

Today, in some countries, it is still not easy to get water and many people don't have proper toilets. This can cause illness and disease.

Anglian Water provides a vital service to our customers. Without access to clean, safe water, life would be very difficult.

No water

In this country we can easily get water. We just turn on our taps. But in some countries it's not that easy. People in Africa walk an average of 8 kilometres to get their water, carrying buckets as heavy as an average suitcase (20 kilograms).



Dirty water

One sixth of the world's population does not have access to clean, safe drinking water and has to drink dirty water from rivers or open wells! These people know this water is polluted but, often, they have no other choice.



And want to spend a penny ... no toilet?

We take our toilets for granted. 40 per cent of the world's population currently do not have a proper toilet that gets rid of human waste products in a safe and hygienic way. This means that germs and diseases like **cholera** can spread quickly.

Flushing toilets like we have at home help keep us safe from germs and disease.



Illness and disease

Today cholera, an extremely deadly disease, is very rare in this country. However, in the developing world, the lack of toilets and the number of people still drinking dirty water means that many people still become ill.

There are many different types of illness, including:

- Typhoid
- Dysentery
- Diarrhoea

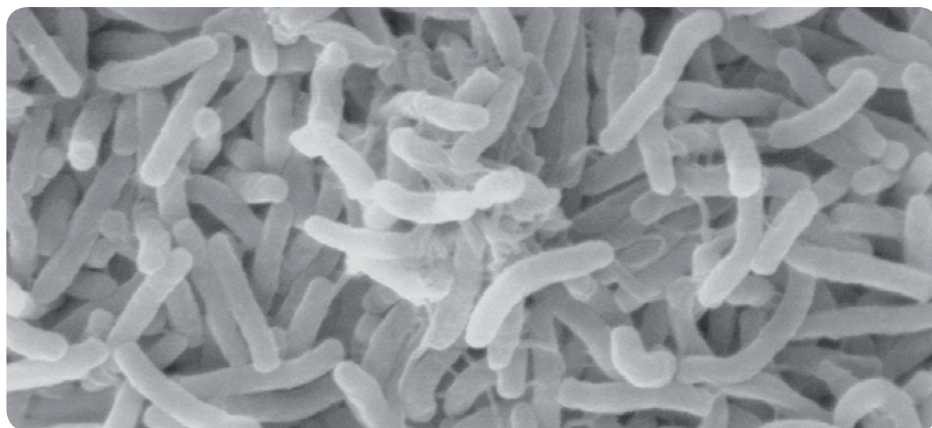
Cholera is a dangerous disease which damages the intestine and can cause a person to lose up to 15 litres (25 pints) of fluid a day.



What can we do to help?

The charity WaterAid works with people and communities in developing countries, helping them build and maintain their own water supplies and toilets. They also educate people about the importance of good hygiene in helping prevent the spread of disease.

WaterAid is Anglian Water's recognised charity and in 2007 we donated £40,000 to help their work. There are many other charities that work in the developing world and all of them rely on donations of money to carry out their work. Perhaps you could think about organising an event to raise money for people who need clean water and toilets.



 Cholera bacteria viewed under a microscope

To find out more about the work WaterAid does in the developing world, check out www.wateraid.org

Activity 11

Water and sanitation in the developing world



What do you think life is like for children in the developing world?

Research activity

Use the WaterAid website, www.wateraid.org/splash_out, to meet Chandra and Amina, two children who can tell you all about life without water and toilets.

See if you can use the information on the website to answer the questions about them below.

Learning objective:

To use the internet to help research life in the developing world.

You will need:

- A computer with access to the internet
- A pen

Problems for children

The answers to these questions can be found in the 'Facts' section of the website. Click on the words which are underlined to find out more information.

- 1 Can you give two reasons why it is bad for children to be responsible for the collection of water?

- 2 Why is it important to have decent toilets at school?

- 3 How is the illness diarrhoea spread?

- 4 What percentage of children in Zambia die before they are five? How does this compare with children in the UK?

Amina



- 1 How old is Amina? _____
- 2 Where does Amina live? _____
- 3 What two reasons does Amina give for not going to school much before WaterAid started work in her village?

- 4 What often makes Amina and her friends ill?

- 5 How far does Amina have to walk to fetch water for her family?



Chandra

- 1 How old is Chandra? _____
- 2 Where does Chandra live? _____
- 3 WaterAid has built a new handpump in Chandra's village.
How far is it from his home? _____
- 4 Why didn't Chandra like the old toilets they used to have?

- 5 Why has Chandra's mum been trained as a mechanic?

- 6 What is a composting toilet? What does Chandra's dad use the compost for?

- 7 Why do you think Chandra and his friends learn about hygiene at school?

- 8 Safe water and clean toilets have given Chandra more spare time.
What does he like to do in his spare time?
