



Impact Report

2022/23



**Volunteer talks
and workshops
inspiring action**



WaterAid

Thank you WaterAid Speakers for talking toilets and taps

Iqra, student, conducting a hygiene session at school in Province Punjab, Pakistan, 2018.

Clean water. Decent toilets. Good hygiene.
Three things that change everything
– but talking about them is the start.

Thank you to our Speakers for volunteering as part of a global movement of hygiene educators, activists, teachers, campaigners and more, who are committed to raising their voices and speaking up until everyone everywhere has access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

The Speaker Network is an integral part of WaterAid's work and each year, through face-to-face, online and international talks and workshops, Speakers have been:

- Educating audiences about water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Breaking down stigmas and talking about taboo subjects like periods and toilets.
- Inspiring people to support us and motivating them to take action.

Thanks to our passionate and dedicated Speakers, we've engaged audiences across the UK and globally, increasing support for our vital work.

The Speaker Network's achievements

Since 1981, WaterAid Speakers have delivered more than **11,000** face-to-face, online and international talks and workshops.



▲ Kam, WaterAid supporter, London, 2019.

From April 2022 to March 2023:




Our top three busiest Speakers were Deirdre, Chris F and Bob, giving **219 talks and workshops** in total and reaching a combined **10,927 people!**

Speakers were most in demand around World Water Day on 22 March, with **127 talks** and workshops that month reaching over **6,485 people.**

We know how much effort our passionate and dedicated Speakers put into every presentation. Our numbers don't reflect all the hours of

Speakers' preparation, but we know this makes a huge difference! And we also know many of our Speakers organise their own talks and workshops, reaching even more people!

A Speaker's impact doesn't end when they leave the venue or close their laptop! Every talk and workshop creates a ripple that goes on and on afterwards, educating people and inspiring them to take action.



Christopher, Weyonje
community volunteer,
Kampala, Uganda, 2019.

Spreading the word together

Talking about the importance of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene is important to break the silence and raise awareness of the need for everyone everywhere to have these essentials. Passionate people are making a difference all over the world by talking!

In Uganda, WaterAid has worked with a group called Weyonje (which means 'clean yourself') who are teaching others in Kamwokya, a slum in the capital Kampala, about the importance of good hygiene.

Weyonje go house to house, talking to people about how to use toilets properly and get rid of the waste safely (only 15% of Kampala's population is connected to the sewer system, so many must manage toilet waste themselves). Weyonje also teach people about the importance of handwashing after using the toilet and before eating.

Supported by the H&M Foundation, WaterAid has been working with Weyonje members like Chris to improve the cleanliness of the slum and spread lifesaving messages.

“ **Many people appreciate our efforts, because they have learnt the value of safe water, sanitation and hygiene good practice.** Chris

Just like our Speakers in the UK, groups like Weyonje are so important in our work to spread the word far and wide that clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene truly are lifesavers.

Speakers inspiring action

This year, 629 Speaker talks and workshops have planted the seed of inspiration that will go on and on motivating people to give, fundraise and campaign.



88% of audience
feedback stated
more interest
in supporting
WaterAid following
their Speaker visit

► **Bob, volunteer Speaker,**
delivering a workshop
at St Edmund School
Maidenhead, January 2020.



WaterAid/Oliver Dixon

Together this year, our Speakers have reached 36,056 people in the UK and globally and here are just a few of the ways in which audiences have been inspired to support WaterAid after Speaker talks and workshops:

"After the school assembly and workshops the children brainstormed fundraising ideas and voted for their favourites: a break rules day, danceathon, penalty shoot-out, backwards walk, charity shop sale, writing with wrong hands day, ice cube melting challenge, mini fete stalls and wearing blue for the day, together raising over £1,000."

"The children made posters on what they had learned during their talk. They were fantastic and clearly showed just how much the children had listened and were impacted."

"We will be making our own tippy tap and fundraising for WaterAid next term."

"We will definitely be looking to book a Speaker again in the future and also set up a fundraising event for WaterAid."

