



# WATER CANADA

## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

### THE YEAR SO FAR

July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

All teams have been in full production mode and our goals are right on schedule!

- 218 new wells
- 264 rehabilitated wells
- 1,501 pump repairs
- 14 community toilets
- 40 rainwater catchment systems
- 534 health and hygiene workshops

**2,571 total projects**



### MEET OUR NEW PARTNERS



#### LIFEWATER RESCUE KENYA

This is a brand-new local Community Based Organization (CBO) headed by Catherine Achieng. This team is drilling wells in the Kitui county district and coordinates with the STADA team for pump installation and Health & Hygiene (H&H) workshops.



#### SERVICE TO SERVANTS LIFEWATER (STS-Lifewater)

This is a Liberian International NGO formally launched in April 2023 and led by Joe Sloan. Their vision is to expand H&H workshops and increase the pump repair program with future plans to establish satellite depots in the more remote counties of Liberia in order to meet the acute water needs.

Along with this new partnership, Stephen Varfee (*previous Program Coordinator for our original Lifewater Liberia team, L-Linc.*) has moved to become the Liberia Country Coordinator. His role is to coordinate our Liberian teams, distributing drilling and well rehabilitation projects to L-Linc. and H&H workshops and pump repair projects to STS-Lifewater, maximizing the efficiencies of both partners.

### A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A word that comes to mind constantly is 'courage'. It is a commodity that is a true gift, a boldness to go where others haven't traveled. We witness it every time our Haitian team goes out repairing pumps and drilling wells – the nation is so volatile right now. We see it in Nigeria where they bravely travel to remote districts following the cries for help. They faithfully save funds for better equipment to reach those least accessible and forgotten communities where roads don't allow access for big rigs. We've experienced it personally, as we travel to work with our teams, developing new partnerships, believing that funds will come in to support the good work we strive to do. It takes courage to face the risks involved in starting new teams, in stretching out our hands to help in greater ways. We know that it takes courage from our donors to give in these uncertain times as well and we are grateful beyond words. Thank you!

# 223,976

**HOURS SAVED PER DAY**

86.5 minutes per day per household saved in water hauling duties

# \$0.42

DAILY WATER SAVINGS PER

**BENEFICIARY**

reported average daily water costs / total beneficiaries

# \$6,729,923

**TOTAL MONTHLY ECONOMIC IMPACT**

average monthly water savings per household • number of households

# HAI



The nation remains very unstable, with our team cautiously making their way from village to village to repair pumps and drill wells. Violent gangs are causing chaos and kidnappings are frequent. Fuel is scarce and extremely expensive. Even still, this team has restored water to over 470 villages and drilled 27 wells in the first ¾ of this fiscal year. What is really encouraging is the increasingly independent management of their team. They are now taking over a lot of the purchasing of parts and equipment along with running their day-to-day operations more independently. It has become a very positive partnership!



# LIBERIA



In our fall newsletter, we shared the struggles that L-Linc. was experiencing. We are excited to report that after many months of concentrated effort and two in-country trips, the many barriers that hindered increased production in this nation have been successfully breached. Drilling has started up again with a compact team now able to focus on what they excel in. We are so encouraged that the legacy of 27 years of work will grow even stronger.

Under the new STS-Lifewater partnership, a four-person Assessment and Education team (A&E) and two new two-member pump repair teams now compliment L-Linc.'s drilling team to serve the Liberian people. The A&E team goes through the district ahead of the other teams to collect social impact data, analyze what wells need repair or a total redo, determine if more drilled wells are needed, and arrange for H&H workshops. Both partners are over the moon excited about the new teamwork. Arrangements are already being made for new H&H curriculum development and significant documentation improvements have been initiated. We hope to trial both of these items in our other partnerships in Africa and Haiti as well.

We are very grateful for your prayers. These changes have been a long time coming. Now we are trusting that the funding will come in to keep up with these teams' increased productivity. Thank you!



## GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

With the sharp increase in materials, shipping prices, and high exchange rates, we are seeing increased costs in our projects. Our productivity has not been impeded as we've worked hard to find innovative ways to reduce expenditures, streamline processes, and cluster our programs for greatest impact. For example, we have increased our focus on pump repairs while decreasing more costly rehabilitation projects. This allows our teams to increase low-cost projects with high impact outcomes without reducing new well production. Strategically, in the coming year we are striving to improve relationships between our international teams so they can provide each other with support and technical advice. We already have group chats established between drill teams, conference calls between country leaders, and the possibility of product sharing between nations, such as dignity kits.

	2022		2023 (up to March 31)		2023 (projected year-end)		2024 (projected)	
	Projects	Beneficiaries	Projects	Beneficiaries	Projects	Beneficiaries	Projects	Beneficiaries
New Wells	355	187,147	218	94,120	332	141,369	330	123,750
Rehabilitated Wells	314	93,942	264	89,254	280	94,664	156	58,500
Pump Repairs	1,137	552,395	1,501	474,937	2,164	748,776	2,939	1,102,125
Rainwater Catchments	268	61,911	40	4,386	41	4,496	10	3,750
Community Toilets	19	4,432	14	1,267	23	2,082	16	2,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>899,827</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>663,964</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>991,387</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>1,290,875</b>

Handwash stations and health and hygiene workshops are not included in the projects above.

# NIGERIA



This team simply knocks it out of the ballpark on every level. Records are broken in every type of project they do. You've read of the success of our new unit in Kenya and the great news that Nigeria will also receive a similar rig. Presently they must drill close to major roads leaving the inner and remote places in Nigeria unsupported. The new unit will allow the team to resolve this disparity and bring much needed safe water to these areas. It is an exciting addition for this dynamic team. This project is still looking for funding.

We are excited to have Hosea, the Nigerian Program Coordinator, travel to Mwingi, Kenya to work with the team there and continue training on their new rig. This will allow him to gain experience with this unit and provide the opportunity for him to be involved in the design of a similar rig being developed for Nigeria. We are hopeful the delivery of the new unit will arrive this fall.

# KENYA



STADA (*Kisumu*) This is a very innovative and well-connected team. They touch on many programs that delve into social issues, education, health education, and water and sanitation projects. There is an astounding versatility and eagerness of all involved to do whatever they can to improve the quality of life of people. The manufacturing of dignity kits (reusable sanitary napkins) continues, and we are starting to get feedback on the impact these have on the lives of young women. Schools are sharing that there have been drastic decreases in teen pregnancies reported and attendance has also improved.

The new drill team has been successful and drilled 12 wells since our last letter with 10 more expected by June 30, 2023. This team is even cross-training their staff – if they are caught up on sewing dignity kits then the tailors go out to do pump repair!

Lifewater Rescue Kenya (LRK) (*Mwingi*) Every new initiative comes with growing pains and LRK is no exception. The process of learning how to drill, operating a new style of drilling rig, finding suppliers, and smoothing out processes and documentation is a LOT! But this new team is very courageous and excited to face these challenges. The terrain they are working in is extremely difficult with roads either non-existent or washed out. There are times the rig truck is the only vehicle able to get to the more remote schools. The sense of absolute joy and awe is evident in every community they come to. Never has a rig been able to get to these communities or a well drilled there. When they see water come from the ground, the rejoicing is overwhelming!

## OUR FAVOURITE NUMBER - 190,202

Lifewater Canada believes that where a person is born should not determine whether you live or die. The UN Sustainable Development Goal #6 (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>) aligns with our own mission and focuses on achieving universal access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (also referred to as WASH programming). In support of the UN SDG' and Lifewater's mission, we have increased the integration of WASH and health programming at all of our project areas.

