

WASH AWAY POVERTY

4 WAYS THAT WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) LEAD TO HAPPY, HEALTHY LIVES

1 ECONOMIC

WASH is a smart investment

Achieving universal access to WASH would deliver minimum global economic benefits of

\$220 billion annually.²



For every **\$1** invested in WASH, more than **\$4** is returned to national economies in increased productivity.¹



2 HEALTH

WASH saves lives

Universal access would...

Save the lives of almost

2000 children

daily who die from preventable diarrhoea.³



1/2

Halve the number of patients in hospitals in developing countries



and the cases of global malnutrition in children.⁵

3 EDUCATION

WASH helps children learn

Globally, children would spend

443 MILLION MORE DAYS

in school every year due to the reduction in water-related diseases.⁷



When sanitation facilities are available school attendance by girls increases by

11%⁶

4 WOMEN & GIRLS

WASH increases opportunities

Women and girls would get back the

40 billion hours

every year that they spend collecting water for their families.⁸



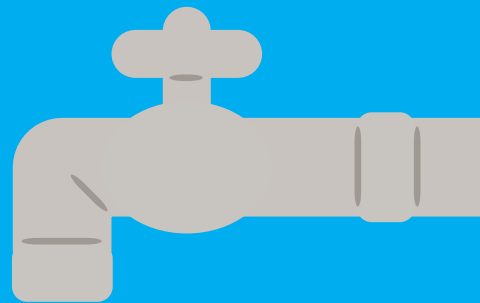
AVOID THE DANGERS

of accidents, animal attacks and sexual assaults on long journeys to find water and a safe place to go to the toilet.



To find out how you can WASH Away Poverty read our three calls to action on the back.

How you can WASH Away Poverty



The scale of the global WASH crisis is massive—2.5 billion people live without access to improved sanitation and 783 million people rely on unclean water.⁹ The absence of these basic services kills millions and costs billions.

The organisations listed below are members of the WASH Reference Group¹⁰ and are supported by hundreds of thousands of households across Australia. Our supporters want to see their elected representatives take decisive action on WASH, now.

We call on the Government to:

1 Allocate \$500 million per year to WASH from 2014/15, with at least half of this amount directed to sanitation.

When asked what would improve their lives the most, poor people prioritise access to clean water.¹¹ We know that WASH is effective in reducing poverty—it saves lives, drives economic growth, keeps kids in school and increases opportunities for women and girls. Despite these proven benefits, Australia spends only 3% of its aid program on WASH, with just 1% allocated to sanitation.¹² Australia's expenditure on WASH has declined over the last 2 years and just \$164 million was allocated in 2013/14.¹³ Increasing investment in WASH should be central to Australia's strategy for reducing global poverty and driving economic growth.

2 Integrate WASH into international health and education work.

People need access to these services not just in their homes, but also throughout their communities. WASH is crucial in schools and health centres. Without drinking water and sanitation students don't learn as effectively. Health facilities without water and toilets put lives at risk. Each year Australian aid supports the construction of thousands of schools and health facilities. Integrating WASH delivery into Australia's education and health programs will maximise value for money and improve the effectiveness of our aid program.

3 Target the most disadvantaged communities where access to WASH is lowest and the disease burden is highest.

Over the last 20 years great strides have been made in increasing access to WASH. Two billion people have been provided with clean drinking water and 1.8 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation.¹⁴ However, this progress has been uneven and massive gaps in WASH coverage remain between and within countries. Donor funding for WASH has often failed to reach the poorest. Real results will only be delivered if WASH reaches the countries, communities and individuals that need them most.

¹ G. Hutton, Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva, 2012, p. 32.

² Ibid, p. 32.

³ Estimated with data from: L. Liu et al., 'Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality: an updated systematic analysis for 2010 with time trends since 2000', The Lancet, vol. 379, no. 9832, 2012, pp. 2151-2161; and WHO, The world health report 2002: reducing risks, promoting healthy life, WHO, Geneva, 2002, p. 68.

⁴ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human development report 2006: Beyond scarcity, UNDP, New York, 2006, p. 45.

⁵ A. Pruss-Ustun, R. Bos, F. Gore and J. Batram, Safer water, better health: costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health, WHO, Geneva, 2008, p. 7.

⁶ UNICEF, Sanitation and Hygiene: A Right for Every Child, UNICEF, New York, 1999, p. 8.

⁷ Hutton, G & Haller, L (2004) Evaluation of the costs and benefits of water and sanitation improvements at the global level, WHO: Geneva, p. 29.

⁸ UNDP, Resource guide on gender and climate change, UNDP, New York, 2009, p. 32.

⁹ WHO/UNICEF, Progress on drinking water and sanitation: 2012 update, UNICEF, New York, 2012, p. 2.

¹⁰ The WASH Reference Group comprises 30 NGOs, the Australian Red Cross, academic institutions and representatives of the Australian water industry.

¹¹ In national Participatory Poverty Assessments in Zambia, Uganda, Cameroon undertaken between 1999-2001 and in Nigeria in 2008, access to safe and affordable water was the highest preference for the majority of respondents.

¹² Budget: Australia's international development assistance program 2012-13.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ WHO/UNICEF, Progress on drinking water and sanitation: 2012 update, p. 2.

For more information about what you can do to WASH Away Poverty please contact:

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