

# A note from our President:

SPRING 2025

Dear friends,

I have been sharing with anyone who will listen about the incredible impact of Lifewater Canada's work over the past 30 years. There is so much to be thankful for and all these accomplishments can be traced back to the generosity of so many of you. Your contributions have supported the work of the teams as they bring safe water, essential sanitation, and hygiene education to those in need. Thank you!

Our vision is sharper than ever: to keep going, keep pushing, and keep innovating so that even the hardest-to-reach areas become places of hope. Lifewater has always taken a unique approach, working with local teams, empowering communities, and staying lean and transparent. It's a model we've refined for over 30 years, and it works.

One story that brings this into focus is Ruth's. Ruth lives in Shishipe, Nigeria—just 20 kilometres from Abuja, one of Africa's wealthiest cities. But despite being so close to prosperity, her village faced years of hardship without access to clean water. "Sometimes we had confrontations with herders because their cows drank from the same river," Ruth said. "We couldn't afford boreholes like the rich people around us."

Thanks to your support, that changed. Two broken wells were restored, and a new one was drilled, bringing clean, safe water back to Ruth's community. With it came better health, restored dignity, and a renewed sense of hope for a better future.

That's the kind of lasting change your generosity makes possible.

As we step into the next chapter of Lifewater Canada's story, I'll be travelling coast-to-coast, sharing where we've been and where we're going, looking forward to the next 30 years. If you would like to connect along the way, share a story or a coffee, I'd love to hear from you.

Please take a moment to read the stories in this newsletter. They are just a glimpse into the lives you have touched. Thank you for helping us bring water and lasting change to the places that need it most.

With deep gratitude,



**Lynda Gehrels**  
President  
lyndagehrels@lifewater.ca



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

“

*Bringing help and hope through safe and accessible water, sanitation, and hygiene*

”

## DIGNITY KITS OFFICIALLY LAUNCH!

You may remember reading about “period poverty” in our [Fall 2024 newsletter](#) and the work we are doing to combat this global hygiene and sanitation issue. After the success of our Dignity Kit pilot program in Kenya, we have been working on similar initiatives in Nigeria and Liberia. While we did have a few delays (shipping internationally is often unpredictable), we are thrilled to announce that Dignity Kits are officially part of our programming in all three African nations we work in!

With these kits, made up of reusable sanitary pads, thousands of women and girls will gain the ability to manage their menstrual cycle with dignity, safety, and peace of mind. Thanks to your partnership and support, we expect this program to mirror the outcomes we have seen in Kenya—a reduction in school absences and unplanned pregnancies, and an increase in academic performance. Thank you!



*Hosea Apeh of Lifewater Nigeria receiving first shipment of Dignity Kits*

*Children enjoying their repaired well in Kisumu County, Kenya*



## TOWN HALLS

This summer we will be debuting a ‘Town Hall’ meeting format. These online-only events will bring together Lifewater staff and other industry experts, providing an opportunity for you to hear our latest news—the work of the teams overseas, our own innovations, and the amazing impact that your donations are having. They will also feature a Q&A for those who attend. Watch your inbox and our social media for more information on how you can join in!

## FAVOURITE NUMBER: 3500+ WATER POINTS

Villagers often share with us the impact of water points in their communities—whether a new drilled well, repaired pump, or rehabilitated broken well, all water points have a deep impact on people.

We recently heard from Sumo Flomo, a father in rural Liberia, who lost his youngest daughter Josephine when she drowned fetching water from a river for the family. This heartbreaking event reminds us of the dire need for safe and accessible water in these nations. Amidst his personal tragedy, Sumo is grateful that he no longer has to fear endangering or losing his children, since a new well has been completed in their small town.

His words echo the words of Judeline Pierre, from Haiti, who says: *“This well has undoubtedly transformed our lives, as we no longer spend a lot of money to buy water. The children can focus on their studies with no worries, and better hygiene practices have been implemented. Thanks to our donors, the community is stronger, happier, and healthier. Your generosity has been a beacon of life and hope for us.”*

As of the end of April, over 3,500 water projects have been completed this fiscal year with your support. Each one carries a promise that stories of loss like Sumo’s can be replaced with those of hope like Judeline’s.

## FISCAL 2025 PROJECTS (through Q3)

NEW WELLS	241
REHABILITATED WELLS	170
PUMP REPAIRS	3,109
COMMUNITY WASHROOMS	12
HEALTH + HYGIENE	1,498
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,030</b>

## OUR YEAR

July 1, 2024 - March 30, 2025

Thanks to your support, over one million lives have been changed this fiscal year! Since July 1, 2024, our local teams have completed 5,030 projects—bringing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to over 1,045,000 people. You've also helped girls spend more time in school and avoid the perils of period poverty by providing 6,750 dignity kits. Thank you for making this impact possible!

