



2020/2021

Dear friends of the WaterFoundation,
dear donors,

A difficult year lies behind us all, with new challenges for everyone. We as a foundation have particularly appreciated being able to count on good friends, supporters, and donors like you in these times of need.

This year, thanks to your commitment, we were able to carry out projects in new villages to provide people with access to sufficient clean drinking water. In addition, the WaterFoundation has again distributed donkeys, garden tools and water pumps in rural areas. As emergency aid response to Corona, we supported the purchase and distribution of flour, oil, soap and face masks for people in rural Ethiopia.

We, and the people who directly benefit from these projects, would like to say a sincere thank you for your many years of loyalty and your regular contributions, large or small. Without you, dear donors, the WaterFoundation could not work.

Shortly before the outbreak of the pandemic, a WaterFoundation team in Ethiopia was able to inaugurate a large water supply system in Bilaa, which now reliably supplies more than 10,000 people with clean drinking water. Following the inauguration, the seventh presentation of the International Hundertwasser Prize took place in Addis Ababa, awarding the work of the German-Ethiopian engineer Fekadu Aleka.

From March onwards, the WaterFoundation has had to rethink how we carry out our work, being flexible, patient, and persistent in the face of global challenges. We were able to implement some spring tapping projects as planned, while other measures, such as the construction of additional fog collectors in Bolivia and Tanzania, have been delayed. But we keep our eyes on the ball and keep planning for the future.

In this anniversary year, special thanks go to our founders Ernst Frost and Henner Lang, who retired from the Executive Board in June due to age and will remain active as members of the Board of Trustees. Twenty years ago, they jointly established the WaterFoundation and thus laid the groundwork for so much good! They are both role models and provide motivation for our future work.

Dr. Beate Grotehans

Robert Balthasar



*»When one dreams alone,
it is only a dream.
When many dream together,
it is the beginning of
a new reality.«*

Friedensreich Hundertwasser

OFFICE

Landsberger Str. 428
D-81241 München
Phone +49 171 560 10 49

www.wasserstiftung.de

info@wasserstiftung.de

[@wasserstiftung](https://www.facebook.com/wasserstiftung)

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ERITREA

AID SUPPLIES FOR GREEN CLUBS

The shipment was delayed due to the worldwide logistical restrictions caused by the Corona virus, but the 40-foot container was at last shipped at the end of July. The loading was carried out thanks to many energetic hands under the leadership of the WaterFoundation board member Senait Michiel (top picture).

From Hamburg, the container traveled to the port city of Massawa on the Red Sea, arriving in September after nine weeks at sea. On board: 100 used bicycles, garden tools worth 10,000 euros provided by the Franconian tool manufacturer Krumpholz at cost price, as well as 200 watering cans and 300 solar lamps.

The goods are being delivered to the approximately 500 Green Clubs in Eritrean state schools. Teachers and water experts share knowledge about gardening and water catchment, as well as water and soil protection with the pupils. As an acknowledgment of their commitment, they receive solar lamps and bicycles. We send thanks to Ursula Fiechtner from the Bavarian Farmers' Association (Bad Tölz/Wolfratshausen district), who this year again collected a large number of pots and jars for processing agricultural produce.



ERITREA

A WATER PUMP FOR KESAD DAERO

About 40 km from Asmara, the village of Kesad Daero is located in the neighborhood of Deki Tsenay, where the WaterFoundation already successfully built a water supply system for 2,400 people in 2012. At the request of the local population, the 800 inhabitants and the school of Kesad Daero will also be supplied with fresh drinking water in the future. With the help of donations from former residents who now live in Germany, and with the active support of the village population, the necessary preparations for the project can now be completed. Authorities have approved the necessary applications, the Kesad Daero Water Committee has been established, and a 30 cubic meter water reservoir has been built and fixed in place with cement. The foundation and fencing for the 14 solar modules, which are located 50 meters from the well, have also been completed. Thus, nothing stood in the way of the final assembly work when the new pump and solar system purchased by WaterFoundation arrived. The equipment, worth 6,000 Euros, was accompanied by other relief supplies. With these supplies on hand, the trenches for the water pipes could be dug and the pipes laid and connected to the reservoir.



