ONE MILLION LIVES

EMPOWERING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WITH ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Since 2006, charity: water has been on a mission to bring clean and safe water to people living in rural communities around the world. We take a community-driven approach to support the delivery of innovative, inclusive, and sustainable water projects.

We've partnered with rural communities and local partner organizations across 29 countries to support 152,665 water projects that are delivering clean water, hygiene, and improved sanitation to more than 18.4 million people around the world.

And we're just getting started.

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SUMMARY

FUNDING REQUEST

$50M over 5-10 years*

$40M for Water Projects

$10M for Operations

ESTIMATED 5-YEAR BREAKDOWN

$8M for Water Projects

$2M for Operations

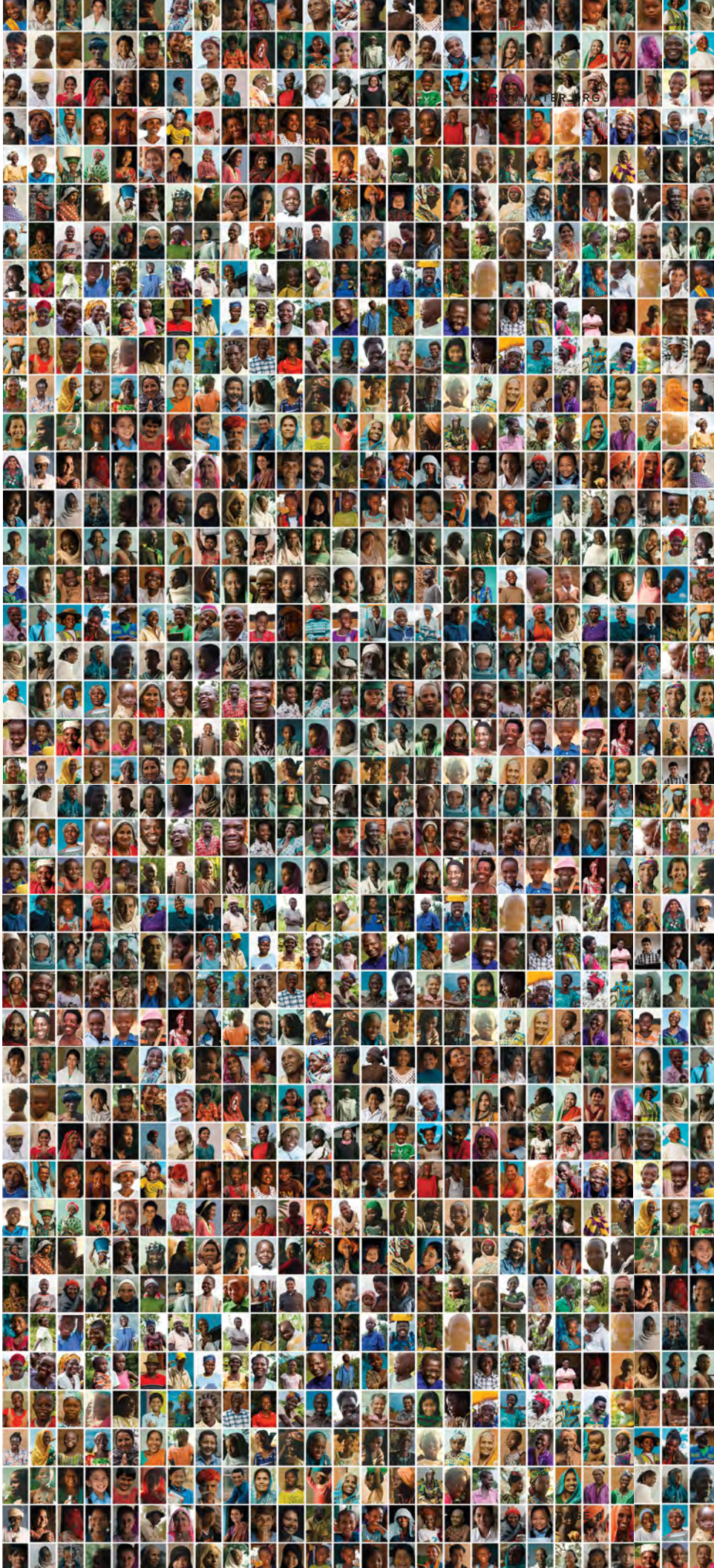
$10M per year

IMPACT

One million people with sustained access to clean water, hygiene, and improved sanitation in Africa and Asia.

