

A note from our President:

FALL 2025

Dear friends,

The journey to 30 travel from Canada's far east to the west coast, not once but twice this summer was a memory maker. Making contact with donors and speaking about the incredible impact our partners overseas in Haiti and Africa are having is pure delight! There are so many stories to share, so much growth and progress being made.

It is so important to expand on each country's needs, so they can be met. Lifewater R.E.S.C.U.E Kenya wanted to start a comprehensive washroom initiative. This came from one of the schools, one that has received a new washroom already.

"Students at Nguueni Primary School in Mwingi, Kitui county, would fear for their safety whenever they needed to use latrines at the school. The old structures were so weak there was a real fear of them collapsing on students. The teachers and parents often feared that the many holes in the latrines were snakes' hideout; a very real threat in this area."

Is it any wonder this team desires to get busy and build more washrooms. Their capacity is 1 washroom a week! Go big or go home right! But the request was put out in some of the presentations, along this journey, and 25 new washrooms have been supported in this new fiscal year! I hope you can feel just a fraction of the joy that generous gift will bring to schools and communities in Eastern Kenya.

As you explore this fall newsletter, I hope you are encouraged by how your donations are making a difference in the life of those who struggle with basic needs like safe water to drink and a place to toilet. Check out the growth in how period poverty is being addressed and the new rig just received to help our partners get to the hardest to reach places.

As you start thinking about Christmas giving and year end donations, please consider giving the gift of life, the gift of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene!

With deep gratitude,



Lynda Gehrels

President

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

“

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

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FAVOURITE NUMBER: 328,320

This is not a number that we reference very often. In fact, I do not believe any of us here at Lifewater Canada have ever thought about this statistic, let alone reported on it. But as I was previewing the stories written by our Canadian staff for this newsletter, I saw a common theme that stood out: the need for (and success of) the washrooms that we build with our partners.

And this particular number—328,320—is the cubit feet (an educated estimate) of sand, dirt, and stone that our teams have moved for 228 washroom projects to date. For perspective, it would be equivalent to a pile of dirt, 8 feet by 8 feet wide, stretching nearly a mile high.

It also represents a minimum of 45,000 people who no longer have to practice open defecation. And since most of our washrooms are pumpable, and with proper care and cleaning can be emptied and refilled indefinitely, this helps to keep communities, the environment, and the water supply clean.



While I do grant that 45,000 people may just be a ‘drop in the bucket’ considering the scope of the need, I am personally grateful that bucket can be filled from a pump in a community that has shared in that 328,320 cubit feet.

—Dan Nickol, Lifewater Canada Vice-President

THE LATEST UPDATES

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT: Have you read our Annual Impact Report yet? It is packed with more detailed information about our year like updates on each of our partner teams, with impact graphs and features on key topics and lessons learned.

CHARITY INTELLIGENCE RANKING: We have once again been named one of Canada’s Top 10 Impact Charities by Charity Intelligence Canada. We’re so grateful for your trust and generosity, and for our incredible partner teams. It’s a privilege to empower them as they bring safe water and health to those who need it most.



NEW WEBSITE: Check out our improved website that launched this week! Although we gave the design a ‘refresh’ last year, this launch finally shifts the backend of the site to a more sustainable platform, and allows for more interactive features.

TOWN HALL DEBUT: This summer, we proudly launched our first “Town Hall” meetings. What began as an experiment quickly became a highlight for our staff! These gatherings gave us the chance to connect with you more personally, share exciting updates from our teams, unveil new innovations, and celebrate the impact your generosity is making. We’re so grateful to everyone who joined us.

Our next Town Hall will take place in the new year in honour of International Women’s Day, featuring the women of Lifewater. Keep an eye on your inbox and our social media for details!

WASHROOM EXPANSION

At Lifewater Canada, we strive to bring the communities we work in a holistic transformation in all aspects of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). It is with this mandate in mind that we are excited to announce an expansion of our sanitation operations into Haiti. This is an exciting time, marking the final team to begin these deeply needed and highly beneficial projects. Lifewater d’Haiti’s latrines will be closely modeled after the ones currently being constructed in Liberia – an example of the cross-partnership collaboration that has been a foundation of our recent growth. They will feature a pour-flush design and pumpable septic tank, along with a rainwater harvesting system to act as a handwash wash station and source for the water needed to flush.