Picture: Jara von Luepke

INTERNAL NEWS

GENERATION CHANGE IN THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In the last weeks and months, a lot has changed internally at the Water-Foundation. We would like to give you a brief update about these developments. Following Ernst Frost, Henner Lang also withdrew from the Executive Board due to age, in accordance with the Foundation's statute. Both founders are now represented on our Board of Trustees. The new Chair of the Board is Dr. Beate Grotehans, who has been involved with the WaterFoundation since 2012 and has been a member of the board since the beginning of 2016. Robert Balthasar, who has been active in the foundation since 2018, is the Deputy Chair with a focus on personnel and finance.

Overall, our team has become younger. Three new colleagues joined the team in 2020: Ann-Ulrike Henning as external consultant for strategy, Monica Denomy as senior project manager and Lisa Sophie Reigl as project manager. In addition, civil engineer Christian Binder has been contributing his expertise as a specialist in water management to the foundation since 2019, and Martin Kern has been supporting us starting this year in social media and the production of video and photo material. You can find more detailed biographical information on the Executive Board, the Trustees, and all team members on our website at:

www.wasserstiftung.de/en/organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Beate Grotehans
Robert Balthasar

PATRONS

Seine Heiligkeit der Dalai Lama
Friedensreich Hundertwasser †

FESTIVE INAUGURATION IN BILAA – CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION

Before Fekadu Aleka was awarded the Hundertwasser Prize 2020 at the German Embassy for his services, he and a small delegation from the WaterFoundation and German press representatives visited joint water projects in the Oromia region west of Addis Ababa. Over the course of two decades, spring tapplings, wells, pipe-lines and reservoirs have been built in this area, providing direct access to clean water for over 60,000 inhabitants. For one week, a small bus took the group up and down hills on dusty roads through villages and small towns. The varied landscapes, accompanied by stories told by Aleka about his homeland, opened new perspectives about the culture,

habits, infrastructure and historical and political background of this region of Ethiopia.

The festive inauguration of the water supply system in Bilaa, a village 235 km from Addis Ababa, was the highlight at the end of the exploratory trip. Only a few hundred meters before Bilaa, mounted local representatives approached on decorated horses and escorted the delegation to the village along an unpaved road. As they neared the destination, the sound of cheering children and young people grew steadily louder. »Welcome, welcome, welcome!« it resounded tirelessly to the guests. The loud voices and horns of more than thousand people full of unrestrained

joy sounded like a concert that lasted until the actual ceremony. This must be how pop stars feel on stage!

The experience was emotionally overwhelming, and unforgettable for everyone present.

As guests of honor, Aleka as project manager, the WaterFoundation team and the press took their seats under a tent roof with many local dignitaries and surrounded by the applauding inhabitants of Bilaa and Bilo-Ejeres. Everyone, young and old, wanted to celebrate the opening together! The varied festival program lasted several hours and ended with a smaller group enjoying a traditional meal together in the town's administration building. The enthusiastic reception given to



Aleka and the WaterFoundation displayed the enormous gratitude of the population. On the day of festivities, the water supply system in the center of the village was officially handed over to the local population.

The construction work, financed by the WaterFoundation and carried out by partner NGO Environmentalists Development Association – Ethiopia (EDA-E), took two years. The Bilaa project is a successful example of development work as a partnership of equals with the residents who will benefit from the initiative. In the future, about 10,000 people will obtain water from the tap in the remote mountainous region.



