

# Oasis

Autumn/Winter 2020



**PUT YOUR  
HANDS TOGETHER  
FOR HYGIENE**

WaterAid/Guilhem Alandry



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## **EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE CLEAN WATER TO WASH WITH. NOW AND FOREVER.**

This year, we've all seen how handwashing is a crucial first line of defence against disease. In my country Malawi, this simple hygiene practice is impossible for the one-in-three people who don't have access to clean water.

That's why, when COVID-19 hit, it was scary. But I was so proud of our team of WaterAiders who responded fast to protect people. We shared hygiene messages with millions of people and installed free handwashing stations to help save lives.

I also saw the life-saving impact of our long-term work. In recent years, we've installed running water in hospitals so doctors and nurses can wash their hands, keeping them and their patients safe. (For more read nurse Mary's story on page 6.)

Every day I see how your support brings clean water, helping people change their own lives forever – so thank you.

### **Dennis Lupenga**

WaterAid Voices from the Field officer, Malawi



WaterAid/Oliver Dixon

It's been a tough year for all of us, so I hope you find inspiration in this issue of Oasis. It's all about the hope that hygiene brings, thanks to you. With clean water and soap, people have the power to stay healthy – not just today but long into the future.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE: YOUR SUPPORT HARD AT WORK, WORLDWIDE

When coronavirus hit, our teams were already on the ground providing clean water and promoting safe hygiene. While they may not usually work in emergency situations, your continued support meant they were perfectly placed to respond fast and stop the spread of the virus.



### ▲ Bangladesh: Designing tech to detect disease

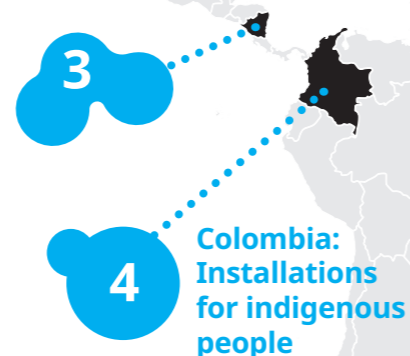
Where social distancing is all but impossible, virus detection is critical. Our teams helped design and pilot a disease detection app. We also installed free handwashing facilities in busy public places such as railway stations and bus stops, and at the entrance to slums.



### ▲ Malawi: Radio jingles and ringtones

With your support, WaterAiders installed nifty foot-operated handwashing stations to help prevent the spread of infection in public spaces. And we used our hygiene know-how to help create radio jingles and phone ringtones to encourage people to wash their hands.

**Get the latest**  
More on WaterAid's global  
response to COVID-19 at  
[wateraid.org/covid19](https://www.wateraid.org/covid19)



### 4 Colombia: Installations for indigenous people

Many local indigenous communities are already vulnerable, with little access to clean water and little option to stay home. We installed public handwashing stations for these communities – reaching as many as 7,000 people daily.



### ▲ Zambia: Sticking to social distancing

We joined forces with a supermarket chain to create social distancing floor stickers, showing people how far apart they should stand. We also distributed essential handwashing supplies to health centres, and mobile phones for the overwhelmed national COVID-19 call centre.

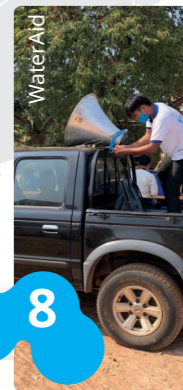
### 3 Nicaragua: Stopping the spread

WaterAid teams installed handwashing stations in popular spaces such as health clinics, stations and markets to stop the spread of COVID-19. A big communications push reached nearly 200,000 people with potentially life-saving hygiene messages.



### ◀ Cambodia: Making a noise about hygiene

Megaphone and radio campaigns were particularly important for reaching people who can't read. Our teams of hygiene experts went to local markets and shops, speaking to people about washing their hands.



