

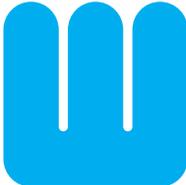


WaterAid/ Remissa Mak

Oasis

Your WaterAid Magazine

Spring 2021



- ### Highlights
- Making soap that saves lives
 - A Day in the Life in Timor-Leste
 - Thank you Who Gives A Crap



WaterAid



The crisis



Nearly two thirds of people in the least developed countries lack soap and water for handwashing at home.



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



1.7 billion people in the world – more than one in five – 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.

Find out more: wateraid.org.au

Cover photo: Chan Thorn Ton, 32, pumping water from a well in her village. Sambour District, Kratie Province, Cambodia.

Credit: *WaterAid/ Remissa Mak*

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

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Fast facts on handwashing



712 million people have no water source at their **healthcare facilities**.

Globally, 37% of **schools** do not have a decent toilet.



Around 290,000 children die each year from diarrhoeal 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.



Women and girls are responsible for **water collection** in eight out of ten households with water off premises.

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





From our Chief Executive



With many of our country programs operating with fragile healthcare systems, a safe and reliable water supply and handwashing with soap is still the first line of defence against the spread of COVID-19.

That's why we are so proud to share that last year WaterAid globally reached over 10 million people through healthcare centres, over 2,500,000 household members and over 1,400,000 school students with improved hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We think that is quite amazing, and it is thanks to supporters like yourself, who read about our work and feel inspired to support us, that we have been able to achieve these remarkable results, and many more.

So, it is my pleasure to share with you in this edition of Oasis the life-changing and lifesaving work we are doing on the ground globally in our country programs, with the support of our local partners.

For everyone, everywhere to have clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene, the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis facing communities around the world needs urgent attention.

Your amazing support is helping us to influence those with the power to make it happen. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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

Working to ensure equality and inclusion, WaterAid Timor-Leste's Country Director Justino and local partners officially opened two completed accessible toilet facilities in the Manufahi Municipality. The facilities are also equipped with handwashing taps and incinerator to place rubbish for burning, creating inclusive and accessible toilets for people with a disability and people who menstruate.



Ethiopia

WaterAid Ethiopia recently opened new water, sanitation and hygiene facilities including new water taps, water tanks and water pumps in North Mecha, Farta and Jabi Tehnan. The new facilities will provide services for close to 56,000 people.

Uganda

WaterAid Uganda undertook a pilot 'water handpump improvement research' project in Masinda district. The study tested the plastic pipes on six handpumps that have been in use for one year, to see how this new technology has been working and if successful, how we can scale up this approach. This project will make a positive contribution to improving handpump water quality in corrosion prone areas and reduce the cost of water supply service implementation.





Leading the charge to end open defecation

Ms Vaen Thon is her communes Council Representative in the Kork Banteay Commune, Cambodia, where she leads the working group for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Thon is part of WaterAid’s **Civic Champions Program** where she selects topics to learn about with other council representatives, such as defining their leadership values, problem solving and emotional intelligence.

The participants then apply their new learnings and work together to educate and encourage their community to build and use toilets.

Every three months, the 68 local leaders in Thon’s cohort hold conferences, where they share their success and troubleshoot their challenges.

Through Civic Champions and the hard work of Thon and other local leaders, **5,547** households have constructed new toilets, meaning **23,297** people now own a toilet for the very first time! The province is making strong progress towards every household using a decent toilet, which will lead to safer water and better health for everyone.

“I am determined that I will make changes in my community. I have a strong commitment to ending open defecation by 2022.”



Ms Vaen Thon receiving an award for her work.



Sim, 63, and his family decided to build a latrine after encouragement from community leaders like Thon.

Thon’s work has inspired other leaders to think about their vision for their community and how to achieve it. The impacts of Civic Champions like Thon go well beyond just toilets, they inspire and mobilise community movements.

A Day in the Life

Name: Laura Alves

Age: 45

Lives: Vatuvou Village, Liquica, Timor-Leste.

Shares: A house with her husband and eight children.



Laura Alves,
a teacher
in Vatuvou
Village,
Liquica,
Timor-Leste.

What do you do for work?

I've been teaching for 19 years. The school is an hour walk from my home. I teach levels two and three in primary schools - that's 7-10 years old. It was my dream since a long time ago when I was in junior high school this was my dream [to become a teacher]. I am very happy because I made my dream a reality.





How long does it take you to collect water each day?

My husband is the one that has the responsibility for collecting water for our children. It will take an hour because he uses the motorbike.

(If walking, they have a long 2.2km uphill walk mostly along a rocky dried up river bed which is very challenging to walk).

How many times does your husband do this each day?

We need a lot for the animals, the children and to clean the toilets so he goes twice in a day.