Our partners in Africa have reported a revitalization of communities where latrines are built. These facilities not only safeguard the water supply and reduce the spread of disease but also restore a sense of dignity for users, eliminating the need to relieve themselves in public spaces or the wilderness. A ripple effect occurs in these communities as they are inspired to build latrines for themselves after seeing the positive effects on health and lifestyle that an end to open defecation brings. With your help, we now bring this vision of health and improved quality of life to Haiti.



Students celebrate a new latrine at their school in Nigeria

FISCAL 2026 PROJECTS (through Q1)	
NEW WELLS	93
REHABILITATED WELLS	40
PUMP REPAIRS	982
COMMUNITY WASHROOMS	8
HEALTH + HYGIENE (H+H)	480
TOTAL	1,603

DIGNITY KITS 6,750
distributed at various H+H workshops

PROJECT NUMBERS AFTER Q1

July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

The teams have been hard at work and getting into a more efficient groove with high quality project submissions and reporting. Haiti has moved into a new reporting practice more in line with our other teams, including more photos, detailed social impact reporting, and community stories and letters. They have also begun construction of their first community washroom. This alignment in reporting practices across all our teams guarantees the highest quality projects.

FISCAL 2026 SO FAR snapshot

603,710
TOTAL HUMAN IMPACT
combined number of nation-reported beneficiaries

254,879
HOURS SAVED PER DAY
or 126.7 minutes per day per household saved in water hauling duties

\$0.15
DAILY WATER SAVINGS
daily savings per person from their previous water costs

485,892
SCHOOL DAYS RECOVERED
or 3,887,135 hours each month where children (usually girls) were in school rather than fetching water

\$2,334,373
TOTAL MONTHLY IMPACT
average monthly water savings (USD) per household x number of households

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

Lifewater Canada runs lean. We track every dollar, doing our best to show donors exactly how they are changing lives. No waste, no uncertainty—only transparency, accountability, and impact.

At Lifewater Canada, we keep costs down by improving our policies and procedures across all teams—both overseas and in Canada—improving efficiencies and enhancing skills. One great example of this is our streamlined supply chain: we now purchase hand pumps for all of the overseas teams from one supplier. This significantly reduces costs and saves valuable time that would otherwise be spent sourcing parts locally in each country.

We focus on simple, sustainable technologies like hand-powered pumps as these systems can be repaired locally and affordably with readily available parts. We look closely at maintenance schedules, reviewing how trucks are serviced and when replacements are needed. This minimizes costs and 'down' time, ensuring every team is equipped and ready. As for innovation, we are always exploring new tools to help our teams reach the most remote communities efficiently and affordably.

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Children watch the STS team repair their well in Liberia

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Over the last 30 years, we have learned many lessons; some from our failures, some from our successes, using each of those lessons to improve not just what we do, but how we do it. When we find something that doesn't work, it is easy to make the decision not to do it again, and when we find something that does work, it is easy to become static instead of looking for ways to improve.

As we continue to choose improvement over stagnancy, one of our great joys is sharing what we have learned with others. This can happen in a myriad of ways. Sometimes it is a simple conversation over coffee about the need for simplicity in the equipment that we use so that they can be easily repaired and maintained in nations where parts and formal mechanical training is scarce. Other times, it is a formally requested meeting with another charity just starting out, helping to source affordable materials so that more people can be reached with WASH programming. And always, materials like our drill manual are being used, teaching teams around the world the basics of drilling.

We are always working to grow our knowledge through continued education and training, not just to provide better programming, but to be a resource for others doing the same. We're all working for the same goal, safe and accessible water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and it is a joy to share with others so that together, we can be the solution.

DIGNITY KIT IMPACT

One of our favourite parts of partnering with our international teams is hearing firsthand how Lifewater's work changes lives and learning what communities need to thrive. After hearing stories from our partners about women and girls unable to manage their menstrual cycles, forced to stay home or use dirty rags, or even exchange sex for menstrual products, we knew we had to act.

