

# In Touch

Autumn edition  
2022

## Too much and too little water

The twin threats posed  
by climate change



WaterAid/Peoples Postcode Lottery/Mano Madlao

▼ Floods  
have left  
over a third  
of Pakistan  
under water.  
Badin District,  
Pakistan.  
(Sept 2022)

● In Maputo, Mozambique,  
residents like Ednora are  
threatened by both drought  
and flooding. (Jan 2022)



WaterAid/Kulfi Panhwar

## Our emergency response

How we're supporting  
communities in  
Pakistan



**WaterAid**

## A city plagued by twin climate threats

Mozambique is one of the most climate change-affected countries in the world. With a 2,700km coastline, it also falls in the path of frequent tropical storms and cyclones in the first three months of the year. Now that climate change is causing more extreme weather events, the country's capital, Maputo is facing the twin problem of both too much and too little water.

In recent years, residents of the city have found themselves facing huge climate challenges. The threat of drought has loomed since at least 2015, and in 2018 an orange alert was declared, triggering water rationing out of fears that supplies could run dry.

By contrast, in January and October 2020, the city faced severe flooding. Then again in February 2021, 3,000 homes in Greater Maputo were flooded when two of the main rivers burst their banks, forcing residents to seek safety on higher ground.

▼ Through a series of thought-provoking black and white photographs, Mozambican photographer Mario Macilau captures how residents of Maputo are grappling with the changing climate. (Jan 2022)



The city's weak infrastructure exacerbates these issues. Its water supply is overly reliant on just one dam, rising sea levels have allowed salt water to pollute groundwater sources, and its waterpipes need serious repair.

**"When it rains we suffer a lot here,"** says Ednora Bavane, a 29-year-old mother with three children. During periods of flooding Ednora is forced to shut the small street stall that she runs for a living. **"I survive on the basis of what I can sell each day. That is how I find something for my children to eat. So when it rains my children have to sleep without eating."**

She also worries about the impact of the rain and flooding on her house. **"We are very afraid that someday our houses will fall with us inside, but we don't have anywhere to go. We are afraid of what could happen but we can't do anything."**







► During periods of flooding, many residents like Esther are forced to leave their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. (Jan 2022)



Queuing at an uncovered well, 31-year-old Esther Francisco describes similar experiences of both water shortages and flooding. **"The water from the well is not treated. We are facing the risks of contracting diseases. I take it from there because I have no other options."**

She adds: **"I have suffered a lot with strong winds, rains and bad weather. Sometimes this area is completely flooded and we are forced to go and rent houses in other areas to stay safe. I have never seen so much wind and rain like I see now."**

Research shows that these twin problems of drought and flooding are likely to get worse as climate change continues to exacerbate the situation. Average rainfall could increase by between **10% and 25%** by 2046-2065 compared to the past 40 years. Meanwhile rising temperatures could cause **more severe droughts** in the dry season<sup>1</sup>.

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (2018) Climate Change Profile – Mozambique. The Hague: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

That's why we've been working with the government in Greater Maputo on a bid to the United Nations Development Programme's Green Climate Fund – a global fund dedicated to supporting the least-developed and most climate-vulnerable countries to respond to challenges caused by climate change.

Thanks to funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery, we also brought together key stakeholders across the Mozambican government to look at the links between water, sanitation and climate change, and how they can work together more closely to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.

**Read more about the Postcode Climate Challenge – a dedicated climate project supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.**



# Holding governments to account at COP27

**With COP27 just around the corner, we're demanding that world leaders step up and commit to taking action on the climate crisis.**

Last year, 120 world leaders and more than 40,000 registered participants came together to mark COP26 in Glasgow. Together, the global community revisited their climate pledges and recognised that urgent action was needed to support the communities most impacted by climate change.

But the world is still not doing enough to tackle this global crisis, and it's women and girls who are suffering most.

When local wells dry up, they are forced to walk even longer distances in search of clean water, often in extreme temperatures. When family members get sick, women and girls are frequently the ones who stay home to care for them, missing out on work and school. And without clean water, it becomes even more challenging for women and girls to meet their personal hygiene needs when breastfeeding, pregnant or menstruating.

That's why we're demanding that when world leaders reconvene in November, they build on the momentum of last year and commit to delivering meaningful change for the most vulnerable.

