

WATER TO THRIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2021

YOUR LEGACY OF IMPACT

The mission of Water to Thrive is to transform lives in rural Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to provide the blessing of clean, safe water. We are dedicated to connecting communities in need with supporters who have the heart and spirit to make a difference. We envision a world where we share generously to provide health, hope, and water to those we serve.

With your support, we are on our way to ensuring that every person on the planet has access to clean water. Your donations have saved countless lives, educated children, empowered women and girls, lifted communities out of poverty, and restored hope and dignity.

This is your legacy of impact.

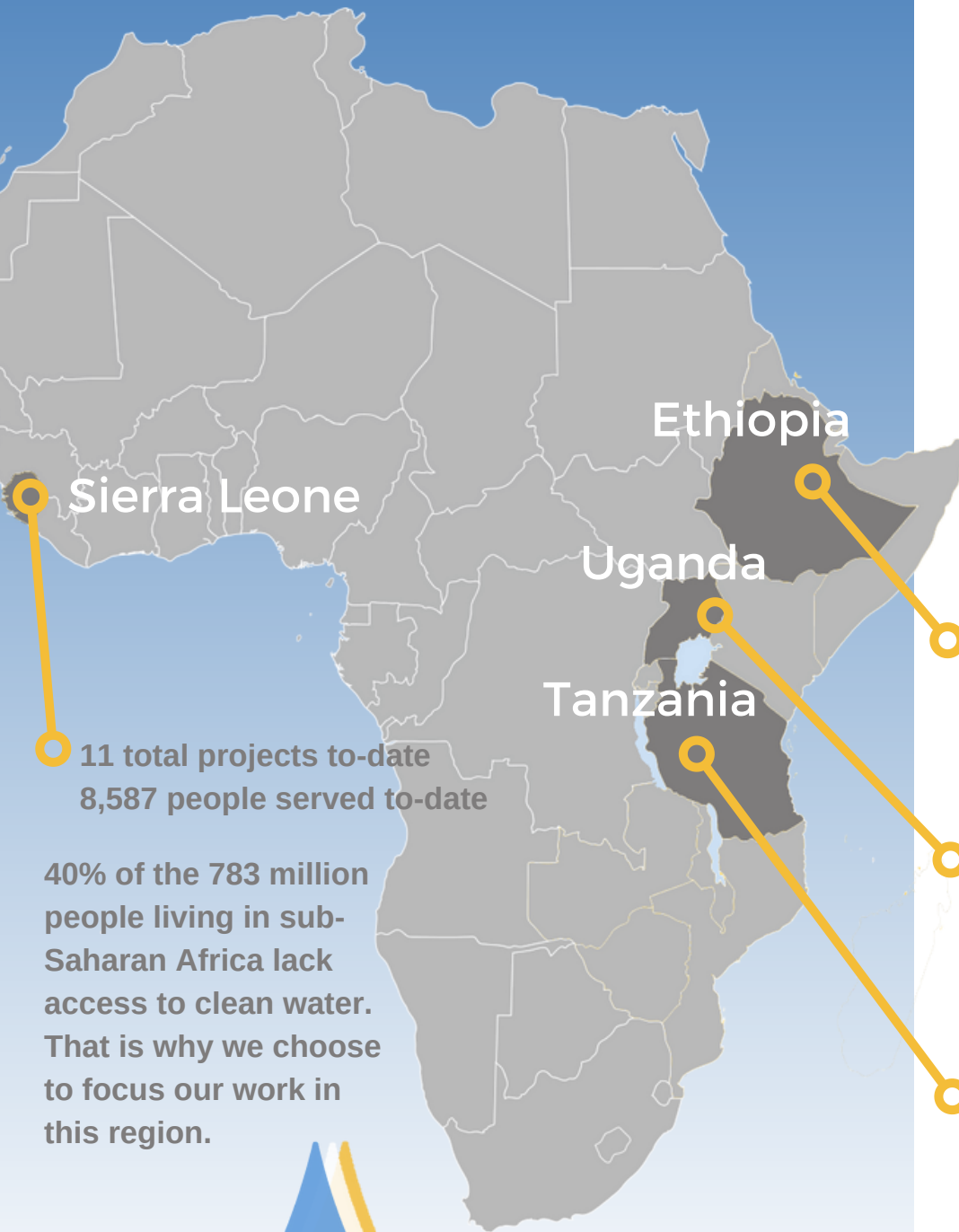


Women and mothers like Shukare, who took a long and dangerous journey to get water, are finally freed from the tiresome burden of water collection. "My life is changed! I have more time and my family is healthy. May God bless the donors of this well!"



