

# Oasis

Your WaterAid Magazine

Autumn 2022



## Highlights

- Keeping Girls in School
- A Day in the Life in Cambodia
- WaterAid and Beci Orpin Collaboration



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

**Cover photo:** A family enjoying their newly installed water tap near their home in Yiwun village, Kairiru Island, Wewak District, PNG. August 2021

**Credit:** *WaterAid/Dion Kombeng*

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## Fast facts on water, sanitation and hygiene:



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



You may have heard me say it before and today I am saying it again - the importance of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene cannot be underestimated. All over the world, without access to these basic human rights people's health, safety and dignity suffer, children miss out on education, people are less able to earn a living and gender inequality is reinforced.

With your support we are working to get clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere and unlock people's potential to make a lasting difference.

I am pleased to present you with this Autumn 2022 edition of Oasis. I hope you enjoy reading these stories of impact, and thank you again for supporting WaterAid through another challenging year, enabling us to continue reaching the world's poorest and most marginalised people.

*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

WaterAid Timor-Leste and local partners installed a rural water system in the Taitudak and Ferik-Sare villages, which will benefit over 2,000 people.

The new facilities include eight inclusive toilets with water taps, providing access for people living with a disability. The work also included installing handwashing stands in healthcare facilities and schools, giving healthcare workers a safe and clean environment to care for their patients and students a safe place to wash their hands.





## Madagascar

WaterAid Madagascar has been supporting sanitation workers in the Urban Commune of Antananarivo to increase safety. As part of this, the team recently handed over a range of materials to the workers including those needed to help the workers avoid manually removing the waste, wheelbarrows and personal protective equipment.



## Papua New Guinea

WaterAid Papua New Guinea recently celebrated the opening of a new water supply for Wom Village, East Sepik Province. 13 newly constructed rainwater catchments, each including a 9500L water tank and tap stands were officially opened, which will service the 500 women, men and children of Wom Village, with each catchment servicing up to four households.





## Keeping Girls in School



Gaire School students Doru, 16, Alu, 18 and Atalia, 16 outside the new facilities.

Access to decent sanitation in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a serious issue, with fewer than 3 in 10 people having access to a decent toilet. This issue extends to schools across the country, with over half the schools in PNG lacking access to a decent toilet. Without access to a toilet, students often have to leave school to use a toilet or miss school altogether. Lack of access disproportionality affects girls, who without a space to safely manage menstruation, often miss many hours of school or do not show up at all for the duration of their period.

In this context, with the support of our partner Who Gives A Crap, WaterAid PNG has been working to deliver

an integrated menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and sexual and reproductive health program called *Keeping Girls in School*.

As part of this, the WaterAid PNG team recently oversaw the construction and opening of a new toilet block at Gaire School in Wewak, the capital of the East Sepik province of PNG.

The new toilets have separate spaces for female students to manage their periods, including showers, as well as taps for handwashing. This means that girls no longer need to leave school when menstruating and that all 471 students now have access to safe and inclusive toilets.

Gaire School students Geua, inside the new facilities



WaterAid/ Dion Kombeng

Doru, a 16-year-old student at Gaire reflected on what it was like to manage menstruation at school before the toilets were built:

“It was really bad, because we had to miss some class and some lessons, to go and change and come back.”

Since the new toilets were built, 16-year-old Gaire student Atalia said:

“When we have menstruation, we don’t even have to leave because of the new toilets, it’s really nice.”

The inclusive toilet block is now a model for future water, sanitation and hygiene projects in schools across PNG and is an example of what can be constructed in line with the PNG National WASH in school’s policy.

***Keeping Girls in School is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by WaterAid and partners.***



WaterAid/ Dion Kombeng

Gaire School student Catherine, 16, washing her hands at the new facilities.



## A Day in the Life



WaterAid/ Remissa Mak

Sarath 26, his wife Koath, 27 and children, Lin and Nath, sit in their house in Cambodia.

- Name:** Sarath  
**Age:** 26  
**Lives:** Kratie Province, Cambodia  
**Shares:** A house with his wife and three young children  
**Occupation:** Works in the rice fields



### How often do you collect water?

Two times. Both of us go – sometimes my wife, sometimes me. In the morning I go to collect the water. In the evening, if I am not there, my wife will go to collect the water. The water is heavy, 30 litres.

Sarath, 26, collects dirty water from the Mekong river, Cambodia.



WaterAid/Remissa Mak

**Where do you go to the toilet?**

Open defecate in the forest. I'm afraid of snakes, and the centipedes are the size of a thumb.



