

Oasis

Spring/Summer 2021



WaterAid/Dafe Oboro

**THE NEED FOR
WATER IS UNIVERSAL.
THE IMPACT
IS PERSONAL.**



WaterAid



Dreaming big

Thanks to the power of clean water, 12-year-old Ansha will be able to make the future happen in her home of Frat, Ethiopia. In the past, children in this hillside community struggled for hours in the heat to find water. But this winter thousands of WaterAiders like you came together to help Ansha's family get the reliable water supply they urgently need. It means she'll have more time to go to school – and can play her part in creating a strong and healthy future for her community.



POWERING CHANGE, PERSON TO PERSON

Every day I see how
you help someone
change their life, long
into the future.

Sometimes I watch the news and ask: "how can just one person make a difference?" I find the answer in my work, providing clean water for people in Ethiopia (see page 6). I've learned that, by working together, we can help someone make a change for themselves at the most personal level.

For me, that means listening closely to someone's needs, and working with them on ways to help. This could be toilets that give people privacy, taps that people in wheelchairs can use easily, or waterpoints close to homes so children no longer spend long hours collecting water. Because, for everyone to have clean water, we need solutions that work for everyone.

This is what you help achieve by being a part of WaterAid. By believing in the power of water, you choose to make a difference to someone else, every single day. Thank you.

Alula Bruk
Programme Engineer, Ethiopia

Cover image: 'Pour me Water, Pure Water' by Nigerian photographer, Dafe Oboro

Dafe's image touches on the subject of bathing and the importance of having access to clean water to perform this daily ritual.



WaterAid/DRIK/Habibul Haque



WaterAid/DRIK/Habibul Haque

CHANGE THAT'S MADE TO MEASURE

You're helping people find
solutions that work for them.



WaterAid/James Kiyimba



WaterAid/James Kiyimba

Female-friendly loos in Bangladesh

Shabana used to be scared to use her toilet, a flimsy pit latrine in the field by her house. "It wasn't suitable for women," she says. "From sunrise to sundown, the field was crowded with football players. I always felt exposed." She worried that men would see her on the toilet. Most days, Shabana would hold on in extreme discomfort until the field cleared. Sometimes, she would wait until 3am: "I did not have any privacy at all."

But now "those days are long gone". With help from our local partner organisation, she's built a sturdy, concrete latrine closer to home. "It has a roof and a door I can lock," she adds, proudly. Now, Shabana can fulfil one of our most basic human needs – going to the loo when she needs to: "I'm not scared anymore." It means she can focus on caring for her young son – and all the joy that brings.

Wheelchair-friendly taps in Uganda

For Margaret, collecting water used to be a humiliating experience. She had to leave her wheelchair at the borehole entrance, crawl on her knees to the pump, and drag the container back. It took hours, and meant she couldn't get water for her family to stay healthy.

With your support, Margaret's borehole has been redesigned with her needs in mind. A separate exit and entrance mean she can wheel right up to the pump, and a special lever means she can collect water sat in her wheelchair. "Now I have no problem getting water, I have more time to do other things," she says. Margaret earns a living repairing people's clothes, and uses the money to buy books for her children – so they can change their lives forever.

RAY'S OF HOPE

**How the sun, clean water and you
are powering community-wide
change in Ethiopia.**

Families in Burie, western Ethiopia, know all about the personal impact of clean water. In the past, children missed out on the chance to learn, either because they were too sick from drinking dirty water or were spending hours collecting water. Expectant mums had to carry their own water to hospital, just so they could wash themselves after giving birth. Shop owners had to close and farmers couldn't harvest their crops as they spent so long fetching water. A lack of clean water was holding everyone back.

**People's lives are changing - with
a little help from the sun, and you.**

Solar power is fuelling a future filled with hope for the people of Burie. The plentiful sun is providing a low-cost, sustainable source of energy so the community can draw water from deep underground, treat it, and pump it to people's homes. It means there's enough clean water for families, a health centre and two schools. Trained community volunteers maintain the equipment, so the impact will last for generations. And none of it would be possible without WaterAiders like you.



