



20
18

 **WaterAid**

UNGC
Report

wateraid.org/au

Photo: WaterAid/Behailu Shiferaw

About WaterAid

WaterAid Australia is a member of WaterAid, an international non-governmental organisation determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good.

WaterAid is made up of member countries in India, Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden, the UK and the USA. The member countries help coordinate and fund operations across country programs with the mission to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. WaterAid Australia coordinates and fund programs in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

Since we started, we've remained resolutely focused on tackling the three essentials; water, sanitation and hygiene, that transform people's lives. Without all three, people can't live dignified, healthy lives. With all three, they can unlock their potential, break free from poverty, and change their lives for good. Children grow up healthy and strong, women and men get to earn a living, whole communities start to thrive.

By working closely with partners internationally and on the ground in some of the toughest places in the world, we help achieve widespread change. Millions of people have already taken control of their lives and built better futures.

Now we are working with our supporters and partners to get clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere by 2030, in accordance with the UN SDGs. It's about more than installing taps, toilets, boreholes and wells. To make lasting change happen on a massive scale, we:

- convince governments to change laws;
- link policy makers with people on the ground;
- change attitudes and behaviours;
- pool knowledge and resources; and
- rally support from people and organisations around the world.



Ms Lise Kingo
Executive Director
UN Global Compact

Melbourne, 25/4/2018

Dear Ms Kingo,

I am writing to reiterate WaterAid Australia's continued support for the United Nations Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as our ongoing commitment to this global initiative and its principles in the areas of human and labour rights, environment, governance and sustainable development.

Our commitment to the Global Compact is an important example of WaterAid's dedication to achieving the SDGs. Access to water and sanitation has far-reaching impact and extends far beyond Goal 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Water, sanitation and hygiene is an essential component of an integrated approach to tackling poverty, hunger, health, education and inequality and creates fairer, more productive and healthier communities.

Successful realisation of Goal 6 will underpin progress across many other goals, including:

- **Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- **Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- **Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Today, more than 844 million people live without clean water and 2.3 billion live without sanitation.

There remains some major areas of concern:

Rapid urbanisation, population growth and economic development present increasing and competing demands for water.

Climate change is likely to lead to more frequent, unpredictable and extreme weather episodes, with poor people disproportionately affected by floods, droughts and contaminated water.

Public health depends on safe water, sanitation and good hygiene.

Financing universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene will require a significant increase in public and private funding.

Sustaining water and sanitation services and hygiene is a significant challenge in many developing countries.

Installing taps and toilets is essential: however, to make lasting change happen on a massive scale the international community must:

- influence governments to change laws;
- link national and international policy makers with people on the ground;
- change attitudes and behaviours;
- work with others to pool knowledge and resources; and
- rally support from people and organisations around the world.

Against this backdrop, WaterAid's strategy is to bring strong partnerships and coalitions together as we work towards our goal of water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, everywhere by 2030. We will influence change through four interconnected aims: addressing inequality to access; strengthening sustainable services; integrating water, sanitation and hygiene with other essential areas of development and improving hygiene behaviour.

We pledge to offer our knowledge and leadership, leveraging on the experience of WaterAid in 34 countries around the world, to help shape special initiatives, develop tools and research, further partnerships and projects and help to hold business accountable with respect to their commitments to the Global Compact and its principles.

The attached document details WaterAid's practical actions in influencing change in a broader movement to create a sustainable and inclusive global economy.

Kind regards,



Rosie Wheen
Chief Executive, WaterAid Australia



In December 2013, WaterAid Australia signed onto the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and joined the Global Compact Network Australia. Launched in 2000, the UNGC is an international initiative that seeks to improve organisational practices grounded in its Ten Principles in the areas of human and labour rights, environment, governance and sustainable development.

As a signatory to the Global Compact, WaterAid Australia shows leadership in the not-for-profit sector and ensures our policies align with the UNGC's universally accepted values and principles.

Water is one of the greatest sustainability challenges facing business and is a key issue for Australia as the world's driest inhabited continent. Water underpins the global economy - it is essential for agriculture, manufacturing, metal, thermal energy, food, beverages, textiles, pulp, paper and many other industries.

Water issues, including access, scarcity and pollution are fundamental risks to business that affect the bottom line and carry environmental and social implications. This is reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which recognise water and sanitation as critical components of sustainable development (Goal 6).

WaterAid sees its corporate relationships as important opportunities to emphasise water's importance in sustainable development. Under the WaterAid Federation, WaterAid Australia is committed to the CEO Water Mandate and advises companies on how they can both protect their water supply needs and ensure that poor, rural communities have access to clean water.

Corporate partnerships are critical to our success, not only in terms of raising valuable funds, but also in ensuring WaterAid leverages on its valuable partners to co-design sustainable technical solutions to water-related issues in developing countries as well as holds a strong voice in campaigning governments locally to help us solve the water and sanitation crisis in developing countries.

As a member and participant in UNGC forums, WaterAid Australia is able to promote the necessity of universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a fundamental human right in overcoming poverty. Throughout the process of developing the SDGs, WaterAid campaigned tirelessly and successfully to ensure a dedicated Global Goal for water and sanitation was included.

Through a partnership with WaterAid, companies can strengthen their corporate social responsibility and sustainability programs, commit action toward the SDGs and bring life-saving clean water and sanitation to the world's poorest communities.