### ◀ Pakistan: The biggest SMS campaign ever?

With your help, WaterAid Pakistan took raising awareness to a whole new level – an incredible 22.6 million people across Pakistan heard or read life-saving hygiene messages through a huge radio and text message campaign.



### ◀ Madagascar: Healthy hygiene for homeless people

We helped to disinfect a local school so that it could safely house more than 1,200 homeless people. We also got the all-important hygiene message out to children through their favourite TV channels and radio shows.



# LOW COST, HIGH IMPACT

**You're helping to create simple, affordable solutions so communities can stay clean during the pandemic.**

## ▼ Tipping points

From Burkina Faso to Myanmar, communities with no running water are building 'tippy taps' thanks to WaterAid teams – and your support. These contactless, low-cost and water-saving handwashing stations are made from widely available basic materials, including sticks, plastic containers and some string.



## ▼ All inclusive

COVID-19 has made people with disabilities more vulnerable. One of our partners in Zambia has a disability and asked us to design an inclusive handwashing facility, so our team rose to the challenge. We worked with a local company to develop a tap that can easily be operated by people using a wheelchair or crutches.



## ▼ Going hands-free

Your donations have helped to install contactless handwashing stations in busy public places in Nepal. This super-simple (yet super-effective) technology means that people there can use their feet to keep their hands clean and at the same time avoid passing on the virus by touching taps or other surfaces.



**"It's good because it's contactless. It prevents us from getting diseases and spreading the virus."**

Sabitri Timilsina,  
street vendor, Nepal



# TWO OF A KIND

## Mary, Malawi

"I remember vividly we had to take women who had just given birth to a nearby river to wash. It would take 45 minutes. Some women would collapse along the way.

"As a medical practitioner, I felt sad for them. But there was no running water at the health facility.

"Childbirth involves losing blood, so it was always difficult to handle women with HIV/AIDS.

**"Without clean water, it was a huge health risk.**

"Now that we have running water [installed by WaterAid] inside the maternity ward, the place feels like home again. It's easy to wash hands before and after we



assist any patient.

"Our patients can clean themselves after giving birth right here at the health facility. They no longer have to risk their lives and lose dignity by walking long distances.

"Personally, I feel good to work here having clean water.

**"It has brought confidence in my line of work. Lives are saved."**

■ Mary is a nurse and midwife at Mangamba Health Centre in Malawi. Last year WaterAid provided clean water for 149 healthcare facilities worldwide, reaching 1,194,000 patients and staff.

In a world where one in four health centres don't have clean water, two nurses from different corners of the globe tell us how their job – and their patients' safety – depend on it.

## Rosie, UK

"I couldn't even tell you how many times a day I wash my hands. Perhaps on average every 10 or 20 minutes.

"Handwashing in nursing is so important. You even have handwashing exams at uni. **It's all about preventing infection.**

"You wash when you come onto the ward, when you leave the ward, if you're in contact with an infectious patient... All the time!

"You should see some of the nurses on the ward at the moment – their hands are red raw because they're washing their hands ten times more.

"It's awful that nearly half of healthcare facilities



in the poorest countries don't have clean water. It's not fair. Infection rates must be sky high.

"I can't imagine how Mary managed without clean water. I feel a sense of solidarity with her and nurses worldwide. They just muck in and get on with it.

**"With clean water, nurses can do their job.** It's why WaterAid is so important. People survive."

■ Rosie is a nurse specialist working with patients with cystic fibrosis in London. She's passionate about WaterAid's work to provide clean water around the world.

# HOME TOWN HERO



With training from WaterAid, Chris is a man with a mission: to transform his slum community through good hygiene.

**"It has always been my dream to see my community transformed."**



## **I love to see my people in good health.**

Ill health leads to poverty, because people spend their hard-earned money on medical bills.

I was born and raised in Kamwokya, one of the biggest slums in Kampala, Uganda. It's very congested, and the sanitation conditions have always been poor. Few people have a decent toilet. I grew up seeing people emptying latrines in open drainage channels. And flooding fills up latrines and leads to cholera outbreaks.

