



2022/2023

Dear Friends of the WaterFoundation,
Dear Donors,

We all thought it wasn't possible, but the year 2022 had even more disasters in store than 2021. There is no doubt that people in Germany will also have to adjust to further restrictions. Nevertheless, our living conditions are in no way comparable to the adverse circumstances under which people in our project regions Ethiopia, Tanzania, Bolivia and Peru have to fight for survival: Water shortage, hunger, diseases, violence and civil war-like conditions are commonplace for many of them.

The WaterFoundation team is committed to doing something about this bleak world situation and is proud that 2022 was one of the most successful years in the Foundation's history in terms of receiving public funding. Several approved applications for large water supply and reforestation projects are a clear indication of the great commitment of those responsible for the projects and set a sign of hope for many people in need.

However, this also requires us to raise the funds for the officially required match contribution to the projects of about 25 percent. Therefore we are urgently dependent on your support. We wish you, on behalf of the entire team, a good end of the year, health and all the best, and hope that even in these challenging times you will keep your heart open for people who urgently need our help.



*"If the roots have not dried up,
the tree is not yet dead."*
Quote of the 14th Dalai Lama,
patron of the WaterFoundation
since 2001

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CLOUDFISHER

FOG CATCHERS OF THE WATERFOUNDATION IN TANZANIA, BOLIVIA AND PERU

WaterFoundation's fog nets are a sought-after solution in areas where water is scarce – provided there are mountains, fog and wind. This was initially piloted in Morocco's Anti-Atlas Mountains, where, thanks to WaterFoundation, the world's largest fog collector system has been reliably supplying many farming families with clean water since 2018. This innovative technology is now also being used in the highlands of Tanzania and in the Bolivian Andes.

In Tanzania, WaterFoundation, together with its cooperation partners ped-world e. V. and Viva con Agua, ensures that four schools with approximately 16,000 pupils in the Babati district have a continuous water supply as well as sanitary facilities. After the successful installation of five CloudFisher Mini fog collectors, seven of eight planned CloudFisher Midi were installed at the other locations in 2022. In addition, rainwater harvesting

systems, the construction of cisterns with water filters, and the creation of school gardens for fruit and vegetable cultivation are underway. Dry toilets and hand washing facilities are also being built.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, WASH trainings on the proper use of water supply and hygiene are carried out with the local people. In all schools, there is a great willingness on the part of both teachers and students to support the project and to lend a hand. Young people are the best multipliers for change. They will share their knowledge about water as an important resource and healthy hygiene practices with their families. After delays caused by the pandemic, the construction of fourteen CloudFisher Midi with our partners ICO and Zabalketa finally took place this summer in the Bolivian highlands. Already at the beginning of the year, the inhabitants of the Andean village

of Alto Veladero had dug the trenches necessary to lay the water pipes. Over 1,000 meters have to be bridged from the location of the fog catchers down to the village. In July and August, further construction work could then be started under very challenging conditions. People and material had to be brought to the construction sites daily over narrow dusty and steep slopes. But the intensive and exhausting work was worth it – for a better life for the 160 farming families and around 400 students of a boarding school in Veladero, 2,800 m above sea level, in the settlements of Veladero Central, Sivingalito and Saguintito. We thank the Oswald Foundation for their special support of the two CloudFisher projects.

What comes next? The construction of more than ten CloudFisher fog collectors on the coast of Peru in the poor district of Santa Rosa near Lima is planned for the coming year.



New CloudFisher fog collectors in Tanzania ...