ETHIOPIA

DONKEY DISTRIBUTION AND SPRING WATER TAPPING

After three weeks of preparations, the time for the distribution of pack animals came on February 25, 2020. When the WaterFoundation delegation, together with Pastor Demeke, arrived in the village of Koka, 120 km southwest of Addis Ababa, over 50 women sat in the plain church hall. They drew lots, and the receipt of each donkey was carefully documented. All pack animals were equipped with a lead rope, carrying system and water canisters. Full of gratitude, the new owners took them on the difficult journey home. Owning a donkey is an invaluable asset for families in the countryside, which is why their distribution has been a fixed WaterFoundation program for many years. Currently we are looking into the possibility of expanding this activity to include participation in a donkey breeding initiative in Ethiopia. Three more small villages in the district Ilu Galan have gained access to clean drinking water since September 2020. A spring water tapping in Mumme now provides clean drinking water for 50 households with about 280 people and 400 animals. In Dorrii, there are two spring water tapplings, a cattle trough, a washing area, two taps and a tank for 75 households with 450 people and 600 livestock. A hand well provides 60 households with 350 people and 650 livestock with water in Harrojji IV, which also has a cattle trough and washing area.



BOLIVIA / TANZANIA

CONSTRUCTION OF FURTHER FOG COLLECTORS DELAYED

The WaterFoundation team breathed a sigh of relief in March 2020 when the Bolivian project partner informed them that the 14 CloudFisher Complete, shipped in December 2019, had arrived in Vallegrande. The valuable cargo was received by Director Adalid Salazar Garcia from the partner organization Instituto de Capacitacion del Oriente. Even though the materials are now ready for use in the Bolivian highlands, the assembly, originally planned to begin in April 2020, has been postponed due to the Corona pandemic, and the schedule to start activities in future remains uncertain. The CloudFisher projects in Tanzania have also been affected by the travel restrictions. Five CloudFisher Mini were successfully set up in January, supplying several schools in Daraja la Mungu and Endabok with clean water. This was followed by the shipment of eight CloudFisher Complete in autumn 2020, but their assembly is likely to be delayed. In the meantime, this joint project with Viva con Agua e.V. and ped-world e.V. shows good progress in the construction of over 20 cisterns, which is largely carried out by the local population. We will keep you informed about further developments on our website under News and via Twitter.

ERNST FROST AND HENNER LANG – FOUNDERS AND PIONEERS OF THE WATERFOUNDATION

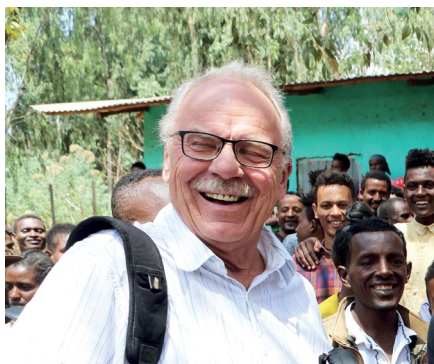
In 2000, two men laid the groundwork for the WaterFoundation: Ernst Frost and Henner Lang. As early as the 1990s, they both independently supported social and ecological projects. Ernst Frost, a former typesetter and designer for various magazines, supported nature conservation projects and an initiative to re-green the city of Sarajevo during his time at natur. Henner Lang, a business graduate, taught organization and marketing at the Würzburg-Schweinfurt University of Applied Sciences. In addition to his managerial work in various companies, he was engaged for many years on the church council in the Protestant Church. The different temperaments of the two members of the founding team formed a successful combination. Their charisma, thoroughness and commitment helped to convince people to establish cross-border networks and inspired confidence on all sides. Their know-how provided a firm basis for initiating sustainable projects. Frost and Lang are genuine people and like to lend a hand in operational areas – as bridge-builders between cultures, politics, and societies, while working with local partners on equal footing.

»The WaterFoundation cannot solve the big problems of water supply worldwide, but it can help in those places where the big money does not go; it can achieve a great deal with relatively little effort.«

Over the last two decades, what Lang and Frost have achieved under this motto in various countries, especially in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Morocco, is evidenced by the quantity and quality of the water supply systems, education, hygiene and reforestation measures they have initiated.



Ernst Frost



Henner Lang

The combination of making a personal contribution towards fulfilling the human right to water and bringing individual competencies together to realize a shared goal has been a clear recipe for success. WaterFoundation was well-received by donors and received positive press coverage starting shortly after its establishment. With empathy and ongoing commitment, Ernst Frost and Henner Lang have over the past 20 years laid the basis for the next generation of board members who will successfully continue to lead the WaterFoundation in the future.