## **All along I have been longing to contribute to changing my community.**

I lead a group of volunteers who promote hygiene [with training and support from WaterAid]. We go house-to-house to raise awareness, mainly focusing on how to build, use and empty latrines properly. We also talk about handwashing, especially after using the latrine and before handling food.

## **Our slogan in the community is: Build it, Use it, Empty it.**

I am so proud of my volunteer work. I believe it is the most important work I do. Many people appreciate our efforts because they've learnt the value of safe water, sanitation and good hygiene practices. Many of them are changing. This year we only had one case of cholera, yet in previous years we always had many cases.

## **It has always been my dream to see my community transformed. And for our children to grow up in a better world.**

## **See for yourself**

Let Chris show you around his slum community [wateraid.org/uk/weyonje](https://wateraid.org/uk/weyonje)

WaterAid/James Kiyimba

■ Raoly and her fourth child, born safely after the village received clean water: "Since we got water here it has completely changed our life."



WaterAid/Ernest Randriamalala



WaterAid/Ernest Randriamalala

# CHANGE THAT LASTS

**How your lasting support changes lives forever.**

More than most, Raoly knows the lasting power of clean water. Just a few years ago, her life in Tsarafangitra village, Madagascar, was a struggle.

She had to spend long hours fetching water from the river, even when she was pregnant. The dirty water made her children sick. And any spare income went on medicines.

Thanks to supporters like you, this community now has clean water. **It's created an extraordinary ripple effect which will be felt long into the future.**

The first big change? "My children are no longer sick, because the water we drink is clean," Raoly says. "And I've been able to save money by not having to get medicine."

It doesn't stop there. "We have more time to focus on our farming," she adds. "We are able to plant and grow more. Our health has improved. And now we earn money on the side, we could buy a pig."

Now Raoly's children are healthier, they can focus on their studies and help to change this remote village forever.

It means Raoly can look to the future with hope: "I would love to see my children becoming a doctor and a teacher, that would make our life even better."

You can change lives forever when you include a gift to WaterAid in your will. Find out more: [wateraid.org/uk/will](https://wateraid.org/uk/will)

# PUMP UP THE VOLUME

**Young radio stars in Rwanda are taking to the mic for hygiene.**

"Because I'm on the radio, people take me seriously." Solonge is one of a group of students riding the airwaves to promote hygiene from their remote corner of Rwanda. And all with the help of supporters like you.

Solonge and her team have been creating weekly radio plays to teach people the importance of washing their hands. These life-saving lessons have been vital in the fight against coronavirus, too.

The dramas are aired on Rwanda's biggest community radio station, Radio Ishingiro, which reaches 4 million listeners (that's a third of the population). **A quarter of people in Rwanda cannot read so radio is a powerful tool to keep people healthy.**

"I have become a hygiene trainer," adds Solonge. "Now I go around the village, telling people how to keep clean. I showed my mother that if you don't wash your hands, you are going to catch diseases."

"It's helped me change my habits," says Emelthe, Solonge's mum. "Now I have a cover on the toilet to keep the flies out and I always wash my hands. Before it just wasn't a priority."

The partnership between Radio Ishingiro and WaterAid is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, who raise funds for good causes in Britain and beyond. It's all part of our decades-long work to promote good hygiene and clean water across the country.

"The best thing is seeing the neighbourhood changing," says Solonge. **"The dramas really are changing lives and that makes me feel important and really happy."**



## Tune in

Explore WaterAid's interactive hygiene radio show at [hygiene-champions.wateraid.org](https://hygiene-champions.wateraid.org)



A large photograph of Felisberta da Costa, a 57-year-old grandmother from Vatuvou in Timor-Leste, walking on a rocky path. She is wearing a blue patterned headscarf, a brown long-sleeved shirt, and a colorful patterned skirt. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows more rocks and some greenery.

