

A young boy with a joyful expression is washing his hands at a public water tap. He is wearing a black t-shirt with orange and white horizontal stripes and blue shorts. The water tap is a simple metal structure with a horizontal pipe. The background shows lush green foliage and a wooden frame. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**THE
WATER
TRUST**

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to your support, this year more than 56,000 people in western Uganda gained access to clean water.

We doubled our operations from 2022, investing more in expanding water access than ever before.

This growth was made possible by our generous community of supporters, and several new institutional partnerships, to include The Coca-Cola Foundation, which is helping saturate all of Kiryandongo district with self-help groups. Building on our historical investments in the district, this year self-help groups will actively sustain access to clean water for more than 300,000 people in western Uganda.

In this report, we are proud to share our results for the last fiscal year and the team that made such impact possible.

In addition, as we move closer to achieving universal access to clean water in our two focal districts, you will find in this report visualizations of our cumulative investments since 2008, and the impact of self-help groups on water sustainability in the area.

The impact of self-help groups on water availability and water point management is striking. I encourage you to take a look at the related [evidence brief](#) or the [full study itself](#).

I hope you are as inspired as we are by the change your support makes possible. Thank you for your partnership with us in this critical work.



Chris Prottas
Executive Director



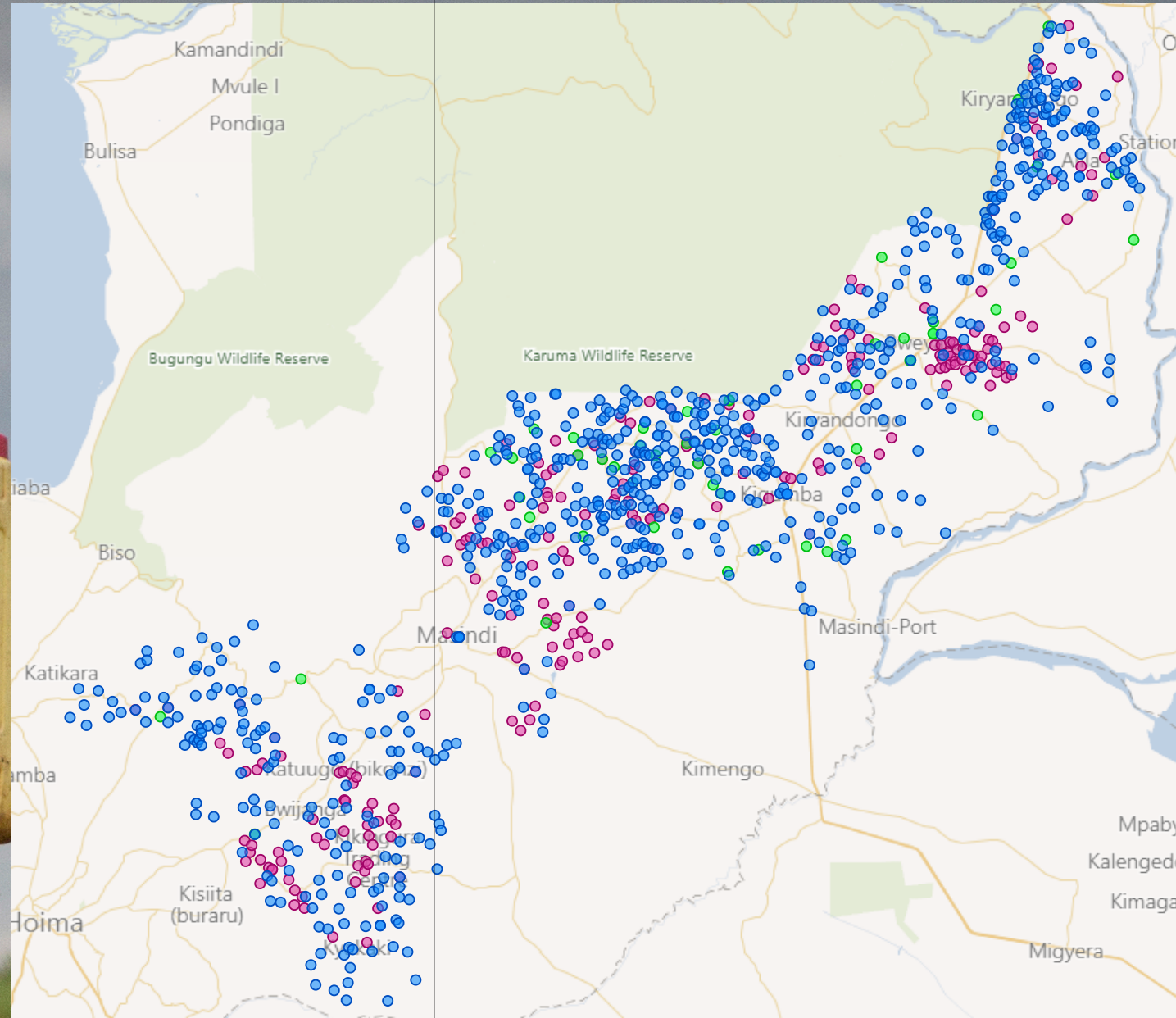
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SCALE