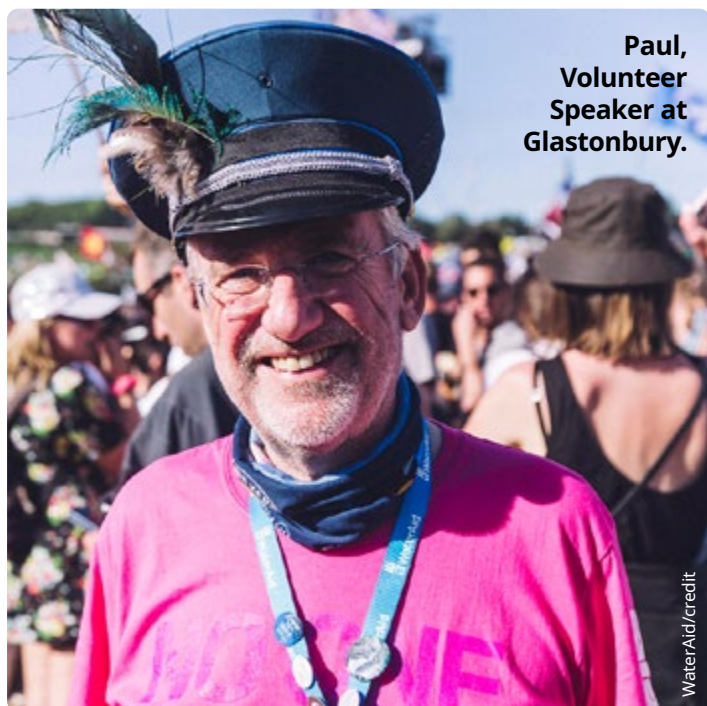
"The children are now really passionate about making a difference and would love to raise money for children their own age who are less fortunate than them."

"The talk made me really think and reflect on my own life. I know the children at school thought the same. I will most definitely donate!"

So many creative ideas all sparked by our Speakers as audiences continue to spread the word, take action and raise vital funds to help reach more communities with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

The Speaker Network's impact on audiences

Our audiences really value hearing from Speakers. Here are just some of the many messages we received this year from appreciative and inspired audiences:



Paul,
Volunteer
Speaker at
Glastonbury.

“ Paul was amazing. His depth of knowledge was superb, and his personal experiences and stories made it really come alive for the children. One of the best learning opportunities we have had in a while!



Deirdre,
Volunteer
Speaker,
London 2022.

“ Deirdre was very engaging and tailored the talk to the needs of our pupils. The photos of the children in the other countries included those with disabilities which our pupils could relate to.



99% of audience feedback rated their Speaker as 'very good' or 'good'

Dick,
Volunteer
Speaker,
London 2022.



WaterAid/Oliver Dixon

“ Dick was excellent. The students really enjoyed his warmth and the emotion shown. The talk was very sobering for many in the year 10 group.

“ The children loved learning about everything that WaterAid does and how passionate Dave our Speaker was. Dave was so easy to listen to and was very interactive which the kids liked!



WaterAid/Oliver Dixon

Dave,
Volunteer
Speaker,
London 2022.

“ Charlie had the children hanging on his every word and definitely left them wanting more! They learnt all about water inequality, which prompted lots of interesting and thoughtful discussion – exactly what we wanted!

“ Adele put together a varied and interesting programme for our students, which they found both entertaining and engaging. She has a great way of speaking with the children and making everyone feel included.

Our dedicated Speakers do such a great job of bringing our work to life. This feedback shows just how much they educate, engage and inspire our audiences when they so generously volunteer their time.

Engaging audiences big and small

Every talk big or small really does make a difference!

This year, our Speakers educated and inspired audiences of all ages and sizes. Our most popular Speaker requests were for introductory and educational WaterAid talks and workshops for groups including 7 to 11-year-olds and adults.

Our smallest Speaker audience consisted of 4 attendees at a Mothers' Union talk in Wales. Thanks to long time and dedicated Speaker Dave, who made sure no audience is too small to learn about our work.

Requests for Speakers at large scale in person events have started to increase again after lockdown, helping us get the word out to even bigger audiences across the UK.

Speaker Angela had a stand at Bring It On Newcastle, targeted at young future engineers aged 9 to 14. Angela was on hand to talk taps, toilets and technologies to over 2,000 children from 130 schools invited.

Speaker Joanne volunteered at New Scientist Live London, a three-day science festival with over 21,000 attendees, focused on learning, ideas and discovery.



▲ Perminder, volunteer Speaker, running a stall at the Better World Festival in Stoke-On-Trent, 2022.

Speaker Perminder volunteered at the Solihull Scout Jamboree with 1000 attendees, and the Better World Festival in Stoke-On-Trent city centre. Perminder tells us why he volunteers with WaterAid:

“ I’m a child of Indian immigrant parents... My mom walked for water like many others of similar age. The schools, forums and interest groups I’ve attended as a Speaker have been extremely engaged and their fundraising is appreciated so much. It’s been emotional on many occasions. I’m convinced that together we can meet our 2030 target!

Speakers go global!

For the third year running, Speakers have been delivering online talks and workshops to WaterAid's international audiences across America, Africa, Australia and Europe.

Ben, volunteer Speaker delivering an online talk, London 2022.

