



<http://www.wateraid.org>

What is WaterAid?

WaterAid is an international not-for-profit organisation, established in 1981, and dedicated to making clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere. Access to clean water and toilets is a human right and should be a normal part of daily life, however one in nine people on the planet still do not have access to clean water close to their home. One in three still don't have a decent toilet.

Extreme poverty cannot end until clean water, toilets, and hygiene are a routine part of everyday life for everyone. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Women waste precious time walking long distances to collect water. Young girls miss precious days of schooling or drop out of school altogether because there are no private facilities when they are menstruating.

What are the facts?

- 844 million people do not have clean water (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program Report 2017).
- 2.3 billion people do not have a decent toilet (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program Report 2017).
- 31% of schools globally do not have access to clean water (UNICEF Advancing WASH in Schools Monitoring 2015).
- Around the world up to 443 million school days are lost every year because of water related illnesses (Human Development Report 2006).
- Every minute a newborn baby dies from infection caused by a lack of safe water and an unclean environment (WHO 2015).
- Diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor toilets kills a child under five years of age every two minutes (WASHwatch.org).
- If everyone, everywhere had clean water, the number of deaths due to diarrhoea would be cut by one third (Tropical Medicine and International Health 2014).

How does WaterAid work?

By 2016, WaterAid had reached 24.9 million people with clean water, 24 million with decent toilets, and 16.7 million with good hygiene. WaterAid is effective in what they do because they convince governments to change laws; link policy makers with people on the ground; change attitudes and behaviours; pool knowledge and resources; and rally support from people and organisations around the world.



Photo: WaterAid.org

How can you help?

WASH = Water + sanitation + hygiene

Nurses and midwives know only too well the importance of clean water, sanitation, and good hygiene and are ideally placed to become WASH champions. Nurses and midwives in middle and high income countries can harness the good will in their workplaces to donate, or "adopt" a project or plan fundraising activities. The WaterAid website has great ideas for fundraising. There are also wonderful opportunities for volunteering, learning first-hand what the issues are and making a real contribution to improving the lives of other people. Nurses and midwives in low income countries can identify projects where WASH initiatives can make a difference and lobby their governments for action.



Photo: WaterAid.org