Three years ago, we launched a pilot project with our partners at STADA in Kenya, distributing 'Dignity Kits', containing reusable sanitary pads, to local communities. The STADA team produces these pads 'in house' by employing single mothers to sew them at their production facility in Kisumu County. The results have been incredible: fewer school absences, fewer unplanned pregnancies, and improved academic performance.

This year, we were overjoyed to launch similar projects in Liberia and Nigeria. Each Dignity Kit costs just \$5 to sponsor and includes reusable pads coated with a proprietary antimicrobial treatment, so they can be safely cleaned with just water, making them effective for women and girls in even the most remote communities.

Students learning about handwashing at their school's new latrine in Kenya



Careful financial management, both in Canada and with our partners in Africa and Haiti, ensures that donor dollars go where they matter most: bringing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene to those in need. We are committed to keeping our overhead low, ideally around 10%. Our small Canadian team works from their own homes, with only an occasional need for overseas travel.

The support of faithful donors, combined with our commitment to keeping costs low, has a profound impact. Together we are protecting health, empowering communities, and breaking the cycle of poverty. Almost 10 million people have benefited to date! Thank you for being part of that story.

RELENTLESS INNOVATION

Drilling our first well in 1995 was an exciting time, not just for the obvious reasons surrounding the provision of safe and accessible water, but also because of the machine that we used to achieve it. Our first machine, the LS100, was manufactured by Lone Star Drills in Livingston, Texas and has been a staple piece of equipment for us. Lone Star Drills first started producing this machine in the early 1990s, making Lifewater Canada one of the first to use it. This early adoption of new technology set us on a road of innovation that has only widened as years have passed.

LRK team drilling using “Jerry”, their LS300T+

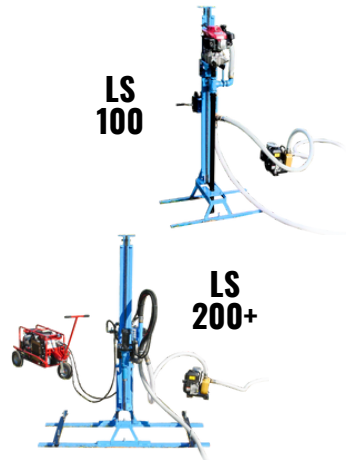


Every innovation begins with a need, recognizing that need leads to an idea, and finding a way to successfully bring that idea to life brings hope and health to the people that we serve.

While our focus right now is on this newest innovation (pictured to the right), we are grateful this isn't the first innovation and hopeful it won't be the last. We are always on the lookout for ways we might be able to better serve, understanding that this requires taking risks and accepting failure as a part of our learning process—a stepping stone on the road to bringing safe, effective, and efficient WASH services to some of the world's most vulnerable. We are thankful for those that have walked this road with us: donors, partners, suppliers, and manufacturers—all have a part in bringing these ideas to life, that they may in turn improve lives around the world.

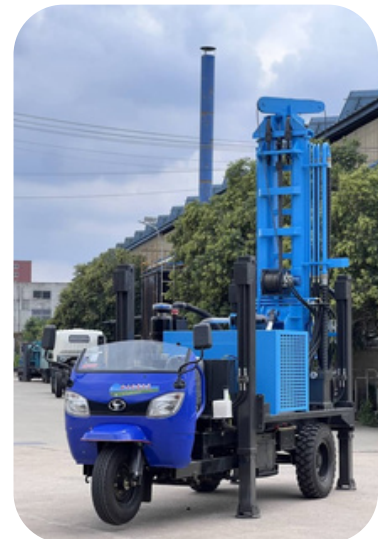


Drilling using a custom LS300T+ unit in Kenya



STADA team member operating the LS200+

Each piece of equipment that we use has been carefully designed and fabricated with the goal of improving what we deliver to those in need, that lives, economies, and communities may also improve. Our focus on innovative equipment has continued, moving to more powerful—but still highly portable—hydraulic machine instead of manual, creating the truck-mounted rigs you have read about in past newsletters, and now a 'trike' drilling rig, designed for regions that are too difficult for portable rigs to effectively drill. Over the years, we have **gone beyond drilling**—developing smarter systems, strategic site selection, and scalable models to make the hardest to reach areas easy.



