

## **Advocacy issue: lack of clean water and sanitation facilities in rural Tanzania**

### **Message Audience**

#### **Decision-makers:**

Nationally, diarrhoea accounts for 20% of under five child mortality and intestinal parasitic infections continue to undermine maternal and child nutritional status, physical and mental development. A small investment in clean drinking water and low-cost sanitation facilities will yield a large return in terms of child and adult health and survival. We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss this issue further.

#### **Broadcast media and press**

Wangai is 6 years old. His mother walks 5 km each morning to the nearest clean water point to collect drinking water for the family. However, when Wangai and his friends are thirsty, they drink from the nearby river bed, where the cattle and goats drink. Wangai's family have no latrine and use the riverbed in the early morning before it is light. Wangai has two brothers and one sister: he had another two sisters but both died of dysentery before they were four years old.

Wangai has visited his cousin who lives in the nearby town, where there is a good water supply and each house has a latrine. He has seen that his cousin's family do not fall ill and his aunt has lost no babies because of sickness. He wishes there were similar facilities in his village.

**General Public** Clean water saves lives: water-borne diseases and poor sanitation today claim thousands of lives in rural Tanzania. Each village should have at least one borehole and adequate latrines. Talk to your local councillor today to find out how you can help to bring life-saving facilities to your own village and see your children flourish.

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