

Eco club takes action: Georgia



A local government-established landfill has contaminated drinking water in Kakheti.

Photo: Ana Chkhaidze /World Vision



Water is collected from local drinking water points for testing. It may look clear this time, but it is important to know for certain that it is safe to drink. Photo: Ana Chkhaidze /World Vision

After learning about staying healthy and protecting the environment through World Vision workshops, the next logical step for members of the youth Eco club in Kakheti, Georgia, was taking social action about their local water quality.

Eco club youth were well-aware of the water quality issues they faced, despite their close proximity to a lake resort and spa. The Lopota River, their village's source of drinking water, is very dirty and has a local government-run landfill nearby which has polluted the river. "After it rains water becomes cloudy and thick with muck, and it smells bad," says youth Eco club member Giorgi.

Discussions with community members raised the issue of lack of safe water, and the suggestion of water testing. "The idea of testing water came from our community members," says Giorgi. Considering their resources to take social action, club members decided to use laboratory equipment available at their school to test the quality of the water.

The tests that club members run include the water temperature, the amount of dissolved oxygen, and the pH – pH indicates the concentration of hydrogen, nutrients and toxic substances in the water. Eco club members document each set of laboratory results.

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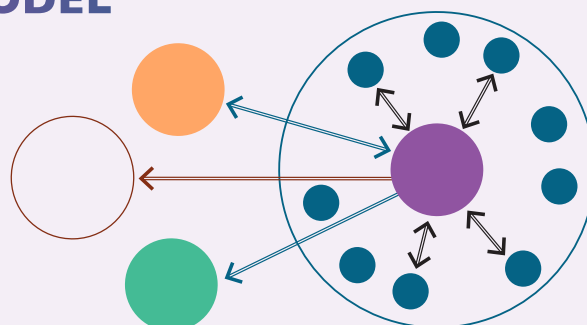
Whenever they have concerns about the poor quality of the water, they warn the school administration, children and community members not to drink it.

Taking this first step of social action has led the club to consider what other actions they can take next. "We need to approach the local government and show them our laboratory results and advocate for better quality of drinking water [all the time]," says youth Eco club member Tengo.

ACTION MODEL

KEY

- Eco club
- community members
- development staff, World Vision Georgia
- school administration
- local government



Start your own social action club:

- Connect with interested students and a supportive adult (teacher, youth worker).
- Brainstorm issues affecting your community.
- Ask community members about their concerns and ideas for action.
- Prioritise and plan social actions.
- Take action.
- Decide on your next steps.

Eco club members test water quality using the school's science laboratory.
Photo: Ana Chkhaidze / World Vision

