

Charity claims diarrhoea is more deadly than HIV, tuberculosis and malaria

The Child Development Charity Compassion reveals that diarrhoea kills more young children each year than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. Furthermore, children suffering from diarrhoea fall behind in school and become prone to malnutrition and dehydration. Yet most bouts of diarrhoea can be avoided through access to adequate water and sanitation facilities.

Compassion is tackling this problem head on by working with local church partners across the world to drill wells, harvest rain water, tap springs and install water storage tanks. **In the last two years Compassion has invested more than three million pounds in water projects, benefiting around 650,000 people in 23 of the world's poorest countries.**

One such community to have benefitted from Compassion's intervention is the town of Montecristo in the Manabí Province of western Ecuador. "One of the most serious problems of the families in Manabí is parasites," says Eddy Delgado, administrator of the new water purification plant. "Another problem is the constant presence of skin allergies and infections caused by a kind of water that is not even good for taking a shower."

Through the intervention of Compassion a new water purification plant has been established to serve communities in Manabi, including 6,394 children from 21 Compassion Child Development Centres.

Other beneficiaries across the world include thousands of families in Haiti who have received personal water filtration systems. "Last November I became very sick with cholera because I did not drink good treated water," says 13-year-old Philomene Antione, from Haiti.

Through the support of her Compassion Project, Philomene was given rehydration fluids and medical care. She is now back at home where Compassion has provided her family with a simple water filtration system to ensure they have safe water to drink. "Now we have the filter we have exactly the right water for us to drink and we are not afraid of getting sick," says Philomene's father.

In addition to tackling the issue of poor sanitation through infrastructure, Compassion ensures educating children about the importance of good sanitation and hygiene is an integral part of their Child Development Projects.

Compassion is a leading child development charity serving more than a million children in 26 of the world's poorest countries. To find out more visit www.compassionuk.org.

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