

WaterDrops

Your WaterAid Canada Magazine

WINTER 2017

 **WaterAid**

Welcome to WaterDrops

Dear WaterAid Canada friends,



I've always enjoyed the opportunity to reflect at the beginning of each year. It is the perfect window from which to contemplate what we've achieved, but also to consider where we are going. As I look ahead to 2017, I can see we are perfectly positioned to celebrate the best of our collective human spirit by honoring all that we have in common. The fact that we're all made of the stuff.

Water.

Clean water to drink is such a basic human need. It breaks down the countries, cultures and kilometres between us. It's also a fundamental human right.

Yet, while there is enough water in the world to meet everyone's basic needs, 663 million people across the world struggle to have enough clean water to drink. Seeing people living without water, toilets and basic hygiene, the incredible strength and perseverance they must rally every day of their lives, has an immediate and universal impact on all of us.

It's not just water that unites us. All around the world, we see people coming together in empathy, compassion and generosity. This past year, you have shown your generosity and we are so very grateful. Because of people like you, we are making real progress.

For the first time ever, **9 in 10 of the world's people now have safe water** to drink and use for cooking washing and growing food. And more than **6 in 10 of the world's people** now have a decent toilet.

In this issue of *WaterDrops* we're delighted to tell you more about the progress we've made, and share the incredible ripple effect that bringing water, toilets and hygiene can have on a community.

As we begin 2017, let us remind ourselves that we can change history one gesture at a time, and our goal of reaching everyone everywhere with clean water and a safe decent toilet is well within reach. Let's stand up and show the world what we're made of. Together, we can continue the incredible progress we've already made.

I can't wait to see what 2017 brings!

Wishing you the very best.



Nicole Hurtubise
CEO




Did you know?

Ending the water and sanitation crisis by 2030 is an ambitious goal. But *together*, we're made of the stuff that makes history.

At the current rate of progress, we're not far off.


Every year, 78 million people are turning on a tap or using a pump for the first time. If we can reach just 8% more people a year, together we'll achieve our ambitious goal.

This is thanks to people like you – people who share our vision of a world where everyone, everywhere has access to water, sanitation and hygiene. 

Rahim Lakhoo makes history by raising \$75,000

Rahim Lakhoo was born and raised in Kenya before immigrating to Canada more than 40 years ago. Today he runs successful businesses in Calgary. In 2016, he launched a personal campaign to make history for 8,000 children attending primary schools in Nairobi, and the Siaya and Kisumu Districts of Kenya. In December 2016, he reached his goal to raise \$75,000.

"I visited some of WaterAid Canada's projects for primary schools in Kenya and was very impressed with what I saw. The harvesting of rain water to provide clean drinking water and the provision of toilets will give these children some of the basic necessities of a healthy life and will go a long way in helping them pursue their education. I will not forget watching them drink clean safe water with obvious delight," said Rahim.

The "Pledge to Be a Hero" campaign is about ordinary Canadians making a commitment to achieve extraordinary results, together. WaterAid is deeply appreciative of Mr. Rahim Lakhoo's leadership on this campaign. Thank you for sharing our vision of a world where everyone, everywhere has access to safe water and sanitation. 



Rahim Lakhoo visiting WaterAid project sites in Kisumu, Kenya with our partners KWAHO.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *WaterDrops*. Please pass it on to family, friends and colleagues.

For more stories and to join the conversation visit www.wateraidcanada.com or find us by searching for WaterAidCanada on



WaterAid Canada publishes *WaterDrops* twice yearly and welcomes letters and comments from its readers. Please address correspondence to:

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WaterAid Canada is the Canadian member of WaterAid, the world's leading water and sanitation charity. WaterAid's vision is a world where everyone, everywhere has access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Since 1981, WaterAid has reached over 25 million people with safe water and, since 2004, 24 million people with sanitation.

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Here to stay: progress in Chandaka

It's been a life-changing year in Chandaka, Malawi. A water pump was installed giving 34 households access to clean water overnight. Since then the village has gone from strength to strength.

Little over a year ago the people of Chandaka had no clean water supply, relying on dirty river water to drink, cook and wash with, and it's no surprise that it often made them ill.

But now, thanks to your support, and a simple feat of engineering, the residents of Chandaka have joined the 90% of the world's population who have access to clean, safe water. Life has changed for them in more ways than you could imagine.

Clean water means better health. It means time and energy for jobs and education. It means enjoying the simple pleasures in life. The good effects are here to stay for generations to come.

Meet some of the proud residents of Chandaka and hear their hopes and dreams for the future.

**“We had to
make sure the
borehole was here
to stay!”**



**Zione Petulo, 20, with her daughter
Flora Mwamulima, 2 years 8 months,
in the village of Chandaka.**

“We used to spend a lot of time at the stream. Married couples would fight about whether their partners had other partners, just because of the time they were spending there!

We would go to the hospital and everyone would identify us as people from Chandaka village. We were [frequent] customers there because of diarrhea. Big customers!

