

We Are WaterAid



Who we are

We are WaterAid, an international charitable organization, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

Since we started in 1981, we've remained focused on these three essentials. Without them, people can't live dignified, healthy lives. But with all three, they can unlock their potential, break free from poverty, and change their lives for good. Children grow up healthy and strong, women and men get to earn a living, and whole communities start to thrive.



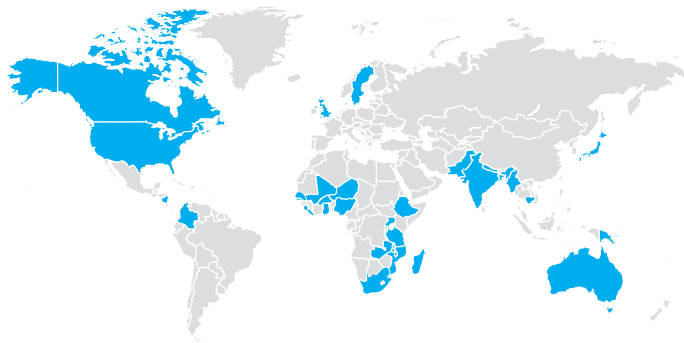
WaterAid/ Ernest Randriamalala

The facts

771 million people don't have clean water close to home. That's 1 in 10 people.

1.7 billion people don't have a decent toilet at home. That's 1 in 5 people.

2.3 billion people lack soap and water for handwashing at home. That's 1 in 3 people.



Where we work

We transform millions of lives every year, working in 28 countries across Africa, Asia, Central America and the Pacific. Offices in Canada, UK, US, Australia, Sweden, Japan and India, backed by thousands of supporters, help make this possible.



What we've achieved

Since 1981 we've directly reached **27 million people with clean water**, **27 million people with decent toilets**, and **20 million people with good hygiene**.

But that's just the beginning. To reach even more people, we:

- Demand action from governments.
- Link communities with law and policy makers.
- Change attitudes and behaviour.
- Share knowledge with others.
- Rally support for the human right to clean water and sanitation.



Now that her village has a filtered hand pump, Julia from Bangladesh has access to clean water close to her home.





Advancing gender equality through WASH

Menstrual hygiene is an essential component of women's and girls health and wellbeing. But thousands of schools, workplaces, and healthcare facilities worldwide do not have adequate sanitation facilities for women and girls to safely manage their periods. As a result, many do not attend these public places during their monthly cycle, compromising their health and putting them at a disadvantage compared to their male counterparts.

At 12-year-old Jemima's school in Papua New Guinea, both girls and boys used to use the same toilet block, which was dirty and ill-equipped for menstrual hygiene management. This made many of the girls uncomfortable during their periods and discouraged them from attending school.

With the help of WaterAid, the school now has a separate toilet block for girl students with special facilities to help them safely manage their periods. Now, Jemima and her friends can go to school with confidence.

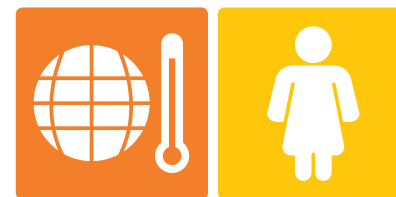


Adapting to a changing climate

Climate change is affecting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) accessibility for millions of people. Longer droughts are depleting water resources in some regions, while extreme flooding is leading to the contamination of clean water sources and the destruction of infrastructure in others. This crisis has prompted the innovation of climate-resilient WASH technologies to help communities adapt.

Parul and her family live in Khulna, Bangladesh, a region prone to frequent flooding and extreme weather events. She used to have access to a safe water source close to her home, but a series of cyclones turned this water salty and made it unsafe to drink. This forced her to travel long distances on foot for several hours a day just to find clean water.

With the help of our partners, we installed a climate-resilient rainwater harvesting system at Parul's home to collect safe, clean rainwater for the family's use. Now, they can rest assured that clean water will always be a few steps away – no matter the weather!



Get involved your way




There are loads of ways to get involved with us – take part in an event, raise funds and awareness with your community, or volunteer.

Whether you want to do something on your own, in a group, with friends and family, or with colleagues at work, we're here to support you.



Find tools and inspiration at wateraid.org/ca

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