

Option 2: Water for Survival

Without water, you would probably be dead within 72 hours. Each person needs about two litres of clean drinking water everyday, and more in places of high heat or humidity.

But today one in five of the world's people still do not have safe water and two in five lack even basic toilets. The diseases that result are among the most serious threats to human life. And tragically, by this time tomorrow another 4,000 children will have died from diarrhoea caused by unclean water.

Lack of clean water can also cripple the development of whole communities. The constant need to retrieve water by hand, often over long distances, creates an arduous and time-consuming drudgery, mostly for women and children. The hours and energy spent doing this is not then available for other important tasks like cultivating crops, earning income, schooling – or even having any leisure time.

The Oxfam Water for Survival programme supports work to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene education programmes for families who have never has access to a toilet or a safe source of water.

You'd be amazed to see what clean water can bring to a community. Wherever clean water flows, it brings life. As well as improving people's health, it opens up fresh opportunities for new businesses, agriculture and community projects. Here are some examples of the groundbreaking work that Oxfam100 Club support will make possible.



Clean water brings life - Alama Puna, age 5 (Samoa)



Grace Joachim collects water for cooking from an Oxfam tap stand in Poisinami village (Central Bougainville, PNG)

Safe water for Bougainville

On Bougainville, a remote island province of Papua New Guinea, a decade of armed conflict left tens of thousands dead – and whole communities displaced and traumatised. Even now, more than 12 years later, the long-term effects on the island's infrastructure are still visible.

In a country where few people have any choice but to carry water long distances – and where an almost total lack of toilets leads to open defecation – safe water systems and toilets are desperately needed.

We are bringing tap-stands fed by simple gravity systems to 15 villages in Central and North Bougainville. Access to clean water and improved sanitation will not only prevent sickness and disease – especially in children – but provide a basis to rebuild lives and communities.

\$30,000 here can supply the materials for a gravity-fed system to provide an entire community with safe water.



Soclastica, 6, enjoys a wash under an Oxfam shower stand (Central Bougainville, PNG)

Spreading the clean water message in Vanuatu

In rural areas of Vanuatu most people have only intermittent access to clean water and very few have basic sanitation facilities.

Oxfam is supporting the hygiene and sanitation educational work of the Vanuatu Rural Development and Training Centres Association. We are also helping communities set up tanks to harvest rainwater and building toilets at the training centres, both for the centres themselves and as model systems to teach others how to install and maintain them.

Oxfam has played a key role in the development of the 10-year Vanuatu national water strategy. Launched in August 2008, it provides a framework for ensuring that all people in Vanuatu have access to clean, safe and sustainable water supplies.

\$4600 here can provide a Rural Training Centre with a toilet and water tank to collect clean rainwater for the whole community.



Since the construction of Napil Rural Training Centre, collecting water has been much easier for Rose (Vanuatu)

Battling disease in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

Much of Papua New Guinea's population lives in small, remote communities where less than 15 per cent of the families have adequate sanitation facilities, such as a safe toilet.

Most rural schools have no toilet. Teachers and children have to defecate in the long grass surrounding the school, or in unhygienic, dilapidated pit latrines. Poor sanitation and hygiene can lead to the spread of deadly waterborne illnesses, keeping children home from school and putting them at serious risk.

Since 2004, Oxfam has been working with local partner Appropriate Technology (AT) Projects to equip rural schools with simple, affordable toilets that are easy to construct and maintain. These latrines are reducing the health risks for more than 16,000 children.



Providing toilets for primary schools greatly reduces the spread of disease among children

\$4500 here can equip a rural school in PNG with 6 toilets, preventing the spread of deadly disease.



New toilets for Kintinu school in PNG, constructed with help from Oxfam

A bucket of hope for Georgefree

Bougainville's bitter nine-year conflict has been reported to have caused more deaths per head of population than any other conflict of the 20th century. In the aftermath of this great tragedy, communities and families are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

Sylvia Miorira, like 80 per cent of her country, does not have access to clean water. She walks for many hours each week down steep tracks and then home again with a 30-litre jerry can of water strapped to her back. The journey is backbreaking and dangerous: "It's very slippery when it rains," she tells us.

And even with the water home safely, it's not always clean. Her son, Georgefree, is often sick with life-threatening water-borne diseases like diarrhoea.

Yet, he is fortunate. Children are extremely vulnerable to these diseases – with one dying every fifteen seconds around the world. And even worse, many die within just hours.

Oxfam's Water for Survival programme is tackling this critical survival issue with solutions that are tailored to local needs. In Bougainville this means accessing springs or clean streams, installing header tanks and tap stands, and most importantly, building simple toilets to stop the spread of disease.

As well as all this construction, we also educate mums like Sylvia about the importance of using soap, and promote safe hygiene practices in homes and schools.

Will you lead the way with clean water to save lives?



Sylvia Miorira and her son Georgefree (4) carrying a 30-litre jerry can of water collected from the creek. A water system will benefit the whole village (Donsiro Village, Bougainville, PNG)

For further details and financial information call Lettie Bright on 09 355 7410.