Since 2008, The Water Trust has supported more than 1,000 communities in Masindi and Kiryandongo districts to improve their access to water and sanitation, including more than 800 water points built or rehabilitated and more than 1,000 self-help groups trained. This map illustrates the impact of these investments in water point construction and rehabilitation, as well as the training of self-help groups to improve the sustainability of water points constructed by the government and other NGOs. By 2024, every single public well in Kiryandongo and Masindi will have a self-help group trained.

With your support, our work over the next three years will ensure that more than 90% of people living in Kiryandongo and Masindi will have access to clean water within a thirty-minute roundtrip.



● THE WATER TRUST SOURCES

770 All water sources built or rehabilitated by The Water Trust and equipped with a trained self-help group.

● ADOPTED WATER SOURCES

260 All water sources with no The Water Trust construction/rehabilitation, but with a self-help group trained by The Water Trust.

● WATER POINT ONLYS

53 Water sources built by The Water Trust with no self-help group trained.

”

It never occurred to me that we would have clean water in my village. Riding a bicycle daily to the swamps or to a neighboring village was all I had experienced from childhood. My circumstances changed when The Water Trust came in with this new borehole. This support was timely and we now comfortably do our farm work without worrying about long distance movements in search of water.

- Aaron Onencan -



IMPACT

IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY

In 2022, The Water Trust conducted a water point census and functionality survey across three districts in western Uganda, covering 4,862 publicly-accessible water points. The study population of interest consisted of all protected and unprotected water sources reported by local village chiefs as sources for drinking water across Masindi, Kiryandongo, and Kikuube districts.

Of protected water points without self-help groups, the survey found that across the three districts 58% to 67% had any water available at the time of the survey, and 57% to 61% were functional. Of the 744 water points with a self-help group in Masindi and Kiryandongo districts, 92% to 96% had any water available and 90% to 94% were functional.

The results suggest self-help groups can play a critical role in improving community capacity to manage water points and finance repairs. The Water Trust is working to leverage these results into greater investment in self-help groups for sustainable water across Uganda and beyond.

Learn more:

[Download evidence brief](#)

[Download full report](#)



56,000+
people gained access to clean water in 2023

new or rehabilitated wells **166**

free of e.coli contamination and fully functional **100%**

hour less each day spent retrieving water **1+**

cost per person **\$33**

41,000+

people benefitted from water managed by a self-help group newly trained in 2023

new self-help groups trained **121**

annual savings and interest per group **\$1.5k+**

increase in presence of a functional latrine at home **10%**

cost per person **\$9**

CLEAN SUSTAINABLE WATER

Our construction team drills borehole wells to bring clean water to poor rural communities. In places where there is a broken down well, we replace the parts and rehabilitate the well so it is functional again.

We train self-help groups to manage rehabilitated wells, enabling communities to maintain their water points with savings generated by the group members.

HEALTHY, EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

Self-help groups are savings and credit unions we train in each community. They are critical to the sustainability of our water points because they allow the community to save for the future repairs that will inevitably be needed. In addition, they provide community members with access to personal savings and loans to pay for school fees, medical emergencies, and invest in agriculture.

We also educate communities on how they can build and use critical hygiene and sanitation facilities to ensure clean water results in healthy children and families.

”

Over the years, we would travel for more than two kilometers on a roundtrip to access water from a swamp. We did not have hope of ever getting a clean water source in this community. Due to the long distance to the water point, I would carry a big pot of water in an attempt to reduce my movement to and from the water source. Over the years, this resulted in chronic chest and neck pain attributed to the heavy weight of the water. I am, however, excited to note that our struggles are no more!