As a child I suffered from cholera so I had to leave school. It was very painful for me because now my friends who finished are doing better. My daughter's life will be very different. She will not have to experience cholera, and if she doesn't get educated, it won't be for lack of water.

When the borehole was put in, we celebrated the whole night. We didn't sleep because we were afraid they might take it back. We had to make sure the borehole was here to stay!”

One simple change – a borehole –

“The borehole has made a big difference to my businesses.”

“I look back and think, I wish this type of life started a long time ago.”



Zuzeni Chibweza is 38. He is a brick maker in the village of Chandaka.

Kestina drinks clean water at the pump in the village of Chandaka.

“The borehole has made a big difference to my businesses. One of the things that I have done is growing tomatoes at the end of the borehole so that the water feeds them.

Previously we would have stopped making bricks from August because we couldn’t find water. Now we are able to make bricks all year round. It helps me generate money to buy things like soap.

Whoever is alive 20 years from now is going to live a really good life in this village. Life will have changed a lot because there is time to do a lot more than just thinking about water.”

“We moved here in 1984, because of the big river running near the village. But as time passed the river started to go dry and we would find snails, reeds and other things in it.

When we were told that the contractors were coming to drill we couldn’t sleep – we watched the four trucks arrive and didn’t move an inch until they reached water.

Now because everyone in the village is fit, it feels like we’re taking medicine, but the actual medicine is the clean water we are taking from the borehole!

Now I can bathe at any time. These days when I bathe and dress myself nicely I feel content. I look back and think, I wish this type of life started a long time ago.”

has achieved real progress in so many areas of life for the people of Chandaka. 

Talking about my generation

Family portraits from across the world show progress resulting from access to water and sanitation

From chickens and cows to motorbikes, rubber shoes and radios – a special gallery by WaterAid reveals the items generations of families from across the world say represent the progress made in their lives as a result of access to water and sanitation.

WaterAid interviewed and photographed families internationally and found that families across the world share a common bond despite the communities, countries and continents between them.

The photos were released as part of WaterAid's 'Made of the same stuff' campaign, which celebrates the progress that has been made over the last 35 years in providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene to some of the world's poorest and most marginalized communities.

Today, 6.7 billion people across the world now have access to clean water and 2.1 billion more people now have a decent toilet than in 1990.

In Malawi, access to water led to improved health for local farmer, Rafiq Moyenda, 26, and his family (pictured above). It also means Rafiq has had more time to invest in business; opening a popular barbershop and grocery store in his village, and even buying a motorbike, to help him with his business. He says:

"Our way of life greatly improved. Our economic status improved as my wife would bake doughnuts which brought us

more money. Our daughter, Fortune, stopped suffering from diarrhoea and her school studies improved."

When Batuli Nagarkoti, 72, (pictured on page 5 with three generations of her family in the Lalitpur district of Nepal) was younger she used to get up at 3am to collect water, otherwise she would risk missing out. She says:

"Sometimes just to fill a Gagri [a water vessel] of water, I had to wait for hours because the people who came earlier would take all the water from the well and I had to wait until the well was filled again."

There was no toilet in the community and everybody used to defecate on open ground.

"There used to be faeces everywhere", remembers Batuli, "People defecating on the roadside was common. Diarrhea was a very big problem during those days and there were many cases of malnutrition."

For Batuli's granddaughter, Salina Nagarkoti, 21, life is very different from the one described by her grandmother. She says:

"Hearing my grandmother talk, I feel very lucky. I never had to struggle for water in my life. The tap-stand was at our home and we had water all the time. We also have a toilet at home. When I hear my father talking about people defecating by the roadside, I feel kind of embarrassed and sad as well."



“Hearing my grandmother talk, I feel very lucky. I never had to struggle for water in my life.” ▲

Salina Nagarkoti, 21 (left), pictured with her grandmother Batuli Maya Nagarkoti, 72 (centre) and brother Arun Kumar Nagarkoti, 18 (right) and parents (back, left to right) Bimala Nagarkoti, 42 and Aanand Kumar Nagarkoti, 45. Lele, Lalitpur, Nepal.

Musingo Edirisa, 60, is from Kidula village, in Uganda. He and his wife Wanyenze Hajara have 14 children – eight boys and six girls – all of whom are now adults.

Musingo says: “We used to collect water that ran from the nearby Wanale hills and many people would get sick, due to that water. In the nineties, safe water arrived in our village. I was Secretary for Mobilisation and I was involved in laying pipes. Many people worked for free because they wanted safe water.”

It is not just the arrival of water that has changed life for many people in Kidula village. Musingo explains:

“Communicating to people beyond your village used to be very difficult. To make a death announcement on Radio

“Our village is now modern. I have two cows. At home we drink milk and we have enough food to eat and coffee to sell for an income.” ▼

Musingo Edirisa, 60, with two of his grandsons in Kidula village, Uganda. Musingo has seen huge progress in Kidula village throughout his lifetime.



Uganda you had to travel far to Mbale District headquarters, then the announcement would be taken to Kampala over 200 kilometres away. Today there are many radio stations all over the district.

