



Partnering with the Australian water industry to achieve SDG 6

WaterAid



WaterAid is an international development organisation borne out of a socially conscious group of water professionals who felt morally responsible to share their knowledge and resources to provide people worldwide with the basic human rights – access to safe water and sanitation – that almost all Australians enjoy. This origin continues to drive how WaterAid partners with the Australian water industry to help create a better, fairer world for all.

WaterAid campaigned tirelessly over the last three years to ensure a dedicated SDG for water and sanitation. Access to water and sanitation has such far-reaching impacts for all aspects of development, they simply couldn't be left out of any framework focused on tackling poverty, hunger, inequality and environmental degradation.

Implementation

Given this involvement in the SDG process, WaterAid's vision is most strongly aligned with Goal 6. The organisation is focused on bringing about a world where everyone everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. This vision is core to WaterAid's business model; their unwavering commitment to providing sustainable solutions and sector-wide knowledge-sharing in water, sanitation and hygiene. This is strengthened by corporate partnerships to bring this vision closer to reality.

As part of this commitment, in December 2013, WaterAid Australia signed onto the UN Global Compact (UNGC), and joined the Global Compact Network Australia. WaterAid became a signatory as an action-orientated organisation committed to eradicating

global poverty. The organisation supports the UNGC's sustainability framework as a mechanism to significantly enhance an organisation's ability to contribute. WaterAid also hope to encourage others – corporate partners and sector allies – to align their culture and strategy with the ten universally accepted principles. WaterAid use a company's commitment to the principles as part of their ethical checks on corporate partners.

Partnerships are not formed just on a moral imperative (although this is certainly a key driver for many), but also on one of deep engagement in WaterAid's mission. This mission outlines a keen desire for knowledge and skills transfer to build capacity in developing countries in Australia's region, connectivity with neighbours, and the pursuit of innovation for scalable, sustainable solutions.

Mutually beneficial corporate partnerships are a critical starting point for partnership conversations. Any worthwhile relationship takes time and energy to develop. Hopefully this approach leads to a longer 'marriage',

founded on mutual respect and closely aligned values, in which both parties are deeply satisfied.

WaterAid works with local partners to deliver clean water and toilets and promote good hygiene, and campaign to make change happen for everyone everywhere. In 2015-16, they reached 1.9 million people with clean water and over 3 million people with sanitation.

Benefit / Outcome

- Strong partnerships and coalitions.
- Reducing inequalities through access and education.
- Working towards a vision of water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, everywhere by 2030.

Further References

For more information please go to Wateraid's website (wateraid.org/au).

