

Ibrahim's story



The new water supply in Ibrahim Hussein's village was provided by Water Action

The water supply for Ibrahim Hussein's village in Ethiopia was provided by Water Action, which we are supporting this year through Christian Aid.

'There was no water supply here,' says Ibrahim. 'The water flowed through the grass, it was muddy. We couldn't drink it. It was too dirty.'

Water Action supplied the building materials and specialist skills, and the village provided the labour for building the water supply. Water Action is also helping the village to use their new water supply to irrigate their fields. One of Ibrahim's neighbours explains: 'Now we can grow bananas, avocados and coffee.' Another adds: 'All the training, the water management techniques, everything. The farmers go around and show other farmers how to do everything they have learned.'

'It is because of this project that we have started to drink clean water.'

Ibrahim has seen a big difference in the area: 'There are terraces now, there are trees. It's good. It is because of this project that we have started to drink clean water.'

Your gifts will enable Water Action to help other communities like Ibrahim's.



Give water for life!



Our appeal this year is supporting Water Action in Ethiopia, which is building a water supply for almost 55,000 people. Join us this year to give water and give life!

Water and Ethiopia

The people of Ethiopia face widespread poverty, food shortages and disease. Even survival can be a daily struggle. Having good access to safe drinking water is one of the highest priorities for local communities, as over 70 per cent of all diseases in Ethiopia are caused by dirty water.

Water and climate change

The UN climate summit in Copenhagen in December will decide how the world combats climate change and protects vital resources like water supplies in the decades ahead. Please campaign with Christian Aid for a Copenhagen climate deal that is effective and fair – see www.christianaid.org.uk/actnow for the latest information and actions.

Water and the millennium development goals

In 2000, 189 nations, including the UK, adopted the Millennium Declaration and its eight millennium development goals (MDGs) to meet the needs of the world's poorest communities. St Albans Diocese is working with Micah Challenge UK, part of a global network of Christians, who are campaigning to hold our government to account for the promises it has made to fulfil the MDGs.

They are calling Christians to join together across the globe, to pray, take action and speak out on the injustices of poverty. One of the targets in MDG 7, 'ensuring environmental sustainability', is to reduce by half the number of people in the world without access to safe drinking water. Water Action's work will help Ethiopia to meet this target.



Join Us

Give generously to the appeal

Pray for all those who do not have clean safe water and for those helping them

Act by joining Christian Aid's climate change campaign - see www.christianaid.org.uk/actnow and see www.micahchallenge.org.uk for many more resources

Sofia's story

Sofia Shukure has to travel six hours every day to collect water. And, despite the hard work involved in collecting it, it is unsafe and regularly makes her family sick.

Every day Sofia walks for six hours to collect water for her family. Her life will be completely transformed by a Water Action project, bringing a clean, safe water supply close to her home. She will no longer have to spend a large part of every day fetching water. 'The water tastes awful, so terrible, very bad – it tastes like cow dung,' she says. 'Everybody is ill, it is very common. This is our problem: even though it is dirty we use the water for drinking.'

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'If [the project] happens it will be good for us – our time will be saved and we will be well,' Sofia says. 'I will be able to wash my clothes and my children's clothes and I will grow vegetables. At the moment there is not enough food.'



Sofia Shukure will benefit from a new water supply provided by Water Action

Give water for life!

Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2009



Dear Friends and Colleagues

The annual Harvest Appeal has made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of people in some of the poorest parts of the world.

This year I am asking you to give generously to Water Action, a project in Ethiopia, supported by Christian Aid. This will enable people to have a regular supply of clean, piped water, which will improve their health and quality of life. It is especially helpful to the wellbeing of women, who carry most of the water.

In the scriptures water is a potent symbol of God's life giving grace. Please give sacrificially so that together we can demonstrate God's love in a practical way.

+ Alan St Albans.

Thanks to European Union matched funding, every £1 we give to Water Action will be quadrupled. So your gift of £33, for example, would be worth £132 to the project!

How your gifts can help

£5 could pay for 50 fruit trees for environmental improvement
£33 could pay for 100 metres of water pipe
£375 could pay for a cattle trough
£717 could pay for a water distribution point

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Use **Gift Aid** if you can – it will add 28 per cent to your donation at no extra cost to you. Please give via your church. A percentage of our gifts will support Water Action in Ethiopia, through Christian Aid. The remainder will support other work in Ethiopia and 25 per cent of our gifts will support Christian Aid's work around the world, including their work on climate change issues. All the money that we give to Water Action will be matched 3:1 by the European Union.

For more information, resources and where to send your donations, contact: Valerie Geldard, tel: 01727 851748, email: vgeldard@stalbands.anglican.org or see the Diocesan website: www.stalbands.anglican.org/mission

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water for life!

St Albans' Harvest

Give water for life!

Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2009