

Halifax Gala

Impact Report



The 2022 Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax raised **over \$350,000.**

Millions of children go to schools with no drinking water, no toilets and no soap for handwashing, making learning difficult – with devastating consequences for their future.

Nearly half of all schools do not have basic hygiene services, with 1 in 3 primary schools lacking basic sanitation and water. Children who cannot wash their hands face a greater risk of infection and disease than those who can, putting them at risk of missing more days of school.

UNICEF supports over 100 countries in establishing and rehabilitating water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools. We help governments develop strategies and standards and create or improve monitoring systems to track and report progress. Along with our partners, we advocate for the improvement of WASH services in schools, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and learning.



Afghanistan: How Clean Hands and Healthy Tummies Lead to Full Attendance in Class

Imagine, for a moment, going to school or a workplace that had no functioning toilets or running water.

Imagine how frustrating that would be. How inconvenient. How painful. How undignified.

During a visit to north Afghanistan, UNICEF was alerted to the fact that a school with a population of 9,000 students (3,500 girls and 5,500 boys), led by 190 teachers, had neither functioning toilets nor running water.

For adolescent girls who have to manage menstruation every month, the lack of water and sanitation facilities meant embarrassment, a worrying lack of hygiene and, a reason many girls don't come to school or drop out altogether.

UNICEF responded to the official request from the Education Department for support and rehabilitated the school's sanitation facilities.

Since May 2022, the high school has had a water source thanks to a brand-new borehole connected to a 20,000-litre overhead storage tank powered by a solar system. As a result, there are functioning toilets for girls and boys, including a 12-faucet handwashing point on the school grounds.

"Before the borehole was drilled, the school community experienced a lot of waterborne diseases because we used to get unclean water from surrounding areas. Our clean water source has brought back health and dignity to our school. The girls and boys, including their teachers, are now guaranteed safe drinking water and fully functioning facilities," shared the school's principal.



Students enjoy washing their hands at the new facility in their school.

UNICEF knows that getting access to the right resources, like water, can make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. Through our School WASH program, we have contributed to restoring the rights and dignity of learners by providing safe drinking water for 11 high schools in the Mazar region using solar-powered water systems benefiting 21,520 learners.

“In the last years, we lost our toilet facilities one by one until they were all shut down. Then our only source of water broke down. It was hard to come to school, especially for us girls. I feel relaxed about coming to school now because I can manage myself with dignity,” said Bahara, pictured right.

To keep these efforts sustainable, UNICEF has delivered hygiene awareness sessions for students and teachers. In response, Bahara’s school set up a committee among the teachers to promote personal and community hygiene among the students on a periodical bases. Teachers have been trained to operate and maintain the refurbished facilities.

Here’s to clean hands, healthy tummies, and full attendance in class.



Bahara says she feels good and relaxed about the new sanitation facilities at her school.

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Thank you for your support!

The provision of water at schools is one of the highly effective practices for increasing access and learning outcomes, especially for girls.

Together, we are helping to break barriers to education, supporting children to fulfill their potential and transform their communities.

Thank you Halifax! During the 2022 Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala, 80 water pumps and 261 water for life bundles were sold. Each water pump can provide safe water to a community of 150 people for up to 10 years.

Thanks to your support, 12,000 people can have access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene for up to a decade. Through maintenance training for community members, water pumps will remain functional to continue to serve those who need them the most.

For 30 years, the Annual Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax has supported the greatest needs of children around the world. **Thank you for your tremendous support.**



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A student washes her hands and face at a UNICEF-supported school in Herat, Afghanistan.