



welt
hunger
hilfe

For a world without hunger

Your theme: Water

2017 REPORT



Dear friends of Welthungerhilfe,

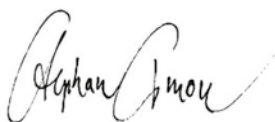


the WASH network, to which Welthungerhilfe belongs, recently published a report addressing the interdependency of the UN sustainable development goals. It states that the goals of “Zero Hunger” and “Clean Water and Sanitation” are intertwined to such an extent that they must be pursued concurrently, i.e. both are integral project components.

When working on ending global hunger, one therefore simultaneously needs to establish adequate sanitation. This is because clean drinking water and good hygienic conditions result in less disease, more income and livelihood stability, and improved long-term food and nutrition security. For development cooperation efforts, this means departing from established task distribution schemes and collaborating more closely with various actors.

We take this seriously and are entering collaborative partnerships with other organisations in order to improve living conditions even more effectively and on a larger scale. We are also helping people to form their own networks. On page 4, for example, you can read how women in India are successfully pursuing a better water supply for themselves and their villages, even advancing up to the political level. We would like to thank you for standing with us to promote WASH solutions, even – and especially – as we strategically take new paths.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Stephan Simon'.

Stephan Simon
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Title photo: The new wells near the village make it possible for the women and girls in Zimbabwe to save long journeys.

India/Bundelkhand Region

With the support of Welthungerhilfe, a group of women joined forces to fight for a functional water supply. The pressure that they exerted led to results, including the repair or construction of 100 water points.



Zimbabwe/Mashonaland West

A coalition of residents is campaigning for more toilets to improve hygienic conditions and fight disease in their villages. Village after village is becoming “open defecation free”.



With your help, we are providing clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene throughout the world; because healthy people are less vulnerable to undernutrition and hunger.

Syria/Idlib

Thousands of people living as refugees in their own country do not have access to clean drinking water. Repairing water lines and stations helps them and their local host communities.



Tajikistan/Baljuvon

Renewable energy, provided by small hydroelectric and photovoltaic power stations, is immensely improving the local population's quality of life. Solar-powered pumps supply the villages with water.



Ethiopia/Borana

Water from unsafe sources used to make people ill. Now, repaired wells, solar pumps and simple "Tulip" filters supply the water. Better health means less medical expenses.



Malawi/Chikwawa District

Reservoir dams now protect the precious farmland from heavy rains. Water stored in new reservoirs is channelled into fields and gardens for irrigation.

Myanmar/Kachin State

Welthungerhilfe is providing toilets, washing stations and wells in the refugee camps to which families have fled from conflicts between rebels and government troops.



India: Water activists winning victories



Sima Devi (in the middle) and the “Friends of Water” are forming political committees to campaign for a better water supply.

Determined and motivated women in the Indian region of Bundelkhand are fighting for their right to clean drinking water, and the caste system and prejudices will not stop them. A Welthungerhilfe project brought them together and continues to support them on the way to their goal: Water for everyone!

Annual precipitation in the region of Bundelkhand in northern India has halved, with droughts now striking on a nearly annual basis. Here, communities of the higher castes are dominant, claiming government programmes for themselves and leaving little for lower-caste communities. Poor people have no voice, and women most certainly do not.

“It is a question of survival,” says Kunti Devi, from Mamna. “Our village is undergoing a massive crisis. We have 45 hand pumps, but the water is salty, so we cannot drink it. The public water supply system works twice a week at best because there is not enough power. Women are forced to walk for miles to get their drinking water from the nearest water point. Our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers had to work hard to get water. So did we. But now, we have had enough! We do not want our daughters to have to do the

same. We want them to go to school!”

Kunti Devi did not stop at words. During a Welthungerhilfe project on resource management, she met with women from other villages. They were all suffering from the same problems and decided to get organised to fight for clean water. They established the Jal Saheli coalition, which translates to (female) “Friends of Water.” In their villages, the women joined with other residents to form additional committees, known as Pani Panchayats. During their meetings, they share problems and discuss strategies to solve the same. Common needs include repair or construction of water points, improved sanitary conditions, and more efficient and reliable irrigation systems for local agriculture.