... and Bolivien





ETHIOPIA

SANITATION PROJECT FOR MORE HYGIENE

Building on the large water supply facility that WaterFoundation handed over to the local community in 2021, toilet and hand washing facilities for 5,000 pupils are now being constructed in Bilaa, Ethiopia. This project is being carried out with its partner EDA-E and will be completed in 2023. In 2022, the first WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) workshops were held in parallel with the excavation work for the sanitary facilities. Training was provided for 156 teachers as well as for the hygiene committees of the village communities. In addition, 1,440 community members were taught WASH practices, soap making and menstrual hygiene (for women). The goal is to raise awareness of good hygiene practices such as proper hand washing to prevent disease and menstrual hygiene for girls to enable them to consistently attend school. This is because girls stay away from school during their period due to the lack of toilets and non-existent hand-washing facilities, as well as the lack of sanitary pads. The training is carried out by the project WASH team, made up of representatives from the water management office, the local health office and the education authority. The team is supplemented by a community member with a high social standing, who is responsible for coordination with the community. In addition to our loyal donors, the project is generously supported by the BMZ, the Oswald Foundation, the Archbishopric of Munich, the Archdiocese of Bamberg and the Wilo Foundation.



ETHIOPIA

CLEAN WATER FOR 1000 PEOPLE

Since July 2022, 1,000 people in the Ethiopian highlands finally have access to clean water. As in many regions of Ethiopia, there are many silted or eroded water points in Basona Werana district (Amhara region). Often they are additionally polluted because humans and animals share the water holes. Here, WaterFoundation and its trusted partner EDA-E helped by identifying the source of the Midaqo Geday spring and then cleanly “capturing” it, i.e. walling it off and capping it. Added to this in the case of Werqe, Tach Laga Hidha was a four cubic meter concrete water tank to store the water until it is needed. A 662-meter pipeline now runs to the vicinity of the village, where a water intake point was constructed. The population actively helped in digging the trenches for the pipelines. They also provide construction materials and a limited amount of money. The members of the local water committee received appropriate training to ensure the sustainable operation of the water supply system. In addition to 1,000 people, over 3,500 farm animals such as cattle, sheep and donkeys will be able to be supplied with the available 30,000 liters of spring water per day. We thank the Rotary Club Augsburg-Römerstadt for their support.

ETHIOPIA

IN MEMORY OF HENNER LANG

In memory of our founder Henner Lang, who passed away in 2020, two spring capping projects were implemented in Ethiopia, a land close to his heart, by our partner organization EDA-E. These projects were financed by funds donated at his funeral and implemented in Ambacho, 185 km west of Addis Ababa, and in Mutti, 175 km northeast of the capital.



The new water point in Ambacho

The project in Ambacho was completed following just four months of construction. There, 900 people – around 400 of them under the age of 15 – now enjoy direct access to clean water. In addition to the brick spring catchment, a water tank, a 900-meter-long water pipeline, a large wash basin, a water point, and a separate water trough for 1,500 farm animals (cows, sheep and donkeys) were also built.

In Mutti, around 600 more people have benefited from the new access to clean water since the middle of the year. Here, too, the existing water point was provided with a brick spring catchment to protect access from contamination. A newly laid water pipeline leads to a four-cubic-meter water tank, where several taps have been installed. The new water tapping point shortens the distances to fetch water, a relief especially for the lives of women and girls. In addition, a water trough serves to supply numerous farm animals. In both villages, water committees ensure the sustainable and responsible use of the facilities and the precious resource water.



ETHIOPIA

MAJOR PROJECT DIRRE INCHINI STARTED

Many farmers in Ethiopia today live far below the poverty line. Climate change and soil depletion have further worsened the situation in recent decades. This project, implemented by our partner EDA-E, focuses on restoring depleted natural habitats through reforestation, alongside complementary soil and water conservation activities. At the same time, it will create new employment opportunities for 3,600 families.

The project will be implemented in five communities threatened by soil erosion and poverty in the project area 188 km west of Addis Ababa. As a result, the lives of over 10,000 will improve fundamentally and sustainably. Between 2022 and 2025, a tree nursery will be established, and fruit and fodder trees planted. 700 new beehives will help pollinate the plantations and offer families the opportunity to generate income through beekeeping and honey sales. Several spring wells and water facilities will also provide improved hygiene and clean water in the region.

Training sessions will motivate families to take active steps to protect and regenerate the environment. The sustainability of the measures will be promoted through the establishment of cooperatives that will provide ongoing support for the new income generation activities. We are particularly grateful to the Lions Club Brakel, the Oswald Foundation and the BMZ.



