how to properly wash hands with soap and when to do it, including before cooking and after going to the toilet.

The team have also been doing a lot to help the institutional response to COVID-19 and are helping the Municipal Government coordinate their response to ensure everyone works together to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

WaterAid Timor-Leste and their partners also handed over six large water tanks, 15 disinfectant tanks and materials, handwashing soap, raincoats and bleach to the head of the taskforce. These materials have now been installed for people to wash their hands at healthcare centres, markets and schools across the municipality.



**A man in Manufahi inspects a tippy tap for handwashing at a community tapstand in Manufahi.**



**WaterAid Timor-Leste checking tap stands in rural villages.**

Through the work the team is doing, communities in Manufahi are now well prepared and the team will continue to work towards their goal that clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are a normal part of everyday life for everyone in Timor-Leste.

# A Day in The Life



**Name:** Mr. Kheng

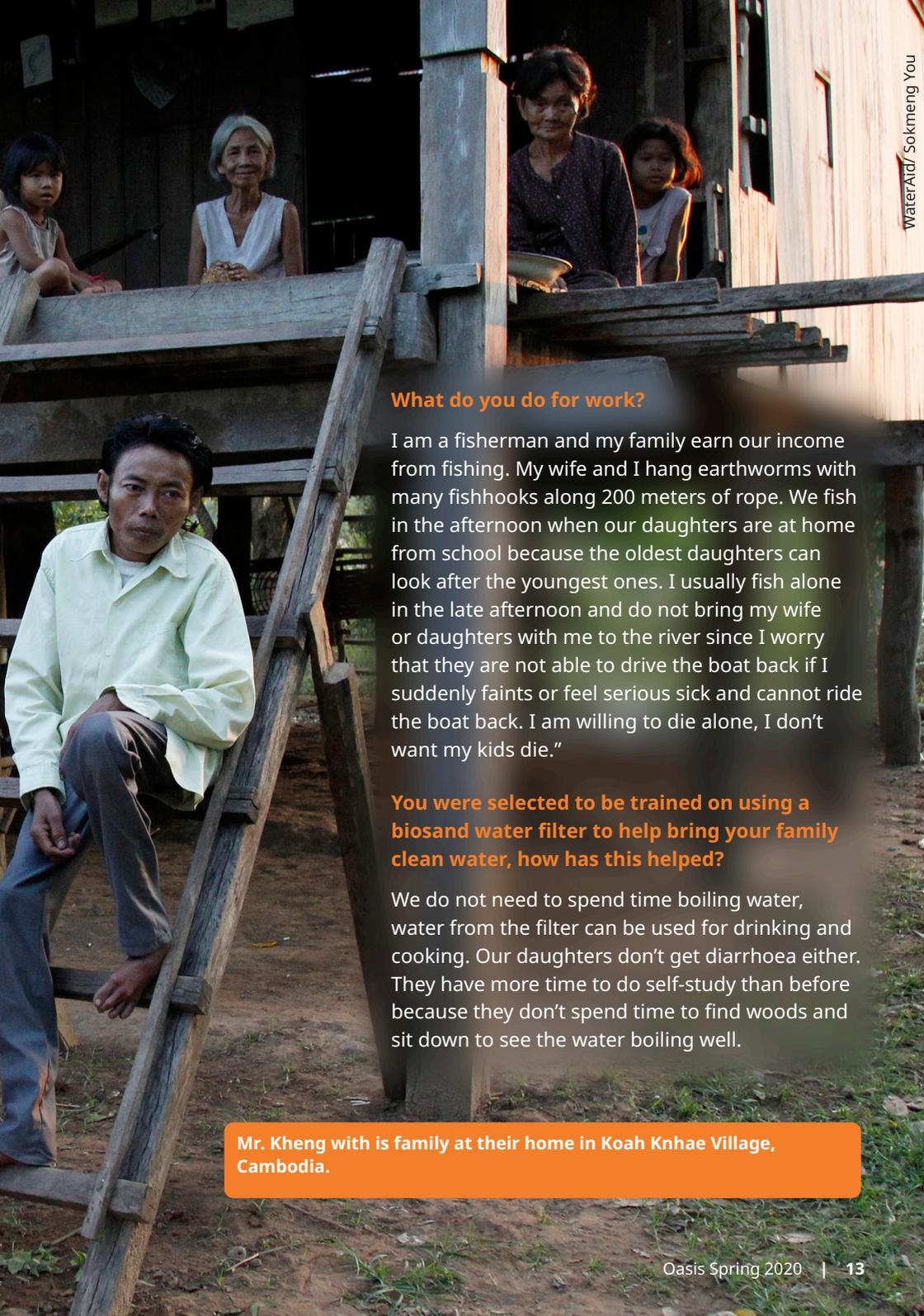
**Lives:** Koah Khnae Village,  
Cambodia

Shares a house with four  
young daughters and his  
wife. Mr. Khengs home has no  
electricity or toilet.

