

Killer facts on water

- 884 million (one in six) people in our world live without safe drinking water.
- Today 2.5 billion people, including almost one billion children, live without even basic sanitation.
- In the next 24 hours, diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation will claim the lives of 5,000 children, but most cases can be prevented or treated.
- When combined, water, sanitation and hygiene reduce the number of deaths caused by diarrhoeal diseases by 65 percent.
- The minimum estimated amount of safe water every individual needs to ensure their basic needs are met is 20 to 50 litres every day.
- The average person in the developing world uses 10 litres of water every day for their drinking, washing and cooking. This is the same amount used in the average flush of an NZ toilet.
- New Zealanders each use between 160-400 litres per day.
- The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their heads is commonly 20kg, the same as the average NZ airport luggage allowance.
- 40 billion working hours are spent carrying water each year in Africa.
- 443 million school days are lost due to water related diseases.
- 11 percent more girls attend school when sanitation is available.
- Oxfam projects providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene education cost on average just \$45 per head.
- Your support to Oxfam can go a long way:
 - \$10 can help provide 40kg of cement for the foundations of a water tank.
 - \$30 can help provide 6 metres of pipe for a gravity-fed water system.
 - \$100 can help provide a community with a tap stand
 - \$1500 can help provide a 9000 litre water tank

**Facts are taken from the following sources: United Kingdom Department For International Development, United Nations Children Fund, United Nations Human Development Report, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, World Health Organization, World Water Assessment Programme.*