



2021/2022

Dear friends of the WaterFoundation,  
Dear donors,

The people in our project countries and the WaterFoundation thank you all for remaining loyal to us in this once again very difficult year. It is your donations alone that make our projects possible.

When we paid tribute to our two founders last year on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the WaterFoundation, no one suspected that this year we would have to unexpectedly say goodbye to our founder Henner Lang. His loss weighs heavily on us. We are greatly saddened, but we feel all the more obliged by the sudden end of his tireless commitment to continue the work for the people in the Global South, whose well-being was so close to his heart, in his memory.

Henner Lang would have been very pleased that the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) rewarded our persistent and committed work with a funding commitment for four projects, which is a good testimony to the quality of our work. This year we will start implementing two projects. First, „Good Hygiene – Better Health“ in Bilaa, Ethiopia: thanks to new infrastructure and training, around 10,000 people in the town and surrounding rural area will benefit from improved health and living conditions. Secondly, „REPANAS“: With this project in Peru, we are improving the water supply and strengthening local water management by establishing nature and water conservation areas and carrying out reforestation activities.

The local people are also looking forward with great hope and confidence to the start of two other projects next year: a reforestation and water project in Ethiopia, which will create additional income opportunities, and another fog collector project in a poor district near Lima in Peru. We would be pleased if you would continue to support our projects.

With kind regards

Dr. Beate Grotehans

Robert Balthasar



### THE GOLDEN DROP

At the State Garden Show in Überlingen on Lake Constance, thirsty visitors could fill up their water bottles for a donation of one euro. This action raised 3,600 euros, half of which will go to the WaterFoundation and half to Viva con Agua. In the future, the „Water Altar“ by artist Tina Zimmermann will stand at the „Mahalla“ cultural venue in Berlin.

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#### DONATIONS WELCOME

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## THANKS TO HERBERT HRUSCHKA

An institution like the WaterFoundation thrives on the commitment, often voluntary, of its supporters, who contribute their diverse skills for the benefit of people in the Global South. People like Dr Herbert Hruschka, who joined the WaterFoundation almost 20 years ago and has contributed his expertise to many projects. He often travelled together to Eritrea and Ethiopia with the founders, Ernst Frost and Henner Lang, who died in 2021, to initiate, advance or review work on well constructions, spring catchments or fog collector projects. He also supported the CloudFisher project on site in Morocco.



Herbert Hruschka and Aïssa Derhem in Marokko

Dr Hruschka studied process engineering and initially worked in the private sector, where he was responsible for the treatment of drinking, bathing and industrial water. Later he worked for the Bavarian Water Management Administration and headed the department for municipal wastewater treatment at the Bavarian State Office for Water Management. For several years he was seconded to the Federal Ministry for the Environment in Bonn. In addition to his commitment to the WaterFoundation, Herbert Hruschka was active for many years in the Senior Expert Service maintained by the Foundation of German Business for International Cooperation. The WaterFoundation regrets that Herbert Hruschka wishes to take a step back in the future for reasons of age and thanks him for his many years of generous support, commitment and expert advice.

## #WASH – TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

In March 2020, a full-day expert exchange on a current topic in development cooperation took place at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Berlin. The event was organised by the Service Agency for Foundations and Philanthropy, with expertise from the WaterFoundation and the German Toilet Organization, among others. Under the heading #5: WASH – Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, private foundations and philanthropists who are already involved in development work or are planning to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals were able to exchange ideas and network. Ann-Ulrike Henning represented the WaterFoundation in this forum as our strategic advisor.

In May 2020, the WaterFoundation signed a petition initiated by WASH United e.V. and Viva con Agua, which advocates for the global implementation of the human right to water and sanitation. The appeal had an impact: the corresponding motion by the CDU/CSU and SPD was adopted by the German Bundestag. Since February 2021, the WaterFoundation has been a full member of the WASH Network ([www.washnet.de](http://www.washnet.de)). The WASH Network brings together 25 German NGOs that work in international development cooperation, humanitarian emergency and transitional aid. The Network's aim is to jointly combat an untenable state of affairs: 2 billion people worldwide have to live without access to clean water and 3.6 billion without safe sanitation. Since its founding in 2011, the WASH Network has been working closely with the Association for Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid (VENRO).

