



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

Annual Review 2016

Our vision: A world where 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.

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



A year of laying foundations and developing partnerships

Welcome to this introduction to Faith in Water and our first Annual Review. It is one year since Faith in Water officially launched at the UNC Water and Health conference in October 2015 and a great deal has been achieved in that time.

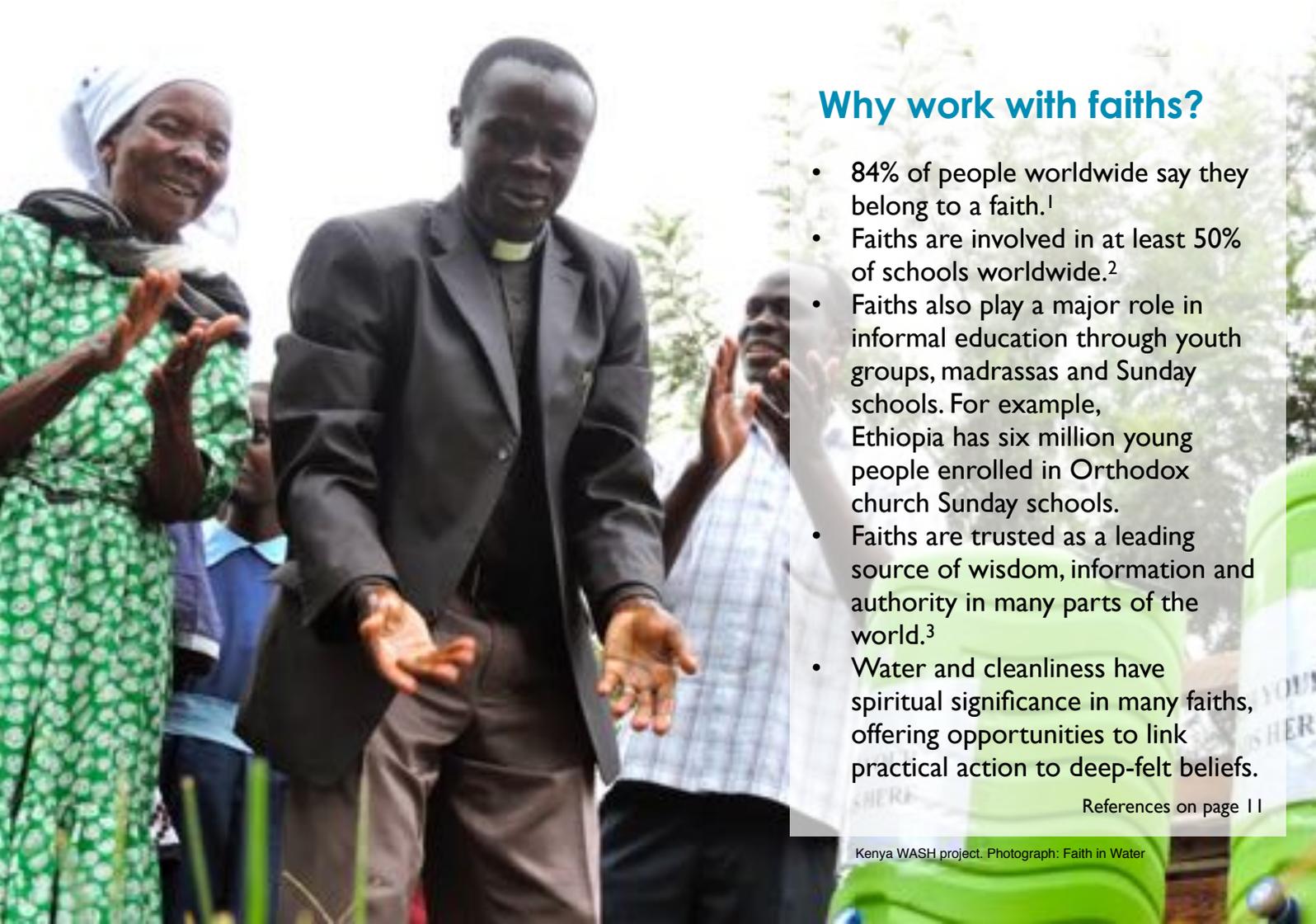
We've forged partnerships with faith and secular partners, we've delivered faith-based WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) training and we've developed education resources on WASH and on menstrual health for faith schools.

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

Clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene are vital to life, health, wellbeing and dignity. We are committed to doing all we can to walk in partnership with those who need us most.



Uganda schoolgirl. Photograph by Faith in Water



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.

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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 work with UNICEF and our US partner, New Psalmist Baptist Church, to map activities on WASH globally through the washinschoolsmapping.com website.
- We are developing menstrual health toolkits for faith schools to empower girls to manage their menstruation safely and with dignity.

‘And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.’

