



“A WASH Project is a project which gives a community access to better quality water, effective sanitation and educates them in hygiene principles to improve the health of people in the community.”

WASH

Water and Sanitation, Hygiene

The heart of human health and development is sanitation and drinking water.

Global Development Group is committed to help achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including Goal #7 to “halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.”

This is a serious problem as nearly 50% of the developing world’s population – 2.5 billion people – lack appropriate sanitation facilities, and over 884 million people have contaminated drinking water sources. (http://www.unicef.org/wash/index_3951.html). Every day these problems combined with poor hygiene practices, cause sickness and death to thousands of children, and contribute to the impoverishment and reduced opportunities for thousands more.

Poor sanitation, water and hygiene have many other serious repercussions. Children – and particularly girls – are denied their right to education because their schools lack private and decent sanitation facilities. Women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water. Poor farmers and wage earners are less productive due to illness, health systems are overwhelmed and national economies suffer. Without WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), sustainable development is impossible.



PHOTO: Water for schools (J617)

Global Development Group is very experienced in Civil Society Water Sanitation and Hygiene Projects and chooses to promote biogas as a base to its sanitation initiative as it:-

- i. Is a hygienic solution producing methane gas and a clean fertilizer.
- ii. It prevents contamination of the ground water.
- iii. The gas can be used for cooking and lighting.
- iv. It normally significantly reduces the need to use wood and similar materials for fuel.
- v. It can be designed for single households up to large scale facilities of over 10,000.
- vi. We prefer to also mix in pig or cow waste. Cow waste being more applicable to Sub-Sahara countries.

Although used extensively in China, Cambodia etc, biogas using human manure has some cultural barriers to overcome in Sub-Sahara countries.

■ for more information, visit; globaldevelopment.org.au/issue-2010-01

1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER	5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION	6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES
3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN	7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY	8 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



PHOTOS: Left to right; Water Pump (J584), Toilet Construction (J213), Biogas (J89)