## MISSION STATEMENT AND FOCUS COUNTRIES

After the WaterFoundation's statutes were revised and updated in 2020/21, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Dr Beate Grotehans, also reformulated the WaterFoundation's mission statement in cooperation with the team and the Board of Trustees. This sets out the following points:

- » *The vision:* Our picture of the future in the next 10 years.
- » *Our goals:* In line with the UN development goals
- » *Our mission:* What are we doing to implement our vision?
- » *Strategy:* What are our main courses of action?
- » *Future orientation:* What is the impact of the WaterFoundation?
- » *Working methods:* What makes the work of the WaterFoundation special?
- » *Values and convictions:* The principles of the WaterFoundation

The joint work on the mission statement serves both to orient ourselves and to inform the public, donors and partners. The details can be found at: [www.wasserstiftung.de/en/about-us/principles-and-objectives](http://www.wasserstiftung.de/en/about-us/principles-and-objectives). As can be seen in these updated documents, the focus of our work has shifted a number of times over the years, both in terms of content and geographic focus. In the beginning, there were many small projects in different parts of the world – from Uzbekistan to Uganda – but, more recently, the focus was mainly on Eritrea and Ethiopia. As a result of the strategic updates this year, the focus countries now also include Tanzania, Peru and Bolivia.

## OFFICE ADDRESS

The address of the office changes periodically due to cost considerations. Currently, the Foundation can be reached as follows.

By email: [info@wasserstiftung.de](mailto:info@wasserstiftung.de)

By post: Pörschacher Straße 27, D-80687 München

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Beate Grotehans  
Robert Balthasar

### PATRONS

His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
Friedensreich Hundertwasser †

## GOOD HYGIENE – BETTER HEALTH

When the WaterFoundation delegation inaugurated one of its largest water supply projects in Ethiopia in the spring of 2020, they found that although 10,000 people would now have clean drinking water, the elementary and secondary schools with 4,800 boys and girls had only a very basic, unsanitary privy. Especially for girls, who face the challenge of maintaining menstrual hygiene during puberty, the inadequate facilities very often lead to them staying away from school during their period or dropping out altogether. Immediately, the WaterFoundation started working with their local partner EDA-E and the community to come up with a remedy. These ideas were developed into a large project design. The WaterFoundation applied for funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which was recently approved. However, a prerequisite for any approval is that a percentage of the WaterFoundation's funding must come from its own resources, i.e. from donations. We would like

to take this opportunity to thank the BMZ, our many individual donors, the Oswald Foundation, the Wilo Foundation, the Archbishopric of Munich/Freising and the Archdiocese of Bamberg for the valuable support that is making this project possible. The plan is to build permanent sanitation facilities with 64 toilets, 18 urinals and 68 hand washing facilities for two schools in Bilaa by 2023. Over the 18 months of project activities, 150 workshops on hygiene and sanitation practices will be held not only in the schools, but also in the village, reaching several thousand people. In addition to sharing important information about the connection between hygiene and health – especially during a pandemic – inhabitants will learn how to make soap or reusable menstrual pads through practical training sessions. 20 additional simple handwashing stations will be set up at central locations around the village and the establishment of local hygiene committees will ensure the sustainability of the measures that will benefit the 10,000 residents.



## FOG NETS IN INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

The FogNet Alliance is a global partnership and network of researchers, water experts, international organisations and representatives from politics and industry. This international alliance for fog net technology was founded in August 2017 by the WaterFoundation, together with the Munich Re Foundation in Munich. Its aim is to exchange knowledge and experiences about the extraction of drinking water from fog. Since then, the WaterFoundation has implemented several successful fog net projects worldwide, including the largest CloudFisher system in Morocco's AntiAtlas Mountains, which has been reliably supplying numerous families in the villages on Mount Boutmezguida with clean water since 2018. Further installations of five CloudFishers have already been implemented for three schools in the highlands of Tanzania and eight more are currently under construction. In Bolivia, after successful test and measurement phases, preparations are underway for the installation of 14 fog collectors that will provide a regulated water supply for a school and several farming families in remote mountain villages. The kilometre-long trenches for the water pipes have already been dug by the farmers and the pipes have been laid. The material for the nets has already been delivered, and as soon as the Corona pandemic allows international travel to restart, they will be set up with the help of experts of the Aqualonis GmbH. It is important to bring together and expand the accumulated experience and technological know-how from the various projects to facilitate the construction of further fog collectors in suitable locations. On October 7, 2021, a digital workshop of the FogNet Alliance offered the opportunity for an international exchange for NGOs, practitioners, donors, representatives of fog net projects and scientists. Further information is available at: [www.fognetalliance.org](http://www.fognetalliance.org)

CLOUDFISHER II

## FOG COLLECTORS READY FOR THE MUSEUM?

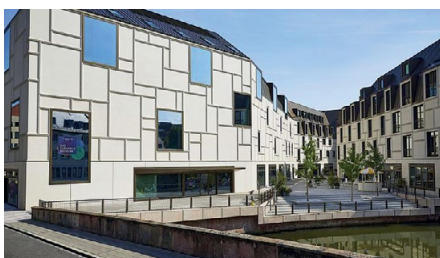
In two German museums that focus on visions and technologies of the future, the WaterFoundation's CloudFisher is an integral part of the permanent exhibition.

Opened in 2016, the Futurium in Berlin is a house of futures ([www.futurium.de](http://www.futurium.de)).



