



ASSEMBLY OUTLINE

SECONDARY SCHOOL

AIMS

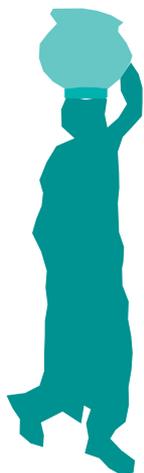
- ◆ To explore and understand the global issues relating to access to clean water.
- ◆ To consider what can be done and is being done to solve the problems
- ◆ To find out how The Salvation Army is helping communities to have access to clean, safe water,
- ◆ To introduce the WATERSHED campaign and encourage people to get involved.

RESOURCES

- ◆ Assembly PowerPoint presentation
- ◆ *Water is Life* Video (from the ACTION PACK)
- ◆ *Nawoitong School Case Story* Video (from the ACTION PACK)
- ◆ One small drinking bottle of dirty water... make this by adding some chocolate powder into the bottle and shaking!
- ◆ Some large bottles of clean water, to illustrate quantities of water
- ◆ There are a number of fun starter activities in the Secondary Lesson Outline that could also work well with a younger year group in an assembly.

CURRICULUM LINKS

The activities are aimed at pupils aged 11-16 yrs (Years 7-11 / Key Stages 3 & 4 / S1-4). There are good links with Religious Education, Citizenship and PSHE.





INTRODUCTION

As students are arriving and getting seated, stand at the front taking small sips from the bottle of 'dirty water'. Conduct the rest of the assembly with this bottle in your hand, taking small sips every so often. Ignore any groans from the audience!

Welcome the students and introduce yourself.

Explain the theme of the assembly... Water.

Ask: What do we use water for? (SLIDE 2)

For younger year groups ask students to shout out (or raise their hands) to answer this question.

For older year groups ask students to turn to the person next to them to discuss this question. Ask them to see if they can think of ten different uses for water, then raise their hands when they have thought of ten.

Reinforce that water is used for so many different things. (SLIDE 3)

Say: 80 per cent of our bodies are made up of water and two thirds of our planet is covered by water.

Water is vital for health and essential for survival.

Watch: *Water is Life* video from ACTION PACK. (SLIDE 4)



LIFE WITHOUT WATER (SLIDE 5)

Take a second and try to imagine your life without water.

(Allow a few seconds of silence, then prompt with questions such as: how would you cook, how would you wash, how would you quench your thirst, where would you go to the toilet?)



It's difficult to imagine, really, isn't it, because in this country the most we usually have to deal with is the occasional hosepipe ban.

So what would it be like if you could get water, but you had to go to the end of the street to collect it in buckets or other containers? How much of your time would be spent collecting water and carrying it back to your house? What would you do with the water when you had used it?

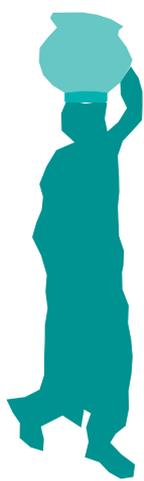
(Again allow a few seconds of silence)

Now I am going to ask you to think about the most difficult question.

(SLIDE 6) What would you do if there was a serious drought and the only water you could get hold of was dirty, contaminated and unsafe to use? Would you still use it? Even though you knew that it would potentially make you, your family, and even your pets ill?

(Indicate the bottle of water in your hand, and again pause for a couple of seconds. You could ask for a show of hands from the students as to who would drink/use the contaminated water, and who would not.)

We know life can't exist without water, so if you've decided that you wouldn't use the dirty water then... *(Pause, shrug of the shoulders, leave it unsaid that you would eventually die.)*



WORLD REALITY

Well, that is a real decision faced by millions of people in our world every day.

In fact there are 783 million people in the world without access to safe water¹. (SLIDE 7)

That's one eighth of the whole world. That means that in this room now, one in eight of you would not be able to get hold of clean water and would have to drink and use water that would make you ill and maybe even cause your death.

(Make this relevant to the group in terms of the percentage of 1/8. Eg. if there are 350 students that would be approx 44 people in the room; you could even try to get that number of people to stand up.)

In addition there are also 2.5 billion people without access to adequate sanitation². (SLIDE 8) That means they probably



don't have anywhere safe and private to go to the toilet or dispose of their waste.

If I was one of those 783 million people, the only water available to me would be something like this... (indicate the dirty bottle). I would most probably have had to get this water from a contaminated stream or river. Not only would everyone in my town also have to use this water, but all the animals around would drink from it as well. (SLIDE 9)

It's quite likely that the water would be teeming with all sorts of germs and harmful bacteria that could make us seriously ill – illnesses like diarrhoea, cholera, skin infections and eye disorders – illnesses that could kill us if they went untreated.