"We're very happy now that there is clean drinking water in our community. It's close to our home so I can go back home early, finish working on household chores and go to school on time."

Fasika, 15



**TURN OVER TO SEE WHAT
SOLAR-POWERED HOPE
LOOKS LIKE ►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►►**

▶▶▶▶▶ AT SCHOOL

Sisters Benatlay, 15, and Birtukan, 12, are thrilled to have clean water in their school. You helped the community to install segregated toilet blocks and taps that draw water using a solar-powered system. Girls have free sanitary pads and a private room to go to when they have their period. It means they can stay focused, stay in school and fulfil their potential.

▶▶▶▶▶ AT THE CLINIC

When Gojam gave birth to her second child, a lack of clean water made it unsafe – and undignified. “I had to go home with bloodstains on my clothes and body,” she says. Support like yours provided clean running water, toilet blocks and showers so that, when Gojam was expecting again, she didn’t have to worry about being able to wash. Clean water preserved her dignity – and ensured she could give birth to her beautiful son Abiyot safely.

“I was happy to deliver my youngest son at the health centre. I got to shower after the delivery.”

Gojam, 27, with her baby boy Abiyot



▶▶▶▶▶ AT WORK

For Emanesh (pictured below), a shop-keeper and mother-of-three, fetching water made every aspect of daily life difficult. It took hours, so she would be forced to close her shop and risk losing money. Her daughter would have to help, missing out on school. The path was slippery, and they would often fall and hurt themselves. At times they were even chased by hyenas. But Emanesh and her community are fighting back. They’ve helped to install water taps close to their homes, so they can have clean water when they need it. Emanesh can keep the family shop open, her daughter can focus on her studies, and the family can build for the future. As Emanesh says: “My dream is to see my children educated and achieve well in life.”



Delivering hope

See how more communities in Ethiopia will be transformed with solar power and water: wateraid.org/uk/hope

"LET'S GET TO WORK"

For people living in Uganda's overcrowded slums, clean water is critical in the fight against COVID-19 – and to prepare for future crises. WaterAider James Kiyimba explains.



WaterAid/James Kiyimba

I vividly remember when lockdown hit here in Uganda. On the news, I saw how the pandemic was ravaging countries with good health systems, so I really feared what would happen here. People live hand-to-mouth, so staying at home for six months was unbearably hard.

I went to talk to people in Kamwokya, a densely populated urban community where WaterAid is helping people get clean water. I remember Musuya (pictured bottom left), a market stall owner, who told me that social distancing was all but impossible. "The houses are very close to each other and we use communal toilets," she said to me. "If one of us is infected, everyone's at risk."

Her story confirmed for me how clean water is the first line of defence against disease. That's why, with your help, we installed foot-operated handwashing facilities in public places. And we supported a huge TV and radio campaign to encourage people to wash their hands. These days almost everyone realises the importance of clean water.

I can see that 2021 will be a very busy year. The threat of disease isn't going away, and crowded places like Kamwokya are incredibly vulnerable. Today in Uganda, some 21 million people still don't have clean water. We must make sure these communities can protect themselves from disease. We've achieved so much together during the pandemic, but we've also lost a lot of time – so let's get to work.

A safer future

You can help people in overcrowded slums stay free of disease with clean water and handwashing facilities: [wateraid.org/uk/oasis](https://www.wateraid.org/uk/oasis)

"Everywhere on TV and radio are messages encouraging us to regularly wash our hands. Since I don't have money to buy hand sanitisers, I mix liquid soap in water and make sure it's available at the entrance of my house."

Elizabeth, 56 (pictured with James, top left)

IMPACT UPDATE: NEPAL

In a remote mountain region in Nepal, you're supporting communities to power a transformation. WaterAiders helped kickstart a project to bring clean water to Dolakha, where families trek for hours searching for water. Two years on, people here are driving progress, despite setbacks brought by the pandemic and the monsoon.