ETHIOPIA

50 DONKEYS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

In 2022, WaterFoundation, with the support of the Ethiopia Gospel Deliverance Church (EGDC), was again able to give 50 donkeys to families in need. The women, who are traditionally responsible for transporting water, are particularly happy about WaterFoundation's campaign. One of the recipients explains why: "As a young woman, I am responsible for carrying water home on my shoulders at least twice a day from the water point two km away – time I would otherwise spend at school. With the donkey, I carry as much water in one walk as I would on four trips on my back. I named the donkey Relief. Thank you to the people who donated for me without knowing me."

Pastor Demeke and his supporters arranged for the farm animals to be purchased and equipped with a carrying frame along with two water cans. The distributions took place in three locations southwest of the capital Addis Ababa: in Asela, Kersa Siba and Jima. Thanks to his network, Pastor Demeke was able to set up a project committee at each location, which was entrusted with the actual implementation. After appropriate documentation, the animals were officially handed over to their happy new owners. We thank all our donors and the Rotary Club of Schwäbisch Hall.

ETHIOPIA

BECOMING STRONGER TOGETHER

In 2023 and 2024, we plan to implement a project to support women's cooperatives in rural Ethiopia. Poor women in rural Ethiopia are structurally at a great disadvantage. Although women do most of the agricultural work there, their contribution is largely unpaid and unrecognized. With less than half of the girls attending elementary school completing grade 5, their literacy levels remain low. Employment opportunities beyond unpaid work in the fields are therefore severely limited. Increasing women's economic empowerment has been shown to improve their own health, well-being and independence. However, it is not only they themselves who benefit from their social and economic empowerment, but also their families and communities. This is where the "Becoming Stronger Together" project comes in.



The project will benefit 360 households, or about 1,764 people, in the Oromia region. In addition, 2,683 households with 13,897 members in the two districts will indirectly benefit from the project activities. The partner organization Facilitator for Change is already active there with a community development project and therefore well networked within the local structures.

BOARD AND TEAM EXPANDED



Since January 2022, the board of WaterFoundation consists of three members: In addition to Dr. Beate Grotehans (Chair) and Robert Balthasar (Vice Chair), Monica Denomy has joined the board as the third member. A native of Canada, she joined WaterFoundation in July 2020 as senior project manager. Since then, she has worked diligently and successfully, primarily on grant applications, and excelled in the development, management, and monitoring of the Foundation's projects. After completing a master's degree in linguistics and social and public policy in Canada, the United States and Spain, she worked for 15 years with major NGOs as an international development specialist and completed field assignments in numerous Latin American countries.



The project work is actively supported by Luca Wesel, who completes the team as project coordinator since August 2022. After studying social sciences (B.A.) at the University of Düsseldorf and a master's degree in international relations and development policy at the University of Essen-Duisburg, he most recently completed further training at the Society for Sustainable Development. In this context he got to know the work of WaterFoundation during a three-month internship.

#WASH – NETWORKING

The WaterFoundation is constantly expanding its network. For example, the WASH network meeting on November 5, 2021 provided an opportunity to present the Foundation's work to Claudia Pragua, the new BMZ department head for WASH issues. Against the background of the anchoring of water issues in the coalition agreement of the new German government, Pragua explained the new focus of the BMZ. In particular, the link between water issues and health is to be the focus in the future, a topic that the WaterFoundation was able to tie in well within the subsequent talks. The WASH network, of which WaterFoundation has been a member since 2021, is active in a variety of ways, most recently, for example, with the high-level conference "The Future of Sanitation and Hygiene" on October 11, 2022. Prior to this, the political demands were revised in Q2 2022, particularly because of the Corona pandemic and the WASH focus in the coalition agreement. The network's concerns, which are also shared by WaterFoundation, are to involve civil society more intensively in the work of the federal government, to better target programs and projects to marginalized populations, and to strengthen the link between water and health protection. In addition, the internet is expanding the foundation's reach. For example, the web platforms of benevity and Haus des Stiftens offer the opportunity to inform more people about our work and goals and to raise concrete support for individual projects. In the future, further partner networks will be able to be used via Haus des Stiftens to publicize projects of WaterFoundation.

