



EMBARGOED: 00.01AM THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2016

WATER FOR KIDS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE ACCESS SAFE DRINKING WATER

The international charity Water for Kids is celebrating 20 years of helping communities in low income countries to access safe drinking water.

Water for Kids was first established in December 1996 and to celebrate this landmark anniversary, Matthew Pennycook MP for Greenwich and Woolwich is hosting an event at the House of Commons today [Thursday 1 December].

The charity was originally started by Environmental Health Officers from the UK after they had worked on a cholera project in Peru. Since 2006, Water for Kids has raised an average of £60,000 every year and has provided water, sanitation and hygiene education to 154 communities in nine countries helping to transform the lives of more than 390,000 people.

The charity currently focuses their efforts on helping people in Africa, with projects mainly in Zambia and Uganda.

Peter Minhinnett, Chair of Water for Kids, said "All of the charity's projects aim to be sustainable, making use of local labour and materials and involving local communities from the outset, so that they are able to maintain installations on their own.

In the UK we take safe drinking water for granted but we are extremely fortunate, while people in low income countries are not so lucky," said Peter.

"Safe water is absolutely essential in order to lead a healthy life and through our efforts, we have improved health and education, reduced poverty and, above all, saved lives. Children have been able to attend school more regularly because there have been fewer cases of disease and safe water supplies mean communities can grow food to eat and sell and can build better homes and new classrooms more easily."

Water for Kids aims to preserve and protect the good health of children and communities in low income countries by providing safe drinking water and by improving hygiene and sanitation. In doing so, it contributes to a number of the UN Sustainable Development goals and targets improving the health and wellbeing of many communities.

Initiatives carried out in the past 20 years includes building dams making it easier for people to collect safe water from a pipe, drilling boreholes and providing hand pumps and stand-pipes, harvesting rainwater for schools and clinics, and training families to build their own toilets and tippy-taps for hand-washing.

In the coming year, Water for Kids will be completing a range of projects such as conducting a comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene education project in the village community of Mukuutu in Uganda and providing water, using solar power, to both the school and clinic in Katoba, Zambia.

Anne Godfrey, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health said "Over the last 20 years, Water for Kids has worked closely with communities to achieve sustainable water supplies and to promote better hygiene. This has been an impressive achievement and has resulted in a lasting improvement in life for almost 400,000 people."

Peter added: "I am extremely proud to be able to celebrate 20 years of Water for Kids and we hope that we can continue to help people living in low income countries to get easy access to clean, safe and sustainable drinking water long into the future."

ENDS

For more information or to request interviews, please contact Peter Minhinnett,
Phone: 07876475713 or 0116 2393061 , Email: peter@minhinnett.fsnet.co.uk

For information on Zambia projects contact Sara Emanuel (Secretary of Water for Kids)
Phone: 077905 11557 or 0208692 2467, Email: saraemanuel@hotmail.co.uk

Notes to editors

Katoba school has nearly 1,000 pupils.

The **Katoba clinic** serves a population of 11,288 and has a maternity unit where an average of 30 babies are born each month.

In Uganda Water for Kids protects at least six spring water sources every year by **building dams** and putting stones behind to filter the water. This transforms dangerous and dirty muddy ponds used as a water source, to provide clean water which is safe and easy to collect from a pipe. (Photos are available.)

Case Studies

Uganda 2014/15

- During the year a total of £27,644 was spent on several projects both in Iganga in eastern Uganda and near Mubende in Western/Central, Uganda
- The Stephen Young Memorial saw a comprehensive WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education) project in the village community of Mukuutu, south of Iganga. Visits in March 2014 and later in the year ensured this project continued providing hand-wash training for all school pupils and repairs to girls' toilets and the provision of facilities for mature girls.
- Helped approve an application from Women's Childcare & Community Development Organisation (WCCOD) to provide a new Borehole at Busanda Primary School, Luuka, where 700+ pupils and a community of 500 people had to walk 2 km to collect water
- Provided two rain water harvesting projects both in western Uganda in Mubende District

Zambia 2014/15

- During the year a total of £27,084 was spent on projects in Western Province, the Copper Belt and Lusaka area of Zambia.
- In Phase One of the project in Katoba (65km from Lusaka, the capital city) a borehole was sunk in Shamutinta Village, eight villagers were trained as pump menders and 40 were trained as volunteer Health Promoters (one for each village). The Health Promoters are now encouraging families to build latrines and tip-taps for hand washing and to practice good hygiene. Shamutinta now has a Water Committee looking after the water point and collecting fees to sustain it.
- The Water and Hygiene Education Project at Chilemba Market in the town of Chingola, Copperbelt Province. The project involved providing a borehole, water tower and water kiosk replacing the contaminated pond, which was the only water supply for this large and growing market. Also able to distribute the water to standpipes and to build hand-washing facilities for two schools nearby and to provide hygiene education to the market traders.
- A project in Mukunkiki, a sparsely populated rural area, was completed and involved the refurbishment of two broken down boreholes, provision of four water filters and training of Health Promoter volunteers, water committees and the School Health Club. The Health Promoters trained households to build latrines and tip-taps for hand washing.
 - As a result: 365 (94%) of all households have latrines, an increase from 67 in 2012; and 291 (75%) of all households have tip-taps, an increase from 5

About Water for Kids

Water for Kids is a small registered charity which aims to preserve and protect the good health of children and communities in the developing world by assisting in the provision of safe drinking water, good sanitation and other public health related measures.

Water for Kids provides safe water for the first time. It works with communities in African countries, especially Uganda and Zambia, to dig wells, protect water sources, build toilets and carry out hygiene education. This reduces the spread of diseases and improves the health and wellbeing of the whole community.

All of the charity's projects aim to be sustainable, make use of local labour and materials and involve local communities from the outset, so that they are able to maintain installations on their own.

Contact:

Emma Hill-Brookes (Administrator)
Cherry Tree Cottage
17 Main Street
Drayton, Market Harborough
LE16 8SD

Phone: 01858-565290

administrator@waterforkids.org

Website:

www.waterforkids.org.uk