OBJECTIVE

To improve the well-being of people around the world with sustainable access to clean and safe water in rural communities.



***Please note:**

1. Estimated cost for commitments made in 2024-25. Costs are expected to increase with inflation.
2. The expected cost to reach one million people is $50M over 5 years ($40M water projects and $10M operations) or $60M over 10 years ($50M water projects and $10M operations) to account for inflation.

WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING

THE WATER CRISIS: AN URGENT, UNMET NEED

Clean water has the power to dramatically improve health and well-being, empower women and girls, open pathways to education, and spark economic growth.

Yet, 703 million people live without clean water, and 78% of those who lack basic access live in rural and underinvested communities[1].

Those living in these areas often spend hours walking for water. They typically rely on surface water, like a river or pond, or an unimproved water source, like an unprotected handmade well. It's common for animals to share — and pollute — these sources.

Consuming contaminated water is linked to the transmission of diseases like diarrhea, cholera, typhoid fever, and hepatitis A and E[2]. Children under five are over 20 times more likely to die from illnesses caused by unsafe water and inadequate sanitation than from conflict[3].

Access to clean water is also a necessary driver of economic development and empowerment in communities, especially for women. Universal access to basic water services could give women a total of 77 million additional working days per year[4].

Every $1 invested in improved water and sanitation yields $4.30 in economic returns[5].

WOMEN AND WATER

While the water crisis is a human issue, it is unquestionably a women's issue.

The burden of collecting water and the negative impact that comes with it disproportionately falls on women and girls, who collectively spend 200 million hours walking to collect water for their families and communities every single day (UNICEF). The work is unpaid, laborious, and time-consuming, locking women into a cycle of poverty, abuse, poor health, and disempowerment. It compromises their ability to attend school, earn an income, and live with dignity.

This pervasive issue is known as "time poverty[7]." It's a symptom of a more fundamental problem that furthers gendered social norms — norms that give men power over women, assign lesser value to women and their contributions, and maintain an inequitable distribution of power between genders.

"We used to spend all day getting water from the open well. Sometimes we didn't even get water. But now it's easy. We wake up early and do work quickly; we have time to do other jobs and earn money. It has changed our life."

— **UMU,** HAIRSTYLIST, MALI

UMU

TOGETHER, WE CAN

TRANSFORM ONE MILLION LIVES

UNIVERSAL AND SUSTAINED ACCESS TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER IS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

Over the next five years, we have an organizational goal to reach another 15 million people with clean water and keep water flowing for 35 million people — impacting a total of 50 million people.

With the right resources, we believe we can end the water crisis in our lifetime. The team is in place. The path forward is clear. We know how to solve this problem. All we need is the funding.

An investment of this size will accelerate impact at scale and substantially contribute to moving the needle on this global milestone.

"Just because a person is poor, it doesn't mean they deserve poor solutions."

— JOE MADIATH,
FOUNDER OF GRAM VIKAS,
ONE OF OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

YOUR $50 MILLION INVESTMENT

will scale a multi-country portfolio of water projects to:

1

Improve access to clean and safe water for one million people by building high-quality new and rehabilitated water systems. A core condition is to ensure that all water points are easily accessible for all community members, reducing the collection time and water burden, specifically for women and girls.

2

Facilitate gender balance and inclusion in water management structures and activities to advance the health, safety, empowerment, and leadership of women and girls as well as the longer-term functionality and community ownership of water points.

