

Water Warriors case studies



Meet Tahiana

Tahiana is a true Water Warrior. He is in charge of helping pupils at his school in Madagascar look after the new taps and toilets.

This is such an important job that Tahiana's friends call him 'President'.

Before taps and toilets were installed at Tahiana's school, the children walked to collect water from a muddy pond. It was a really hard job and the water often made the children ill because it was so dirty.

When WaterAid installed clean water in Tahiana's school, they invited teachers and pupils to a training session where they learnt how to look after the new taps and toilets, how to wash their hands properly and how to teach others to do it too.



Tahiana now puts what he learnt into practice each day. He starts every school day by helping to clean the classrooms and playground and brushing the floors.

Then he opens up the toilet blocks, before making sure that the other children can use the taps to wash their hands and have a drink before their first lessons. When everyone has finished using the taps, Tahiana makes sure they are all turned off properly and goes to his class. Tahiana makes sure everyone gets to use the taps again at break time before joining his friends for games in the playground.

Finally, every Friday Tahiana helps the teachers to polish the classroom floors after cleaning. He is very proud to be given these special jobs and says 'After getting running water, life is much better.'

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Meet Justine

Justine from Madagascar is quite famous in her village. She has been a volunteer health worker in her community for six years.

People call Justine 'Toilet Lady' because her job is to travel to different villages and tell them all about the importance of keeping clean and using a toilet.

Before WaterAid brought taps and toilets to Justine's community, it was a very dirty place. There was nowhere to go to the toilet and they had to collect all their water from a dirty river. Justine learnt about the benefits of using a toilet and washing hands properly when WaterAid came to teach members of her community about good hygiene practices.



Now Justine takes these lessons to people all over her region. Her day starts when she wakes early to have breakfast with her family. She then dresses in her WaterAid uniform and travels to communities around her village.

When she first visits a village she talks to locals about the importance of being hygienic and washing their hands. If she is visiting a community she has been to before, she will check that the village has been using good hygiene practices and that the taps and toilets are in a good condition.

Justine loves her job because she is proud to help the people in her community. She likes the feeling of seeing villages becoming cleaner and healthier. She hopes that one day, every village in Madagascar will have clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.



WaterAid/ Ernest Randriarimalala

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Meet Tesfaye

Tesfaye, from Ethiopia, is very proud to have a job cleaning public toilets.

Tesfaye looks after a public toilet block in the capital city, Addis Ababa. These toilets are so popular that people working in the city travel long distances just to visit the toilets.

The toilets used to be very dirty, people would drop litter and there was no one to keep them clean.

Now though, Tesfaye and his team have transformed the area and people come to not only use the toilets but have tea and coffee too!

Tesfaye was homeless before he started working with WaterAid on transforming the toilets. He joined the work at the very beginning, clearing the land and planting flowers to make the area look nice again. He even planted trees so that in many years'



time, people will be able to sit and enjoy a drink in the shade.

Each morning begins for Tesfaye at 6am. He gets up and opens up the toilets to make sure they are ready for people on their way to work. Then Tesfaye starts work on boiling the water for the tea and coffee.

His days are busy, making sure the toilets are kept clean and looking after the plants and flowers around them. Tesfaye has big plans for the future; he hopes to serve fast food and have public showers next to his toilets. He wants the toilets and the area around them to become somewhere that people come to relax.

Tesfaye is very proud of what he has achieved. He says, 'I believe I made this area clean and green. It's an area nobody wanted to get close to and now people come here and drink coffee and relax. Who would believe that?'

