

# WaterFoundation

## Our Mission Statement

According to a recent UN report, more than 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and more than 4 billion people have no access to sanitation. Water shortages limit agricultural irrigation and therefore reduce food security in many countries. Contaminated drinking water has a significant negative impact on public health and is the cause of numerous preventable diseases. Moreover, every year more hectares of forest are destroyed than preserved at a global level. By helping to reduce droughts and improve soil fertility, forests are important factors for ecological systems and for the protection of the climate.

In the light of this situation, the WaterFoundation has been active mainly in Ethiopia and Eritrea in the past years. About 40% of the population in both Ethiopia and Eritrea has no access to clean drinking water. Less than 30% of the population in Ethiopia has safe access to sanitation; in Eritrea the figure drops to only 16%. Agriculture in both countries is mainly carried out by small farmers. Irrigation of agricultural land is being expanded, which causes water scarcity and decreases soil fertility. Although Ethiopia is characterized by great biodiversity, large areas of the environment are seriously endangered.

In addition to implementing projects in these focus countries, the WaterFoundation uses the innovative fog collector technology CloudFisher<sup>®</sup> worldwide to improve access to water wherever environmental conditions are appropriate.

### 1. OUR VISION: PICTURING THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Through sustainable ecological, economic and social development, the WaterFoundation is securing our future and protecting our resources. Our vision is that people in rural areas have access to water and sanitation and that ecosystems are protected or regenerated. We want people to be able to feed their own families, prevent illnesses through access to better hygienic conditions, and to be able to develop independently.

### 2. OUR GOALS: IN LINE WITH THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The WaterFoundation's projects are aligned with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, particularly with the Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

- > Realizing the human right to clean, affordable drinking water
- > Providing hygienic sanitation
- > Educating people about responsible use of water sources
- > Implementing a longstanding, integrated management of water resources
- > Supporting reforestation, biodiversity and food security
- > Supporting self-determined development of local people
- > Promoting participation and wellbeing of women and young people in particular

### 3. OUR MISSION: WHAT ARE WE DOING TO REALIZE OUR VISION?

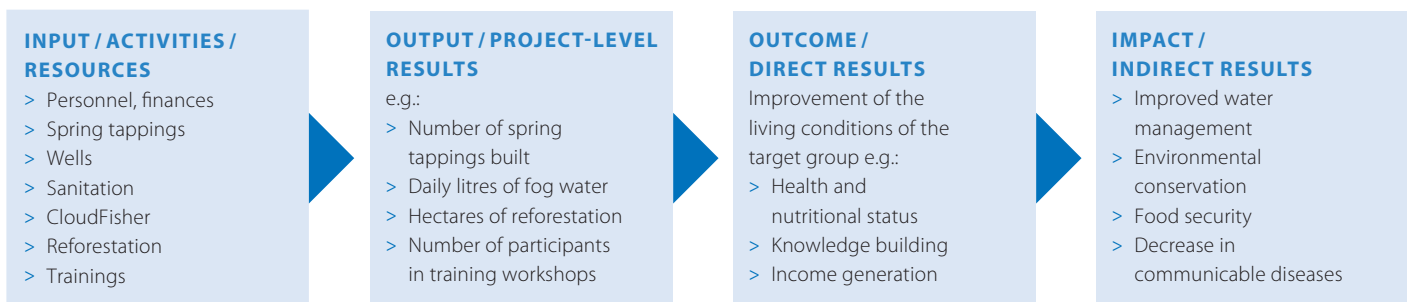
Our target group is people in our project regions who have no access to water and sanitation and whose lives are impacted by the loss of biodiversity, often women and girls. The WaterFoundation promotes water services, sanitation, reforestation and biodiversity projects, primarily in rural areas in Ethiopia and Eritrea. CloudFisher systems are installed at suitable locations worldwide. The transfer of know-how and capacity building are cross-cutting aspects in all of our projects.

## 4. OUR STRATEGY: WHAT ARE OUR MAIN LINES OF ACTION?

The WaterFoundation solicits donations for its projects. It develops and implements projects financed by private and institutional sponsors. With high-profile campaigns such as the awarding of the International Hundertwasser Prize, it contributes to a broader understanding of the challenges and possible solutions in the water and environment sectors. Proven solutions such as the use of CloudFisher are disseminated.

## 5. OUR METHODOLOGY: HOW DOES THE WATERFOUNDATION WORK?

We would like to improve the living conditions for the people in our project regions through needs-oriented projects. Therefore, the most important criterion for the WaterFoundation in selecting, planning and implementing projects is that the local population actively participates and that the projects have a sustainable impact. The WaterFoundation is guided by the following impact model:



## 7. OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS: THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WATERFOUNDATION

The WaterFoundation is independent, non-denominational, politically independent and unbureaucratic. The Foundation's work is based on its commitment to the implementation of human rights, tolerance and equality for all people, regardless of origin, gender, faith and ethnicity. The independence and self-determination of the people in our project areas are central to our work. Together, project goals are reviewed, adjusted or extended according to the needs in our project regions. WaterFoundation projects are supported through private donations and third-party funding, and are planned and implemented in cooperation with long-standing local partners. We supervise the projects for at least five years after their completion.

## 6. OUR APPROACH: WHAT MAKES THE WATERFOUNDATION'S WORK SPECIAL?

The WaterFoundation sees itself as a small and efficient organization that implements water and environment projects as effectively and sustainably as possible. It works where large sums of money do not flow – and does so with relatively little effort. The WaterFoundation's team consists of professionals from various disciplines and works with selected partners. The WaterFoundation has 20 years of expertise in effective project work with long-standing partner organizations that are familiar with local conditions.

The WaterFoundation is under the patronage of the 14th Dalai Lama and Friedensreich Hundertwasser (†) – continued by the Hundertwasser Charitable Private Foundation. We cooperate successfully with national and international partners from politics, civil society and business.

The Foundation's team sees itself as a learning organization that exchanges ideas with other actors and shares knowledge to increase the impact and effectiveness of projects.



Transparency is important to us. That is why we have joined the Transparent Civil Society Initiative and signed a voluntary commitment to this effect.