



Wherever the Need

## Family & Community Eco-Sanitation Toilets

"Sanitation is more important than  
political independence"

Mahatma Gandhi



## Why Sanitation?

Sanitation saves lives. Half of the hospital beds in the developing world are occupied by people suffering from some form of intestinal illness. Every single day 6,000 people die from diarrhoea, 5,000 of whom are children aged under five. Most people with no sanitation facilities are very poor and are trapped in a vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty. They are often sick, so miss out on education and cannot work regularly. Your donation will have a direct impact on these lives.

Many aid programmes pour money into projects that fail because the local people are not healthy enough to make use of them. The basis of well being is good health, and the basis of good health is good sanitation. It has an even greater impact than clean water.



Indian Family Ecosan (with washroom)

At WTN we also believe strongly in a sustainable planet, so we promote composting (ecosan) toilets, which are clean, efficient, reduce methane emissions, do not waste water and provide top grade compost.

Good sanitation through ecosan:

- reduces mortality, especially among children;
- creates better health that leads to greater livelihood and educational options;
- creates communities that can make good use of aid;
- reduces methane emissions.

[www.wherevertheneed.org](http://www.wherevertheneed.org)

## What is Ecosan?

Ecosan is a composting toilet with an enclosed chamber in which faeces accumulate, with added organic material such as wood ash. Once the chamber is full, it is allowed to rest for several months until it produces a totally safe, rich, fertile compost. Urine, which is very high in nutrients, is siphoned off with any washing water onto plants – especially those such as bananas and tomatoes with a high potassium requirement.

All ecosan units are totally enclosed, providing the privacy, convenience and security that is totally lacking for those who must defecate and wash in open fields or swamps. The health benefits are profound: far fewer gastrointestinal and parasitic diseases, less money spent on expensive medical supplies, far more time and energy for work and education and more money for food. These examples reinforce why your donation is such a good investment.

The toilets we have already built are kept clean and well maintained by local people. Women, in particular, rediscover their self-respect and dignity, and value the fact that they are no longer at risk from voyeurs. There seems to be no simpler way to empower people. In addition the toilets are totally environmentally friendly, do not smell or attract flies, produce beneficial compost and significantly reduce disease. They are truly win-win facilities!

One woman in Gujarat, India, whose family now has a regular water supply and a new ecosan toilet with attached washroom, told WTN:

*“ When the water came, I thought I could not be happier. When the washroom was used I felt I had gone to heaven. However, when I started to use the toilet I didn't realise how important this was to me, and I now feel safe, secure and disease free. I didn't know life could be this wonderful. ”*

WTN builds ecosan facilities in both India and Sierra Leone. In India a donation of \$350 will construct a basic family unit, or \$480 will enable the addition of a washroom. In Sierra Leone a donation of \$1,600 will provide a communal unit designed for 75 people. The countries and the unit size may be different, but the solution is the same. Ecosan toilets are the most cost-effective, long-term sustainable solution to good health and well being available.

Wherever the Need is committed to using your donation effectively and its experience has shown there is no better usage than in such a proven, eco-friendly facility.

Please donate today.



Sierra Leone Community Ecosan



Compost

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**Wherever the Need**

Eco-Sanitation · Water · Livelihoods · Environment · Empowerment