3

Build the capacity of a robust network of local partners led by people from the communities served and leverage their expertise to ensure effective, durable, and locally-tailored programming.

4

Drive rigorous data collection to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and scale of water project delivery and impact. We aim to prove the use of every dollar invested, not only to supporters but to communities themselves.

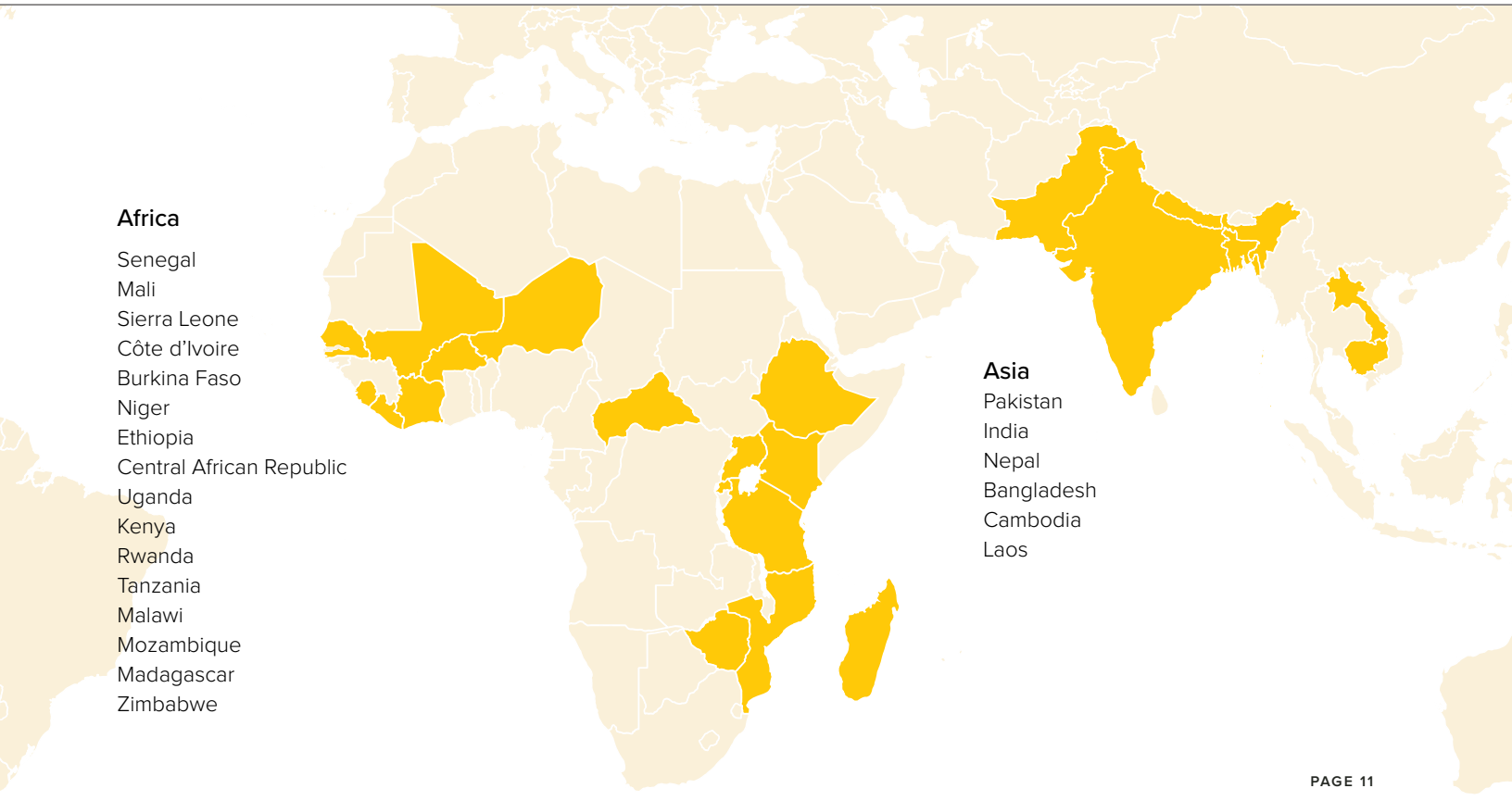
YOU WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT ONE MILLION PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA

Across the world, 8 out of 10 people who lack access to clean water live in rural areas. These are the people we strive to serve. We prioritize working in countries with the greatest need, the highest rates of poverty, and with 700,000 or more people without basic access to clean water. The locations we choose are those in which programs can be implemented with limited interruption and local communities or governments can sustainably manage water systems.

The map below represents the 22 countries where charity: water is actively working today. Over the course of our partnership, we will prioritize communities in many of these countries. Each year, we can share priority countries to focus our partnership around.

Your global experience

We want to take you on a journey through the lens of water. During our partnership, we will introduce you to remarkable people across the countries you support. You'll hear personal stories and see the transformative impact of clean water on individuals, families, and entire communities.



Africa

Senegal
Mali
Sierra Leone
Côte d'Ivoire
Burkina Faso
Niger
Ethiopia
Central African Republic
Uganda
Kenya
Rwanda
Tanzania
Malawi
Mozambique
Madagascar
Zimbabwe

Asia

Pakistan
India
Nepal
Bangladesh
Cambodia
Laos

OUR APPROACH

Our work is implemented exclusively through local partners and with local communities, knowing that the best and most sustainable solutions are designed with community buy-in and ownership.

We've worked with more than 58 implementing partners over the past 17 years. These partners share our vision of ending the water crisis and work closely with local communities, leaders, governments, mechanics, and suppliers to accomplish lasting change. They are local experts with demonstrated experience in the rural water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector.

We work with our partners to ensure that water solutions, services, and supporting activities are responsive to community needs, match the unique local context, terrain, and climate, and effectively deliver sustainable and equitable access to clean water. Each of our local partners has a demonstrated track record of providing sustainable access to drinking water at scale and empowering local communities in the process.

We aim for multi-year partnerships, ideally 10 years minimum, with annual work plans and continuous communication and reporting. And while we do establish partnerships with the long view in mind, our country partners are subject to change if the situation requires it. Where local partners under this program shift, we will notify our funding partners immediately.

Each water project typically takes 21-24 months from fund deployment to completion. This process includes phases of technical design and feasibility work, physical implementation, and ongoing community and local government engagement. At the outset of each project, we work with our local partners to conduct localized needs assessments and develop a comprehensive work plan, budget, and monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure high-quality implementation and impact.

WATER SOLUTIONS

Giving people access to clean water looks different in each country. We take existing water sources, terrain, and population into account choosing a water solution — everything from massive piped systems to drilled wells to purification systems. A few examples of our most common water solutions deployed are:

WELL WITH HAND PUMP

Hand pumps are used when groundwater is available and reachable by either mechanical or manual drilling methods. A borehole is drilled, lined, and tested for water quality to ensure it can supply enough safe water for the community. If necessary, the well is also disinfected. Finally, the well is fitted with a pump that will bring clean water to the surface.

PIPED SYSTEM TAP STANDS

Piped systems are an effective solution for communities if a water source is too far away for a community to access. These interconnected pipelines use gravity, electricity, solar power, or a combination of these methods to bring water to accessible distribution points in the community. The size and structure of the system is tailored to the geography, amount of water available, and financial and technical resources.

SPRING PROTECTIONS

For communities already using nearby and naturally occurring springs as their water source, a spring protection system is preferred. As the name suggests, this system protects naturally clean spring water from outside contaminants like livestock and bathing and provides safe access points for the community to collect it.

WATER SOLUTIONS

SCHOOL WATER AND SANITATION POINTS

If a school is lacking both a clean water source and safe sanitation facilities, our partners construct separate, gender-specific latrines and handwashing stations in addition to a water point. Hygiene and sanitation training is also implemented with the goal of instilling healthy behaviors at school and at home.

