

A young boy with short, light-colored hair is sitting on the ground, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored, sleeveless shirt. The background is a dense, green bush or tree. The overall tone of the image is warm and natural.

WATER TO THRIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2022

# THE POWER OF ONE

## THE MISSION

To transform lives in east Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to bring the blessing of clean, safe water, connecting communities in need with supporters who have the heart and spirit to make a difference.

## THE VISION

We envision a world where we share generously to provide health, hope, and water to those we serve.

## THE IMPACT

Anyone can be a hero. It just takes one person to make a difference. Thanks to everyday people coming together, a dream that started fourteen years ago has now become a movement committed to bringing clean water to rural communities in need. Now, years later, more than 810,000 lives are changed forever.

water to thrive  
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES



# INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

## ETHIOPIA



175 wells in 2021  
87,500 people served in 2021  
1,388 total wells to-date  
622,938 people served to-date

## UGANDA



45 wells in 2021  
22,500 people served in 2021  
216 total wells to-date  
107,886 people served to-date

## TANZANIA



72 total wells to-date  
71,464 people served to-date

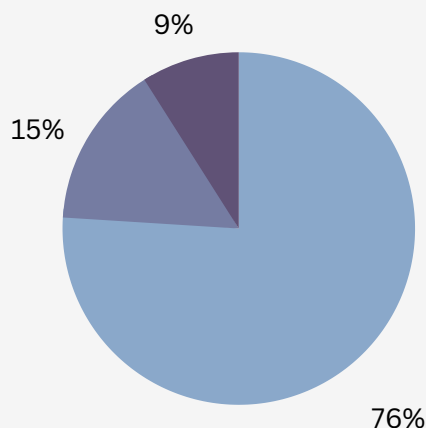
## SIERRA LEONE



11 total wells to-date  
8,587 people served to-date

220 WELLS  
FUNDED  
1,687 WELLS  
FUNDED  
TO-DATE  
OVER 810,000  
PEOPLE GAINED  
ACCESS TO CLEAN  
WATER TO-DATE

## WATER TO THRIVE EXPENDITURES



76% SPENT ON  
WATER PROJECTS  
15% SPENT ON  
FUNDRAISING  
9% SPENT ON  
OPERATIONS

\*Water project totals include the number of wells funded and implemented. Annual data, including total expenditures, is from 2021. To-date data is from 2008-2022.\*



# SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



We work in East Africa, in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. By focusing our work in the same geographical area, we are able to maximize efficiency. The need is great in this area—in sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of people lack access to clean water. We work in very rural communities as they are the most isolated from water.



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



Gashaw Simeneh, our Project Manager, lives in Ethiopia, and travels to 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.



Communities are actively involved in the process of building a well, from choosing a location to construction to maintenance. Water Committees manage 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 Water Committee is locally-elected and made up of at least 50% women. Since women are the primary water collectors in East Africa, our goal is to ensure they are included in making decisions about the well. Plus, research shows that wells implemented with the support of women are more sustainable.



Every community receives comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training, learning about contamination of water sources, how to prevent waterborne diseases and the importance of hand-washing. Then, the community Water Committees are trained on how to operate and maintain each well.



# LIVES CHANGED FOREVER



**Muzicho is 13 years old and lives in Ethiopia.  
Her community well was completed this year.**

I used to travel to other villages and wait in long lines to collect water. The trip was dangerous for girls like me, plus I was forced to miss school. The water source was an open pond and we were suffering from vomiting and diarrhea. But now everything has changed because of this new well. My mother and I now have time to raise chickens, do handicraft work and grow vegetables in our garden. I have more time to study. I dream of becoming a police officer to protect my family and other people from crime.



**Lemite lives in the Gushulo village in Ethiopia.  
Her community well was completed this year.**

I was abducted by a man at age 15 during a long trek to collect water. He sent an elder and a small dowry to negotiate with my parents. My parents agreed to his proposal to take me as his wife, against my will. At the time, I was a good student and had dreamed of becoming a doctor one day.

My dreams were ruined because of this abduction and rape. I now have a daughter and our village was gifted a well. With this gift of water, I believe my daughter and others will not suffer as I did. For that, I am thankful.



**Yalem is a mother of five living in Ethiopia.  
Her community well was completed this year.**

Waterborne diseases hit our village numerous times. The costs of medical care and the far distance of health clinics made it hard to get treatment. Now that this well is available to us, life is easier. We no longer have to go deep into the forest to collect water from the river, which was exposing our daughters to danger. We are so thankful for this new life that clean water has provided us and our children. Thank you!