Futurium Berlin

Here, everything revolves around the question: How do we want to live? One thing is clear: we will have to overcome major challenges in the future. How can we get a grip on climate change? Which technologies do we want to use in the future? Does technology serve us – or do we serve it? How do we want to live together as a society? Visitors are encouraged to experiment with the future and to help shape it – as the WaterFoundation is doing with its innovative CloudFisher technology, for example.



Zukunftsmuseum Nürnberg

That's why the CloudFisher is also one of the 250 exhibits in the Future Museum in Nuremberg, which opened in 2021 and shows what the world of tomorrow could look like. Museum employee Maike Schlegel presented the CloudFisher in detail on Bavarian television's Frankenschau (more at [www.deutsches-museum.de/nuernberg](http://www.deutsches-museum.de/nuernberg)).



ETHIOPIA

## AGAIN 50 DONKEYS DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES

In 2021, the WaterFoundation again fulfilled their tradition of distributing donkeys to needy families in Ethiopia. Thanks to our donors, a further 50 women are now the proud owners of a useful beast of burden. Previously, women and girls had the daily responsibility of fetching drinking water. Now the donkeys will take over this heavy task, transporting water from the springs to the village and – if the harvests are good – also carrying agricultural produce to the market for sale. The distribution campaigns have been taking place in Ethiopia for many years under the aegis of the Ethiopia Gospel Deliverance Church. Over 1,000 animals have already been given new owners. Pastor Demeke Kebede (centre), who took over from the recently deceased Yemaneberhan Endale, is now the WaterFoundation's cooperation partner. He buys the donkeys and, together with a shepherd, sees to it that the animals are equipped with a wooden carrying frame with which two 20-litre jerrycans each can be transported. They bring the donkeys to the distribution points where the women wait to receive them.

The official handovers took place in May and June. The small villages of Koka, Jima, Suse, Huruta and in the Woliso area each received 10 donkeys. As always, the women were overjoyed and grateful, because in the region it is known that the good-natured beasts of burden improve the lives of the families immensely.



ETHIOPIA

## NEW EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING WATER QUALITY

The quality of the water in both our new and ongoing projects has to be checked regularly. Thanks to the provision of mobile testing equipment, the WaterFoundation has significantly improved and facilitated these checks for our project partner EDA-E in Ethiopia. Engineer Fekadu Aleka of EDA-E wrote after the long-awaited receipt of the equipment case: "Finally it worked! This saves us a lot of work and trouble. Thank you all so much." After the online training by the manufacturing company LetzTEST, EDA-E was able to start the testing immediately.

Previously, water samples from sometimes remote water points were transported over hours to a laboratory in the capital Addis Ababa and tested there. The problem: To ensure valid results, especially for the pathogen E.Coli, testing must take place within eight hours of the sample collection. In addition, water samples must be stored at 4° C and protected from light.

The portable test case for bacteriological water quality control was without question a solid investment: With the new modern equipment, the testing is significantly faster and easier, and the results are more reliable. We would like to thank the supporting group "Eine Welt im Auswärtigen Amt e.V.", which helped funding the purchase.



ETHIOPIA

## WATER FOR 1,800 PEOPLE IN GODDA WALLIYYE

"I really wanted to have clean water near my house. I am not educated and I don't know how to say it. But I prepared food for the construction workers several times just to show my desire for clean water. Now I have the water and I am happy." This is what Shitu (photo above), a resident of Godda Walliyye village in Ethiopia's Oromia region, said in March 2021. Until recently, people living near the Gafarssa spring did not have clean water for drinking, cooking, washing dishes or personal hygiene. The inhabitants had to transport the water over long distances or use locally available but polluted water. Drinking water for farm animals also had to be brought from distant water sources, which was not only an enormous physical burden but also time-consuming work, especially for the women and children who were often responsible for this task. The lack of clean water was a cause of water-borne diseases, which particularly impact vulnerable populations like pregnant women and young children. Now there is a capped spring catchment, a 4 m<sup>3</sup> storage tank, a washing area and a water point. With about 60,000 litres per day, up to 3,000 people can be supplied. The early involvement and active participation of the local people in the project implementation and the establishment of a water committee ensure sustainable improvements, which were made possible by the kind support of the WULF Foundation.



PERU

## NATURE AND WATER CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY

In the Peruvian highlands, climate change is creating unprecedented problems for farming families. Short, heavy rains that wash away topsoil and seeds are followed by long months without rainfall. The longer dry seasons cause water sources to dry up, leaving the population without drinking water for many months of the year. Lack of resources and know-how lead to deforestation and overgrazing of land, exacerbating survival conditions.