Notably, this year we had two repeat Speaker bookings in America, including from a school in New York, which last year raised \$5,000 for WaterAid America. Following an online talk from our Speaker Perminder, they told us:

“**We raised \$3,560 from our sponsored events! The children completed a 3 mile walk without water and a student-teacher dodgeball, to raise money. Both fantastic, worthwhile events. We couldn't have done either without your inspiration, so thank you!**

A group of young fundraisers from California also requested their second online WaterAid talk, having raised \$8,000 last year. Thanks to Speaker Ben's engaging presentation, they are aiming for an even more ambitious \$15,000 this year. They told us:

“**Thanks to Ben for taking the time to meet today. We were a large group (about 30 kids) and Ben did not have an easy job! Many thanks!**



We are delighted to be able to offer talks and workshops internationally. With this new global audience, our messages and calls to action are reaching further than ever before.

Speaking at festivals

During the summer, Speakers volunteered to engage audiences at festivals.

From campaigning petitions at Glastonbury to educational workshops at Green Man, our Speakers were there talking about WaterAid's work.

Long-time Speakers Pete and Bob tell us about engaging hundreds of festival goers with our campaigning petitions and educational workshops:

“ I take an active role in campaigning with festival goers for WaterAid. It is the perfect opportunity to share my passion for WaterAid and promote the core messages.

Pete, Speaker

“ We used a variety of educational resources, showcasing WaterAid technologies – tippy taps, low-flush toilets and water filters. Our workshop tent was rammed with excited festival goers – so we definitely got something right!

Bob, Speaker



Bob, volunteer Speaker, delivering workshops at Green Man 2022.

WaterAid/Ben Roberts

We have now developed these resources into educational workshop boxes with session plans for all Speakers to use for any educational audience.

Thanks so much to Bob for invaluable input, and to all our festival Speakers for spreading our messages throughout the summer, including Glynn, Paul, Phil, Emily, David, Penelope, João, Barry, Caio, Giles, Melita, Geoff, Andy, Ann, Lauren, Sue, Janine, Pete and more!



WaterAid/Ben Roberts



► Pete, volunteer Speaker, collecting campaign signatures at Glastonbury 2022.

30 years of speaking up for water

For more than three decades, Speaker Phil has been talking about clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Phil tells us why he volunteers as a Speaker for WaterAid.

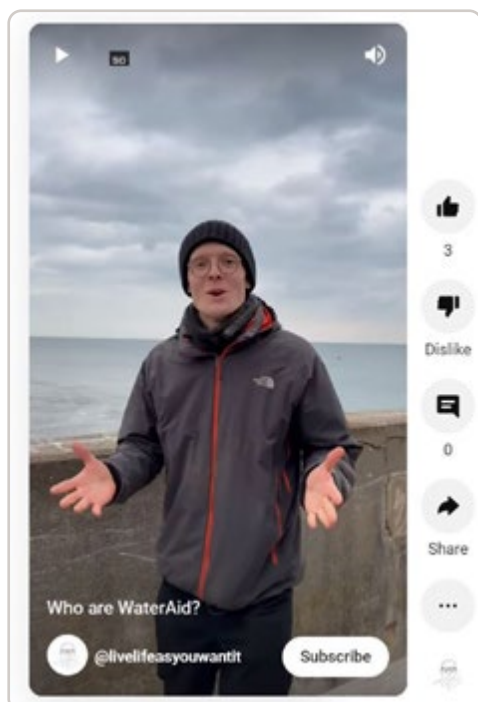
"I could say that WaterAid chose me! I worked for Thames Water for 40 years, and in the 1980s was asked to deliver a talk to a local school. With trepidation, I presented the talk and was hooked. In all my talks I emphasise that, without clean water, the lives of women and girls can be severely impacted.

I spread the word of WaterAid's fantastic work to church groups, scout troops, rotary clubs and more. I'm continually inspired by the enthusiasm of school children and teachers, and their understanding that it doesn't take too much money to make a difference.

If you have the time, desire and inclination to volunteer, do not hesitate. It will benefit both you and the community. And nothing beats the gratitude and applause of a receptive audience."



▲ Phil, volunteer Speaker at the National Volunteers Week Thank You event, London 2022.



▲ Harry, volunteer Speaker delivering a WaterAid TikTok, UK 2022.

Speakers on Social Media



This year Speaker Network volunteers and our audiences have utilised social media, spreading our important messages online through a Podcast, Twitter, TikToks, Facebook and Instagram posts. Speaker Harry has created TikToks about WaterAid and hosted a podcast for World Water Day. Harry tells us:

"As well as hosting talks in person I enjoy sharing content through social media about the incredible work WaterAid does, to hopefully reach more people."

We'll be looking to work more with Harry and other Speakers going forwards to connect with even more audiences online through social media!

Welcoming new Speakers

This year we welcomed new Speakers, coming from all over the UK and all walks of life including our corporate partners WSP, and water companies, teachers, young professionals, retirees, students and more.

