

# SAMARITAN'S PURSE WATER PROJECTS

Turning on the tap to **safe water** for communities. 

**Every 24 seconds, a person in the developing world – usually a child – dies from diseases caused by polluted drinking water. But this heart-breaking issue extends even to developed countries like Canada, where water contaminated by animal waste has been a problem.**

**Through basic information and challenging activities, these junior high (grade 7-9) science resources are intended to teach students principles around water stewardship and water treatment, while adhering to government education guidelines. Learn about Samaritan's Purse's work helping families get safe water and involve your students in thinking about world water issues and how to solve them.**

## WATER FACTS

Facts about water, the world-wide water crisis, drinking water, and water-related disease.

### Did you know...

- 663 million people – approximately 11 per cent of the world's population – are forced to try to survive drinking contaminated water.
- 2.4 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.
- Less than one per cent of the world's fresh water (or about 0.7 per cent of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.
- The world's six billion people are appropriating 54 per cent of all the accessible freshwater contained in rivers, lakes and underground aquifers.
- You can survive about a month without food, but can die in as short as two days without water.
- Millions of women and children spend 16 million hours each day per round trip gathering water from far distances.
- Women in sub-Saharan African walk as far as 10 kilometers a day just to reach a polluted water source.
- Every \$1 invested in water and sanitation creates on average another \$8 in costs averted and productivity gained.

- Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, Samaritan's Purse Canada has been able to install over 260,000 BioSand Filters around the world, bringing safe water to nearly than 1.5 million people.
- Almost two in three people lacking access to safe water live on less than \$2 a day.
- The 884 million or so people in the world who live more than one kilometer from a water source often survive on less than five liters of unsafe water a day. The average Canadian uses about 330 liters – the equivalent of about three baths – at home each day.
- Here's how residential indoor water use in Canada breaks down: toilet – 30 per cent; bathing and showering – 35 per cent; laundry – 20 per cent; kitchen and drinking – 10 per cent; cleaning – 5 per cent.
- A standard toilet uses 19 liters per flush.
- One drop of oil can make up to 25 liters of water unfit for drinking.

### **Facts about water-related diseases**

- Every 24 seconds, someone – usually a child – dies from a water-related disease.
- For children younger than five, water-related diseases are among the leading causes of death.
- 88 per cent of all cases of diarrhea are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.
- BioSand Filters, installed around the world by Samaritan's Purse, remove most bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and other organisms that cause diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid fever.
- At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients with water-related diseases.
- 4,500 children die each year from diarrhea alone.
- Nothing has greater overall impact upon national development and public health than providing safe drinking water and properly disposing of human waste.
- Human health improvements are influenced not only by using safe water, but also by hygiene habits and using sanitation facilities.
- Almost half of all people in developing countries are suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation problems.
- 99 per cent of water-related deaths occur in the developing world.

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