# HEROES AT WORK

## CHEF'S TABLE AUSTIN RECAP

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Chef's Table Austin was live and in-person this year! On September 22nd, 150 people enjoyed a night of fundraising, games, food and drinks! Eleven chefs offered menus that were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Chef's Table Austin funds our operations so we can keep our 100% promise that all donations for water go entirely to water projects.

This event brought Water to Thrive supporters together for the first time since 2019. The special guest of the evening was Eden Wild who spoke to the audience about her efforts to raise funds for clean water. Eden shared her adoption story and how her own mother died from a waterborne illness.

“Where I was born, (Ethiopia) many people live in poverty and don't have access to clean water. I want to do something to give back to where I come from. I plan to keep funding 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 is just 15 years old and has already raised \$20,000 for clean water. She is pictured at the right.



**2021 DONORS  
GAVE  
\$1,242,421  
FOR  
WATER**

**2021 DONORS  
GAVE  
\$1,601,237  
IN TOTAL  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**2021 WELL  
SPONSORS**  
  
80 INDIVIDUALS  
28 CHURCHES  
8 SCHOOLS  
11 BUSINESSES  
127 TOTAL DONORS



# OUR VALUES IN ACTION

Doing work internationally presents challenges of distance, logistics, and cultural and language differences, but this year proved to be more challenging due to the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Our largest partner in terms of water well construction is the Relief Society of Tigray (REST). Due to the conflict, new well construction halted in Tigray. We promptly responded by shifting funding to other partners in Ethiopia and Uganda that could continue the work. This shift required other partners to increase their capacity which meant some delays in scaling operations. We truly appreciate the patience and understanding that donors have shown in this situation. In addition to building wells, we also received funding to support the rehabilitation of wells vandalized in the war. We have already begun rehab work in the areas of Tigray that are safe.

The road to providing clean water isn't always easy, but it is worth it. Our promise to you is to stay resilient, hold true to our values, and face any challenges that may arise. Our work won't stop until everyone has access to safe, clean water.

## STEWARDSHIP

We make regular efforts to streamline the donor experience and enable staff to be more accessible to donors.

## TRANSPARENCY

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

## IMPACT

We launched an Endowment Fund, so donors can invest in our future, and we can build wells for decades to come.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

All full well donors receive 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 20+ years.

## EMPOWERMENT

We empower our beneficiaries to take ownership of their new well by giving them the tools and knowledge needed to maintain it for years to come.



# FUNDING OUR FUTURE



Water Angels form the foundation of support for our operations, giving a minimum of \$1,000 each year. Last year, 76 Water Angels gave more than \$165,000 together. The amazing generosity of these donors enables us to continue the work of bringing clean water to those in need.



Water Guardians are monthly donors who safeguard our ability to continue operations. Last year, 37 Water Guardians gave over \$10,000. Currently, there are 51 members of the Water Guardian community. Our goal is to expand this program to reach 100 members in 2023.



The Water to Thrive Endowment Fund launched last year. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to build a foundation of financial security to ensure we can continue our mission. So far, a dedicated community of donors has already donated \$175,000. Their donations are invested and the dividends are then available to support our needs into the future, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our organization.



# STILL DREAMING BIG

Water to Thrive began 14 years ago with a dream to bring not just clean water, but also good health, education, female empowerment, economic freedom, hope and dignity to communities in need. We believed that by sharing the need for clean water, we could inspire others to make a difference. Years later, thousands of donors have stepped up to provide families with the most basic human need. More than 1,600 water projects have been funded, and over 810,000 people now have access to safe water for the first time.

We continue to dream big. By establishing new initiatives to diversify organizational funding, we are planning for our future, so we can continue to address the needs of the 700 million who still lack access to clean water. Our next milestone is to bring clean water to 1,000,000 people. We need your help to reach this goal! The power of one can change lives forever. You can be the one. Visit [watertothrive.org](http://watertothrive.org) or scan the QR code below!

## LEADERSHIP

Susanne Wilson,  
Executive Director

## BOARD MEMBERS

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



@WaterToThrive



@watertothrive



[team@watertothrive.org](mailto:team@watertothrive.org)



[watertothrive.org](http://watertothrive.org)