# FISCAL 2025 SO FAR

*snapshot*

## 1,045,371

**TOTAL HUMAN IMPACT**

*combined number of  
nation-reported  
beneficiaries*

## 326,015

**HOURS SAVED PER DAY**

*or 93.6 minutes per day  
per household saved in  
water hauling duties*

## \$0.14

**DAILY WATER SAVINGS**

*daily savings per  
person from their  
previous water costs*

## 320,237

**SCHOOL DAYS RECOVERED**

*or 2,561,899 hours  
each month where  
children (usually girls)  
were in school rather  
than fetching water*

## \$3,328,874

**TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT**

*average monthly  
water savings (USD)  
per household x  
number of households*

*Our first well.*



We recently commemorated a truly special occasion—30 years since we drilled our very first well! Scan the QR code or visit our YouTube channel @lifewatercanada to watch a short video to honor this milestone.

# 30

WATER CANADA

*Jim Gehrels*



*Glenn Stranks*

*Lynda showing us her motorhome "Heidi"*



Reach out to Lynda at:  
[info@lifewater.ca](mailto:info@lifewater.ca)

to explore options for a gathering in your area. She would love to connect with you and your community!

## A CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR

Lynda is travelling across Canada this summer from coast-to-coast in her motorhome, "Heidi". She is doing this fully at her own expense, exploring our beautiful country while speaking about Lifewater Canada's mission and the incredible impact your donations are having. Although you might never get to meet her travel companion Luna, a very shy grey cat, Lynda would love to get together, share a campfire, or grab a coffee with you along the way.

Would you be open to hosting a small gathering at your home with family or friends? Or perhaps your church or community group would like to learn more about global WASH issues and the positive effects of donor support?

Supporters like you are playing a vital role in spreading awareness of the need for safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in Africa and Haiti. Join the change-makers, who build relationships within their communities and organize small events, creating a lasting impact. Small sparks can light big fires, and little ripples can become huge waves. Sharing about the incredible work our overseas teams are doing, even with just a few people, can inspire, educate, and grow into a force that transforms lives.

# RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY: *the story of Duncan*

“**The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.** — *Robert Burns*”

This adage communicates that even with the most careful planning, you cannot guarantee perfect execution. Things may still go wrong. We recently encountered this reality in Liberia, where we had ‘perfectly planned’ the fabrication of a new truck-mounted rig called “Duncan”. While everything looked promising at first, things quickly unravelled once we started our work in Liberia.

First, the new compressor—needed to operate the DTH air hammer—had a faulty sensor from the factory. As we had sourced this machine in North America, and shipped it alongside the drill from Texas, we had to use the same North American network for the replacement. However, that network had a hard time achieving this due to the machine being in Liberia. To keep the story short, we did finally receive the sensor just two days before the rig had to be completed. But that was only the tip of the iceberg.



*The new rig consists of a heavily modified LS300T+ drill from Little Beaver and LoneStar Drills, mounted on a 4WD Isuzu truck with a hard-mounted compressor.*

The real issue came with a notification that the Isuzu truck, which we build and mount the drilling rig on, had been delayed in shipping. Initially set to arrive on March 24, the truck's delivery was now pushed back to March 31. Our two Canadian team members, Dan and Coleton, were in Liberia to oversee the rig's fabrication and were scheduled to leave on April 19. While certainly not ideal—given that we couldn't postpone the build for a full week and still finish in time—we were determined to find a solution. We sourced some 6" I-beams to create a temporary simulated truck frame, allowing us to begin building the deck.

Then the next notification came: the truck was stranded in Abidjan, waiting for a ship. With 1,000 km left in its 14,000 km journey, it may as well have been across the ocean. We tried to switch to truck freight, which would have taken only 14 hours to arrive, with no success. We pleaded our case to the shipping line, to no avail. We could only wait.

The defeat we felt from this delay nearly made us give up and put off completing the project until a future trip. But instead we shifted again. This time, we reached out to a local dealership that agreed to lend us a similar truck—a 2-wheel drive with a frame we hoped would match our 4-wheel drive that was stuck in shipping. After removing the body from the loaned truck, we continued the build with one added challenge: we had to figure out how to transfer the entire unit from one truck to another. After some adjustments to the design, we had a mostly complete drill rig, standing on trailer jacks, waiting for a truck to go under it. We reassembled the loaned truck and returned it to the dealership... But we still didn't have OUR truck.

We then received an arrival notice on April 9: the truck was in port! All would be well... or so we thought. Due to port holidays, national holidays, and other local delays, we didn't actually receive it until 5pm on April 16. Our flight home was set for the 18th. We truly didn't think we could finish in time, as there was still so much work to do.

