



HARVEST 2006: Water

From the Baptism service

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt
to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.
We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Some key principles (taken from the Water Aid website)

Clean water and sanitation are human rights, essential to life. Everyone in the world should have access to them close to their homes.

Water, sanitation and hygiene education are crucial for poverty reduction. They reduce illness and deaths, and free up time spent collecting water or incapacitated through sickness for education and other economic and social development.

With ultimate responsibility for water and sanitation services local and national governments must be involved in decisions concerning their provision.

Increased accountability and transparency by all organisations involved in water, sanitation and hygiene education are essential in ensuring the needs of the poor are met.

Poor people should be offered affordable and reliable water and sanitation technologies that are appropriate to their situations.

All projects should achieve long-term benefits, and as such the sustainability of water supplies, the finance and skills required for ongoing operation, and the ability to support existing and new projects are vital.

Statistics

Key WaterAid facts

- **1.1 billion people** in the world do not have access to safe water, this is roughly **one sixth** of the world's population
- **2.6 billion people** in the world do not have access to adequate sanitation, this is roughly two-fifths of the world's population
- **A child dies every 15 seconds** from water-related diseases. This amounts to nearly **6000 deaths**, or the equivalent of **20 jumbo jets crashing**, every day
- WaterAid projects providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene education cost just **£15 per head**
- The integrated approach of water, sanitation and hygiene reduces the number of deaths caused by diarrhoeal diseases by an average of **65%**
- The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is commonly **20kg**, the same as the average UK airport luggage allowance
- **2.2 million people** in developing countries, most of them children, die every year from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene
- At least **90% of drinkable water** in the world is underground. This source of water is increasingly threatened with depletion and contamination
- Since 1950 the world population has doubled but water consumption has increased six-fold
- Diarrhoea alone kills **1.8 million children** under five every year, but most cases can be prevented or treated
- It is **12%** more likely that children will attend school if water is available within 15 minutes rather than one hour's walk. **11%** more girls attend school when sanitation is available
- The simple act of washing hands with soap and water can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by over **40%**

Water use

- The average person in the **UK** uses **135 litres of water** every day
- The average person in the **developing world** uses **10 litres of water** every day for their drinking, washing and cooking. This is the same amount used in the average flush of a UK toilet
- On current trends over the next **20 years** humans will use **40% more water** than they do now
- The average amount of water needed to produce one kilogramme of potatoes is **1000 litres**, wheat is **1450 litres** and rice is **3450 litres**
- Agriculture accounts for over **80%** of the world's water consumption
- **40 billion working hours** are spent carrying water each year in Africa