It could easily take me at least two hours to get to this water supply and the same amount of time to get back. And I'd have to do this at least twice a day. That's up to eight hours spent fetching and carrying water. In fact, I've probably done this job since I was five or six years old, instead of going to school. (SLIDE 10)

The weight of the water that I would carry now I am an adult is the same as the weight of one of our full suitcases at Heathrow Airport. That doesn't leave much time or strength left for work or education, so it would be difficult to support my family financially.

And I would despair because I would know that when I bring this water home to my family and they try to quench their thirst, wash themselves or cook a small portion of food, I could well be making them ill. Frankly, I wouldn't want even my pet dog to have to drink this water – but I have no choice.

This is the reality for one eighth of the world's population.

[Take a long slow drink from the bottle of dirty water.]

Let me show you the reality:

◆ Around 700,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation – that's almost 2,000 children a day³. (SLIDE 11)

◆ 4 out of 10 people don't have access to a basic toilet. (SLIDE 12)

That means that *(work out how many people in the room)*___of us would have to go out into the field now if we needed to go.

◆ Only 15 per cent of the world's population have the luxury of water on tap. (SLIDE 13)

◆ Half the hospital beds in developing countries are filled with people suffering from diseases caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene⁴. (SLIDE 14)

◆ The average person in the UK uses 150 litres of water every day⁵. *(If you have some water bottles at the front, indicate how many bottles of water 150 litres would actually be.)* (SLIDE 15)

◆ And for every £1 invested in sanitation, at least £8 is returned in increased productivity and a reduced burden of healthcare⁶. (SLIDE 16)

(Again, make these figures relevant to the group where possible in terms of percentages to make the numbers easier to visualise.)

WHAT THE SALVATION ARMY IS DOING

But it doesn't have to be this way. Having access to safe water and decent sanitation changes everything.

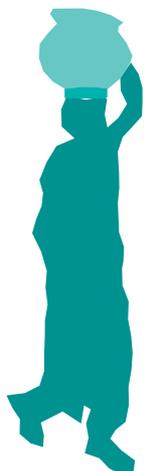
Here's how...

Show 'Nawoitong School Case Story' video if possible. If not, use the written example in the 'WATERSHED Stories' Resource. (SLIDE 17)

Access to clean water can change everything... from health to education, from food supplies to work opportunities.

(SLIDE 18) Over the last 20 years, through the actions of many charities, government leaders, communities and even individuals, more than 2 billion people have gained access to clean water. The Salvation Army has been part of that.

But as we have seen, the task is not complete and we need to keep working to ensure that everyone has access to this most precious and basic of resources.





That's what WATERSHED is all about.

Give Water and you really do Give Life to a community.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED? (SLIDE 19)

So how can we, here in the UK, do something about it? Here's a few ideas of how you can get involved:

◆ (SLIDE 20) **Fundraise:**

Could you raise some money to support WATERSHED?

What could you do? If you go to a youth group, scouts or guides, in your sports team or church, your tutor groups, or simply with a group of friends, could you get together to plan a fundraising activity?

Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ Car washing (using as little water as possible!).
- ◆ Every time you use water put some loose change into a bottle. Have a competition for the first person in your class/group to fill one.
- ◆ Arrange a fundraising concert or film night.
- ◆ Ask friends to sponsor you to live on only 10 litres of water a day for a few days.

There are more fundraising ideas available in the ACTION PACK to help inspire you with what you can do.

◆ (SLIDE 21) **Use water carefully:**

Climate change is affecting access to water for all of us, not just those people in the developing world. Climate change affects the rainfall patterns and seasons, which changes the times when water is available. It's not impossible to think that one day our water here may be restricted too.

It's important that each of us uses water carefully, and recycles as much as possible. For example, take a shower instead of a bath, don't leave the tap running when you clean your teeth, recycle washing-up water to water the garden.

There are loads more ideas in the ACTION PACK for different water-saving actions you can take.

◆ (SLIDE 22) **Raise awareness:**

We can tell other people about what is going on in the world. Sharing this information with others, our workmates, school friends, family and neighbours, will help save lives too. The more people who know about this injustice, the more something will have to change!

◆ (SLIDE 23) **Campaign:**

We can get in touch with our local MP or other government leader and express our concern. We can ask them to make sure that our government is doing all it can to tackle and support this issue. The Salvation Army is a member of the End Water Poverty coalition so check on the website (www.salvationarmy.org.uk/watershed) for info on the latest campaign opportunities.

CONCLUSION

There are 783 million people in the world without access to safe water. This shouldn't still be happening.

Let's work together to 'Give Water and Give Life.' (SLIDE 24)

- 1 <http://www.unicef.org/media/files/JMPReport2012.pdf>
- 2 <http://www.unicef.org/media/files/JMPReport2012.pdf>
- 3 (WaterAid 2012/WHO 2008/The Lancet 2012)
- 4 (UNDP Human Development Report, 2006)
- 5 <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/beinggreen/117266.aspx>
- 6 http://www.tearfund.org/en/what_we_do_and_where/issues/water_and_sanitation/