## Our Climate Fight

This summer supporters from across the UK joined **#OurClimateFight** campaign – writing postcards to the Prime Minister and calling for urgent investment in locally-led clean water projects to help people cope with the effects of a changing climate.

► Supporters joined us in calling for action at events throughout the summer, including Glastonbury Festival. (Jun 2022)

**As a matter of urgency, we are calling for governments and world leaders to:**

1

Honour commitments made last year to at least double their financial support to developing countries

2

Prioritise clean water for the world's most climate-vulnerable groups – particularly women and girls.

3

Address structural inequalities – particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as women and girls – that are being exacerbated by climate change.



**Find out more about our Climate Fight.**



WaterAid/Ben Roberts



# Our emergency response in Pakistan

**In August devastating floods left over a third of Pakistan under water. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes, carrying what little they could, and thousands of people have been killed.**

These are the devastating consequences of climate change in action, and it is the poorest communities in Pakistan who are bearing the brunt.

Even before the floods, 79 million people lacked decent toilets and 21 million people didn't have access to clean water close to home. The floods have now exacerbated the situation, with water sources washed away, toilets destroyed, and many women and girls having to manage their periods without access to these essentials.

WaterAid Pakistan Country Director Arif Jabbar Khan said: **"The situation is extremely dire. People have lost their homes, their belongings, they have lost family members. Clean water sources and toilets have been washed away or damaged, meaning people are forced to drink contaminated water – with disease outbreaks only one glass of dirty water away."**

▼ Muhammad and his sister Spogmai walk 2km from their camp to fetch water in Madyan, Swat. (Sept 2022)



◀ Abdullah, 13, is one of the many people to have received a hygiene kit from WaterAid Pakistan in Zahidabad village of Babuzai, Swat. (Sept 2022)

While the scale of the crisis is hard to grasp, we are working hard to respond and meet the urgent needs of the Pakistani people. We are on the ground and trying to reach as many families and communities as possible, but we need your help to continue.

Together with our local partners in Badin (Sindh), Rajanpur (Punjab) and Swat (Khyber Pukhtunkhwa) Districts, we are:

- disinfecting water sources
- setting up temporary toilets in schools and camps
- helping with the clearance of flood water
- setting up awareness sessions in communities on safe water, sanitation and personal hygiene to curb the outbreak of disease.

Now we urgently require further funding to be able to scale up and help meet the needs of those impacted by this terrible tragedy, and to continue to support them in the longer-term.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support, please contact [intouch@wateraid.org](mailto:intouch@wateraid.org).



## News in brief



### A wave of support in the UK

After a summer of extreme heat, hosepipe bans and flash flooding, results from our latest survey show that **4 in 5 (78%)** Britons now believe that climate change had a 'great deal' or 'fair amount' of impact on the recent droughts in the UK.

The survey also shows that **over half (56%)** of the UK population believe the UK's foreign aid programme should prioritise providing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene to help people adapt to the effects of climate change.

Bernard Aryeetey Director of International Affairs at WaterAid said: **"In the five years to 2020, the UK taxpayer has helped bring**

**water, hygiene, and sanitation to 62 million people, saving the lives of children who die from drinking dirty water, allowing girls to access education, and stopping pregnant mothers and newborns from dying of preventable diseases – achievements the UK should be proud of.**

**"But this progress... [is] at risk because of a two-thirds cut in UK funding for global water security since 2018. In contrast, the US has recently made global water security a major part of its foreign policy."**

Read more about the findings of our survey here: [wateraid.org/uk/in-touch/blame-climate](https://wateraid.org/uk/in-touch/blame-climate)

### British Art Fair

**Artworks inspired by the changing climate will go under the hammer later this month as part of our new partnership with British Art Fair – the marketplace for modern and contemporary British art.**

Running 29 September – 2 October, the sale of climate-themed works will help to raise awareness of the devastating impact of climate change on communities' access to clean water.

This includes our specially curated exhibition, which will be displayed in a dedicated area on the second floor of London's Saatchi Gallery.

The British artists featured range from celebrities and household names to emerging artists. All the artists involved are kindly donating 50% to 100% of their sales to WaterAid, helping to bring clean water to everyone, everywhere.

