



# EDUCATION COUNTS

because it helps  
ensure environmental  
sustainability

**Education helps people make decisions that meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations. Education for sustainable development is fundamental to changing values, attitudes and behaviours.**

The world faces critical challenges such as climate change, rapid depletion of natural resources, frequent natural disasters and the loss of biodiversity.

Decisions and action taken today have an impact on the future.

A large proportion of the world's population lives without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. There are at least 100 million slum dwellers globally.



More than 2.6 billion people still lack access to proper sanitation and 1.1 billion people have no regular access to clean water.

**As a result, 1.8 million children die from diarrhoea each year.**

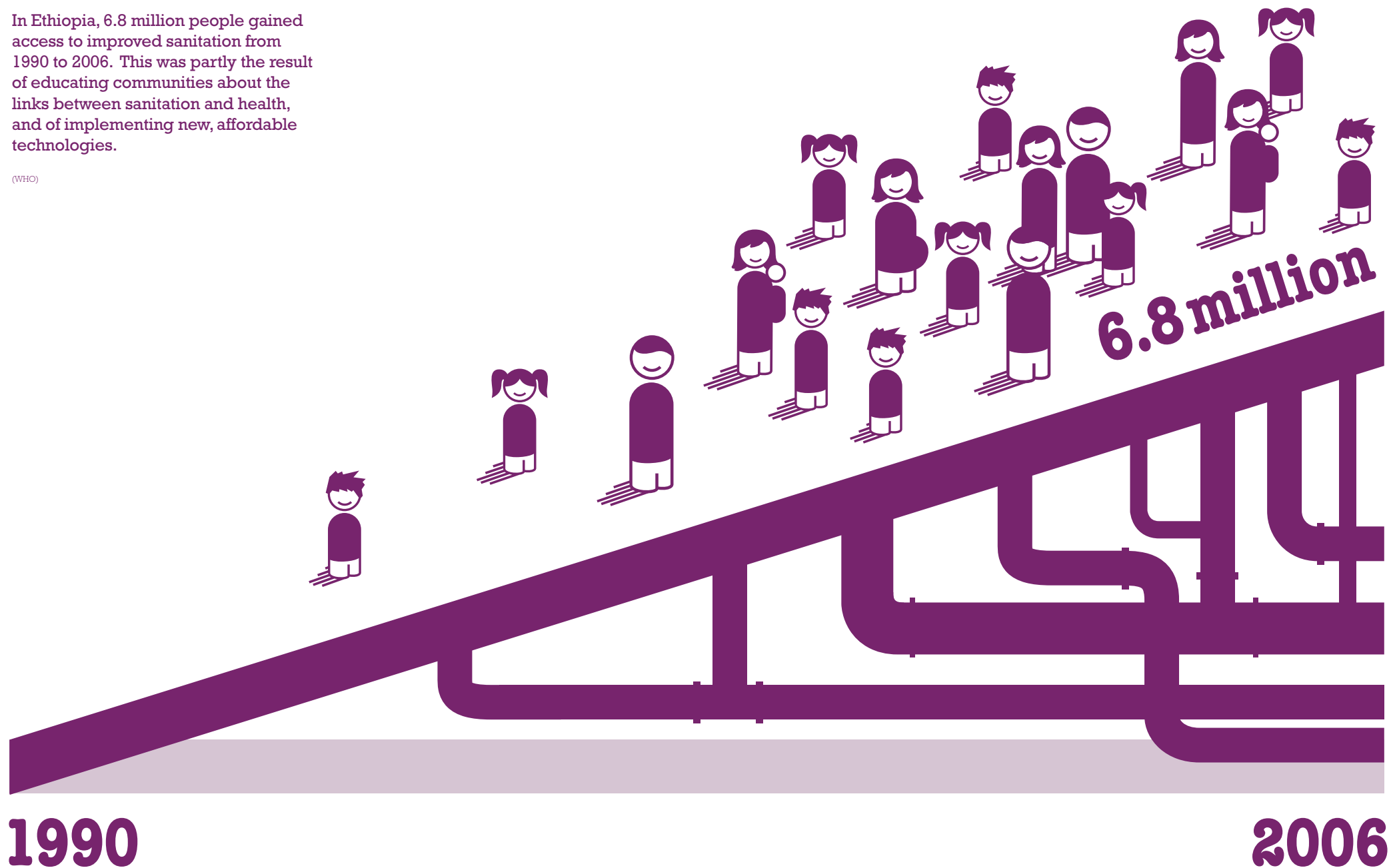
443 million school days are lost globally due to water-related illnesses.

(HDR 2006).

