Achieving universal access to WASH would deliver minimum global economic benefits of $220 billion annually.²

1. ECONOMIC
   - WASH is a smart investment
   - For every $1 invested in WASH, more than $4 is returned to national economies in increased productivity.¹

2. HEALTH
   - WASH saves lives
   - Universal access would save the lives of almost 2000 children daily who die from preventable diarrhoea.³
   - Halve the number of patients in hospitals in developing countries
   - And the cases of global malnutrition in children.⁵

3. EDUCATION
   - WASH helps children learn
   - Globally, children would spend 443 million more days in school every year due to the reduction in water-related diseases.⁷
   - When sanitation facilities are available school attendance by girls increases by 11%.⁶

4. WOMEN & GIRLS
   - WASH increases opportunities
   - Women and girls would get back the 40 billion hours every year that they spend collecting water for their families.⁸
   - Avoid the dangers of accidents, animal attacks and sexual assaults on long journeys to find water and a safe place to go to the toilet.

To find out how you can WASH Away Poverty read our three calls to action on the back.
How you can WASH Away Poverty

The scale of the global WASH crisis is massive—2.5 billion people live without access to improved sanitation and 783 million people rely on unclean water. The absence of these basic services kills millions and costs billions.

The organisations listed below are members of the WASH Reference Group and are supported by hundreds of thousands of households across Australia. Our supporters want to see their elected representatives take decisive action on WASH, now.

We call on the Government to:

1 Allocate $500 million per year to WASH from 2014/15, with at least half of this amount directed to sanitation.

When asked what would improve their lives the most, poor people prioritise access to clean water. We know that WASH is effective in reducing poverty—it saves lives, drives economic growth, keeps kids in school and increases opportunities for women and girls. Despite these proven benefits, Australia spends only 3% of its aid program on WASH, with just 1% allocated to sanitation. Australia’s expenditure on WASH has declined over the last 2 years and just $164 million was allocated in 2013/14. Increasing investment in WASH should be central to Australia’s strategy for reducing global poverty and driving economic growth.

2 Integrate WASH into international health and education work.

People need access to these services not just in their homes, but also throughout their communities. WASH is crucial in schools and health centres. Without drinking water and sanitation students don’t learn as effectively. Health facilities without water and toilets put lives at risk. Each year Australian aid supports the construction of thousands of schools and health facilities. Integrating WASH delivery into Australia’s education and health programs will maximise value for money and improve the effectiveness of our aid program.

3 Target the most disadvantaged communities where access to WASH is lowest and the disease burden is highest.

Over the last 20 years great strides have been made in increasing access to WASH. Two billion people have been provided with clean drinking water and 1.8 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation. However, this progress has been uneven and massive gaps in WASH coverage remain between and within countries. Donor funding for WASH has often failed to reach the poorest. Real results will only be delivered if WASH reaches the countries, communities and individuals that need them most.

For more information about what you can do to WASH Away Poverty please contact:

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1 I.C. Hillion, Global costs and benefits of drinking water supply and sanitation improvements to reach the MDG target and universal coverage, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, 2011, p. 32.
6 Hillion, G. Hillion, Global child mortality costs and benefits of water and sanitation improvements at the global level, WHO, Geneva, p. 29.
9 The WASH Reference Group comprises UNICEF, the Australian Red Cross, Caritas Australia and the Asia Development Bank.
10 Data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), a series of nationally representative household surveys carried out in more than 100 countries.
11 Australia’s international development assistance program 2010-13.
12 R. S. Bigger, The WASH Reference Group comprises UNICEF, the Australian Red Cross, Caritas Australia and the Asia Development Bank.