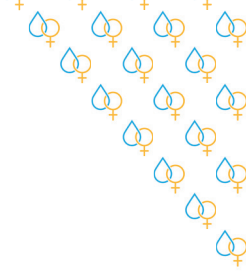




WaterAid  
**#GIRLSTRONG**

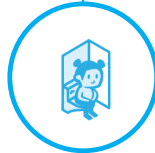


## Quick Facts: WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)

Girls around the world spend  
**152 million hours**  
every day collecting water for their  
families.



**526 million**  
women and girls  
have no choice but to suffer the indignity  
of defecating in the open.



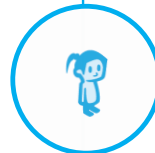
**38% of healthcare**  
facilities  
in developing countries lack access to water,  
19% don't have access to improved toilets, and  
35% don't have water and soap for handwashing.



**315,000 children**  
under-five die every year  
from diarrheal diseases caused by dirty water and  
poor sanitation.



The global economy loses  
**\$260 billion each year**  
from reduced productivity and health care costs  
associated with illness due to unsafe drinking  
water, poor sanitation, and inadequate hygiene  
practices.



Access to water  
and toilets means:

**Girls would have more time  
available to attend school.**

Women and girls will have what they  
need to **stay healthy with  
the dignity and privacy  
they deserve.**

**Survival rates would  
increase by 44% among  
newborns as a result of health care  
workers and moms being able to  
wash their hands.**

**Diarrheal deaths would  
decrease by over 30%.**

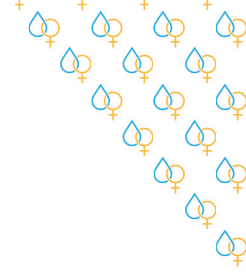
**An estimated return of  
\$220 billion to the global  
economy annually.**

**WaterAid #GIRLSTRONG**

Follow us at [wateraidamerica.org/Girlstrong](http://wateraidamerica.org/Girlstrong) Twitter and Facebook: @WaterAidAmerica



WaterAid  
**#GIRLSTRONG**



## *Promoting Global Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*

WaterAid serves millions of people in the world's poorest and most marginalized communities. Our priority is to make sure that every person on the planet has access to clean water, toilets and basic hygiene like handwashing.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services matter to everyone, but they have an especially big impact on the lives of women and girls. Without clean water, toilets and basic hygiene, girls lose time, opportunity and dignity in ways that most of us can only imagine.

WaterAid's powerful new campaign, **Girl Strong**, isn't just a story about protecting women and girls' rights to WASH —**it's a call to action for all of us.**

### **Why #GirlStrong?**

Never before has the world been so close to ending the global water and sanitation crisis. It's a fight we know can be won, but not without putting women and girls first.

**Girl Strong** offers a glimpse into the problems that many women and girls face day in and day out: the time lost to collecting water; the fear of looking for a safe place to go to the bathroom; and the struggle to maintain personal hygiene and prevent the spread of disease. But Girl Strong goes beyond the problems alone. This is a campaign that also promotes solutions, helping women and girls unlock their potential through universal access to water, toilets and hygiene services. **With full access to WASH, women and girls are empowered and can reclaim their time, safety and dignity.**

### **Threats to women and girls**

The global water and sanitation crisis will not end until women and girls have access to WASH. As primary caretakers and water collectors it's hardly a surprise that women and girls are disproportionately affected when clean water, safe toilets and basic hygiene isn't available. The result? Millions of women and girls are prevented from reaching their potential. Women and girls in the developing world carry a heavy burden to provide for their families; **but access to WASH brings social and economic transformation to communities, allowing women and girls to live the empowered lives they envision and deserve.**

### **How to get involved**

Today, the crisis will not end until we have reached all of them with WASH. **663 million people have access to clean water and 2.4 billion people have access to a toilet.** With women and girls making up about half of the world's population, there's no denying that they must be part of WASH solutions. That's why we're determined to get safe, clean water to communities that urgently need it – but it will only be possible with your help.

Join WaterAid's **#GirlStrong** campaign to help alleviate the challenges women and girls face every day. Improving access to WASH will help improve millions of lives worldwide.

**WaterAid**

Follow us at [wateraidamerica.org/Girlstrong](http://wateraidamerica.org/Girlstrong) Twitter and Facebook: [@WaterAidAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/WaterAidAmerica)