While the details may differ slightly from partner to partner, this programming typically engages student leaders and staff in education and promotion of key water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) themes. Often, this also includes training on menstrual hygiene management, allowing more girls to regularly attend school.

WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS

Using a water filtration system, like a BioSand Filter, has proven to be an effective and efficient solution for communities that are rich in water but need support in ensuring that it can harnessed and consumed at a safe level. BioSand Filters can reduce bacteria and protozoa in source water by up to 99%. It also improves the taste, color, and smell of water while being easy to construct (made from locally available materials) and maintain.

BioSand Filters are filled with layers of gravel, coarse and fine sand, as well as a biological layer (biofilm) that forms on top. Water is poured into the top of the filter and the sand and biofilm work together to filter out contaminants and remove pathogens that cause diarrheal disease.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Our partners create opportunities for advancement through a variety of approaches, always considering local context and culture and ensuring that programs carefully address the unique challenges and security risks women, girls, and other marginalized groups face without access to clean water.

They also ensure representation in the design and management of water projects by prioritizing inclusion and involvement in water user management committees, training women to be village water point mechanics, and including menstrual health and hygiene activities in their programming across communities, schools, and health centers. Inadequate training opportunities often prevent gender parity in the technical fields common to the water sector. Preparing women for these roles requires investments in skill-building classes and hands-on internship opportunities.

For example, our partner GOAL Uganda offers internships for women studying engineering, providing crucial job experience to help them succeed. Another partner, WHH Zimbabwe, has created opportunities for women to serve as village pump mechanics. Traditionally a male-dominated profession, today, more than 40% of the village pump mechanics trained as part of WHH Zimbabwe's program are women.

Read our Equity and Inclusion White Paper **here**.

CLIMATE AND WATER

Access to sustainable, safe water is critical to helping communities adapt and survive.

A rapidly changing and unpredictable climate makes the water crisis more urgent than ever before. Extreme weather and natural disasters are becoming more frequent. Rising temperatures and mass flooding increase the prevalence of deadly pathogens and waterborne diseases. Extreme droughts and lowering water tables are leading to food insecurity, malnutrition, and famine.

The majority of the 703 million people without access to clean water live in fragile circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate shocks. Through innovative approaches, water stewardship, and strengthening local capacity, our partners are committed to delivering high-quality water projects built to last.

For example, dropping water tables in some regions are causing many shallow hand-dug wells to dry up. To combat this, our partners drill boreholes that go well beneath the water table, ensuring sustainable access to water even during times of drought. In other places, our partners have developed water resource and environmental management plans that include tree-planting initiatives to aid in the recharge of aquifers. And more broadly we utilize solar power or gravity-fed catchments, where we can, to power water systems.

Read our Climate White Paper **here**.

MEASURING IMPACT

With your investment, we will aim to achieve the following results over the course of our partnership:

- Improved access to reliable water service for one million people.
- Improved inclusive community water stewardship and management.
- Improved water quality to a safe level for consumption.
- Improved access to sanitation facilities.
- Improved hygiene through behavior change and knowledge.
- Achieve 90% functionality of water points over a 10-year period (a functionality level well above the standard in the water sector[8]).
- Reduce water collection time, especially for women and girls.

MEASURING IMPACT

Through charity: water's monitoring and evaluation framework, our local partners collect data on a range of water, sanitation, and hygiene key performance indicators (KPIs). The data collected provides detailed insight into the impact of our work and allows us to continuously make evidence-based program improvements. In all our programs, 18 KPIs are measured across five core themes: water access, water quality, sanitation, hygiene, and WASH management (see table).

