

Amina, Tanzania

Amina is 14 years old and lives in Tanzania, east Africa. She teaches the younger children at her school in Tabora about how to use the new toilets properly.

She helps the children to put on plays, draw pictures, write poems and sing songs about the diseases, like diarrhoea, they can get if they go to the toilet in the fields.

Here, she remembers what life was like before the toilets were built in school. Then, she tells us about her typical day. >>



A group of children learning about toilets. ↑

Q&A

Hi Amina. What was life like before?

“Before, we had only three toilets which were shared by boys and girls. It was a hole in the ground and the roof was made of straw. These toilets were not good. During the rainy season I didn't like to use them because I would get wet. When it was dry there was always a bad smell.

“Then, WaterAid built two new toilet blocks in the school. These are clean and they don't smell. I don't get wet when I use them in the rainy season.”

So, you help children to stay well?

“I am in standard seven class and we have to teach children in standard one and two these things. There are no books or pictures to use to teach children about keeping clean and stopping disease, so we have to use other ways to share the message.”

How do you do this?

“We are learning through drama and singing. Children go home, and tell their parents what they have learned. They learn songs to sing at home, educating all of their family.”

What is your school like now?

“We have a better school now, and the environment is much cleaner. We can learn much more easily, and children are not sick as much because we are protecting ourselves from disease. I feel bad about other schools close by that do not have clean toilets like we do here.”



↑ The girls and boys have separate toilets now.



Tanzania

Many Tanzanian women and children spend over two hours a day collecting water, while journeys of six to seven hours are common in the central part of the country.