**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**[Insert date]**

**[Name of church] to share joy of harvest with communities across the world**

**This harvest, the congregation of xx church are joining together to share a harvest feast [inspired by the cuisine of Burkina Faso] and donating the money they make to help WaterAid bring clean water to communities around the world.**

The valuable support of xx church in xxx, and other churches across the UK, will help WaterAid transform lives in some of the world’s poorest countries through improving access to clean water– allowing farmers to grow nutritious food to feed their family.

**Xx of xx church said:**

“It’s so easy for us to take clean water and readily available food for granted, but for many it is a daily struggle to find enough water to grow crops. We hope that when our congregation celebrates harvest with a supper, we will help to transform the lives of those who struggle each day to provide for their families.”

WaterAid’s [Harvest Appeal](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest) will help families like Moustapha’s in Sablogo, Burkina Faso, where unpredictable rainfall and no reliable water source meant farming and providing for his family was almost impossible.

For Moustapha, water is life. He said:

“Our food is in the hands of water. Water is life. It’s water that makes crops grow and provide us with food. It’s also water that gives us health. We use it to do everything. Without water we can do nothing.”

A lack of access to clean water meant that Moustapha and his family relied on dreg water from a dried up riverbed close to Sablogo. The water wasn’t enough to grow the crops he needed to feed his family, it was dirty and often made his children ill. This meant his children missed school, and he was unable to provide basic things like healthy meals and new clothes.

But thanks to WaterAid supporters, a borehole has been installed in Sablogo, transforming the lives of everyone in the village. WaterAid also trained Moustapha in water management techniques helping him to farm different crops all year round. He said:

“The knowledge I have from water monitoring has improved my farming work. Before I didn’t know the right moment to start sowing. Also, we didn’t know about the use of adapted seeds, depending on the changing seasons. But now with the training and the water monitoring work, I have learnt how to supervise and pay attention to the beginning of the rainy season and the types of seeds needed to increase our luck for good production and harvest. All the farming I’m doing is to be able to get the means to take care of my family and my children.”

By joining churches across the UK, [xx church] hope to give other families across the world a harvest to celebrate.

Just £15 could provide one person with water, while £200 could train community members like Moustapha in water management.

WaterAid has a vision of a world where everyone everywhere has access to clean water and sanitation. Since 2000, 1.46 billion people have gained access to clean water. But despite such massive progress, one in nine people worldwide still do not have clean water close to home.

To find out more, and to see the resources available for churches and Sunday Schools, visit: [**www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest**](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest)

WaterAid has a range of resources to support churches, including fun Sunday School activities, all-age talks, Gift Aid envelopes, a film, a poster and fundraising tips for the whole congregation.To find out more, visit: [**www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest**](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest)

**ENDS**

For further information, interviews and images please contact Senior Press Officer Rosie Stewart at Rosie.Stewart@wateraid.org on +44 (0)207 793 4943.

Alternatively call our after-hours press line on +44 (0)7887 521 552 or email pressoffice@wateraid.org

**Notes to Editors:**

**WaterAid**

WaterAid is working to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. The international not-for-profit organisation works in 34 countries to change the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people. Since 1981, WaterAid has reached 25.8 million people with clean water and 25.1 million people with decent toilets. For more information, visit [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org), follow @WaterAidUK or @WaterAidPress on Twitter, or find WaterAid UK on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wateraid](http://www.facebook.com/wateraid).

* 844 million people in the world – one in nine – do not have clean water close to home.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* 2.3 billion people in the world – almost one in three – do not have a decent toilet of their own.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Around 289,000 children under five die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation. That's almost 800 children a day, or one child every two minutes.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Every £1 invested in water and toilets returns an average of £4 in increased productivity.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Just £15 can provide one person with clean water.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* To find out if countries are keeping their promises on water and sanitation, see the online database [www.WASHwatch.org](http://www.WASHwatch.org)
1. [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) *Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2017 update and SDG Baselines*](https://washdata.org/reports) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) *Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2017 update and SDG Baselines*](https://washdata.org/reports) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. washwatch.org [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. World Health organization (2012) Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. www.wateraid.org [↑](#footnote-ref-5)