WATER ACCESS	Quantify the levels of water services that beneficiaries have access to, levels of functionality, and the water collection burden that they bear to utilize these services
WATER QUALITY	Measuring chemical and water microbial quality parameters
SANITATION	Access to improved sanitation and reduction of open defecation practices
HYGIENE	Access to hygiene supplies and use of hygiene supplies and/or facilities
WASH MANAGEMENT	Management of WASH activities in communities and/or institutions

More broadly, we measure achievement by the number of daily users at charity: water-supported water points. For us, the term "daily water users" means the average number of people using water from a specific water point on a daily basis. This includes all people who draw water daily and anyone for whom they draw water (such as household members). To understand more nuanced information, like the gender of users, our partners rely on a variety of resources, including government censuses, district data, and Department of Health surveys. We also reference World Bank national-level country data.

Data is primarily collected through baseline and endline surveys using mobile data collection software. Water quality testing is conducted at local labs or with field testing kits. Our local partners collect, clean, and analyze the data using templates and guidance from charity: water. Our team then verifies results and works closely with our local partners to generate action plans to incorporate learnings into multi-year plans with each of our partners.

We conduct sustainability evaluations every four years to monitor the longer-term performance of water points in coordination with local partners, community stakeholders, and local government actors who manage water points after construction. As part of these evaluations, we survey a sample of water points to ensure they continue functioning and collect water quality samples tested for E. coli (a fecal indicator for bacteria).

MEASURING IMPACT

We have conducted 87 quantitative evaluations of our work since 2016, collecting more than 70,000 household surveys across 20 countries. By bringing clean water closer to the community and people's homes, **the results show that we are significantly reducing the average water collection time, most notably for women, by an average of 60 minutes per day.** Along with reducing water collection time, charity: water-supported water points are among the longest-lasting in the sector: **Over 90% of our projects are functional at any given time**, compared to just 75% of hand pumps in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 91% of our projects meet the World Health Organization's standard for low-risk drinking water over a projected 10-year span.

Through community consultation, qualitative interviews, and in-depth reviews of academic research, we also strive to collect and understand the long-term and secondary impact of clean and safe water, specifically improvement in school attendance, health, women's empowerment, and economic opportunities.

SUSTAINABILITY

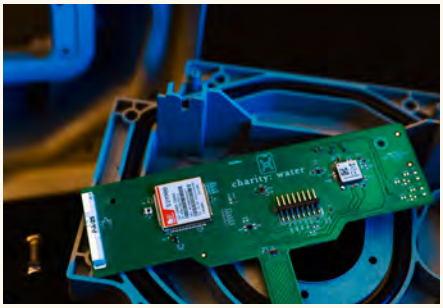
Our work doesn't end when a water point is constructed. We don't consider a project complete until local communities feel empowered to manage and maintain their water point. Through local leaders, innovative sensor technology, and trained mechanics, we're committed to empowering communities to take charge of their water projects and keep clean water flowing without interruption.

Rather than following a "one size fits all" approach, we support a wide range of water solutions. We rely on the expertise of our partners to determine which water solution is the most appropriate for the specific needs of each community. Local contractors, mechanics, and geologists are consulted and the broader community is encouraged to participate in the entire process, from planning to implementation.

Our projects function to enable water projects to last at least 10 years. Water management and longer-term monitoring plans are developed and community water user committees and maintenance structures are formed to support sustained access to safe water.

SENSORS

We've developed and deployed a first-of-its-kind remote sensor program to monitor the water flow and functionality of our water points with real-time data collection. This predictive technology has the potential to revolutionize the water sector and is a key component of our sustainability strategy.



"The day that you provided clean water to our community, we became free."

— **IRENE**, UGANDA


Thank
you

ENDNOTES

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[6] UNICEF: Collecting water is often a colossal waste of time for women and girls https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92690.html

[7] Time poverty: Obstacle to women's human rights, health, and sustainable development https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7688061/women-and-girls

[8] One in four hand pumps remain non-functional across Sub-Saharan Africa. Foster et al., 2020. International Journal of Water Resources Development, 2020, 36, (5), pp. 855-869