New Speaker Henrique from WSP, tells us about his volunteering journey:

“**WaterAid has been a fantastic experience so far. It gives me the opportunity to make a real change, improve my public speaking skills and raise awareness to a very important matter; that affects my home country. This is a very personal journey for me and I would love to make a difference.**

New Speaker Joanne, from our water industry partners, shares a similar motivation:

“**Having worked in the water industry and seen the great work that WaterAid do, I wanted to get involved. Being a WaterAid Speaker is a great opportunity to share important messages about the fantastic work of WaterAid. I especially like working with young people, the next generation to care for our water resources – seeing them engaged and enthused to support WaterAid is very uplifting.**

Welcome to all our new Speakers!

How we support Speakers

WaterAid empowers every Speaker with the training and resources they need to talk about taps and toilets to a wide range of audiences. This includes: ready-made WaterAid presentations, Speaker handbooks and guidance, online training modules and webinars, support through our Speaker Network Facebook group, regular email updates, branded resources, and personal support by phone and email.

This year, WaterAid worked with teachers to develop new curriculum-linked primary school resources, including assembly and lesson plans, and new climate change films and resources for secondary schools. And we updated our educational and teaching webpages too, making our learning resources easier for everyone to find and use.

Speakers Thank You Event

After a few years without the possibility of face-to-face get-togethers, in 2022 our Speakers received a special invite to our new London office. Here, Speakers had an exclusive guided tour before hearing from our Chief Executive Tim Wainwright, Head of Programme Support Unit Erik Harvey, and Director of Fundraising Jennie York. Together, we reflected on the past year, had some lively discussions, and enjoyed catching up. It was great to be able to thank so many Speakers in person for their dedicated support.

“**Many thanks for an enjoyable visit to the new office. It was great to see you all. We do feel appreciated!** Dick, Speaker



Volunteer Speakers at the
National Volunteers Week
Thank You event, London 2022
(Geoff, Deirdre and Judy).

2023 and beyond...

**The Speaker Network will continue evolving in 2023/24
with lots of new projects in the pipeline, including:**

- Developing a new strategy for the Speaker Network, focusing on our ambitions, partnerships and approaches.
- Working to support more Speaker requests and recruit new Speakers
- Refreshed Speaker resources and films in line with WaterAid's new representation policy
- New campaigning resources and activities
- Working with Leonard Cheshire to address accessibility barriers in Speaker recruitment and talks and workshops
- Support for Speakers to use social media to spread awareness
- New educational and volunteering partnerships, including engaging with teacher training colleges
- New educational resources to empower young supporters in talking about WaterAid



WaterAid/Basile Ouedraogo

People's Postcode Lottery support

The WaterAid Speaker Network is supported by funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery, awarded by the Postcode Global Trust.

This year – 2023 – marks an incredible 10 years of players' support. Over that time, players have raised over a phenomenal £22,000,000 to support our lifesaving water, sanitation and hygiene projects across the world!

And thanks to this staggering support, we are also inspiring community groups, schools and businesses across postcodes in Britain and the world to join us in our mission to reach everyone, everywhere with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

▲ With support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, WaterAid worked closely with the community of Tigama to install a water tower and four tapstands, giving 1,800 people access to clean water. What's more, with new wells local women are successfully growing tomatoes, cabbages, beets and other produce. Awa, Women's Association Secretary, Tigama, Mali. March 2022.



A message from Tim



"I am so impressed each and every year to see our Speaker Network continuing to flourish, develop and reach new audiences.

With all the turmoil over the past few years, it's heartening to know our volunteers can be relied on in their commitments as Speakers, be it face to face or online, in the UK or even internationally.

I was also especially delighted this year to thank some of our Speakers at our in-person event at the London office. It was wonderful to see some familiar faces after such a long time. I do hope you will be returning.

Thank you all so much. We so appreciate your support on this journey to reaching everyone, everywhere."

Tim Wainwright
Chief Executive
WaterAid UK



Since 1981, across 28 countries, we've reached...

28.5 million
people with clean water

29 million
people with decent toilets

27.8 million
people with good hygiene



The Speaker Network is a vital part of WaterAid, enabling us to educate and inspire audiences across the UK and globally.

Thank you to every one of our volunteer Speakers who have given their time and energy to support WaterAid with such passion and dedication this year.

We have achieved so much together!

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Interested in volunteering as a Speaker or booking a talk?

Find out more at wateraid.org/speaker-network

Front cover photos:

- **Anjali, student and member of the menstruation video workshop in Lahan Municipality, Siraha, Nepal, 2021.**
- **Penelope, volunteer Speaker delivering a talk at St Edmund School in Maidenhead, 2020.**

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