CORONA EMERGENCY AID FOR PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA

This year, Ethiopia struggled with massive crop failures due to climate change. The consequences were drastic: malnutrition, disease, millions of internally displaced persons and economic hardship. Then the virus Covid-19 reached the country. The pandemic, which has been spreading uncontrollably since May, is further aggravating the situation in rural areas, where it especially affects the poorest and weakest. The number of people newly infected every day is increasing alarmingly. »The danger of the epidemic was massively underestimated in Ethiopia. We are at the limit of our medical capacity,« wrote Fekadu Aleka in June, as he urgently requested the support of the executive committee for hygiene and food aid for the district town of Debre Birhan. It was immediately clear to Dr. Beate Grotehans and Robert Balthasar that quick action was needed. 5,000 Euros of Corona emergency aid was immediately and unbureaucratically transferred to a special committee to respond to the situation.

The area around Debre Birhan, 130 km northeast of Addis Ababa, has 14 water systems and therefore supports a certain level of basic hygiene. The support reached more than 110 families in August, providing cooking oil, flour, soap, and face masks. Depending on the size of the family, the supplies last from one to three months.

ETHIOPIA

FEKADU ALEKA WAS AWARDED THE INTERNATIONAL HUNDERTWASSER PRIZE

»Water is education, health, future,« explains Fekadu Aleka. »Everyone needs water. Those who are hungry have no energy for learning. Those who know little are easily manipulated.« A functioning water supply is all the more relevant for social development. And this conviction has been driving the German-Ethiopian engineer for many years to work together with his organization *Environmentalists Development Association – Ethiopia (EDA-E)* to improve the water supply in Ethiopia. The country actually has enough water, but what many people lack is access to this vital resource. Aleka, who studied engineering at the University of Karlsruhe, is specialized in this area, and is respected as a thematic expert and trainer. Since 2006, he has successfully completed drinking water projects with EDA-E that benefit about 60,000 people. Thus, the decision to award him the seventh International Hundertwasser Prize was almost a matter of consequence, as the WaterFoundation has been successfully and confidently implementing its projects in Ethiopia with him as a partner for almost two decades.

The German Ambassador Brita Wagener was delighted that the award ceremony was held in the recipient's country. She opened the ceremony in Addis Ababa on February 24, stating Ethiopia is rightly moving into the focus of public attention as an African country with great potential. Around 50 invited guests from politics, administration, business, and culture accepted the invitation to the German Embassy. The WaterFoundation's board members Dr. Beate Grotehans and Henner Lang were among those present. The Bavarian Ministry of the Environment, represented by Professor Martin Grambow, assumed the patronage. In his laudatory speech, he pointed to the successful example of sustainable development cooperation on equal footing: »We want to expand cooperations like this. Bavaria has set up an African office in Addis Ababa especially for this purpose. Because in addition to the positive effects on people's health, both the economic and social effects are considerable.« Further information about the prize and the media reports can be found at: www.wasserstiftung.de/en/hundertwasser-prize



The award, which is endowed with 5,000 euros, was presented by Dr. Beate Grotehans and Henner Lang.



After the ceremony, there was an opportunity for discussions and networking with fellow countrymen from the administration and with international supporters from business and industry.



The festive award ceremony took place in the German Embassy in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

GOD BLESS YOU, YEMANE!

Our partner and friend Pastor Yemaneberhan Endale passed away after a serious illness in September 2020. We have been collaborating to distribute 1001 donkeys to needy families in remote regions of Ethiopia since 2013. In his spirit, we will continue these activities with his successor Pastor Demeke Kebede.

NEW STATUTE AND MISSION STATEMENT

Twenty years after the establishment of the WaterFoundation, the statute has been updated and revised. You can download the WaterFoundation's statute and mission statement on the website at: www.wasserstiftung.de/en/about-us/principles-and-objectives

NEW OFFICE SPACE

In February 2020, the WaterFoundation moved into its own business premises. The new mailing address is: WasserStiftung
Landsberger Str. 428
D-81241 Munich
You can reach us by email at info@wasserstiftung.de