



THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA

Water Sanitation & Hygiene

The Issue

In Australia, we often take for granted the fact that when we turn on the tap, clean water will flow; but for millions of people around the world, it's not that simple. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (often shortened to the acronym "WASH") is essential for healthy living, yet millions worldwide lack access to these basic services. 771 million people around the world lack clean water, 1.7 billion lack proper toilets, and 2.3 billion do not have the facilities to wash their hands at home.¹ In many countries, the responsibility of water collection falls to women and girls, and they spend more than 30 minutes every day collecting water.²

Ensuring universal access to WASH improves physical health, reduces the spread of diseases like diarrhea, cholera and typhoid, and boosts overall wellbeing. It also supports education by lowering absenteeism, particularly among girls, and drives economic growth by enhancing productivity and reducing healthcare expenses. The Salvation Army Australia provides support to ensure WASH is available to many people in developing countries.

Case Study

Fourteen-year-old Victoria no longer misses school due to water-related health issues or having to walk long distances to collect water. "I used to be punished for being late before the borehole was installed by The Salvation Army. Now, I am a star at school," Victoria says with a smile.

Victoria's mother, Beatrice, recalls that she and others felt unsafe walking to find water. She says, "I used to walk [a long distance]... in search of water. This was terrible as it affected my

¹ Water Aid, (2023). What is WASH. [Link](#).

² World Health Organisation. (2025). 1 in 4 people globally still lack access to safe drinking water – WHO, UNICEF. [Link](#).



marriage [because I was away from home] and my health, and on top of that, I was exposed to exploitation and abuse from other men as I used to go outside my compound before sunset in search of water." She adds, "I no longer walk long distances, and we are safe from water-related diseases. Thank you, Salvation Army, for providing safe water for our village."

How can I get involved?

- **Give.** Help end poverty through gifts that empower individuals and whole communities. They make great presents for your loved ones and give hope and possibility to people overseas. You can buy one of these gifts or view the full range of life-changing possibilities [here](#).
- **Raise funds.** Organise a school, church or community fundraiser to support WASH projects.
- **Support** programs that promote global access to clean water and sanitation.
- **Protect** our shared resources by using water wisely at home.

For more information...

- [Goal 6 - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Support Health - The Salvation Army International Development](#)