24 GOOD DEEDS ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

For the first time, WaterFoundation is represented with a project in a special Advent calendar. Behind its doors there are no chocolate bars, but "good deeds" from 24 different organizations – all part of the Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft (ITZ). The idea for the calendar came from director Sebastian Wehkamp in 2011, who explains his founding idea with the words: "You feel the most happiness when you do something good for others." The calendar can be ordered online now at a price of 24 euros – in the paper version or digitally.

Thanks to accompanying teaching materials in German, English and French, teachers can also discuss the projects with their students as they open the individual doors each day. www.24-gute-taten.de

SPRING CONCERT OF LUDWIGSGYMNASIUM IN MUNICH

The Munich High School has been supporting the work of WaterFoundation since 2021. During the spring concert at Ludwigs-Maximilian University, donations were again collected for the "sponsorship project". Class 6c designed a poster for the purpose, advertised for WaterFoundation on stage and "held out their hats" at the exit, collecting the sum of 941 euros. In addition, 176 Euros were donated by Class 6a and the school service. We thank the students on behalf of all the people whose lives are improved through our projects in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Bolivia and Peru.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Beate Grotehans
Robert Balthasar
Monica Denomy

PATRONS

His Holiness the Dalai Lama
Friedensreich Hundertwasser †

NATURE AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT REPANAS

At the beginning of 2022, WaterFoundation was able to give the green light for a large-scale nature and water conservation project with our partners Caritas Abancay and Zabalketa in the new priority country of Peru. With this project, the Foundation is following up on measures such as Greening Anseba, which was implemented with great success in Eritrea from 2016 to 2018. In the Peruvian highlands, numerous farming families are struggling with the changing climate conditions. During the course of the year, they are increasingly faced with enduring months at a time without fresh water. The WaterFoundation project, which runs until December 2024, is providing relief.

The need for conservation and reforestation measures for water resources was again impressively demonstrated by the World Climate Report 2022. The motivation of the population is

crucial for the sustainable success of the project in the sparsely forested highlands of Peru. That is why participation is a top priority in the REPANAS (abbreviation from the Spanish for natural heritage reserves) project. In close cooperation with the specially founded water committees, it was determined which pasture areas would be declared nature and water conservation areas. The local water sources are located in each of these protected areas. By the end of 2022, over 660 hectares of land will be protected with durable fencing and yellow marker flags.

The first tree nurseries were also established in 2022. Seedlings are being grown there to be planted in the REPANAS areas in due course.

Another important project element is the construction of drainage ditches and so-called "ccochas"; these artificially created water reservoirs can fill with

rainwater, which can slowly percolate to replenish the aquifers. We would like to thank the Oswald Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for their generous support.

Next year, WaterFoundation will also work with its partners Caritas Abancay and Zabalketa to build a new water supply and latrine infrastructure in the Abancay region. Their village of Pucuta is located high in the mountain, and is inhabited by approximately 40 farming families who belong to the indigenous Quechua group. Sanitary facilities will be built at the kindergarten, the elementary school, the meeting hall and the church. In addition, each household will receive a water tap and a latrine with a shower. Initial site visits to take stock have already taken place in October 2022. We would like to thank the CORDES & GRAEFE Foundation for financing this entire project.



THE WATERFOUNDATION IN THE MEDIA

"From a global perspective, mankind's handling of water is life-threatening." This is a quote of our trustee Prof. Dr. Martin Grambow from the ARD documentary "Bis zum letzten Tropfen" (Until the last drop), which is well worth watching.

The documentary was broadcast on the occasion of the World Water Day as part of the ARD event #unserwasser. Water shortage is not only an issue in the countries of the Global South, but also in Germany, which has lost water dramatically over the past 20 years.

Smart solutions are therefore in demand. That's why interest in our CloudFisher systems is growing steadily, as the worldwide viewing figures for our videos on YouTube show: The English version of our video about the CloudFisher on Mount Boutmezguida in Morocco has already been viewed almost 180,000 times.

Follow us on YouTube,
Instagram and Twitter, too!

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