

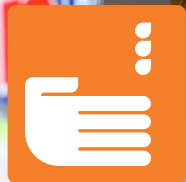
Oasis

Your WaterAid Magazine

Highlights

- Around the world
- Spotlight on Cambodia
- Our Supporters

Spring
2023



WaterAid

The current situation

- Since 2000, more than **2 BILLION PEOPLE** have gained access to clean water, and almost **2.7 BILLION** have gained access to decent toilets.



BUT

- Almost **500 MILLION PEOPLE** around the world still have no choice but to drink dirty water
- **EVERY MINUTE**, a newborn baby dies from infection caused by a lack of clean water and an unclean environment
- Globally, **29%** of schools do not have a basic water service.



With your support, in FY23 WaterAid globally reached*:

- more than **2 million people** with clean water in their healthcare facility
- **135,000 students** with toilets at their school
- over **1.8 million people** with improved hygiene at home.



* for more information visit <https://www.wateraid.org/au/globalimpact>

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

On the front cover: Devit, 5, washes his hands with soap and clean water outside a toilet block in Cambodia.

Credit: WaterAid/Tariq Hawari

This copy of Oasis was edited and written by Caity Hall and the WaterAid Australia team. For feedback or article suggestions, please email info@wateraid.org.au

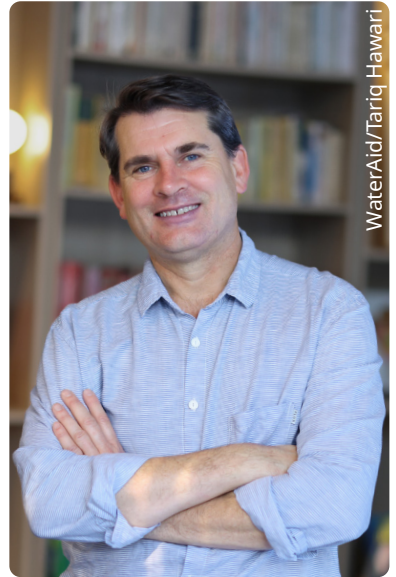
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From our Chief Executive



Having recently been appointed as the new Chief Executive of WaterAid Australia, it brings me great joy to be able to connect with you, our wonderful supporters, through this latest edition of Oasis.

We are always blown away by the generosity of our supporters, who remain dedicated to our goal of bringing clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere despite cost of living challenges. For this, we are grateful beyond words.

With this support, we are able to work with our partners to help vulnerable individuals and communities around the world change their lives for the better. I am so proud to show you the power of that change in this Spring 2023 edition of Oasis.

This Oasis features some of our critical work reaching marginalised communities- such as women and people with disabilities- with water, toilets and hygiene. These groups often experience additional barriers to these services, and are disproportionately impacted by a lack of access. Gaining access to these three essentials allows them to unlock their potential and break free from poverty.

It also features some of our work building climate resilient and sustainable water, toilet and hygiene services. In the face of a changing climate and the increasingly frequent extreme weather events occurring as a result, empowering communities with services built to withstand and help mitigate these challenges is crucial.

I hope this magazine fills you with a sense of pride, as it did for me. These stories demonstrate the powerful change we can make when we work together, and I feel very hopeful for what we can continue to achieve together in the future.

Tom Muller
Chief Executive
WaterAid Australia



Around the world

With your support, we are working with our partners to create change all around the world. Here's what we've been up to recently:



Timor-Leste

We've been working in Timor-Leste to raise awareness of the challenges and rights of people with disabilities. Pedro da Silva is the head of the water user group in his village in Feriksare, where five residents have disabilities. Since being involved in our program, these residents have been actively involved in meetings and activities related to water, toilets and hygiene within the community, leading to accessible taps and toilets being installed throughout the village.

"Now communities, including people with disabilities, can have access to toilets as well as fetch water alone" – Pedro da Silva





Rwanda

We successfully completed a new 22.6km water supply system in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, featuring three water tanks, seven water points, and toilets in three schools. The new infrastructure is expected to serve 16,000 people in the community including 2,000 students, and has now been handed over to the district leadership to manage.



Papua New Guinea

More than 7,000 women, men and children will benefit from improved water, toilet and hygiene services at their healthcare facility in Wewak District. These include a climate resilient water supply from a borehole pumped into an elevated 9,500L tank, new inclusive toilets with showers and handwashing facilities, an incinerator for waste management, and a septic system. We also installed four solar panels and a bore pump to promote affordable and clean energy.



Spotlight on Cambodia



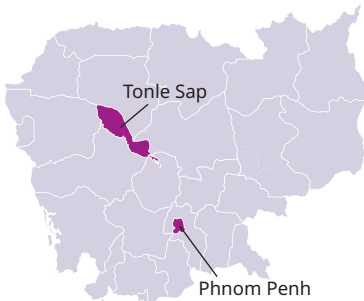
SNAPSHOT

Capital: Phnom Penh

Population: 16.7 million

Area: 181,035km²

- Almost 30% of the population lack access to basic drinking water
- 1 in 4 people do not have a decent toilet
- Only 53% of schools in the country have proper handwashing facilities with soap



Cambodia is a beautiful country with rich culture and spirited people. But it faces many challenges when it comes to reaching its whole population with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. The effects of a changing climate are being felt intensely throughout the country, with frequent droughts and floods taking the usual wet and dry seasons to new extremes.

Cambodia has a percentage of its population living in floating villages – unique communities of floating structures that are built on lakes, such as the Tonle Sap. These communities face their own unique challenges when it comes to water, toilets and hygiene.

