



UNICEF Day for Change 2011: WASH for Schools in Timor-Leste



UNICEF at work

UNICEF has been working to help children and their families recover from the destruction caused by many years of conflict in Timor-Leste.

To provide children with access to safe spaces to learn and play, UNICEF is establishing **Child Friendly Schools** where children feel happy and protected to learn vital life skills.

WASH for Child Friendly Schools

A major focus of UNICEF's Child Friendly Schools project in Timor-Leste is providing children access to water, sanitation and hygiene, also known as WASH.

Did you know?

- Timor-Leste, also known as East Timor, is one of Australia's closest neighbours. Located just 650 kilometres from Darwin, it takes only 1.5hrs to fly from Darwin to the capital of East Timor, Dili.
- Timor-Leste has a population of just over 1 million people with children making up half the total population.
- 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line, making Timor-Leste one of the poorest nations on earth.
- Average class sizes in Timor-Leste are 62 students to only one teacher. In rural areas, it is as high as one teacher per 100 students.
- 6 schools out of every 10 in Timor-Leste don't have access to enough toilets for children attending school.

What is WASH?

WASH stands for access to **safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education.**

After many of Timor-Leste's water sanitation systems were destroyed during post conflict violence, today, many children don't have the access they need to clean safe drinking water and sanitary latrines when they attend school each day. **Imagine if your school didn't have separate toilets for girls, boys and teachers?**

In Timor-Leste, more than 60 per cent of schools don't have functional toilets or enough toilets for the number of students.

The major water, sanitation and hygiene related problems faced by children in Timor-Leste are:

- Limited access to safe water supply
- High workload for children as many are responsible for fetching water either from their home or nearest water source to take with them to school

- High rates of water borne diseases, like diarrhoea and intestinal parasites
- Limited hygiene education and promotion in schools

Providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities in schools helps improve children's health, increase school attendance, promotes gender equality and has a positive impact on local communities.

Where in the world is Timor-Leste?

Timor-Leste is located in the Asia Pacific region and includes the eastern half of the island of Timor, between Indonesia and Australia. It is 5,743 square miles or 14,874 sq km.



Water Facts

You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.

A 5-min shower with a standard shower head uses 100 L of water.

One drop of oil can render up to 25 L of water unfit for drinking.

An average lawn sprinkler uses more water in just one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two 5-minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes.

Of the nearly 900 million people who lack access to clean water and sanitation, over half are children.

How could your money help?

Through UNICEF *Day for Change* 2011, your school can help raise much needed funds to provide children in Timor-Leste access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities at their school. Your support will also help UNICEF educate children about the importance of hygiene, to reduce the number of children missing school due to water bourn illnesses.

\$2

can provide **one 10 litre** water container for one child to transport and store water.

\$7

is the price of **100 sachets of oral rehydration salts**, which mixed with safe water, helps children combat dehydration and diarrhoea.

\$60

can help provide **60 children** access to clean water for 40 days.

\$543

can provide a **Water Pump** for an **entire community**, reducing the time women and children spend collecting water. This increases the likelihood of children attending school.