Overcoming obstacles through perseverance

By now, approximately 260 Jal Sahelis in 130 villages are working together with Welthungerhilfe. In order to achieve long-lasting improvements, the Jal Sahelis must represent their interests on the political stage to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are acknowledged. For this reason, Welthungerhilfe is working with the local partner organisation “Parmath,” which instructs women on important topics. These include water rights, environmental protection, knowledge about the respective authorities and political efforts within the community to achieve the goal: Equal access to clean water for everyone! It all comes down to practical knowledge. In workshops, women learn how to implement efficient water management, how to test water quality and even how to repair hand pumps on their own.

The women face massive resistance. “When I began working as a Jal Saheli, many people told my husband that I should be ashamed to participate in meetings with men,” says Sima Devi, who is from the village of Dhamna. “I was even accused of ruining our culture.” However, she did not give up. “I then took my husband along to some of the meetings,” recounts



The Jal Sahelis repair broken pumps themselves, a skill that they learned in the workshops.

Sima Devi. “When he saw with his own eyes how we were working and trying to promote development in the village, he began to support me.” The opinion of the community as a whole gradually changed as well.



Fighting for water as a group also allows the women to finally be acknowledged.

Photo (top): Hard physical labour is part of the package, e.g. when establishing new water points.

A feeling of power

The water activists are successful. In response to their pressure, 56 water points were repaired or newly built, and various dams and reservoirs were constructed to raise the water table. Another 112 water points were created because Jal Sahelis brought together and mediated between the necessary people. In addition, a fixed budget for maintaining and managing the water points was introduced on the village level. These are only some of the Jal Sahelis' success stories, so it is not surprising that their efforts have been met by great media interest. They are now also fighting for their right to water on a national level. However, the Jal Sahelis are far from the end of their journey. “I want to see our villages flourish. I want every household to have water,” says Sima Devi. “And that is only the beginning.”

Zimbabwe: Toilets secure hygiene – and dignity



People are building the toilets next to their houses themselves.



Dishes are stored on wooden shelves, where they are safe from animals.

“Imagine that you are relieving yourself in the field – and that a group of young herders is watching you, laughing and jeering while taking photos,” says Susan Chauke. The 28-year-old’s experiences were once commonplace in the Zimbabwean village of Zwibwale. That changed when a Welthungerhilfe WASH project helped to build toilets.

When Susan Chauke talks about the past, deeply seated shame and rage rise to the surface. There was a time when 26 households had only 7 toilets between them. The residents had no other choice but to relieve themselves outdoors. “I hated being so defenceless when the boys were taking photos or even videos,” says the young woman, knowing that simply going into the field back then could have led to much worse. Something had to be done, even if purely for health reasons.

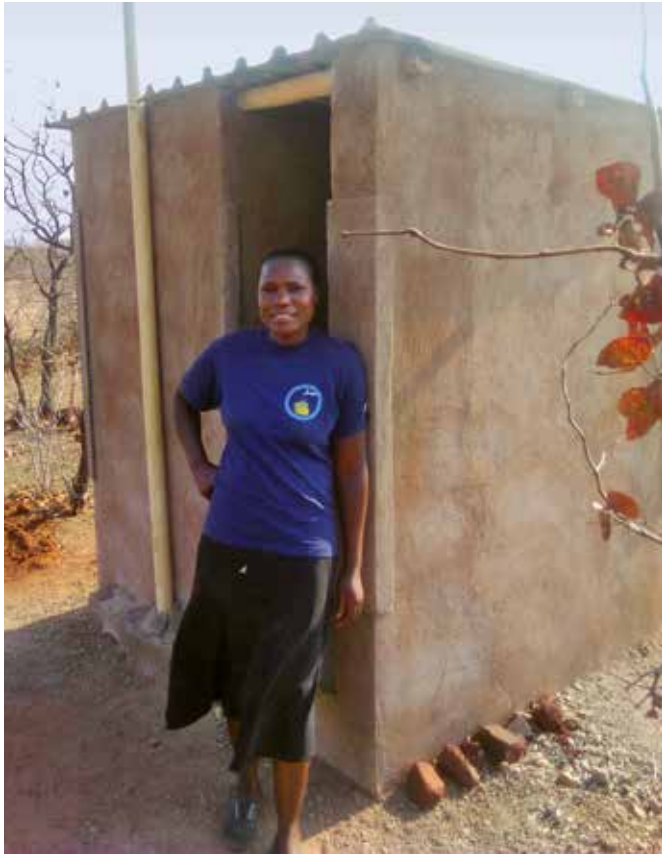
Using dramatic demonstrations to motivate people

