

Toilet Twinning Information Sheet

It is a shocking and sobering fact that **two billion people** in some of the poorest countries of the world, do not have somewhere safe to go to the toilet. (*World Health Organisation / Unicef*) People become sick through sanitation-related diseases which means they cannot work or farm their land. Moreover, according to the UN, **almost 1000 children die every day** from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and poor sanitation. This is an appalling and totally unacceptable situation.

But there is more. A lack of a toilet makes women and girls a target for sexual assault when they go to the toilet in the open, especially at night. They also risk being attacked or bitten by snakes, particularly if their culture dictates that they have to go out at night. Where is the safety or dignity in that?

Children worldwide miss 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and the lack of somewhere safe to go to the toilet. We also know that girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms available for them. Yet without education, how can they reach their potential?

It is not just education which suffers. According to the World Bank, every year women and girls spend 97 billion hours finding a place to go - all that wasted time and effort!

Yet the solution is simple. **Toilet Twinning.org** is part of the charity Tearfund and is committed to 'flushing away poverty, one toilet at a time'.

Twinning a toilet costs £60 and that gives you a choice of which country you want your loo to be twinned with. You receive a very nice framed certificate which gives the GPS co-ordinates of the village where your toilet will be built. (The only exception to this is Afghanistan where for security reasons, the location of your loo isn't given.)

If you would like to twin your toilet just log on to www.toilettwinning.org and follow the instructions to purchase your toilet.

When finished you will be sent a confirmation email with your order number on it. Please send the order number and whether the toilet is for an individual or family, or for an organisation, to Sue at sihandd@hotmail.co.uk or to Heather at heather.shipman@lineone.net so that we can count it against the number required to make Wetherby a Toilet Twinned Town.

To make Wetherby a Toilet Twinned Town, we need at least 20 toilets across then town from at least four of these categories :

- Churches or other faith communities
- Schools or other educational establishments
- Public toilets
- Cafes, pubs or restaurants
- Local businesses or employers
- Community organisations / charities

Let's go for it!