

WALKING FOR WATER – AROUND THE WORLD

Did you know that many children in developing countries around the world must walk an average of 6 km every day to get clean water? By participating in the Walking for Water campaign, school children can learn about this important topic and help solve this problem for other kids.

- Approximately 900 million people around the world lack access to safe drinking water
- Women and children in many developing countries must spend up to 60% of their time getting water, at the expense of going to school or working to generate income.



Walking for Water is an awareness and fundraising initiative which takes place around World Water Day (22 March). School children aged 10-15 are sponsored by friends and family to walk 6 kilometres, while carrying 6 litres of water in a backpack. With two important results: kids learn about global water issues and raise funds to help solve them. Lectures by teachers and external guest on the importance of clean drinking water and proper sanitation ensure the educational nature of the event.

The experience helps kids understand what many children their age in developing countries must do every single day, often at the expense of being in school. It is a motivating and effective community event to engage the younger generation on an important topic and teach them that they can make a difference in the lives of others.



The concept of Walking for Water was pioneered in the Netherlands by NGO Aqua for All, and has grown in popularity every year since it started in 2003. Results have been impressive — in 2010, 18.000 children from over 400 schools Walked for Water, raising €1.2 million for water projects around the world. 2011 was the first year that Walking for Water spread over the borders of the Netherlands. More than 25.000 children from the Netherlands, South Africa, England, Scotland and Malta were participating. Together the children raised funds for projects in Tanzania, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Schools can choose a project to fund with the money raised, and see the project unfold online.

Source: <https://umngeniriverwalk.wordpress.com/2013/03/03/walking-for-water-around-the-world/>