In this new project, the tried and tested REPANAS method will be applied. Five water protection areas will be established around water sources and protected from human and animal contamination. Rainwater will be collected in "cchochas" (artificial water reservoirs). It will then seep into the ground and fill up the groundwater reservoir. This will provide the soil with the water it needs to support vegetation. Newly planted trees grown in the three new tree nurseries will reinforce this positive development, increasing ground cover, which will further support absorption of rainwater in contribute to the rising groundwater levels.

The REPANAS areas will be established in nine communities in Abancay in southern Peru. These indigenous Quechua communities are located at over 3,000 metres above sea level and are only accessible by bumpy roads. The project will directly benefit 1,850 people.

ETHIOPIA

## HELP FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ERITREA

The political situation in Eritrea has been very tense for a long time. Many people are persecuted because of their religious affiliation and leave the country. Some seek refuge in the capital of neighbouring Ethiopia, resulting in numerous so-called "urban refugees" in Addis Ababa. The volunteer group "Release Eritrea" supports these families who have become homeless. The WaterFoundation initiated a grant supported by the Dutch Bé-Ruys Fund for this purpose. The Bé-Ruys Fund was founded in honour of the pastor Amalia Elisabeth Ruys, who died in 2014, and the Fund is involved in peace work and refugee aid.



At the turn of the year 2020/21, the local project leaders used the funding to put together aid packages and distribute them to needy women, children and their families.

## NEW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Ludwigsgymnasium in Munich has decided to support the work of the WaterFoundation through fundraising campaigns in the future. Since September 2021, a colourful noticeboard informs about the Foundation's work and projects, especially in Ethiopia.



## MOURNING FOR HENNER LANG

Dear Henner, at the turn of the millennium, we founded the WaterFoundation with the aim of getting involved in conserving water as a resource and helping people who have too little of this precious resource at their disposal. We raised half of the foundation's capital from our private funds, and the government of Upper Bavaria gave us a year to raise the other half. This was the starting signal for the "Give Water" campaign in Munich, which brought us the necessary money. As early as 2001, we launched the donkey distribution campaign in Eritrea, which is still going strong today! Numerous water supply projects with church partners followed. We successfully relied on solar energy and installed what is still the largest solar pumping station in the country. Our second mainstay became Ethiopia. Here, with Fekadu Aleka, you successfully provided access to clean water for tens of thousands of people. You were a strict financial manager in order to use the donations as efficiently as possible. You were also always very concerned about the sustainability of the projects. We are all proud of your tireless efforts, which only ended with your unexpected death. You were an honest and reliable friend and competent comrade-in-arms. We and countless people in our various project countries will remember the humorous German who made a better life possible for them. Thanks also to Eva, your dear wife, who contributed a lot to your and the Foundation's success.

Ernst Frost



*Henner Lang will live on in in our thoughts and in all the projects that he realised and supported.*

Joram Harel – Hundertwasser Foundation

*Henner Lang has been an integral part of the WaterFoundation from day one and it is impossible to imagine life without him. He enriched us all with his open-minded, open-hearted, loyal and good-humoured manner. We will miss Henner very much.*

Kerstin Anker

*I got to know and appreciate Henner Lang many years ago through his dear wife Eva Lang and my colleague at the university. His inspiring, selfless personality motivated me to join the WaterFoundation. It was always a pleasure to be with him and to support his new ideas. For me, Henner was the WaterFoundation and a person from whom I could learn a lot.*

Univ.Prof. Dr. Ing. F. Wolfgang Günthert

*A „Foundation for Water“ – what a forward-looking idea of a dear companion and devoted philanthropist, a legacy that we will carry on in the future with joy and pride in his memory! Forever your „donkey friends“.*

Prof. Dr. Martin Grambow and Dr. Klaus Arzet

*When I think of Henner, I feel very sad. I just don't want to believe that he is no longer there. I miss our conversations and discussions about the world, where I was especially fascinated by his curiosity and openness. He will always remain in my heart.*

Senait Michiel

*Henner Lang lives on in our memories. What he did, what he started and what he left behind will live on. We all miss him as a wonderful person!*

Wolf-Dietrich Pfaelzer

*His open manner, his joy in life, his gift to always find a good word and his commitment to alleviate the need in the world will remain associated with Henner Lang. Thus he lives on in our memory.*

Wolfgang A. Schaal

## COMMUNICATION: INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, YOUTUBE

One of the long-standing supporters of the WaterFoundation is HTI GIENGER KG, a trading company for civil engineering and industrial supplies headquartered in Markt Schwaben in Upper Bavaria. Its range of services includes water pumps, irrigation and regenerative energies. The apprentices Quirin Doellel, Anna-Maria Reithmayr, Evlin Ashoor Schmoel and David Weber used their project phase in summer 2021 to support the WaterFoundation in reaching younger target groups via social media. The joint editorial preparation and set-up of the Instagram channel will help to inform young people about the WaterFoundation's work in the future.