The challenge

- Carrying water takes several hours, leaving no time for farming or school.
- Steep, narrow mountain paths cause serious injuries.
- Water sources are dirty, leading to sickness.

The plan

- Build 15 water supply systems to reach 6,000 people with clean water.
- Use gravity flow, a low-cost way to tap reliable mountain springs and pipe to people's homes.
- Share safe hygiene messages through clubs for children, mothers and teachers.

Summer 2019
Work starts in earnest as Nepalese experts carry out detailed landscape surveys, to tailor the design to the rocky jungle terrain. WaterAid teams buy construction materials for the first seven water systems.

Winter 2019
Real progress as teams from the community dig trenches for three pipelines. Community members also learn how to maintain and operate their supply, to ensure water safety and quality.



WaterAid/Laxmi Subedi

2019



WaterAid/Sangita Thapa

2020

Spring 2020
COVID-19 forces structural work to stop. It's a major setback, but community volunteers adapt quickly, sharing handwashing messages to stop the spread of the disease (above). Construction resumes in mid-June but is suspended weeks later for the monsoon season – a further challenge.

"This project is for us. We're determined to make it successful."

Pabi Maya Thami, chair of a local Water and Sanitation User Committee



WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

2021

Winter 2020
The project is extended so we can complete all 15 water systems. Communities are determined to press on, laying foundations and pipelines (right). Water committees and trained plumbers will maintain the water supply long into the future.

The future. Throughout this challenging time, your donations have been hard at work, helping people to turn a corner. Soon, these communities will complete their water systems and bring the unlimited power of clean water to every home.

Your impact update

CHAIN REACTIONS



WaterAid/Dennis Lupenga

"As a mother of two, I know the pain of seeing your child suffering from diseases which can easily be prevented by simply washing your hands with soap. But I'm happy to see that my efforts have paid off. Every household has a decent toilet and a tippy tap."

Synodia, 32, hygiene volunteer



WaterAid/Dennis Lupenga

Pedal-powered changemakers in southern Malawi are riding the roads to spread the word about good hygiene. They're helping families to install and use decent toilets, and to wash their hands with soap using homemade "tippy taps" (see inset picture). We've provided bicycles to help them reach remote villages and get the message out far and wide.

These hygiene volunteers are sparking a chain reaction, with support from the Scottish Government's International Development Fund and Scottish Water. When children here stop getting diarrhoea from drinking dirty water they can stay in school, follow their dreams, and take charge of their future.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Hygiene changemakers ●

THEIR LIVES WILL MEAN THE WORLD

Clare Hyder's lifelong passion for water inspired Sally Roberts, her aunt, to make a lasting difference for others. Clare's two brothers take up the story...

Clare had always challenged herself, even when she was little. Whether going in goal for the hockey team or playing the school's enormous tuba, she was fiercely independent.

After graduating in engineering, she went to Nigeria to teach in a rural community. Water came from the well which, in the dry season, was reduced to a muddy puddle. Clare rationed her supply according to how much she could lift and how long it took for the mud to settle before she could boil it.

The experience convinced her to pursue a career in water engineering. She worked on an irrigation project in Indonesia and then helped provide water for isolated communities in Scotland. The landscape was the polar opposite of the Nigerian Sahel, but water security was just as important.

