

THE FECAL ORAL ROUTES.

How do germs get to our mouth?



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

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2017**



Our vision: A world in which everyone has life-giving clean water and the dignity of decent sanitation and good hygiene.

Our mission: To inspire faith communities to prioritise clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene in their teachings and practices.

To help build partnerships between religious and secular groups working in WASH for lasting community impact.

2017 in review: new projects & fundraising

This has been a busy and exciting year for Faith in Water which saw us develop new projects, relationships and partnerships.

We launched a major new programme working with faith groups on menstrual health in Uganda and were delighted when this was awarded a £245,000 Community Partnership grant by UK Aid Direct for our Dignity for Girls project aimed at Christian and Muslim schools.

This was a significant endorsement of our programme and approach and we look forward to delivering this highly innovative project in partnership with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, A Rocha Uganda, Humanitarian Efforts and Relief Uganda, and Energising Solutions Uganda.

This is the first of its kind to engage Christian and Muslim groups in implementing menstrual hygiene management policies and practices in their schools. It begins in 2018 and will involve 18 Christian and Muslim schools.

We also developed projects on a faith-based approach to

Faith in Water is a UK-based charity that works with faith communities to bring clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene to the world's poorest peoples. We are a secular organisation and work with all the major faiths.

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Why work with faiths?

- 84% of people worldwide say they belong to a faith.¹
- Faiths are involved in at least 50% of schools worldwide.²
- Faiths also play a major role in informal education through youth groups, madrassas and Sunday schools. For example, Ethiopia has six million young people enrolled in Orthodox church Sunday schools.
- Faiths are trusted as a leading source of wisdom, information and authority in many parts of the world.³
- Water and cleanliness have spiritual significance in many faiths, offering opportunities to link practical action to deep-felt beliefs.

References on back page



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water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) education in Indonesia and Bangladesh, linking up with UK-based NGO Global One to engage Christian and Muslim groups in those countries.

The aim was to look at how effective using a faith-based approach can be in disseminating knowledge and catalysing action around WASH.

We developed toolkits for Christian communities integrating practical information on WASH with Biblical texts highlighting the spiritual significance of water and cleanliness, prayers and sermons, and containing specific country information. Global One did the same for Muslim communities.

They were translated into Bahasa Indonesia and Bengali, and training was provided to local priests, head teachers, women's group and youth group leaders and parish leaders, who then went on to train other members of their faith community.

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Indonesian children, by Pepulih/Faith in Water

Our background

Faith in Water developed out of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), founded in 1995 by HRH Prince Philip to help the world's religions develop environmental programmes based on their own core teachings, beliefs and practices.

Faith in Water grew out of a six-year ARC project working with faith schools in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015 it was established as an independent organisation focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in faith schools and communities.

We focus on faith-schools because of the huge role played by the faiths in education and because schools are a gateway into the wider faith community. We work with all the major faiths and are not affiliated to any one faith.

What we do

- We develop education resources that show how taking action on WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) can be a practical expression of a faith's sacred teachings.
- We deliver WASH training to faith schools and the wider community.
- We work with partners to improve WASH facilities in schools and communities.
- We help organisations work more effectively with faith groups, to build powerful partnerships for lasting community impact.
- We are developing menstrual health toolkits for faith schools to empower girls to manage their menstruation safely and with dignity.



Bangladeshi children, by Faith in Water

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In Indonesia, Christian and Muslim groups came together to share their experiences in an interfaith workshop; it was fascinating to hear the different approaches that each community had taken.

2017 was also a year of networking and partnership development. This included:

- taking part in debates on the role of faith-based organisations and WASH at World Water Week, in Stockholm, Sweden in August;
- participating in the Faith in Finance meeting in Zug, Switzerland, organised by ARC in November; and
- attending the International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD) meeting at Wilton Park in the UK in November.

We also moved into new office premises in 2017 and expanded our team by appointing a fund-raiser to help secure our future.

‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.’

– Matthew 25:35 (Christianity)

‘Surely Allah loves those who turn much (to Him), and He loves those who purify themselves.’

– Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayah 222 (Islam)

‘O son of Kunti, I am the taste of water, the light of the sun and the moon, the syllable ‘om’ in the Vedic mantras.’

– Japji Bhagavad Gita 7:8 (Hinduism)

‘Air is the Guru, Water the Father and Earth is the Great Mother of all.’

– Japji Sahib (Sikhism)

Our values

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

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

Sustainable: Our initiatives must meet the needs identified for as long as those needs exist and should be community-led, low cost and practical.

