

World Water Day and Aidlink

On 22nd March 2012 World Water Day, we are asking girls in Irish schools to Walk for Water and show solidarity for girls in Kenya.

In Kenya a young girl travels the average daily distance of 6km by foot, carrying up to 20 litres of water on the journey. As a result of the time it takes to collect water, many girls are unable to remain in education and without education find themselves caught in a cycle of poverty.



Walk for Water

International World Water Day is held annually on the **22nd March** as a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh water and advocating for the sustainable management of fresh water resources. It is a time to focus public attention on critical water issues such as the fact that 6,000 children die every day from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. Ending the water and sanitation crisis will help break the poverty cycle, increase school attendance, and save lives.

Get Involved

- Organise a sponsored walk of 6km to take place on World Water Day the 22nd of March.
- Carry water as an expression of solidarity for the girls in Kenya. This can be done in teams, relays or as individuals. The amount of water you carry is at your discretion!
- The location and time of the 6km walk should be done at a place and time on the 22nd of March that is suitable for you and your school.
- We would ask that water transported is not wasted but is returned to a water source or used.
- The money you raise will be used by Aidlink to develop water programmes in Kenya.

About Aidlink

Aidlink is an Irish NGO that has worked in development for 30 years. We work with local partners in 3 African countries - Kenya, Uganda and Ghana. Our programmes exist to address basic human development needs (water, education, food security and health) as identified by the communities that we work with.

Water is the most basic of all human needs and is an integral part of all of Aidlink's programmes. Access to safe and clean water ensures food security, sustains health and allows for education. In 2011 our partners in Kenya, *the Girl Child Network* in Kajiado and *the Diocese of Lodwar* in Turkana, experienced significant hardship on account of the drought. This year with your help, Aidlink is raising money on World Water Day 2012 for these two Kenyan communities.

The Girls in Kenya

Aidlink's partner *the Girl Child Network* (GCN) in Kenya works to improve the lives of Maasai girls in Kajiado District. The GCN have long recognised the centrality of water and sanitation facilities in promoting participation of girls in schools. The construction of sanitation facilities such as water tanks and girl friendly latrines in the targeted schools in Kajiado, has increased enrolment of girls by 25% and absenteeism has reduced by 65-70%. Education for Maasai girls has also reduced the numbers of child marriages as many uneducated Maasai girls are 'married off' at a young age.

The Diocese of Lodwar in Northern Kenya work with The Turkana, also a pastoralist community like the Maasai. The area is an arid, desolate region that has been hard hit by the recent drought. Girls here face many of the same challenges as those in Kajiado. Aidlink is working with both partners to provide greater access to clean and safe water and ensure food security, knowing that this will have a huge impact on young girls and their ability to participate in education. You can show your solidarity and help us by Walking for Water on March 22nd.

Please contact us if you would like to find out more or take part. Aidlink will provide advice, support and materials to help to make your event a success.

To register your event, contact Zoë Liston by email info@aidlink.ie or phone 01 473 6488

You can find out more about Aidlink on our website www.aidlink.ie or join us on facebook

