



WATER AND POVERTY

Water is essential for human life, yet 1.2 billion people (a fifth of the world) don't have access to clean, safe water. Some 6,000 people die each day from water-related diseases. It is a crisis that is experienced by the poor and is holding back human development around the world.

In rich countries like Australia, clean water is available at the turn of a tap. There may be water shortage concerns, but children in Australia don't die for want of a glass of clean water. Young girls are not kept home from school in order to walk five kilometres to collect contaminated water from a stream.

Case Studies

Here are six stories about water from people in developing countries:



"The water is not good in this pond. We collect it because we have no alternative. All the animals drink from the pond as well as the community. Because of the water we are also getting different diseases."

Zenebach Jemel, Ethiopia

"Of course I wish I were in school. I want to learn to read and write . . . But how can I? My mother needs me to get water."

Yeni Bazan, age 10, Bolivia

"The conditions here are terrible. There is sewage everywhere. It pollutes our water. Most people use buckets and plastic bags for toilets. Our children suffer all the time from diarrhoea and other diseases because it is so filthy."

Mary Akinyi Kibera, Kenya

"They (the factories) use so much water while we barely have enough for our basic needs, let alone to water our crops."


Gopal Gujur, farmer, India


"Everyday I have to walk about four kilometres to collect water from a well. This can take a couple of hours and sometimes there is hardly any water in the well."

Zalifa, age 12, Niger


"Water collection has always been women's work. Collecting water is the most difficult part of my life."

Francisca, mother, Papua New Guinea

 **Water & Sanitation**
Let's come clean.



This year it's likely our water and sanitation aid will be half what it should be. Let's act so that 20 million more people in our region can access safe drinking water.

 **Water & Sanitation**
Let's come clean.

World Vision supporters were invited to send this postcard to their local Member of Parliament leading up to the 2007 Federal election.

For you to do

1. Study the cartoon with a partner and identify the Federal politicians and their roles in parliament.
2. Write a paragraph explaining the point or main message of the cartoon. How might this postcard be used?
3. Complete the sentences below:
 - Zenebach's water is _____ by animals drinking from the pond.
 - Lack of access to clean water has stopped Yeni continuing his _____.
 - In Mary's village, the _____ of the children is affected by the lack of safe water.
 - Girls like Zalifa often have to walk long distances to _____ water.
 - Gopal doesn't have _____ to enough water for his basic needs.
 - 6,000 people die each day from water related _____ like malaria.

access

diseases

health

contaminated

education

collect