Clean water, hygienic homes, and empowered communities have never been more important. In Uganda, the rural communities we serve remain fragile and isolated, with citizens relying on friends and family to navigate difficult times, and using what resources they have to keep themselves safe from COVID-19.

Thanks to your support, we helped more than 140,000 people improve their access to sustainable clean water and healthy, hygienic homes at this most critical moment.

In the last year alone, our dedicated team:

- constructed or rehabilitated 67 new water points.
- trained 489 new savings and credit cooperatives, which are now financing well maintenance and repairs and providing access to savings and credit.
- expanded our program to serve refugees rebuilding their lives in Uganda after fleeing violence in South Sudan.
- launched a COVID-19 public information campaign across two districts with a combined population of 600,000 people.
- equipped 20 priority health centers and COVID-19 response teams with the equipment and cleaning supplies needed to safely investigate cases and provide medical care.

In a year that demanded the most, The Water Trust did the most - achieving new highs in construction and community trainings. This was possible because our supporters, in a moment of great global uncertainty, stepped up their financial support rather than step back.

Thank you for partnering with us in this critical work.

Chris Prottas
Executive Director
Most of our children had never seen what a borehole [well] physically looks like, but I am happy they now have the opportunity to have one in this village. The long distance we walked to collect water from the open water sources is no more. Our heath and our children’s will improve as a result of drinking clean water from this borehole.

This water point is going to be a uniting factor in this community again. Some of our relatives had left this village and moved to the other side of the hill due to the challenges of water. Some of them are now planning to come back and settle after they heard of the good news of having a borehole.

Our savings group is now going to be strengthened because people will now have a reason to save compared to before when we did not have water. This water point is also going to boost our household incomes since I am planning to engage in backyard gardening during dry seasons now that we have enough water to irrigate our crops.

- Livingstone Atupa, 28 -
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. We monitor all of our water points on an annual basis to ensure water points built up to ten years ago are still functioning and providing the clean water families need.

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.

COVID-19 RESILIENCE

In response to the pandemic, we equipped twenty priority health centers with essentials for hygienic care and led an information campaign across radio channels and loudspeaker systems in trading centers to equip communities with reliable information on the disease and how to stay safe.
When COVID-19 arrived, low-income countries like Uganda struggled to mobilize the resources to protect their citizens. Health workers treating patients and investigating potential COVID-19 cases had no masks, sanitizers, or handwashing facilities. Accurate information on the disease was available online in English, but the information that filtered down to local languages was filled with misinformation and conjecture.

We launched a public information campaign across the districts of Masindi and Kiryandongo, home to more than 600,000 people. Messages on the disease and how to mitigate risk were communicated through radio and public address systems mounted to trucks that traveled across trading centers, bringing accurate information in local languages directly to more than 60,000 people.

Our messages were targeted based on household surveys we conducted, which allowed us to focus on the most critical misinformation. For example, during the lockdown, many people thought women were prohibited from traveling to a medical center for an emergency such as childbirth. After our outreach, we saw a 26 percentage point increase in households that knew it was allowed to seek care in this situation.

We also worked with the district governments to identify the 20 highest priority medical centers and equipped those health centers as well as the COVID-19 response teams with the personal protective equipment and institutional cleaning supplies needed to keep workers and patients safe. These visible health and safety measures not only reduced COVID-19 risk, but they are also associated with a reduction in the risk of staff attrition and patient avoidance of medical facilities, leading to a higher continuity of critical clinical care.

Staying home is not like being in prison while in the fight of COVID-19.
Let’s wash hands with soap and foam because that’s what kills the virus.
Going in public now is dangerous because there could be someone with corona...
When they sneeze you take it in and where they touched, you also touch.

Listen to the song and read complete lyrics here.
HELPING REFUGEES REBUILD WITH SUSTAINABLE WATER

Uganda’s role as a refugee asylum in East Africa has saved many people from devastation and death in their homelands. Since 2016, Uganda’s refugee population has grown considerably and is currently estimated at nearly 1.5 million people by UNHCR. Nearly 90% of these people are from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in Kiryandongo refugee settlement more than 80% are women and children.

This year The Water Trust, with support from Deerfield Foundation, partnered with 50 refugee communities to form savings and credit cooperatives to finance repairs for their water points and provide access to financial services. The communities also received hygiene and sanitation training that is resulting in healthy, hygienic homes and sustainable access to water for more than 14,000 refugees when it’s needed most.

Monica Mugisha, commandant of Kiryandongo refugee settlement, explains the value of the initiative. “The Water Trust model is very good because it will empower the refugees to be more resilient,” noting that by building the capacity of communities to maintain their wells the program supports the Office of Prime Minister’s goal of “eradicating dependency syndrome as most of the refugees are not paying for the water user fees.”

Rebuilding your life in a new country is never easy, but with the support of a self-help group, refugees are empowered to sustain their access to clean water and invest in a brighter future.
This water point is going to help reduce the long distances we used to move to collect water, accidents at the water points especially during the rainy season when the roads are very slippery, and above all reduced cases of stomachache and diarrhea among our children.

My small business had collapsed after the breakdown of this water point because I no longer had drinking water for my clients. Now that this water point has been rehabilitated, I will boost my business again by making pancakes and serving my clients with drinking water from the borehole.

I will also engage in kitchen gardening at my home where I will plant some tomatoes and greens for sale to raise some money to buy scholastic materials for my children.

- Nemah Kazumi, 22 -
ANNUAL EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Training Costs</td>
<td>$438,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Payroll Taxes and Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract and Professional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent, Office, Phone Expenses</td>
<td>$70,836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation Expenses</td>
<td>$19,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicular Expenses</td>
<td>$9,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees and Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,015,920</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The figures above are unaudited 2021 financials.
Looking Forward

By 2024, we aim to scale our impact to reach one million people across Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the year ahead, we plan to construct or rehabilitate 100 water points and partner with more than 300 poor rural communities. Together we will work to establish sustainable water access, basic sanitation facilities, and dynamic savings and credit cooperatives, empowering communities to raise healthy children and invest in a brighter future.
The old spring well where we used to collect water was in a very steep valley and was very risky to travel. I feared going there to collect water. I am very happy that this borehole has been repaired because my safety is now guaranteed and I can collect water at any time that I wish.

- Frank Ahura, 12 -
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