



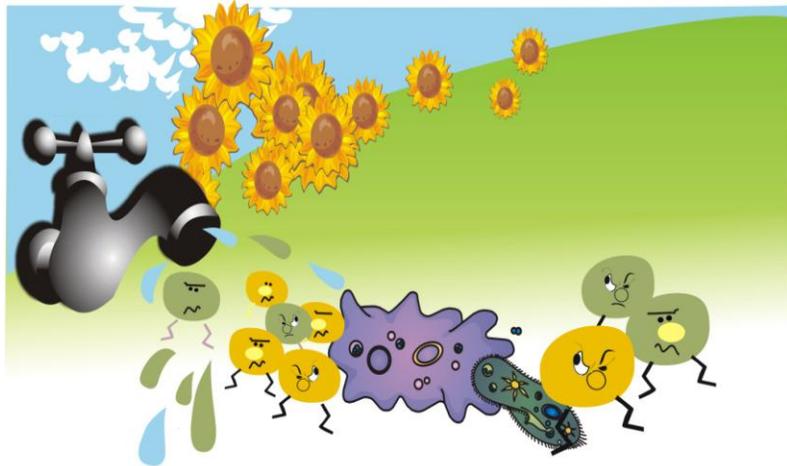
2008

The International Year of the Frog, the Potato and Sanitation.

What does a frog, a potato and sanitation have in common you might ask, well nothing other than the fact that they have all been honoured with recognition for 2008. The international year of the frog has been launched to create awareness and help in the prevention of 500 nearly extinct species.

The potato has been named to highlight its usefulness as a resource to alleviate poverty, and on the 27 November 2007, the United Nations launched the International Year of Sanitation. Approximately 2.6 billion people worldwide do not have access to basic sanitation.

Sanitation can be described as a system that safely manages human excreta, and influences the health and dignity of people. There are various diseases that are linked to poor hygiene or contaminated water, for example, Typhoid, Diarrhoea, Cholera, Hepatitis to name a few. By simply educating and promoting basic sanitation practices, the spread of disease could be reduced by almost two thirds.



The abovementioned diseases can be referred to as water borne diseases. The risk of contracting them can be greatly reduced in the following ways:

- Washing your hands after visiting the toilet.
- Washing fruit and vegetables thoroughly before consumption.
- Making sure that the containers you store water in are clean and sterilized.
- Do not use water from rivers or dams for consumption unless it is stated safe to do so.
- Make sure your cooking utensils are clean.
- Never use cloths in your kitchen that you use in your bathroom.
- Cover your food properly to prevent flies from contaminating your food.

The International Year of Sanitation is aimed to accelerate the progress in sanitation facilities for all those without access. It is set to create the necessary awareness and ensure that this crisis is at the forefront of the international agenda. The good news is that our government is 100% committed to attend to the sanitation problem and now no new formal housing built, may be built without a proper and hygienic sanitation system. This goes hand in hand with the Bucket Eradication Programme currently in progress. With this said and done, we need to make an effort to keep our water clean as it is our children especially who are paying the price in lives lost, disease, missing school, poverty and malnutrition, so let us give the gift of life to our future generation.

Cara Willoughby