Kids like Nassari are excitedly getting ready for school. "No more missing school. I have time to do my homework and study now. Thank you for giving us clean water."

LASTING GLOBAL CHANGE



40% of the 783 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean water. That is why we choose to focus our work in this region.

WATER TO THRIVE EXPENDITURES

**73% SPENT ON
WATER PROJECTS**

**17% SPENT ON
FUNDRAISING**

**10% SPENT ON
OPERATING EXPENSES**

105 WELLS FUNDED

**1,301 WELLS FUNDED
TO-DATE**

**OVER 700,000
PEOPLE HAVE
GAINED ACCESS TO
CLEAN WATER
TO-DATE**

79 projects
44,240 people served
1,057 total projects to-date
591,920 people served to-date

15 projects
8,400 people served
161 total projects to-date
90,160 people served to-date

10 projects
5,600 people served
72 total projects to-date
40,320 people served to-date

Water project data is based on the number of wells funded and implemented. Annual data, including total expenditures, is from 2020. To-date data is from 2008-2020.

A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION



We work with local partners who are experienced in water project construction. Local partners have the ability to work with local government, and since they know the language and culture of the communities we serve, they are better able to mobilize the communities and prepare them to receive their new well.



We work in East Africa, in the countries of Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. By focusing our work to one geographical area, we are able to maximize efficiency in our use of resources and strengthen our impact. We work in very rural communities because they are the most isolated from access to clean water.



Every beneficiary community receives comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training, learning about contamination of water sources and how to prevent diseases like Covid-19. Then, each community elects a Water Committee who is responsible for the maintenance of the well.



Communities are actively involved in the process of implementing a well, from location selection to construction to long-term maintenance. The Water Committee manages a maintenance fund to pay for any future repairs. They also establish hours of operation for the well to prevent potential damage from overuse.



Each locally-elected Water Committee is made up of at least 50% women. Women are the primary water collectors in East Africa, so our goal is to ensure that they are included in making decisions about the well. Research also shows that wells implemented with the support of women are more sustainable.



Gashaw Simeneh, our Project Manager, lives in Ethiopia, and travels between all three countries to oversee the projects. He conducts regular site visits and sends us progress reports during the construction process, so that our partners are held accountable for the work of building wells.

THE GIFT OF A BETTER LIFE

Addisse lives in the Boche village in central Ethiopia. She gained access to clean water for the first time in 2020.

When I was a very young girl, I was infected with Typhoid with my Dad and my older sister. My sister and I were saved but my Dad passed away.

Before this well, we collected water from unprotected ponds which ran dry in the dry season. During this time, since water was scarce, we had to wait in a very long line to collect water. Because of this, I missed class very often.

I wish my Dad was here to see and celebrate this well. May God bless all who participated in the donation and construction of this well. My life is changed. I have bright hopes to continue my studies and make great achievements in my future career.



Namala lives in the Mpongo village in Uganda. She gained access to clean water for the first time in 2020.

In 2019, my oldest son, Byakatonda Charles, passed away due to the infection from a waterborne disease. When he became sick, his father and I took him to the nearby hospital and he was admitted for a few days. We did not have enough money to buy the prescribed medicines from the pharmacy and Charles died at the age of 30. It was terrible for me and my family.

Today, I am comforted by having this new well. Now I have hope that my younger children will grow up and finish their schooling. We have no more fear of waterborne diseases in our village. We are saving our money and sending our children to school. We have time to produce more crops and our income has increased. Everything changed. May God count what you have graciously done for us and bless you.



A PASSIONATE COMMUNITY

Where I was born, (Ethiopia) many people live in poverty and don't have access to clean water. I wanted to do something to give back to where I come from. I like that Water to Thrive is faith-based, and their staff responded to me quickly. I could tell they really care about the work. I plan to fund more wells in the future. My hope is that one day every child in Ethiopia—and everywhere—has access to clean water.

