

Water and how we take it for granted.

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Water is an essential for life, yet not everyone has access to it. Coming from a Country which is rich in wet weather, we take it for granted. You would think that getting clean, drinkable water would be easy, yet there are millions suffering without.

Water deprivation has been a problem for many countries for years, yet we still have not resolved the issue. Countries such as Mozambique, Rwanda, Haiti, Ethiopia and Uganda use around 15 litres or less of water daily. To emphasise the severity of this, the average British person uses 142 litres a day which is around 9 times more. These facts alone highlight the problems in the world which still are not spoken about enough in the media. Around 3-4 million people die from water related illnesses a year, and more than a billion people do not have access to clean water.

The main factor responsible for this is that the countries who lack safe drinking water are less developed, low income countries, and in some cases riddled with war. They have unstable economies and lack the funding to supply the population with things such as wells and water pumps. However, water is not only used for drinking, it includes washing, cooking and many other things. One of these things is the ability to grow crops. No water means no food. If a country cannot grow crops to harvest then starvation follows, leaving deprived places with a slim chance of survival.

These countries which lack water also have major hygiene problems. I am certain all of us have toilets and showers at home. However, in places such as Angola, a toilet is seen as a luxury. As these places do not have basic hygiene, disease is easily spread, and many people die. Problems such as diarrhoea killed many, this is another devastating factor of no water.

You may be thinking about how we can make a change, due to the sheer size of the problem. Indeed, a solution will not come easily. However, there are great charities that have been set up specifically for this matter which work around the globe making a difference, the most well known one being Water Aid. Water Aid started off in the early 80s and through public funding they have managed to supply over 27 million people with access to clean water. My family and I have donated previously to Water Aid and it is something that I would recommend people do if they also want to see a change.

Thank you for listening.