Shifting gears again, we rented a forklift, the best we could find on short notice—complete with no brakes, leaking hydraulics, and a flat tire—and set to work. Miraculously, and after very little sleep, we were on our way to drill a test borehole by 9am the next morning and managed to complete two wells before leaving for our flight. “Duncan” is now successfully drilling in the largely overlooked county of Lofa, and has completed a well in Vonema, Liberia's northernmost village.



*Working at sunset*

*Working on 'Duncan' late into the night*



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

We held our annual International Conference this year in Monrovia, Liberia from March 17-24. It brought together drillers, repair technicians, and administration personnel from 8 of our 9 teams for a week of training, relationship building, and field work.

Unfortunately, our Haitian team was unable to join us due to the ongoing political crisis in Haiti—though we certainly did everything we could to get them there. Unable to fly out of Haiti, the team had to drive across the border and fly out of the Dominican Republic (DR). The immigration office there did not like their return flights (even though they didn't pass through the DR), and continually denied them boarding, even after meeting all requested criteria and changing tickets three times. While missing Lifewater d'Haiti, we carried on with representatives from teams in Liberia, Nigeria, and Kenya.



*Waiting for a truck*

So much was learned and confirmed in this experience: that success often relies on resilience and the ability to adjust our own plans. It serves as a reminder that achieving our goals requires adaptability in the face of unpredictability. These are lessons Jim Gehrels and Glenn Stonks learned on their first trip to Liberia in 1995, and lessons that we continue to learn 30 years later.

*Team members from 4 nations celebrating after drilling our 30th anniversary commemorative well at Cedar Haven Coterie School*



*Morning seminar in Liberia*

Each morning was spent in classes covering everything from documentation, impact stories, photography, and accounting best practices, to equipment maintenance and depreciation. The afternoons were spent doing field work like drilling and pump repairs. This included the drilling of a commemorative well to celebrate 30 years, to the day, since Jim Gehrels, Glenn Stronks, and the Liberian team completed Lifewater's first well in 1995.

It was amazing to see the teams come together—learning, laughing, and working as one for a common purpose. A special highlight was witnessing young drillers from one nation passing on drilling techniques from newer equipment to seasoned drillers from another country. It was a proud moment to see those seasoned drillers quickly accept the techniques and adapt their own practices! The fulfillment of the goal of empowering local teams to train one another is a wonderful result of your generosity and support.

*Cedar Haven students celebrating*



## LIFEWATER NIGERIA: THE KUCHI COMMUNITY

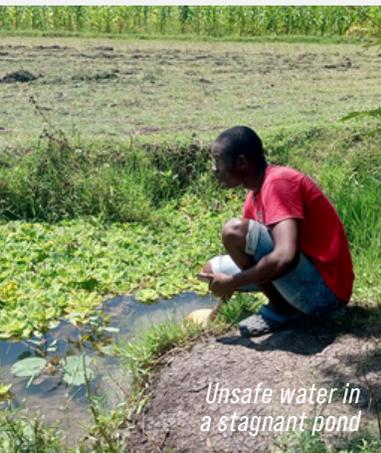
The Kuchi community, *also known as the Ebbo people*, lies nestled in the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria. This area has a deeply intertwined history with the great Niger River. While the river sustains their agricultural way of life, it also brings immense challenges; large floods over the years have led to widespread displacement and the destruction of vital crops, homes, and infrastructure.

Amid these challenges, the community faced yet another problem: water scarcity. The river, their only source of accessible water, was contaminated—a breeding ground for germs, and fouled by animal waste. The situation cast a long shadow over the wellbeing of the entire community.

But now, the narrative has shifted. Thanks to the compassionate efforts of Lifewater Nigeria (LHIN), a new chapter of hope has begun with the drilling of a new well. This initiative has freed the community from a water source that posed health risks with every drop, reducing waterborne illnesses and fostering a healthier future. Reverend Bidayelo expressed the community's thanks, stating, "We are so overjoyed and full of gratitude... we now have clean, safe, and suitable water at our disposal." This project exemplifies the transformative power of clean water, turning a long-standing struggle into a testament of hope. Supporting such projects can empower more communities to overcome challenges and build sustainable futures.



