



Faith groups are involved in around 50% of schools worldwide and up to 70% in some countries. That's why we work with faith schools to provide cleaner water, safe sanitation and improved hygiene – transforming children's lives and creating widespread community impact.

## OUR VALUES

**Respect:** We work with all major faiths and respect and value the worth and dignity of all people.

**People-led:** We respond to people's own priorities and needs.

**Sustainable:** Our initiatives should be community-led, low-cost and practical.

**Justice:** We believe in equity, justice and a fair share in global resources for all.

**Collaboration:** We seek to work in partnership so that we may be more effective than working alone.

**Sharing:** We learn from our partners and share what we've learned so that we may support the world's poorest peoples in their efforts to improve their lives.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- More than **84%** of people describe themselves as belonging to a faith group.
- Faith groups are involved in **50% to 70%** of schools worldwide.
- The faiths own **7-8%** of habitable land on the planet, and have influence over another **15%** considered sacred.
- They are among the largest **investment** blocks on the global stock market.
- In many countries globally they enjoy high levels of **influence** and **trust**.



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Picture credits: Front: Gary Edenfield; Inside from left, Bart Verweij/World Bank; Dan Lundmark; Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education; Humanitarian & Development Partnership Team, Central African Republic. Back: International Food Policy Research Institute, Mary Bellekom/Faith in Water



Working with faith schools  
to improve water, sanitation  
and hygiene for children  
and communities



## ABOUT FAITH IN WATER

Faith in Water works with faith communities and secular groups to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for the world's poorest people.

It grew out of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, which was founded in 1995 to help the world's major faiths develop environmental programmes based on their own beliefs and practices.

Faith groups are involved in at least 50% of schools worldwide. Faith in Water was set up with two aims:

- To **INSPIRE** faith communities to focus more on water, sanitation and hygiene in their teachings and practices.
- To broker partnerships between faith groups and secular groups working on WASH for lasting community **IMPACT**.

*'You have the trust. Indeed, you have the trust of more people than any other national and international organisations'*

– Mounkaila Goumandakoye, UNEP's Regional Director for Africa, on faith groups, 2012



## WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Around 2.4 billion people lack adequate sanitation facilities and 663 million people do not have clean drinking water. Children are particularly affected. Diseases related to dirty water and inadequate sanitation:

- **Are the second biggest killer of children aged under five worldwide;**
- **Cause 20% of deaths and years of illness among children aged under 14;**
- **Result in children missing 272 million days of school per year due to diarrhoea.**

## WHY WORK WITH FAITHS?

Faiths are the biggest organised element of civil society and, in many countries, the most influential and trusted. More than 84% of people say they belong to a faith.

Water and cleanliness play a major role in belief and practice in many faiths. Linking practical action to people's deeply-felt beliefs provides a powerful motivation to create **lasting behaviour change** that results in **transformational community impact**.



## NEW PUBLICATION

Working with ARC, the WASH in Schools Mapping website and UNICEF, Faith in Water has produced a new publication, **Putting Cleaner Hands Together**, which looks at how faith and secular groups can work more effectively together.

The publication was launched at the Water & Health Conference at the University of North Carolina in the US in October 2015.