“In 2014, I got electricity in my house and also bought my television and music set. Our village is now modern. I have two cows. At home we drink milk and we have enough food to eat and coffee to sell for an income.”

For more information about the WaterAid “Made of the Same Stuff” campaign, visit www.wateraidcanada.com/madeof. ♻️

Progress at school in Kenya



Kangemi Primary School now has several water taps at selected spots – three by the boys’ toilets, six by girls’ toilets and 12 external handwashing facilities. The toilets have also been rehabilitated to be easily cleanable and disability friendly.

“What the KWAHO/WaterAid Canada project did in this school was not just bringing water and clean toilets. It set in motion a change process of which taps and toilets were only the

beginning,” said Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs. Victoria Kioko at Kangemi Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya. “The students are motivated to participate in several extra curricular activities now. They like their school so much you see students coming to school even when school is closed because it’s better and more child friendly than their own neighbourhoods. And now the results are showing.”

**Brenda, 13,
front row right, is an
eighth grade student
and senior member of
the health club.**

Kangemi Primary School,
Westlands, Nairobi,
Kenya.



Inspiration in Madagascar

Recently, Adam van Koeverden, Canadian World and Olympic Champion sprint kayaker visited Madagascar and spent a day in the field with WaterAid Madagascar. He visited two communities; Tsarafangitra (a village where WaterAid hopes to install water taps early next year) and Belavabary (a village that received four water points and toilets at the school and health centre, their first in the community).



Here is a story from Adam's visit.

Madagascar is famous for its unique wildlife, the cartoon movies that bear its name, and for vanilla. Ninety per cent of all of its plant and animal species are native to Madagascar, meaning they are found nowhere else on Earth. It's the fourth largest island in the world and the world's principal supplier of vanilla and cloves. Thanks to French colonialism, it is also home to really good pastries and baguette.

But what really sets Madagascar apart from the rest of the world? Over half of its 22 million inhabitants don't have access to safe drinking water, and 90% don't have access to proper sanitation or a toilet. The definition of "access to safe water" might surprise you, it shocked me. Access means that water is within a 30 minute round trip, not in your kitchen or bathroom. What that means is that about 12 million people in Madagascar alone have to go farther than 30 minutes to find safe water.



This is Raoly. During my visit, she was eight months pregnant. Like most women in Africa, the retrieval of water is a big part of her daily routine. The closest water is about 1km away. Three or four times a day Raoly walks barefoot to the murky little spring that provides all the water for her community.

She told me about her challenges and obstacles. She's worried that her baby will come before the rainy season, or that the rain won't fill the rice paddies. She is concerned about having to make the daily water trek with her baby strapped to her back. As her family grows, so does their need for water. I asked Raoly what would make the biggest impact on her daily life. Her answer was swift and certain, "a well, we need clean water" she said, with a hopeful nod. WaterAid is currently working to bring water points to Tsarafangitra in April 2017.




I asked Raoly to take me along on one of her daily water treks. Raoly and I walked about 10-15 minutes to the local spring. This is where everyone in the community of Tsarafangitra gets their water. Water for drinking, washing, cooking, water for everything. It's not clean or cold, and the nearby ponds are totally brown and swampy. They don't have the ability to purify the water beyond boiling it. It's common practice to add clorox to drinking water in Africa, but it's relatively expensive and it's not available in Belavabary. Of all the wells and water points I've seen in Africa, this was the worst. Raoly and I filled two 20L gerry cans to the top. This is about half the water her family of four needs on a typical Saturday.

I insisted on carrying Raoly's water for her. There is a steep, treacherous hill right next to the spring that she nimbly descends and ascends many times a day, barefoot and pregnant. There's no way I will ever truly understand Raoly's hardship, but I thought if I take part in this ritual, maybe I'll gain a deeper level of sympathy for what she goes through.

It rarely takes Raoly less than half an hour return. I stopped for increasingly longer rests, as my hands ached from the little handles. These jugs are 20kg each. I stopped six or seven times for a break, Raoly smiled at me when I asked how many breaks she usually takes... "three, sometimes only two".

Raoly is an incredibly strong woman, she represents the resilience and determination of all Malagasy women.

I've had a long, fulfilling relationship with water. Not only is it my favourite drink, but as an Olympic paddler, water is a fundamental part of my life. But when I visited Madagascar, I learned something new about water, I learned what it is like for the 650 million people around the world who don't have access to safe water to drink. I learned what it is like to waste precious time walking long distances to collect dirty water.

But, I also know teamwork. And I know that if we all work together we can transform lives with safe water, one family, one village, on country at a time. 



WaterAid/Eva-Lotta Jansson

A vision within reach thanks to people like you

The generosity of our supporters, the expertise of our partner organizations, the voices and energy of our people, and the commitment of the communities we serve: this is what lies behind every WaterAid success.

You are the driving force behind everything we do, from the work on the ground, to influencing change at the highest level. Your support changes the future of communities around the world.

Thank you. Together, we're making progress, one family, one village, one country at a time.

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