*Kuchi community celebrating their new drilled well*



*Unsafe water in a stagnant pond*

*Kombura woman hauling water*



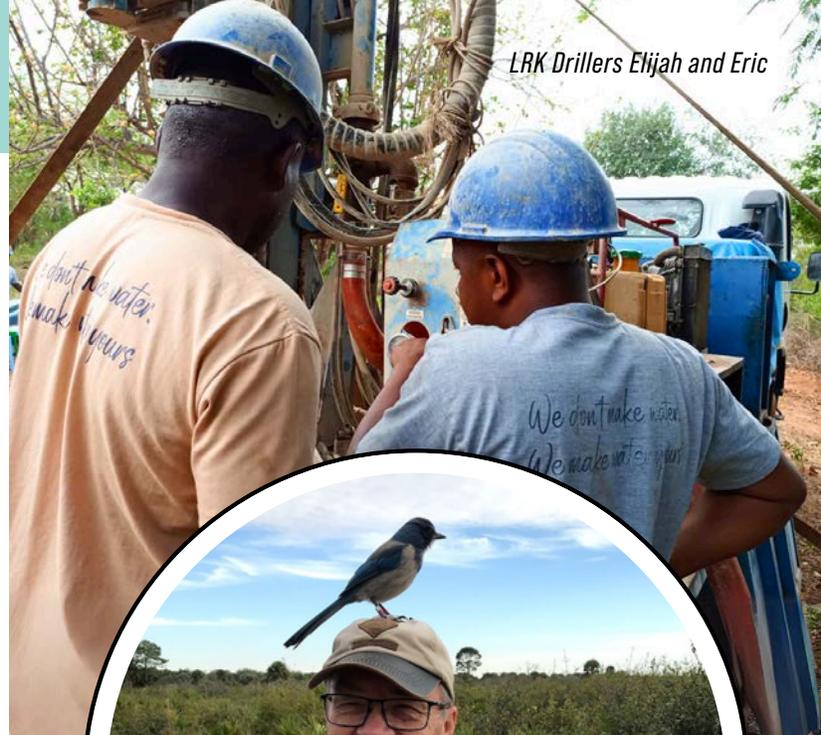
*Korowe community celebrating their new drilled well*

## STADA: KOROWE CHIEF'S CAMP

The STADA team works to provide clean and safe water to those in Kisumu County, Kenya—watering hundreds of villages through its well drilling and repair programs. Their projects benefit communities like Korowe Chief's Camp in Kombura, a village of mostly rice farmers and fishermen.

Previously, the local residents relied on unsafe water from the river Miriu or stagnant ponds found along the roads. The contaminated water led to health challenges like frequent diarrhea and stomach issues, resulting in many children being hospitalized. Girls had to spend their after-school hours helping their mothers fetch water instead of doing homework, negatively impacting their academic performance. Teenage pregnancies were also on the rise, as men took advantage of the vulnerable position girls were in while on an errand to fetch water for their families.

Following the completion of a new well and health and hygiene workshop, the village has shared many positive impacts from the project. Access to safe water greatly improved their quality of life and they are so thankful!



## LRK: THE URGENT NEED

When LRK (Lifewater RESCUE Kenya) started working in the Mwingi region, I did not understand the full extent of the need for clean water. Addressing this need required lots of work, dedication, and determination.

It's now been over three years of partnership with Lifewater Canada, and being a part of this team has always been an honour. From first providing temporary relief to schools through rainwater harvesting systems, to now offering a permanent solution by drilling new wells—providing safe water in areas where there previously was none is a reward in itself. Local communities have always needed help to fight the water scarcity in the area, and thankfully, LRK (fully supported by Lifewater Canada) is a steady and determined partner in that fight. While there is still much work to be done, I feel immense gratitude for the progress we have made together.

—Catherine Achieng, LRK Project Coordinator



## IN LOVING MEMORY

Glenn Stronks

*Lifewater Canada's co-founder Glenn Stronks went home to be with the Lord on February 14, 2025 after a battle against cancer. He may be gone but his legacy will continue to inspire generations and bring lasting hope for years to come.*

*Thank you, Glenn!*



Unsafe water source in Nigeria

## PARTNER WITH US

**MONTHLY GIVING:** Want to have a growing impact? Consider giving monthly! It gives us a steady foundation to send support and keep safe water flowing. You can set up monthly deposits easily through your bank. Contact us at [info@lifewater.ca](mailto:info@lifewater.ca) for more information.

**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 tax advantages from estate planning like this. Call us at 807-622-4848 to learn more.

**HOST A LIVE EVENT:** Lifewater Canada personnel are available for presentations! Reach out to discover how we can connect with your group or be part of your next event.

**SECURITIES DONATIONS:** Donate stocks, mutual funds, or other securities and receive a significant tax credit. Learn how by clicking the '[DONATE](#)' tab on our website.

### AVERAGE PROJECT COSTS (CAD):

Wells	\$5,500	Repairs	\$175	Latrines	\$3,500+
Rehabs	\$1,500	H&H	\$125	Dignity Kits	\$7

## CONTACT:

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