In a world with so many competing priorities, WaterAid remains resolutely focused on tackling the three essentials of water, sanitation and hygiene because they transform people's lives for good. Thus, our commitment to the UN Global Compact has many intents and purposes: we aim to increase the awareness among corporate Australia of water supply and sanitation as a basic human right, both domestically and regionally; to align with and learn from industry leaders in sustainability, and to promote the great work achieved through the Compact to recognise industry and market forces as the great hope to catalyse change.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe our actions to support the Global Compact and its principles over the period January 2016 – March 2018. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Engage with Global Compact Local Networks

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
WaterAid is active within the Australian network, engaging in areas where we can contribute, learn or share	Work on the inclusion and prosecution of SDG 6 shows WaterAid added value to its partners and the water industry at large in a framework for deeper engagement through a common agenda beyond our own business model.
WaterAid promotes its UNGC membership in all WaterAid corporate materials and on its website	Since joining the UNGC, we've seen awareness and interest in the Compact growing within the water and health industry in Australia; a sector lacking in membership for some time. WaterAid, as the charity partner of choice of water companies and utilities, has been instrumental to bring some new partners to the UNGC.
We share all publications and work-stream papers with WaterAid US & UK and encourage them to participate	Our UK office is in the process of becoming UNGC member, which will align the UK water industry with the network, increasing exponentially the focus on SDGs.

Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
Broadening our partnerships with the Australian Water Association (AWA) to strengthen collaboration and mitigate overlap	A MoU in negotiation with AWA (the umbrella organisation for the water industry in Australia) is intended to improve the effectiveness of both organisations through joint development and activities and reciprocal membership, so that collaboration around development of water systems in neighbouring countries is undertaken jointly by WaterAid, AWA and the Australian water utilities to eliminate overlap and better allocate scarce resources.
Working with the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA)	An industry paper released in Canberra in 2017 saw WaterAid given a platform to challenge the industry and ask what the water industry can do globally to support the SDGs.
Joint business development and technical assistance programs with John Holland and ARUP	Moving from the transactional philanthropic approach to the shared-value model is creating opportunities for our members to be directly involved in the catalysing change required to achieve our ambitious goals.

Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
Our collaboration with OzWater (the annual water industry conference and fair) & International Water Centre	WaterAid International CEO Barbara Frost, WaterAid International and Australian Chairman Rob Skinner and WaterAid Chief Executive Rosie Wheen have all given key notes at recent water conference and congresses highlighting the importance of the SDGs in poverty alleviation. Further, we contribute to the CEO Water Mandate as an essential platform for supply chain water security and promotion of the human right to water and sanitation in the framework of a rights-based approach.
International Women's Day	WaterAid Chief Executive Rosie Wheen has been the keynote speaker at the International Women's day event organised by Melbourne Water in partnership with AWA. In honour of International Women's Day, she has discussed how the lack of clean water and decent toilets affect women as well as the impact on women as water collectors from an early age, providing recommendation on ways the community can make a positive difference.
SDG paper	Our work on the SDG and production of a recent engagement for corporate partners is prefaced on assisting corporates to create the policies and systems required to meet consumer demand and show leadership among peers, industry and Government.
WASH for hospitality	We have partnered with the International Tourism Partnership to outline outlines some simple steps for hotel companies to improve overall water stewardship practices, while considering access to water, sanitation and hygiene for their staff and the communities where they live.

Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
WaterAid Australia sitting on the Global Compact Network Australia's Environment Leadership Group Steering Committee	<p>WaterAid presence on this Steering Committee has helped promote a deeper awareness within the Australian business community and elevate water supply as a critical aspect of business risk analysis and planning.</p> <p>The GCNA's Environment Leadership Group (ELG) was established to provide a forum for sharing, learning and collaboration in relation to corporate environmental responsibility, and to explore challenges and solutions to local and global environmental issues facing us. The ELG draws on the skills and knowledge of expert advisors, Government and business stakeholders to deliver forums and workshops that provide practical learning opportunities, and keep participants up-to-date on key domestic and international developments in the environmental sustainability space.</p>
Influencing the Australian Government on the relevance of WASH for sustainable development and efficient delivery of basic human rights	<p>WaterAid has played a major role in influencing the recently released Australian Government's Foreign Policy White Paper, which highlights the need for a strategic agenda to combine the expertise of Australian NGOs, the water industry, academic and private sectors to help Asian Pacific governments achieve rapid change with access to water, sanitation and hygiene.</p>

Participate in Global Compact global and local events

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
Attendance to international events	WaterAid has attended the NY chapter promoting WaterAid members' strong engagement in the initiative given the supply chain concerns of many supplier networks.
Attendance to Australian events	We have engaged with a number of member organisations, including GHD, Yarra Valley Water and ACCSR, through the network. Our participation in the 2017's "Modern Slavery" event led us to review our ethics policy, as it pertains to funding partnerships with third party supply chains in multiple regions. Following this review, we are developing a WASH assure program.
Attendance to the Annual General Meeting	The AGM shows the work and engagement of the Global Compact Network Australia and highlights numerous issues and priorities all members have an interest in elevating, pursuing or learning.

Other actions to support the Global Compact

Actions	Measurement of outcomes
Human rights	
Elevating human rights	Our gender equity and disability inclusion strategic focus is at the centre of all that we do.
Labour rights	
Campaigning on fair labour laws	We work with the H&M Foundation to strengthen anti-child labour laws and improve policies for supply chain workers.
Environment	
Increasing our climate resilience work	On World Water Day 2017, WaterAid released the Wild Water report which warns about the implications of extreme weather events and climate change for the world's poorest. On World Water Day 2018, WaterAid release the Water Gap Report that shows that 60% of the world are already living in water stress and this is expected to increase due to the extreme weather brought by climate change.
Campaign work	We have campaigned for responsible environmental management, including regulating the use of water in agriculture and industry, to protect and preserve enough clean and safe water for communities' basic needs.
Anti-corruption	
Strengthening our anti-corruption policy and payments procedures	Strengthened our internal policies that include an anonymous fraud portal to report suspected cases of internal or partner fraud in order to show best-practice in-house