

Evelyne's story: Water and food

Evelyne's story can be used alongside the all age talk resource and to show your congregation the life-changing impact of clean water on families in Sablogo, Burkina Faso.

Evelyne is 45 and lives in Sablogo, a village in Burkina Faso, with her five children. Evelyne knows how hard it can be to live without access to clean water. That's because until recently there was no reliable water sources in Sablogo.

Life before clean water arrived was hard. The nearest reliable water source was 3km away and because she had to travel there to collect water every day, she didn't have time to look after her family or earn a living. So sometimes she would visit the riverbed just outside Sablogo where she would dig into the sand to collect dreg water. This dreg water was dirty. Her whole family often suffered from stomach aches, sickness and diarrhoea after drinking it, even when it was boiled. Sometimes it was so dirty it would change the colour of the food she had prepared for her family.

But Evelyne no longer has to give her children water she knows could make them ill. That's because WaterAid recently installed a borehole in Sablogo. The borehole gives Evelyne and the other families in Sablogo access to clean water close to their homes. It has transformed Evelyne's life.



She no longer uses the dreg water and she has noticed that her children are much healthier. They no longer miss lessons because of stomach aches or sickness and she is happy to be able to feed them healthy meals, prepared with clean water.

Evelyne says, 'Water and food go together. Our harvest and food - we have them thanks to water. The quality of our meals also depends on the water that we use for cooking.'

Evelyne also now has more time to do everyday activities; like looking after her home, earning an income and spending time with her family. Her life and her children's lives have been transformed and they can look forward to happier, healthier futures all thanks to access to clean water.