

This provides an update on World Vision water efforts to address the global water crisis.

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World Vision Water Update: December 2017



Why Faith-Based Organizations Have an Advantage in Providing Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

To solve the global water crisis by 2030, we need everyone to do their part. In this newsletter, I'll share why World Vision is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in this effort because we are a faith-based, Christian organization.

It's important to understand that most of the world's population identifies as religious, and faith leaders are gate keepers and can be positive mobilizers for their communities. Because we are a faith-based organization, we are uniquely positioned to work with faith leaders. Similar to how we work with other key stakeholders in a community, we work with faith leaders to educate them on the importance of healthy water, sanitation, and hygiene behaviors and mobilize them to change behaviors in

their communities. When the faith leader takes the lead and talks about sanitation and hygiene, their congregations will listen and apply what they learn.

Because World Vision never puts pressure on people to change their faith nor is the aid that we provide conditional to faith, we have a reputation that opens doors with faith leaders regardless of their religion. In fact, the majority of the people still needing clean water, and therefore the majority of World Vision's water work, is in areas where people follow other faiths or where the practice of the Christian faith may be discouraged or even restricted, such as in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.



In recognition of the importance of working appropriately in these mixed faith communities, World Vision has a Director for Faith Leadership within our water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) team, Dr. Ray Norman. While Ray is trained as a water engineer, his present role focuses on faith integration in our programs, and notably to learn and share best practices, and seek to continually improve our approach with faith leaders. One of the approaches that we are reapplying in many countries is to bring together faith leaders from various faiths to focus on the water issues in the community. The holy books of most faiths contain

passages referring to water – even as the Bible does. So, we ask religious leaders to find and use these passages to help their people understand the importance of healthy water, sanitation and hygiene behaviors. During this process, the faith leaders come to know, trust and value one another. They develop habits of working together. When conflicts arise, they are much more likely to reach out to one another rather than respond in mistrust.

Ray understands the potential for conflict in a unique way because he and his daughter were the victims of an attempt on their lives when he served as National Director of World Vision Mauritania. His story, as well as World Vision’s approach to working in restricted faith environments, is captured in his book “Dangerous Love” ([can be purchased here](#)).



Ray Norman

Director for Faith Leadership
Water Sanitation & Hygiene

To help our donors and partners understand our faith-based efforts, we’re launching today a new video. It recounts Ray’s experience in Mauritania that helped equip him in a unique way for his current role, and, importantly, shows our work within mixed faith communities including filming and interviews within a rural mosque in Mali. Our filming crew must have looked quite out of place to the people in the mosque, but they were gracious in allowing us to film. In a sign of respect for the work that World Vision does in bringing water points, the community stood and gave us a round of applause as we finished our filming. Please enjoy our [video](#).

World Vision is seeking applicants for a Senior Director for WASH

This position provides strategic leadership and direction for our water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) field operations globally and ensures our performance meets sector standards and our commitments to our donors. The Senior Director also has a role in building operational effectiveness and

reputation, creating partnerships and leading our use of innovative approaches. The location of this position is continental Africa, with the specific location in Africa negotiable. For a full job description and to apply, [click here](#).



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Greg Allgood".

Dr. Greg Allgood
Vice President, Water
World Vision U.S.



World Vision



worldvision.org/our-impact/clean-water

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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