- Judith Amony -

EFFICIENCY

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$2.3M

COST PER PROGRAM

*These calculations include all direct program and indirect expenses (such as administration and fundraising)

CLEAN SUSTAINABLE WATER

\$1.89M*

\$33 per person

HEALTHY EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

\$370k*

\$9 per person

95.5%

PROGRAM

2.7%

MANAGEMENT

1.8%

FUNDRAISING

ANNUAL EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Construction and Training Costs | \$1,450,046 |
| Personnel | \$506,094 |
| Office Costs | \$93,461 |
| Contracted Services | \$137,841 |
| Transportation | \$32,029 |
| Vehicle Expenses | \$8,113 |
| Depreciation | \$32,805 |
| TOTAL | \$2,260,389 |

The figures above are audited 2023 financial figures. Please see our Library at watertrust.org to download the related financial statements.

”

Recently when I lost my child, the group members contributed funds worth 300,000 Ugandan Shillings [\$82] to support the burial arrangements. They stood by me, not only financially, but emotionally, spiritually, and physically. At that moment I realized that the self-help group was not just for promoting a saving culture. It is also a strong community support system, breeding togetherness and unity in my community.

- David Bagonza -

PARTNERS

Achieving universal coverage with The Coca-Cola Foundation

This year The Water Trust welcomed support from The Coca-Cola Foundation to saturate Kiryandongo district with sustainable access to water. After a decade supporting the district, every single public handpump will have a trained self-help group to collect user fees, manage a reserve fund, and pay for critical maintenance and repairs. The Coca-Cola Foundation's support funds the rehabilitation of forty broken down borehole wells and the training of 180 self-help groups across Kiryandongo and Masindi districts. In addition to establishing sustainable access to clean water, the project provides rural households access to savings and credit, as well as training to build critical hygiene and sanitation facilities in their homes.

“Sustainable access to safe water is a priority for The Coca-Cola Foundation, and it is clear self-help groups can play a transformative role in building local capacity for effective water stewardship and long-term success,” said The Coca-Cola Foundation President, Saadia Madsbjerg.

Martin Jacan Gwokto, the Chief Administrative Officer of Kiryandongo District, expressed his appreciation for the initiative. “Clean and safe water reduces cases of diseases, saves money that would have been used on treatment, and allows community members to do productive work and earn a living,” said Gwokto.

“Currently the district has over 187 dysfunctional water points, which account for close to 20 percent of the total number of water points in the district, leading to billions of shillings put to waste. This is attributed to the fact that over the years, communities have developed a dependency mindset where less effort is put towards the operation and maintenance of water points. Once broken, such water points are abandoned until the next new source is put in place. Continuous drilling of new boreholes is detrimental to the [groundwater] potential.

“This project will be a magic bullet to change behaviors in the communities and provide a good boost to the district. I am grateful to The Coca-Cola Foundation and The Water Trust for this initiative which will not only restore 40 dysfunctional water points, but also build communities' capacities to ensure the sustainability of these sources. As a district, we welcome and appreciate this project and pledge to give our maximum support to ensure its successful execution.”

This project follows an evaluation of water point functionality in rural Uganda which found significantly higher water point functionality and sustainability where a self-help group had been trained to finance repairs. The survey,



Program Director Fiona Aber celebrates the launch of the project with Commissioner Water and Environment Sector Liaison Joseph Eritu, a representative of Uganda's Ministry for Water and Environment.

which covered 4,862 publicly-accessible water points in western Uganda, found that just 58 percent to 67 percent of water points without a self-help group had any water available at the time of the survey. Of the 744 water points with a self-help group in Masindi and Kiryandongo districts, 92 percent to 96 percent had water available.

The project, made possible with grant support of \$400,000 from The Coca-Cola Foundation, focuses

primarily on Kiryandongo district, where only 51 percent of water points were found to be fully functional and free of any evident mechanical issues. The project aims to ensure every functional public borehole well has a trained, active self-help group to support its management and long-term functionality, establishing Kiryandongo as a model district that The Water Trust can replicate across Uganda in the years ahead.

A young child with dark skin and short hair is sitting on the ground, holding a clear plastic water bottle. The child is looking down at the bottle. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people and structures.

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

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charity: water
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The Cyrall Foundation
Deerfield Foundation
Goldfarb-Saiman Family Giving Fund
Guidepoint Global, LLC
The GoodCoin Foundation
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PayPal Giving Fund
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The World Bank
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IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

DLA Piper
Sebalu & Lule Advocates

THE WATER TRUST STAFF

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| Racheal Atuhire | Finance and Operations Officer |
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96%
OF STAFF IS
UGANDAN



**THE
WATER
TRUST**

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