Fair Director Gay Hutson said: **"Many artists have been instrumental in challenging the status quo of the day. Through their creativity, artists are ideally placed to be at the forefront of delivering hard truths which others cannot. It is a pleasure to partner with WaterAid and see that today's artists look to support their vital work in combatting climate change and its devastating effects on our world."**

You can secure your tickets today at: [britishartfair.co.uk](https://britishartfair.co.uk)

◀ Safiatou, 10, creating a mural at the borehole in the district of Bla, Segou, Mali. (Oct 2018)



WaterAid/Basilie Ouedraogo



## Why investing in water, sanitation and hygiene pays off

Everyone, everywhere has the human right to water and sanitation at work. Now our latest research shows that investing in employee access to these essentials can bring a range of other major benefits to businesses.

Last month saw the launch of a brand new set of reports demonstrating that when companies invest in water, sanitation and hygiene in both the workplace and employees' communities, their businesses thrive.

According to our first-of-its-kind research, improved access to these essentials not only boosts employee wellbeing, but also:

- increases productivity and punctuality
- improves health, morale and loyalty
- reduces absenteeism and staff turnover.

Together all of these factors ultimately drive business profits.

Research was collected over the course of a project launched in collaboration with Diageo, Gap Inc., HSBC, Twinings and ekaterra (which was part of Unilever when this project started).

▼ Siddarth, a tea estate worker in Darjeeling, India, is one of the many employees who now has clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene as a result of the project. (May 2022)



▲ Evidence shows that investment in water, sanitation and hygiene benefits both employees, like Minara, and businesses. Narayanganj, Bangladesh. (Oct 2021)



The research and reports are based on data collected from **ten workplaces** in **four different** sectors across **four countries**: tea estates in India and Kenya, apparel and leather supply chains in Bangladesh and India, and agricultural smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

The launch of the reports marks the first time that the impacts of investing in water, sanitation and hygiene on both employees and businesses have been documented and analysed.

Together the research also make it clear that investing in these facilities should not be seen as another costly business expense, but a sound investment with a ripple effect far beyond the bottom line.



Read our full set of reports.



# Dates for your diary



## October

### Throughout October: **CLIMB-IT!**

In October we're launching our new ultimate climbing challenge – CLIMB-IT!

We're asking supporters to climb the equivalent of Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) during the month to raise funds for communities whose access to clean water has been affected by climate change.

We're also looking for cycling enthusiasts to take part. You can complete the challenge on Peleton, Zwift or anywhere you like outdoors. Find out more and sign up at: [climb-it.wateraid.org](https://climb-it.wateraid.org).

## 15 October: **Global Handwashing Day**

This year we'll be joining the global call to Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene as we continue to raise awareness of the critical role good hygiene plays in people's health. [globalhandwashing.org](https://globalhandwashing.org).

## November

### 19 November: **World Toilet Day**

Every year World Toilet Day marks a milestone moment in the calendar, as we raise awareness of the 1 in 5 people who still don't have a toilet at home, and highlight our critical work providing decent toilets and good hygiene for all. [wateraid.org/uk/the-crisis/toilets](https://wateraid.org/uk/the-crisis/toilets)

## December

### 6 December: **St Paul's carol concert**

This year we are delighted to be hosting a festive celebration of readings, poems and carols at St Paul's Cathedral, London, on Tuesday 6 December. The carol concert will include musical performances by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London Sinfonia Orchestra, and will be followed by a private reception within the Crypt of the Cathedral. Tickets for the event (£80 to £120) include access to the reception

and are now available on a limited basis. Contact your **Account Manager** or email [philanthropy@wateraid.org](mailto:philanthropy@wateraid.org) as soon as possible to confirm your place.

## March

### 30 March: **Iftar at the Gherkin**

Following the success of our Iftar event earlier this year, we will be returning to the Gherkin in March as the EmeraldNetwork's charity of choice. Together we will celebrate Ramadan and raise vital funds for our Zakat projects in Bangladesh, Mali and Pakistan. Contact [intouch@wateraid.org](mailto:intouch@wateraid.org) for more information.



▲ Earlier this year we hosted our first fundraising event with the EmeraldNetwork, the UK's longest-running Muslim professional network. (Apr 2022)

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