## What challenges do you face when collecting water?

Because I have a physical disability my children are responsible for boiling water for drinking and cooking rice because I cannot carry anything heavy. My small children carry water up to 10 liters daily in the morning and late afternoon after bathing to use as well as finding wood for boiling water and cooking sometimes. The majority of our villagers drink the river water without treatment and defecate openly.





**What do you do for work?**

I am a fisherman and my family earn our income from fishing. My wife and I hang earthworms with many fishhooks along 200 meters of rope. We fish in the afternoon when our daughters are at home from school because the oldest daughters can look after the youngest ones. I usually fish alone in the late afternoon and do not bring my wife or daughters with me to the river since I worry that they are not able to drive the boat back if I suddenly faints or feel serious sick and cannot ride the boat back. I am willing to die alone, I don't want my kids die."

**You were selected to be trained on using a biosand water filter to help bring your family clean water, how has this helped?**

We do not need to spend time boiling water, water from the filter can be used for drinking and cooking. Our daughters don't get diarrhoea either. They have more time to do self-study than before because they don't spend time to find woods and sit down to see the water boiling well.

**Mr. Kheng with his family at their home in Koah Knhae Village, Cambodia.**



## Corporate Spotlight



**Managing Director of Interflow, Geoff Weaver, visiting Timor-Leste with WaterAid.**

01

### **What do you do?**

My name is Geoff Weaver and I am the Managing Director of Interflow Pty Limited, an emerging fourth-generation, family-owned business with over 80 years of experience within the water infrastructure industry.

02

### **Why did you choose to support WaterAid?**

Interflow has prospered through the provision of clean water and sanitation services for communities across Australia and New Zealand; however, a lot of our neighbours throughout the Asia-Pacific region aren't as fortunate. Sponsoring WaterAid Australia has been our chance to give back to the global community. We've been a proud supporter of WaterAid's work for over 15 years.

03

### **Why do you think water, sanitation and hygiene are important?**

COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of hygiene and sanitation on a global scale and WaterAid's work through these difficult times has played an enormous role in preserving the health of vulnerable communities. Moreover, the pandemic has highlighted the inequity of access to healthcare and sanitation services for many developing countries around the world.

04

**Can you tell us about your trip to Timor-Leste, who did you meet and did you learn anything new?**

My trip to Timor-Leste in 2013 was not only an immersive experience but was an incredible opportunity to reflect on my own life and how fortunate we are to live in Australia. I learnt a lot about the vibrant culture as well as the hardships of the Timor-Leste communities. Although they were living in arduous conditions, their resilience and determination to provide for their families and communities was breathtaking.

05

**What was the most memorable part of your trip to Timor-Leste?**

I'll never forget walking into a "pre-wash" village for the first time. Some of these communities are incredibly remote; so remote that people living there could walk for hours through steep and treacherous terrain just to gain access to fresh water. We then visited a "post-wash" community, where WaterAid had already begun work. The immediate and most obvious difference was the general sense of improved wellbeing within the community. Having the smallest affordances such as a pit toilet and basic outdoor tap stands with running water close by made the world of difference to the health and happiness of the people.

06

**What would you say to any other company considering supporting WaterAid?**

Without an intimate knowledge of the social or political systems in these regions, or what the needs of various local communities are, the impact of an organisation looking to make a difference on its own would be limited.

Using its specialist knowledge and local resources, WaterAid is channelling the collective power of organisations across the globe to make transformational change on a much larger scale.

Supporting WaterAid was one of most fulfilling partnerships we at Interflow have ever made and its work throughout the Asia-Pacific continues to be a beacon of hope and opportunity.

**Interflow has supported WaterAid for over 15 years. If your company is keen to explore a corporate partnership, please contact Federico Marcon at [Federico.marcon@wateraid.org.au](mailto:Federico.marcon@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:**  
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.



WaterAid Australia (ABN 99 700 687 141) uses your information to process donations and communicate with you about your support and our work. We will only disclose this information with service providers to fulfil activities relating to our fundraising or if required by the law. To update your information or subscription, please call 1300 858 022 or to view our privacy policy visit our website at [wateraid.org.au](http://wateraid.org.au)

Level 9, 176 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
[info@wateraid.org.au](mailto:info@wateraid.org.au) Fax: 03 9001 8260 ABN 99 700 687 141