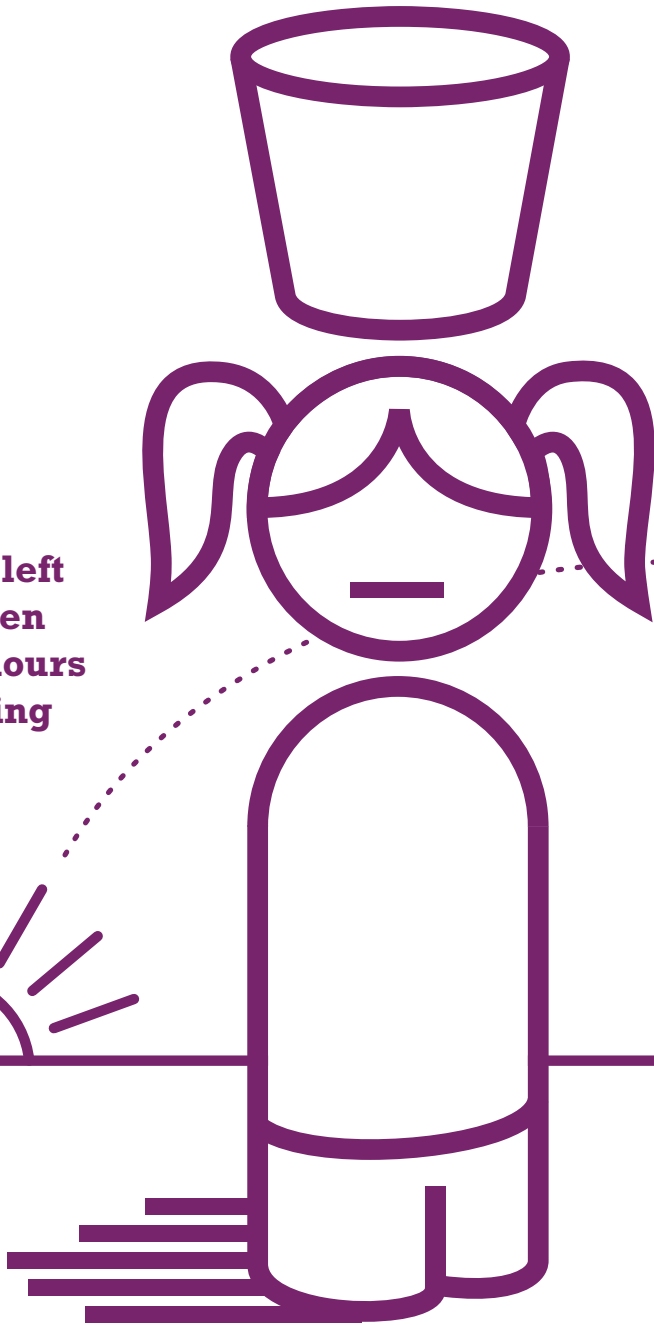


In Ethiopia, 6.8 million people gained access to improved sanitation from 1990 to 2006. This was partly the result of educating communities about the links between sanitation and health, and of implementing new, affordable technologies.

(WHO)

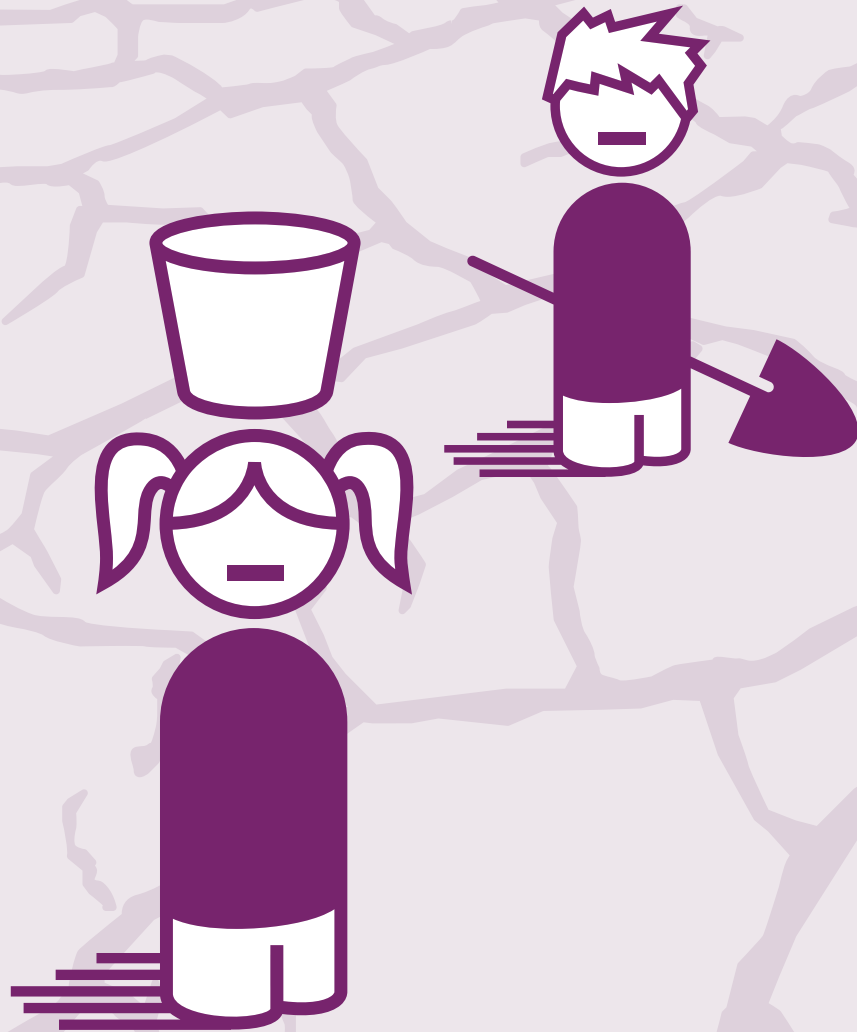


**There is no time left for education when children spend hours each day collecting water.**



Girls spend up to **15** hours a week obtaining water for their families and villages.

(HDR 2006)



**Natural disasters such as droughts have had significant effects on enrolment and years in school.**

**In Zambia, more than one-third of children aged 7-14 belonged to households that experienced some form of environmental shock during 2005.**

**Environmental shocks were particularly damaging for education, raising the probability of children in low-income households being involved in full-time work by 14%, leaving no time for school.**