Pring Ren, 36, lives in one of these floating communities with her husband and six children - with another baby on the way! Like many local families they earn money on the river fishing and collecting lotus seeds, but the income can be unreliable. Earning enough to pay for a piped water connection is a challenge, and on



WaterAid/Tariq Hawari



WaterAid/Tariq Hawari

top of that, the connection is not always possible due to varying levels of water under their house caused by the seasons and increasing floods.

The family will purchase bottled water when they can afford it, but otherwise must use the river water for their daily needs, often having no choice but to drink it. And what's worse, Ren's family also can't afford to build a toilet, which means they often need to relieve themselves either in or close-by the river. On top of the human waste, the river water is contaminated with rubbish and chemical run off from nearby farms. This is not

water anyone wants to drink.

Ren hopes to deliver her baby at the hospital, where the conditions are better than at home. "They have a toilet and they have drinking water but I'm not sure if the water is clean or not", she explains. The hospital is a long way from Ren's house, and getting there is a difficult task – especially with a baby on the way. Ren has already been forced to deliver four of her children at home. "I am so worried about delivering the baby because my health is so weak and I don't even have money... I feel sad for my family and we all feel so sad".

Ren's family is not alone in their struggle. Most families living in floating communities throughout Cambodia share these difficulties. But you can help! Complete the donations slip at the back of this magazine to help us reach more families like Ren's.



Spotlight on Cambodia



“Since I got a toilet I observe that my children (are) not much seeking the doctor or health centre... If we have a toilet together our environment is clean, water is clean and good hygiene our community will have good health for everyone.”

Trialing innovative and sustainable solutions

We are dedicated to reaching the communities most in need throughout Cambodia with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

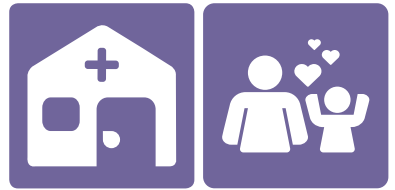
Much like Ren’s family, Chay Hout, 32, lives with his wife and three daughters in a floating community and fishes to earn an income. In the past, Chay Hout’s family relieved themselves using a hole in the floor of their floating home. “Before I don’t have a toilet I used to direct shoot into the

water... it is difficult time for me because I take care a lot of my child when they need toilet... and worry a lot”, he explains.

With the help of our supporters, we have been trialing an exciting new Wastewater Management Project in Chay Hout’s village. The project involves installing a toilet with a portable, energy-free wastewater treatment system that uses organic material to filter wastewater and safely discharge the end product into the river. It provides somewhere safe for community members to go to the toilet and prevents the contamination of the rivers with human waste.



WaterAid/Tariq Hawari



Prioritising maternal health with water, toilets and hygiene

We are working in healthcare facilities throughout Cambodia to reduce maternal and newborn infections by creating a clean space for women to give birth. Hand hygiene is central to achieving this, but we found that while many midwives understood the risk of infection due to poor hand hygiene and were well equipped with the necessary materials, hand-hygiene protocols were often not being followed, putting mums, babies, and midwives at risk.

To combat this, we have been running training and awareness sessions with mid-wives, restructuring environments, providing adequate and accessible infrastructure, and setting up cues and reminders around healthcare facilities.

Since the project started, we have seen significant improvements in hand hygiene practices among midwives during childbirth and caregivers during post-natal care.

This means that more mums and newborns, just like Sina and baby Farida above, can remain safe during these precious moments of new life. You can help us reach more people with this critical work by completing the donations slip at the back of this magazine.



Our Supporters



We were recently blown away by the efforts of Derek LeDain, who kayaked from Jervis Bay to Batemans Bay and raised over \$600 for WaterAid in the process.

A keen kayaker in his spare time, Derek decided to combine his favourite leisure activity and a charity he was passionate about.

“Having drinkable freshwater is critical to the successful completion of a 130km kayak trip down the coast. It made me appreciate how fortunate we were to have access to clean water everywhere we landed and was motivation to help others who aren’t as fortunate to have clean water and good hygiene as part of their daily life.”

Big thanks to Derek – what an inspiring effort!



The Big Spring Swim

Will you dive in and go the distance to bring life-saving clean water?

This spring, we are challenging Australians to wriggle into their wetsuit or slap on a swimming cap to raise funds and awareness for the 1 in 10 people worldwide who don’t have clean water close to home.

You can set your own challenge of 6km, 15km or 30km in 30 days – either in the pool or open water.

Complete the distance across the month of November as a team or individually, and most importantly, raise funds to support WaterAid.

For more information, visit wateraid.org.au/thebigspringswim

Our Partners



Clover is an integrated pipeline infrastructure business that combines strategic project consultation, product innovation and service excellence in their work with local and global partners to specify world-leading pipelines across Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

Clover is also a dedicated Gold member of WaterAid. Their invaluable support started with a table at the 2017 Victorian WaterAid Gala Ball and has now progressed to a National Sponsor, supporting all four Gala Balls across the nation.

Clover's remarkable commitment to raising funds and awareness for WaterAid is evident. Their contributions have been complimented by regular participation at the WaterAid Gala Balls, including successful bidding on the prestigious CEO lunches at the live auctions. Even in challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, Clover continued to stand by our side as a loyal sponsor of the Gala Balls.

Beyond their corporate support, Rohan McLellan, Managing Director of Clover, has become an integral member of the Victorian Ambassador Group, embodying the spirit of advocacy and spreading awareness about WaterAid's life-changing mission.

"The team at Clover Pipelines are proud to be involved as a National Sponsor of WaterAid Australia. We feel that everyone has the right to clean water, so they can lead lives with dignity and free from unnecessary disease.

Over the years we have gradually increased our support of WaterAid as we see the great benefits of the work that is done in Timor Leste, PNG and Cambodia and feel a great responsibility to help where we can".

For more information on corporate membership opportunities, visit Wateraid.org/au/get-involved/corporate-engagement.