When Welthungerhilfe employees and a state health counsellor came into town, they demonstrated to the residents how hygiene and disease are related. Susan recounts: “We showed them the places that we were using as toilets. We then collected faeces from there with shovels and brought them to our meeting place. A counsellor placed the shovel directly next to a plate of food and asked us if we would eat this meal. Of course we said: No! It smelled awful, and we

watched flies crawl around on the excrement and then fly onto the food. Referring to the demonstration, the counsellors said that we were, in a certain sense, eating faeces every day and exposing ourselves to bacteria. In addition, since we were not washing our hands after bowel movements, we were contributing to the problem as well.”

From this point onward, things began to change. Sanitation Action Groups (SAG) were established as part of the project. One of their responsibilities is to convince families of the necessity of various hygiene measures, including building a toilet. Susan, too, is part of an SAG and was trained accordingly. “The dramatic demonstration in front of the whole village made it easier to get people to act,” explains Susan Chauke. As a result, the families of Zwibwale in the province of Mashonaland West built toilets and latrines. They also implemented additional hygiene measures, e.g. storing dishes on shelves to protect them from dirt and free-ranging animals. So-called tippy taps, which dispense water and soap through foot pedals, permit touch-free hand washing.

The SAG did certainly not have it easy, initially facing several misunderstandings. “The families expected us to provide them with cement for the toilets,” relates Susan Chauke. “They thought that we were being paid for our work and that we should wield our influence with the district govern-



Susan Chauke proudly shows off the toilet that she built herself.

ment accordingly. But we are all working on a voluntary basis. Some people even made a point of leaving their houses when they saw us approaching. Some of my colleagues wanted to give up, but we encouraged them to keep going.” Susan’s perseverance was motivated primarily by her memories of the 2008 Cholera outbreak, which infected almost 10,000 people and claimed 4,300 lives. Higher standards of hygiene help to prevent the disease.

Washing hands with the tippy tap is hygienic because it is operated by a foot pedal.

According to estimates, less than

**2 out of every
10 people**

worldwide wash their hands
after going to the toilet.