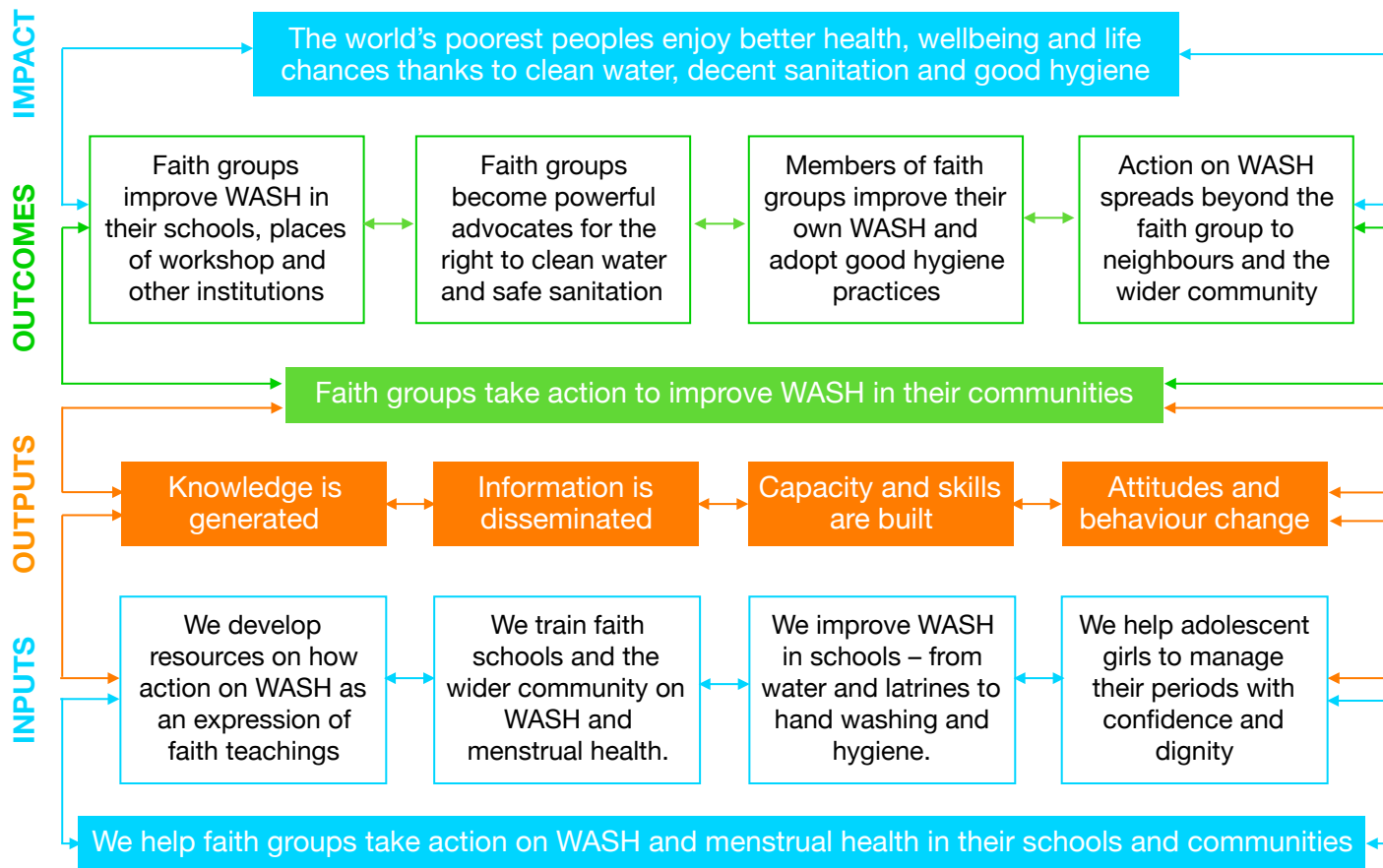
Integrity: We will act with integrity and professionalism at all times.

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

Collaboration: We seek to work in partnership with others so that we may be more effective.

Sharing: We aim to 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.

How Faith in Water works



Credits from page 4:
1 Pew Forum (2012),
The Global Religious
Landscape
2 USAID (2013)
Faith, Water and
Development
3 BBC (2005) World
Service/Gallup
International Poll:
Who Runs Your
World



Indonesian children, by Pepulh/Faith in Water

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