Is their water and safe toilets at the school?

We suffer a lot with water in the school – in the old school there was water even though it wasn't much. In the new school there is no water. We have to buy it from the company. Every two weeks we buy three 1,000 litre tanks for \$15 each. There are 290 pupils in the school. It is very difficult for the children because there's no water for drinking, or for flushing the toilets. Sometimes we ask them to bring their water with them. Sometimes they buy it, if they can afford it. Sometimes they just go home if they need the toilet or they're thirsty. Sometimes they open defecate.

How would your life change if your village gained access to clean water?

If there was clean water here in the village it would be good for the children and also for the parents. In the dry season, [children] won't have to get water so they won't have to stop going to school because they're fetching water.



Making Soap that Saves Lives



Women taking part in the first soap making workshop.

During WaterAid's COVID-19 awareness activities in rural communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG), it was identified that affordable, accessible soap was often preventing households in rural communities from practising good hygiene, which helps slow the spread of the virus.

To combat this, WaterAid worked with local partners to expand a local soap production enterprise to ensure soap would be available for good hygiene and provide opportunities for sustainable economic empowerment for women in Wewak District and East Sepik Province.

The first soap-making workshop took place in June 2021, where women received training on making soap

and developing an action plan for production, sales and marketing. The majority of the women who attended the soap making training were mothers and when they received their certifications in front of their husbands, sons, and daughters they were extremely proud, saying the training had provided them with a life-changing skill!

The soap, created from locally available products and made by local women means the communities will have continued access to soap, enabling community members to continue to practice good hygiene to protect themselves and their families from the spread of diseases.



Our Supporters

Children at Rivercrest learning about water as part of their support for WaterAid.



We have some incredible supporters in our WaterAid community with inspiring stories. Like the students at Rivercrest Primary School in Victoria, who were inspired to fundraise for WaterAid after learning about water around the world.

Students donated their pocket money and even money left by the tooth fairy, raising \$350 for WaterAid. Teacher Helen Ryan explains

"After investigating and seeing photos of children in developing countries collecting and drinking dirty water,

the children decided they would like to help raise money to help people to have access to clean water."

Other students decided to run their own fundraiser. The group found a range of diverse and creative ways to raise money, with the Rivercrest Year 2's raising almost \$1,200 during lockdown in Melbourne by inviting each family to complete a 2km water walk, carrying all the water they need for the day in jugs and bottles.

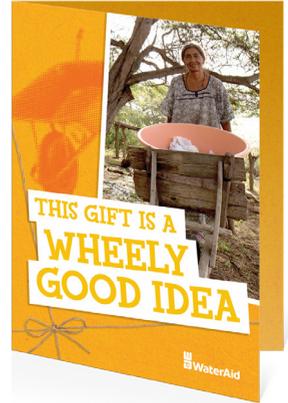
Other ways to support WaterAid

Looking for a fun and life changing gift? Get your Christmas, birthday - and every other occasion-shopping done with WaterAid's Gifts for Life!

We've got the perfect card for every friend, family member or workmate, and every budget. Know someone who might be "Dreaming of a pipe Christmas"? Give them a Christmas-themed card which helps pipe water to a village. Or for that special someone on Valentine's Day, "Here's a Loo from me to you" to help provide a family with a toilet for \$40.

Choose a Gifts for Life card for your next special occasion and help give children and families the life changing gift of clean water and decent toilets.

Give a Gift for Life at: www.wateraidgifts.org.au



Thank you Who Gives A Crap!

A huge thank you is due to our amazing partner Who Gives A Crap, the eco-friendly toilet paper company, who have announced their most recent annual donation to WaterAid, which will help fund our critical water, sanitation and hygiene work.

With this donation we can continue our crucial work, which last year saw us globally reach millions of people



with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene, including over 10 million people through healthcare centres with improved hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you!

Shop Who Gives A Crap toilet paper now at www.whogivesacrap.org to help WaterAid continue our work!

Walk for Water



WaterAid/Andrew McConnell

Each year during the third week of October, National Water Week (led by the Australian Water Association) makes a splash across Australia, inspiring individuals, communities and organisations to build awareness around the value of water.

Coinciding with National Water Week, WaterAid Australia runs Walk for Water, and it's right around the corner! Walk for Water is a unique event to drive both awareness and funds to WaterAid's vital water, sanitation and hygiene projects by participating in a fun exercise event that caters to all fitness levels and abilities.

Teams from organisations all over Australia and individuals sign up to walk, run or ride for just one hour a

WALK FOR WATER

Walk Run Ride

day for five days from 18-22 October 2021, while raising awareness and funds for WaterAid.

Head to **fundraise.wateraid.org.au** to find out how you can get involved with Walk for Water this year!

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

Title	First Name	Last Name	
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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.
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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.



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