13 %

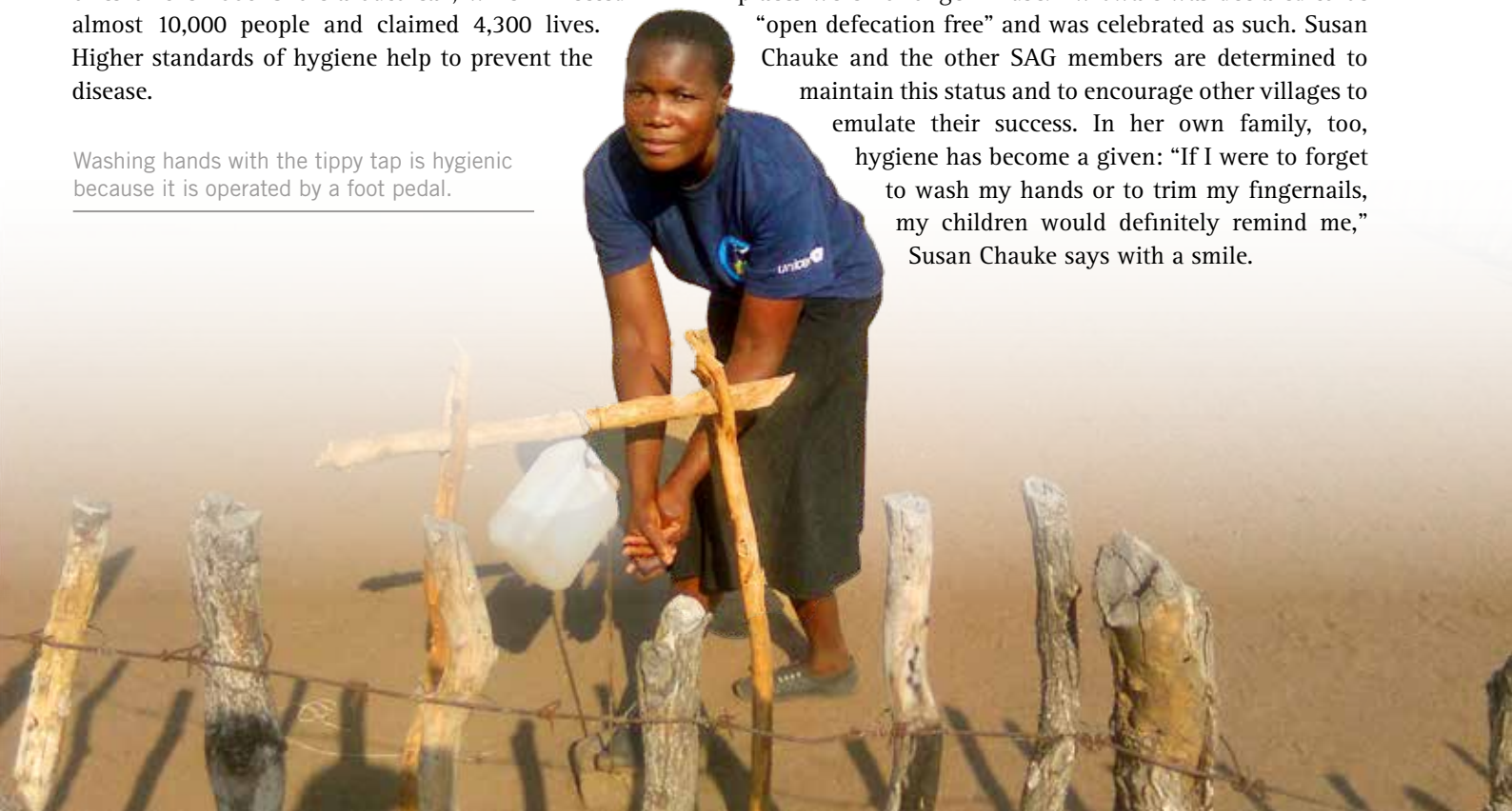
of the world’s population practises
open defecation.



Since the village elder was convinced of the project’s effectiveness, he talked with the families that had not yet built a toilet. Welthungerhilfe WASH expert Tamuka Betserai says: “For some families, the reason was financial, so they were given a simpler option, the pit latrine. At the same time, we promoted the establishment of savings and credit groups. People were then able to help each other to buy cement and other materials.” The SAG supplement the process with intensive hygiene training.

