

WASH: the facts

Water and sanitation in crisis:

- **783 million** people - 11% of the world's population - do not have access to safe water. (WHO/UNICEF)
- **2.5 billion** people - almost 35% of the world's population - do not have access to adequate sanitation. (WHO/UNICEF)
- Around **700,000 children** die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation – that's almost 2,000 children a day. (WaterAid 2012/WHO 2008/The Lancet 2012)
- The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is commonly **40 pounds**, the same as an airport luggage allowance.
- Providing water, sanitation and hygiene together reduces the number of deaths caused by waterborne diseases by an average of **65%**. (WHO)
- In the developing world as a whole, around **90% of sewage** is discharged untreated into rivers, polluting them and affecting plant and aquatic life. (UN)
- **443 million school days** are lost each year due to water-related diseases.

Water facts:

- **97.5%** of the earth's water is saltwater. If the world's water fitted into a bucket, only one teaspoonful would be drinkable.
- For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, **\$4 is returned**. (WHO)
- While the world's population tripled in the 20th century, the use of renewable water resources has grown **six-fold**. (World Water Council)
- The average North American uses **400 liters** of water every day for their drinking, washing and cooking. The average person in the developing world uses only **10 liters** every day. (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC))

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WaterAid and our work:

- WaterAid's mission is to **transform lives** by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.
- WaterAid was founded in London in **1981** and has offices in the US, Sweden and Australia as well as in the 27 African, Asian, Central American and Pacific nations where we work.
- Since 1981, we have reached **17.5 million** people with safe water and **12.9 million** people with sanitation since 2004.
- In 2010/11 we reached **1.6 million** people with safe water and **1.9 million** people with sanitation.
- WaterAid works with over **400 local partners** around the world who understand local needs. We provide our partners with funding and technical skills so that they can establish and manage affordable, accessible, sustainable water and sanitation solutions.
- We also **campaign** locally and internationally to influence policy and practice and catalyze change for the world's poorest people.
- We believe that the **needs** of vulnerable and marginalized groups – including women, the disabled, elderly and children – are a priority. Ensuring that all members of the community are actively involved in the planning, building and management of projects is vital to long-term success.