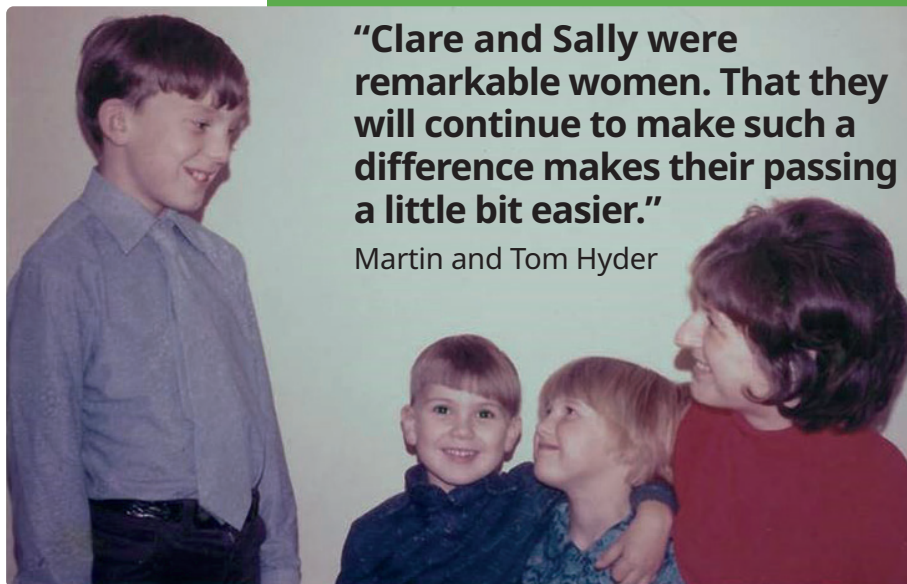
Clare's life was cut short in a tragic accident, but she left a legacy of determination to protect others. Her aunt, Sally, fully understood the importance of water and how it had inspired Clare. When Sally sadly passed away in 2019, she left a generous gift to WaterAid in her will in Clare's memory. We, and Sally's step-daughters, are so proud that she chose to remember Clare this way.

Clare and Sally were remarkable women. That they will continue to make such a difference makes their passing a little bit easier. Their lives will mean so much to people they never met.

Martin and Tom Hyder



● Clockwise from left:
Clare Hyder; Sally Roberts;
Sally (right), pictured in 1971
with Martin, Tom and Clare.



"Clare and Sally were remarkable women. That they will continue to make such a difference makes their passing a little bit easier."

Martin and Tom Hyder

Add water to the world by adding water to your will.

Create a legacy that will transform lives for years to come. Find out more wateraid.org/uk/mylegacy

2021: THE YEAR THE UK MUST LEAD THE WAY

More money for clean water can protect the poorest people from the devastating impact of climate change.

When we think of tackling climate change, we often think of reducing carbon emissions to stop future warming. But we need to tell the whole story. Because, across the world, climate change is already hitting people living in poverty hardest of all. More frequent floods, prolonged droughts and rising sea levels are pushing people to the brink.

This is especially true for the 785 million people who don't have a reliable supply of water. Without clean water, they get sick, they can't work and they can't go to school. Providing clean water is essential if these communities are going to survive and thrive in the face of a changing climate.

Currently, global funding for the climate crisis focuses overwhelmingly on reducing emissions. This is hugely important – but the world's poorest communities are being hit right now. Governments must spend more on clean water that keeps pumping through flood, drought and natural disaster.

This year, the UK has the Presidency of the G7, an organisation made up of the world's seven largest

● In Kalabogi, Bangladesh, cyclones and floods are destroying homes. Clean water is critical if people are going to survive and thrive in the face of a changing climate.

WaterAid/DRK/Habibul Haque



'advanced' economies, and is hosting a major UN Climate Change Conference in November. It's a huge opportunity.

We want the UK Government to use its influence to make sure more money is spent on providing a reliable supply of clean water – so communities can prepare and protect themselves against changing weather, right now.

You can make it happen

We must tell the UK Government to do right by people hit hardest by climate change. And we can't do it without you. For the latest on how you can help:

wateraid.org/uk/campaigning

ART OF CHANGE

A huge thank you to the 27,000 people who voted for their favourite water activism artwork, as featured in the last issue of *Oasis*. Every vote showed that the world wants to see urgent investment in water and hygiene. And congratulations to Holly Thomas, the artist behind the winning entry. We handed the artwork to the Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to mark Global Handwashing Day in October. The UK Government gave an encouraging response, highlighting the importance of improved water, sanitation and hygiene for global health. They also said that clean water will be part of the discussions happening this year, at the G7 and the UN Climate Change Conference (see left).

See Holly's winning artwork over the page





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