– Matthew 10:42 (Christianity)

‘The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, ‘The key to Paradise is prayer – and the key to prayer is cleanliness.’

– Sunan At-Tirmidhi 4 (Islam)

‘Hail, Water, ye bring health and bliss: ye help us to energy. That we may look on great delight!

– The Samaveda, 9:2:10 (Hinduism)

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.

First year overview

- Establishment of our Bristol office in March 2015
- Appointment of Trustees, development of Faith in Water constitution and policy materials
- Development of Faith in Water website (www.faithinwater.org) and publicity materials
- Launch of Faith in Water at the Water and Health Conference, North Carolina, USA, October 2015
- Launch of *Putting Clean Hands Together* in collaboration with UNICEF
- Acceptance as a registered charity (no 1164290) by the UK Charity Commission, November 2015
- Attendance at the Partners for Change: Religions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development meeting, February 2016.
- Launch of menstrual health project in Uganda
- Development of menstrual health resources for faith schools in Uganda
- Launch of faith-based WASH project in Indonesia

Photograph by 酷哥哥



Overview continued

- Development of Christian WASH resources for Indonesia
- Training of Trainers' WASH workshop held in Indonesia in September 2016
- Development of partnerships and signing of MoUs with faith and secular groups
- Poster Presentation at the 5th Annual Virtual Conference on Menstrual Hygiene Management in WASH in Schools, Oct 2016
- Attendance of MHM in Ten meeting, New York, October 2016
- UNICEF partnership on the WASH in Schools Mapping website transferred from ARC to Faith in Water

Key areas of focus

Menstrual health: There is growing understanding of how girls' health, wellbeing and education are affected by problems, from practical difficulties to fear of stigma and ignorance. We are developing the first faith-based menstrual health toolkit for Christian and Muslim schools in Uganda to:

- Teach girls (& boys) about this natural biological process.
- Give girls the information they need to manage their own menstruation safely and with dignity.
- Provide appropriate toilet facilities and support for girls.

The toolkit has been strongly welcomed by faith groups and the Ministry of Education in Uganda. It will be published in early 2017. We see great potential for expansion of this unique approach to other countries and faiths.

Uganda workshops: As part of developing the MH toolkit we held the first consultations of Ugandan faith groups in April 2016 with nine menstrual health workshops for 162 schoolgirls, 115 members of faith women's groups,

and 83 faith leaders, teachers and educationalists. Faiths recognised the importance of this issue to girls' education and wellbeing, and strongly endorsed the idea of the faith-based MH toolkit.

What schoolgirls told us

62% say school toilets are dirty, crowded and have no water

46% fear being mocked or teased by boys

56% can't afford to buy sanitary products

40% are not taught about menstruation

WASH education resources: Water and cleanliness play a significant role in the teachings of almost all the major faiths. Faith in Water is developing WASH education resources that help a faith to link its spiritual teachings with practical action to ensure faith schools and communities prioritise clean water, safe sanitation and good hygiene.



Menstrual health workshop participants, Uganda



Faith in Water partnered with UNICEF to develop *Putting Clean Hands Together*, which looks at out how faith and secular groups can work better together. It examines water and cleanliness in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism. It was launched at the UNC Water and Health Conference in October 2015.

Indonesia WASH project: We are working with the Catholic communities in Indonesia to deliver faith-based WASH education for the first time. This is the first time the communities have considered issues around water, sanitation and hygiene.

We have developed WASH education resources in Bahasa Indonesia, and in September 2016 trained members of PEPULIH (an association of Christian environmental activists), heads of Catholic schools and representatives of the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, women's organisations and orphanages.

A further workshop was held in October 2016 for women and student leaders, teachers, parish leaders, religious sisters and VIVAD, a group of 12 religious congregations. Participants came from Jakarta, Bogor, Bekasi, Kutoarjo, Surabaya, Central Java, West Java, East Java and East Nusa Tenggara. In total, participants have committed to share the material with 3,852 people.

In early 2017 Catholic participants will come together with Muslim groups working in WASH to share what they have learned. We see great potential for follow up and expansion of this project.

Looking ahead

An excellent foundation has been laid in our first year of operation. We have established our key activity areas and begun building a track record of what we offer, further developing our unique offer while also building on our previous six years of experience of working with faiths at ARC.

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

Photograph by Faith in Water, Kenya WASH project

Future priorities

Our priorities in 2017-18 include:

- Completing the Uganda faith-based menstrual health toolkit and taking the initiative to other countries and faiths.
- Building on the excellent beginning made in Indonesia and expanding the faith-based WASH education project.
- Engaging Christian communities in Bangladesh in WASH education and bringing Christian and Muslim groups together to share experiences.
- Continuing to build our profile with faith communities and secular WASH groups.
- Continuing to develop partnerships.
- Joining the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development.
- Expanding our team in order to be more effective in what we do.



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