Encouraging emulation

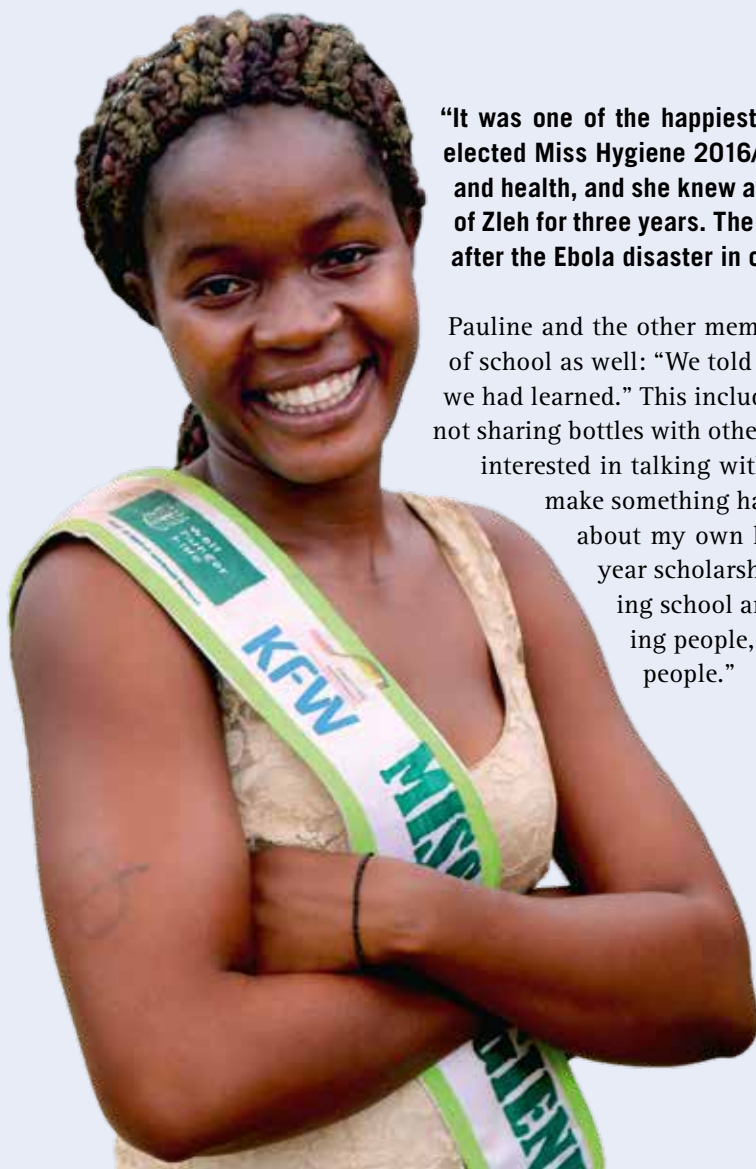
Then, success! An inspection by the SAG team revealed that all families had toilets and that the former open defecation places were no longer in use. Zwibwale was declared to be “open defecation free” and was celebrated as such. Susan Chauke and the other SAG members are determined to maintain this status and to encourage other villages to emulate their success. In her own family, too, hygiene has become a given: “If I were to forget to wash my hands or to trim my fingernails, my children would definitely remind me,” Susan Chauke says with a smile.



Miss Hygiene – a title with responsibility



Pauline wants to help expand health education and to do something for “her people” at home.



“It was one of the happiest moments of my life,” recalls Pauline. The young Liberian was elected Miss Hygiene 2016/2017. She was evaluated on how much she knew about hygiene and health, and she knew a lot! Pauline had been attending her school health club in the city of Zleh for three years. The club is part of a Welthungerhilfe WASH project that was initiated after the Ebola disaster in order to prevent a renewed outbreak of the epidemic.

Pauline and the other members of the health club pass on their WASH knowledge outside of school as well: “We told the snack vendors in front of our school and our relatives what we had learned.” This included the importance of drinking water from clean containers and not sharing bottles with others. Miss Hygiene takes her title very seriously: “I am particularly interested in talking with girls about menstruation. It feels good to be respected and to make something happen. Above all, I am happy with how much this has taught me about my own health.” As winner of the competition, Pauline received a one-year scholarship to a school of her choice. She has decided to register in nursing school and to move to Monrovia for the next academic year. “I like helping people,” she says. “Later, I will return to my hometown and support my people.”



Illustrations make hygiene training sessions more accessible and engaging: take your shoes off at the well, transport water in clean canisters, and store potable and non-potable water separately.

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