# BRING YOUR KINDNESS TO A REMOTE VILLAGE

Meet Felisberta da Costa, a 57-year-old grandmother from Vatuvou in Timor-Leste. Every day, she walks for over an hour in unbearable heat, stumbling on rocks to reach a source of dirty water.

“Because we have less water, we try to use it for drinking,” Felisberta tells us. “Sometimes the kids don’t bath for days. We also don’t really wash our clothes.” The desperate lack of clean water leaves her grandchildren weak and exposed to the spread of disease.

Felisberta’s rugged island home is also prone to extremes in weather. The long dry season bring thirst and failing crops, while the wet season brings flooding and cyclones. **Her community urgently needs a reliable supply of clean water to cope with disease and severe weather.**

We’ve been working in Timor-Leste for four years – thanks to your support. We’ve found the best way to give people clean water is by tapping into unpolluted mountain springs. Gravity delivers water near people’s homes, using pipes designed for extreme weather.

We also install monitoring devices so families can

manage their water during the dry season. And we make sure everyone has the soap and hygiene knowledge they need to stay healthy.

**These super smart solutions would bring huge changes to Felisberta and her community.** She would have no more exhausting trips to collect dirty water. They’d be better prepared for floods and cyclones. And her grandchildren could stay healthy and focus on their studies.

What’s more, Felisberta’s family could spend their time growing crops and raising livestock, so they can be healthier and stronger – and start to build a better future.



## Help us Bring Water

You can help people like Felisberta get clean water for the first time. To bring water, please visit [wateraid.org/uk/oasis](https://wateraid.org/uk/oasis)

Bring Water Appeal

# TAP HAPPY

The global pandemic inspired WaterAiders across the country to get active for people in desperate need of clean water and safe hygiene.

Instead of running the London Marathon, Marcus Mumford ran 26.2 miles around his farm on a course shaped like a tap.

"I can't imagine having to go through all this without being able to practice the most basic hygiene precaution of washing our hands thoroughly."

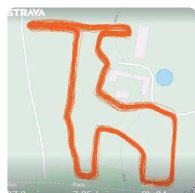


Image courtesy of Marcus

▲ **"WaterAid are needed now more than ever before so I was keen to do something that would capture people's attention, raise awareness and some much-needed funds."**

Marcus Mumford

## You can take on the Tap Challenge too

Map your very own walk, run or cycle in the shape of a tap, and help get clean water to those who need it most. Find out more at [wateraid.org/uk/tapchallenge](https://wateraid.org/uk/tapchallenge)



Image courtesy of Victoria

▲ **"I want to do everything I can to fundraise for WaterAid"**

Victoria Collier, Wastewater Networks CCTV Supervisor

# LET IT FLOW

Water company employee and WaterAider Victoria tells us how she's helped to keep the water (and sewers) flowing during the pandemic.

I work for Dwr Cymru Welsh Water as a CCTV supervisor – we map out sewers for development and identify defects for repair.

During the pandemic, my team have been out every day to keep the sewers flowing during this scary time. Their positivity is an inspiration.

I'm so proud to help safely treat wastewater for people. The crisis has really highlighted the importance of clean water for handwashing.

I've seen how the help of one person or group can make such a difference to a whole community.

That's why I want to do everything I can to fundraise for WaterAid. I'm passionate about helping countries get access to clean water and sanitation.

## Show water love

We thank all those working to keep our water supply going, in the UK and worldwide, so we can all stay safe and healthy. More at [wateraid.org/uk/show-water-love](https://wateraid.org/uk/show-water-love)

# ART OF CHANGE

**We're calling on governments to DOUBLE their investment in water and hygiene in response to COVID-19 – and we need your help.**

As a WaterAid supporter, you know that handwashing is the first line of defence against coronavirus – yet three billion people can't wash their hands with soap and water at home. This story isn't new, so we've turned to art for bold, fresh ways to tell it.