**Do you drink river water?**

Yes, we drink it, but the children get sick from drinking it, diarrhoea, fever and vomiting. This last two to three days. We use it now because we have no other [water] source. There is no well here. We'd like clean water and a latrine.

**What do you do when your children get sick?**

Sometimes when we have money we will visit the health care centre. When we don't we will use traditional medicine. If they don't get 100% recovered the first time, they have to go back the second time.



**What are your hopes for your children?**

The most important thing is that they have an education and they can decide what they want to do in the future.

**You can support people like Sarath by visiting:**  
<https://www.wateraid.org/au/donate>

# Our Supporters

WaterAid globally had a strong presence at the United Nation's annual climate change conference, known as COP26, which took place in Glasgow in November. World leaders came together to plan how to tackle the urgent threat of climate change – and we asked our supporters to be part of this historic moment.

We asked school students around Australia to create a piece of art - an illustration, an abstract painting, a poem, or anything else - that represented the climate and water crisis, encouraging global governments to act.

These were showcased at an art exhibition about water and climate change at the conference, using



the submitted art pieces from around the world and encouraging governments to act on the crisis. The art demonstrated the experiences and impact of climate change across the world; young people from coastal areas of Bangladesh had focused on rising sea levels and deforestation, whereas many of the Australian students depicted forest fires and droughts. Together, our supporters told the story of the global climate crisis in a truly impactful way.

Thank you to all the wonderful Australian school students who submitted their pieces to feature!



## Other ways to support WaterAid

**WaterAid supporter Raj recently raised funds for the charity by running the Melbourne Marathon. Here's what he had to say about the experience.**



“Having witnessed water related issues as I grew up in an Indian village, I could closely relate to the stories shared by WaterAid. Being fortunate enough, over the last few years I have been staying in Australia and enjoying safe water, good sanitation and hygiene. This made me realise it is unfair for someone to still face these issues in the 21st century.

I chose to do a fundraiser as I was training for the Melbourne Marathon. Getting across the finish line was challenging, but completing it has made me realise that nothing is impossible when you have the right will and determination. The intention

of my fundraiser was not only to raise money, but also to spread awareness about these issues. Lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene is not normal and it was surprising for my friends to learn about it, encouraging them to donate to my fundraising efforts for WaterAid.”

A big congratulations to Raj on completing the Melbourne Marathon and an even bigger thank you for choosing to support WaterAid Australia!

Find out how you can support WaterAid at: <https://www.wateraid.org/au/get-involved>



## WaterAid and Beci Orpin Collaboration



Melbourne based artist, designer and illustrator Beci Orpin has teamed up with WaterAid Australia to create several beautiful new products for us, including unique gift cards for WaterAid's Gifts for Life range and two limited edition tote bags, both perfect gifts for Mother's Day!

The new additions are instantly recognisable as Beci's work, with gorgeous colours and geometric designs, both featuring small nods to WaterAid's vital work in ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Get your gifts now: <https://www.wateraidgifts.org.au/collections/becci-orpin>





## Corporate Spotlight – Emma Gibson, Aquamamma

**1. What does Aquamamma do, and what do you do at Aquamamma?**

Aquamamma is a healthy hydration solution designed for pregnant and breastfeeding women. We also created Aquabud, offering healthy hydration for kids. I'm the CEO and as a mum myself, I'm passionate about hydration, and we're on a mission to make sure people know how important it is for their health.

**2. How would you describe the partnership with WaterAid?**

This partnership is very much aligned with our values and our commitment to giving back. The team at WaterAid is fantastic, we know they're really committed to making meaningful change, which is something we absolutely support. We know that our contributions make a difference where they're needed most.

**3. Why did Aquamamma choose to support WaterAid?**

As a company committed to healthy hydration for women and children, we couldn't think of a better organisation to support. WaterAid's activities, particularly the focus on water and sanitation projects in developing countries, is something that we wanted to get behind. We believe that access to safe, clean drinking water should be a human right and therefore our team wanted to support WaterAid any way we could.

Plus, we know that WaterAid also has a strong commitment to lifting the standards of water, hygiene and sanitation in hospital environments for women around the world to ensure they have safe spaces to bring their babies into the world. We also like to see WaterAid's similar projects that are rolling out in schools, as we always want to see children thrive.

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

WaterAid is a wonderful organisation to work with. Clean water and sanitised hydration resources are the foundation of life. There are so many ways to make a difference. The WaterAid team truly believes in the work they're doing and they're equally supportive of those who partner with them.