—Eden Wild

Eden was adopted from Ethiopia. She is 13 years old and has already raised nearly \$20,000 for clean water.

We are happy to assist Water to Thrive in bringing clean water to communities. We wanted to work with a smaller, more hands-on organization where we could develop relationships with staff and feel the united approach to our efforts. Working with Water to Thrive has given us the reporting and feedback we were looking for from a water organization. We're able to see how many wells we are funding, which is fantastic to be able to track the progress.

—Casey Hunt, Mammoth Inc.

Thanks to their TUSK Outreach program, Mammoth Inc. has already raised \$45,000 for water, funding 9 wells.

We saw the deep need and wanted to make a difference in the lives of women and children walking for hours each day, missing school, trapped in poverty. This was an opportunity to change a situation that is dis-empowering and deadly. We have funded over 6 wells, and being able to do that within the Genesys corporation has helped bring together a community of thousands to see a bigger impact.

—Janelle Dieken, Genesys

Genesys launched an international fundraising campaign in 2019 that has now raised over \$30,000.

**DONORS
GAVE
\$1,069,535
IN TOTAL**

**DONORS
GAVE
\$610,466
FOR
WATER**

**FULL WELL
SPONSORS**
57 TOTAL DONORS
30 INDIVIDUALS
15 CHURCHES
8 SCHOOLS
4 BUSINESSES



STAYING TRUE TO OUR VALUES

During this past year, we faced many challenges. The COVID-19 health crisis continued to add obstacles for our local partners to overcome, but they still managed to keep building wells, mobilizing rural communities, and training them in sanitation and hygiene. The pandemic also made it harder for our small staff to plan any in-person fundraising events. This year, we had to cancel our annual Chef's Table Austin fundraiser for the second year in a row. In addition, a civil war in northern Ethiopia has disrupted the focus of our work and we shifted funding to projects in other areas of Ethiopia and to projects in our other countries until peace is restored.

The road to providing clean water is always likely to have a few bumps. Even during a normal time, there's a number of things that could happen to get in the way of building wells. Despite this, we promise to be resilient and hold true to our values. Our work won't stop until everyone on the planet has access to safe, clean water.

STEWARDSHIP

We upgraded our donation software to improve the donor experience and enable staff to be more accessible to donors.

TRANSPARENCY

We make our 100 Percent Promise that all donations for water go entirely toward water projects.

IMPACT

Last year, 73% of total expenditures was spent on water projects to maximize the amount of wells built and people served.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We provide all full well donors with project completion reports, photos and the GPS coordinates of the well they funded.

INTEGRITY

We refuse to compromise on the quality of our water projects. Our wells are projected to last an average of 20 years.

EMPOWERMENT

We empower every beneficiary community to take ownership of their well by giving them the tools and knowledge needed to maintain it for decades to come.

FUNDING THE FUTURE



Water Angels form the foundation of support for our operations, giving a minimum of \$1,000 every year. In 2020, 51 Water Angels gave nearly \$70,000. The amazing generosity of these donors enables us to continue the life-saving work of bringing clean water to those in need.



Water Guardians are monthly donors who safeguard our ability to continue operations. Last year, 25 Water Guardians gave over \$4,000. Currently, there are 34 members of the Water Guardian community and our goal is to expand to 100 members in 2022.



This year, we launched the Water to Thrive Endowment Fund. Our vision for the Endowment Fund is to build a foundation of financial security to ensure continuity in serving those in need of clean water for many generations to come. A generous community of donors has already donated \$110,000. Their investments will ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization.

THE PATH FORWARD

Water to Thrive began back in 2008 with the premise that if we shared the need for clean water with those who had a heart to make a difference, we could collectively bring health, hope and water to thousands of people. Now, over 1,300 water projects have been funded, bringing safe, clean water to over 700,000 beneficiaries.

We continue to dream big. Our next goal is to bring clean water to 1,000,000 people. Join us and visit watertothrive.org to get involved. Looking to make a difference now? Scan the QR code below to give for clean water today.



LEADERSHIP

Susanne Wilson,
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Moeller, Chairman
Ed Scharlau, Treasurer
Carol Kaemmerer, Secretary
Joel Hinkhouse
Ryan Sutton
Sally Mallowa
Paul Elbert



@WaterToThrive



@watertothrive



team@watertothrive.org



watertothrive.org