Determining if this WASH programming increase is making a difference has led to our favorite number. For this fiscal year, a cumulative snapshot has measured 190,202 recovered school days every MONTH! That is 1.5 million hours every MONTH of the year that children can attend school! It's unfathomable. What's even more remarkable is that this massive number is 10 times more than what we reported in 2021. We attribute this to our focus on placing water projects where impact is greatest, such as schools, as well as the addition of the complimentary WASH programs accompanying them.

The result is that children (mainly girls) are no longer walking long distances for water. Menstruating girls are not missing school or exchanging sexual favours for sanitary napkins. Teenage pregnancies are decreasing, as is the incident of STD's, AIDS, and sexual violence. Latrines provide safe places to toilet with dignity, decreasing disease, defilement, and absenteeism. To date we have provided nearly 10,000 dignity kits and, in these past nine months, Kenya alone has held over 400 workshops and installed 15 washrooms with accompanying rain catchment systems and handwashing stations. Now that is a positive impact!

## OGENYA PRIMARY SCHOOL CASE STUDY

*Ogenya Primary School is within an Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Kenya that holds 685 households impacted by a series of floods between 2017-19. Family housing consists of small tents donated by the Kenya Red Cross. When the original school flooded and was relocated within the camp, this became a permanent settlement.*

*The sanitation and water situation in the camp was terrible. Shallow and unstable latrines with no hand-washing capacity led to open defecation. With no source of safe water, pupils were forced to carry unclean stream water to their classes. All of this contributed to lost school hours and disease outbreaks in the community. Other issues included high absenteeism among girls due to teenage pregnancy rates and lack of menstrual products.*

*In April 2022, Lifewater Canada funded an eight-stall latrine project with a rainwater storage system and handwashing station at the school for use by both the students and community members. A new well was drilled two months later. As part of this project, H&H classes were offered, where girls were given reusable menstrual dignity kits which helped keep them from missing school due to lack of pads, saving money for other needs.*

*According to deputy headteacher Gabriel Ayaki one year later, school absenteeism and disease outbreak due to water and hygiene issues have dropped to zero. Teenage pregnancy has also dropped with only two girls pregnant this year as opposed to the dozens witnessed in previous years. Data-tracking on school performance is ongoing, but one promising impact is a noticeable increase in student test scores since so many hours of lost school time have been recovered.*



## PARTNER WITH US

**MONTHLY GIVING:** Want to have a growing impact? If you are not yet, consider giving monthly! It gives us a steady foundation to send support and keep safe water flowing. You can set it up easily through CanadaHelps at: [www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/lifewater-canada](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/lifewater-canada)

**PLANNED GIVING:** Most of us are not able to be as generous as we would like – we have bills to pay! You can however, include Lifewater Canada in your will. There are great tax advantages with this type of estate planning. Please call us at 807-622-4848 to learn more.

**SECURITIES DONATIONS:** Donate stocks, mutual funds, or other securities to Lifewater Canada and receive a significant tax credit. Learn how by clicking the **DONATE** tab on our website.

**PAYPAL:** Support Lifewater Canada with your online purchases when you checkout with PayPal. It's easy to set us as your favorite charity at: [www.paypal.com/CA/fundraiser/charity/3447971](http://www.paypal.com/CA/fundraiser/charity/3447971)

## INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH HIGHLIGHTS:



**Liberia** – With the formation of the new partnership, three used trucks and an SUV were purchased. Three offices were also outfitted enabling all teams to have smart phones and computers. Wiring and plumbing repairs for the STS compound were completed and rooms fully furnished.

**Kenya** – The STADA team have constructed a new structure for their growing dignity kit production. They have added a robust new 3-wheeled vehicle that has greatly improved their ability to repair more pumps in remote areas. They have also saved up and been able to purchase a used truck for their drill team, enabling them to increase their drilling capabilities.



**Nigeria** – A used 18' cube van has been purchased, becoming a mobile satellite container for pumps and parts. It allows the teams to travel to interior villages and use the cube van as their base, thus avoiding unnecessary transport back and forth from their compound in Abuja. This model, if successful, would work well in other nations.

## CONTACT US:

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