“Aidan”, the new trike drilling rig that will ship to Haiti

IN THEIR EYES: *stories from the field*

Shallow hand-dug well in Tungan Maku



Tungan Maku community members celebrate their new drilled well

CLEAN WATER RESTORES HOPE

Tungan Maku, Niger State, Nigeria

For years, the people of Tungan Maku suffered from a lack of clean water. Women and children spent hours each day walking long distances to fetch water from contaminated ponds. The dirty water led to constant illness and tragedy for many families. "I remember my brother's wife suffered several miscarriages due to contracting typhoid from the water she drank," recalls Ibrahim Aminu, a community member. "Our children often missed school because they spent hours fetching water."

When Lifewater Nigeria arrived, everything changed. The local team repaired the community's broken borehole, bringing safe, clean water back to the center of the village. The transformation was immediate. "Our women no longer spend hours searching for water, and our children are healthier and back in school," Ibrahim says. "My brother is now a proud father — no more miscarriages since his wife began drinking clean water."

The joy in Tungan Maku is unmistakable. With renewed health and time to focus on family, farming, and education, residents are thriving once again. "Lifewater didn't just repair a borehole," Ibrahim says. "They restored our hope and gave us life again."

DIGNITY AND HEALTH RETURN TO PULUKO

Puluko Catholic Church, Niger State, Nigeria

For as long as anyone could remember, the people of Puluko lived without proper sanitation. Open defecation was the only option, leading to infections, snake bites, and sickness—especially among women and children. "As a mother of five, I constantly feared for my children's safety," says Angela Fada. "The smell was terrible, and the sicknesses never seemed to end."

When Lifewater came to Puluko, they didn't just talk about change—they built it. The team constructed clean, safe latrines for the church and the surrounding community, while teaching residents how to maintain them. "The day the toilets were completed, it felt like a new beginning," Angela says. "No more snake bites, no more infections — and for the first time, our village smelled clean and fresh."

Today, Puluko stands transformed. Families live with dignity, children are healthier, and women feel safe. "Lifewater didn't just give us toilets," Angela says with a smile. "They gave us hope, health, and a better future."



Puluko community latrine construction





Volunteers are working on organizing fundraising events; giving presentations in their churches, schools and community groups; opening their homes to share photos and stories of Lifewater's impact; and sharing their special areas of expertise. Each effort, big or small, helps to build awareness, and raise new support. Volunteers are making it possible to touch hearts and inspire support from people Lifewater could not reach on its own.

A woman in Kenya collecting water from a hand-dug well



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 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.

SPREADING AWARENESS

In August, we launched the "Builder Program" with an email, inviting people to join us in bringing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene to people in Africa and Haiti by volunteering their time, energy, and passion in their community. The response has been encouraging! People from across the country have stepped forward, asking how they can help. Some have eagerly joined as Lifewater Builders, while others are coming forward in a variety of ways to help spread the word and inspire their communities to get involved.

Why does this matter? Because millions of people in Africa and Haiti continue to live without accessible safe water or adequate sanitation, facing daily risks to their health and dignity. The sobering fact is that someone, usually a child, is dying every 35 seconds from water-related diseases. Volunteers can help to change that reality. Each conversation that is started and every event that is organized can contribute to wells being drilled and repaired, latrines being built, and communities gaining hope for a healthier future.

We invite you to consider joining our team of volunteers. As a "Lifewater Builder", or in another volunteer capacity, you'll be part of a growing group of passionate people who are taking action on their belief that safe water should be accessible to everyone, no matter where you are born. Your voice, your connections, and your willingness to help can make all the difference.



Children enjoying their new well in Liberia

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	\$140	Latrines	\$2,200+
Rehabs	\$1,500	H&H	\$125	Dignity Kits	\$5

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