Why access to water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for health workers like Madhubala, a Head Nurse in Uttar Pradesh, India. (June 2021)

Derkwa WASH Committee members in Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia, are leading the way in educating the community on water, sanitation, and hygiene issues. (Feb 2022)
But millions of people are currently living in communities that do not have adequate hygiene services. Today 1 in 3 healthcare facilities globally lack readily available access to handwashing facilities, and 1 in 4 have no basic water services.

Inadequate WASH services in healthcare facilities can expose communities to life-threatening infections. Around 11 million people each year die because of sepsis.

That's why at the World Health Assembly we called on heads of government and health ministers to take critical action by:

- Prioritising investments in water, sanitation and hygiene for safe, dignified and quality healthcare.
- Investing in WASH in healthcare facilities and communities to build resilience and improve public health.
- Integrating WASH into financing systems and plans for tackling future pandemics.

We will continue to engage with ministers of health to prioritise these essentials.

Water and our changing climate

From Burkina Faso to Bangladesh, we've been working in 12 countries around the world to build new services, train communities and raise awareness around pressing climate issues. By supporting those affected to identify the problems they face now, as well as those that they might face in the future, we've been helping communities to find solutions and manage their water supplies, adapting technology to suit their needs.

In addition to those communities reached directly, we've also worked with local, regional and national decision-makers to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene are prioritised in climate change planning – impact that will support future generations, too.

This crucial support from players of People’s Postcode Lottery has helped increase our water and climate change work. We are now building on this through our new Global Strategy – pushing for a world where due attention and investment is paid to the impacts of climate on water security.

To find out more about our climate work visit: wateraid.org/in-touch/climate

Our call to the G7

With world leaders set to meet for the G7 summit later this month, governments must take bold steps to build systems that protect both people and economies from emergencies, make healthcare safe for all, and prevent the spread of disease.

That's why we're asking the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to ensure that clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are right where they should be - at the very heart of planning for future health threats.

wateraid.org/in-touch/hygiene

A dedicated climate fund tackling the effect of climate change on vulnerable communities’ access to water, sanitation and hygiene has directly reached more than 100,000 people, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Today, increased flooding and rising sea levels are polluting water sources, while longer droughts mean wells and springs are running dry. When weeks pass without any rainfall, families are forced to turn to unreliable sources and livelihoods suffer.

That's why we're delighted that, in addition to funding awarded by the Postcode Global Trust for our water, sanitation, and hygiene work, players of People's Postcode Lottery are also supporting our climate-resilient work as part of the £24m Postcode Climate Challenge.
Cyclone response update

Storm Ana swept across Madagascar and Mozambique in January, killing dozens of people before also reaching Malawi. Just two weeks later, cyclone Batsirai hit the same three countries.

Thanks to all those who supported our emergency response, our teams in southern Africa have been responding with emergency water, sanitation and hygiene supplies to help prevent the spread of disease. We have also been working to restore disrupted water and sanitation facilities, and running hygiene awareness campaigns.

These communities will now also be the subject of our summer appeal.

Email intouch@wateraid.org to see how you can donate.

Thirst for Knowledge success

Thanks to supporters like you, our winter appeal raised an incredible £5,592,201.76 to help get clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to schools and communities throughout Nepal. Together, your generous donations also unlocked a further £2,000,000 in match funding from the UK Government, allowing us to reach a further 28,000 people and 30 schools in the country’s Bardiya district.

Together with local partners, we will provide access to clean water for drinking and washing, construct decent toilets and hygiene facilities, empower people with hygiene awareness, and share skills to enable people to boost their income.

Our new Global Policy and Research Director

Amaka Godfrey is our new Global Policy and Research Director – a crucial position that will help shape our policies, reports, and the future of the millions of people who are struggling with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Based in Nairobi, Amaka is a specialist in the field of sanitation, hygiene and water supply. With over 25 years of experience in policy, research and programming, she combines a strong technical knowledge with a vast experience of working in rural and urban areas.

Read more about our policy and programme work at washmatters.wateraid.org.

Save the date:

St Paul’s this Christmas!

We’re excited to share that WaterAid will be hosting a Christmas Carol Concert at St Paul’s Cathedral, London, on Tuesday 6 December 2022. Keep an eye out for further information or email jennycockin@wateraid.org to find out more.

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