We invited artists worldwide to create thought-provoking pieces that shine a light on the need for action on water and hygiene. We've had 285 entries from 44 countries, and an all-star panel of Jean Jullien, Aida Muluneh, Grayson Perry and Russell Tovey have selected their top 12. Only one will be presented to world leaders – and we want you to decide. Which artwork will motivate world leaders to listen and act?

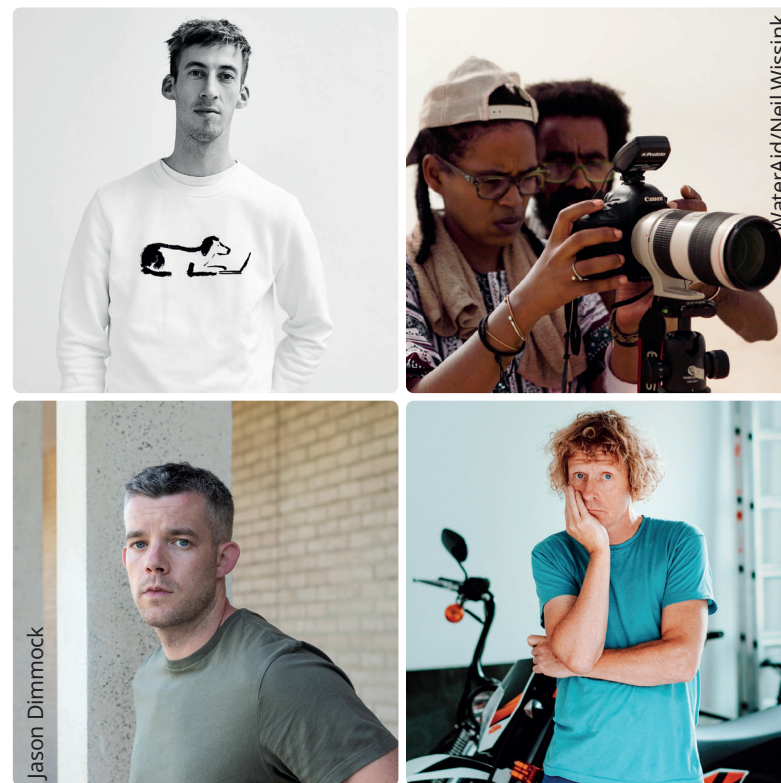
We'll be announcing the winner on Global Handwashing Day (15 October), and now we need you to pick your favourite. Here in the UK, the government is reviewing how and where it spends aid money – and we need to ensure water and hygiene stay high on the agenda.

**Every vote helps to show that the world wants to see urgent change.**

Together, we can ensure everyone worldwide has the basics they need to wash their hands – and keep themselves safe and healthy.

**"WaterAid's campaign is a way for artists to highlight the great inequalities that exist as we tackle a shared crisis."**

Grayson Perry, artist




**The world needs your vote**  
Vote for your favourite artwork at [art.wateraid.org](https://art.wateraid.org) or fill in the postcard enclosed and pop it straight into a postbox by 5 October

The guest judges clockwise from top left: graphic designer Jean Jullien, photographer Aida Muluneh, artist Grayson Perry and actor Russell Tovey.

# THE FUTURE'S CLEAR

WaterAid/Basile Ouedraogo



**Thanks to your support, 11-year-old Mariama in Mali can pour sparklingly clean water from a brand-new tap stand. It means she can walk to school for an education rather than walk long distances to fetch water. So thank you again. You're giving people the power to create a brighter future with clean water.**

■ Front cover image:  
The Troupe Djonkala  
of Bla perform a play  
organised by WaterAid to  
educate local communities  
in Mali on the importance  
of hygiene and sanitation

Oasis is made out of FSC/PEFC paper – which promotes sustainable forestry. You can also recycle this magazine. Each Oasis costs 6p to produce.



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