



Charity No: 1118810

The One Foundation Annual Report 2025

Photography: Water For People



Photography: WSUP

The global water crisis

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) remains one of the world's defining development challenges.

More than 2.1 billion people lack safely managed drinking water; nearly 3.4 billion lack safely managed sanitation.

Rapid urbanisation, ageing infrastructure and climate change – through extreme weather, droughts and flooding – compound existing vulnerabilities and place growing communities at risk.

Poor WASH access drives waterborne disease, undermines nutrition and health, and curtails educational and economic opportunity, particularly for women and children.



Photography: Water For People

Our vision and mission

The One Foundation (TOF) is a UK-registered charity (No. 1118810) that bridges the gap between ethically minded businesses and communities living in Africa, transforming support into sustainable impact in water and sanitation.

We connect business stakeholders to long-term programmes in Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda and Malawi, guided by the conviction that safe water and sanitation are fundamental rights.

Each intervention – from upgrading urban water networks to strengthening climate-resilient rural catchments – is designed to empower communities over the long term.

2025: A pivotal year

Building on our vision and mission, 2025 marked a strategic inflection point for The One Foundation. A comprehensive strategic review set forward a renewed direction anchored around five core pillars:

- 1. Core programmes:** Funding the delivery of long-term WASH solutions for the most vulnerable communities.
- 2. Humanitarian response:** Providing rapid interventions during emergencies to protect health and water access for communities affected by disasters.
- 3. Research, analysis & capacity development:** Supporting evidence-based research to inform programming, policy and practice while strengthening partner and stakeholder capacity.
- 4. Innovation:** Piloting and scaling new approaches, technologies and models to improve efficiency, climate resilience and impact in WASH.
- 5. Advocacy:** Influencing policy, practices and funding to prioritise equitable access to water, sanitation, hygiene and sustainable water resource management.

This year, we continued to support long-term programmes, working with partners including Water and Sanitation for the Urban Population (WSUP), Safe Water Network, Water For People, Self Help Africa and Fisherman's Rest.

Emergency programmes in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were delivered in partnership with Oxfam. Two new partnerships – Fresh Life and BASEflow – were established, strengthening urban sanitation delivery, advancing climate resilience and deepening water catchment management.

Looking ahead, 2026 will see the launch of our new strategy alongside the Foundation's 20th anniversary – a milestone marking two decades of advancing sustainable WASH solutions.



Total proposed impact across all 2025 programmes upon project completion



£2.7m deployed across 15 programmes



Over 114,000* people directly and 165,000* people indirectly reached this year



Installation of 40 new toilets and continued servicing of 813 active toilets



Capacity building of 10 small-scale water service providers



1,525 households targeted for household water and sewer connections



£250,000 donated to humanitarian responses in Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan



Construction of two school toilet blocks and training of school WASH clubs



Strengthening climate resilience and water catchment management in Malawi



Drilling and repair of 149 boreholes and flood-proofing of 8 high-risk water points



Extension of 33kms of piped water and sewer network

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.

Kenya | Strengthening water and sanitation

The Issue:

- More than 20 million people in Kenya lack access to basic drinking water. ***That's approximately 34% of the population.***
- Around 34 million people do not have access to basic sanitation.

Source: World Bank



Photography: WSUP

Responding to rapid urban expansion

Access to safe water remains a major challenge in Kenya, particularly in fast-growing towns and informal settlements. Climate change, rapid population growth and limited infrastructure continue to strain already stretched supplies.

The issue also has global links: many flowers sold in the UK are grown around Lake Naivasha, yet nearby communities still lack reliable clean water. In Nairobi, urban expansion is outpacing water and sanitation services.

For more than a decade, The One Foundation has worked with partners in Naivasha and Nairobi to expand water and sewer networks, install household connections, improve sanitation, promote hygiene and strengthen pro-poor policies – helping to build healthier, more resilient communities.

Delivering measurable results in Naivasha and Nairobi

In Naivasha, sustained support from The One Foundation has helped the local utility to become one of Kenya's top performers, now serving over 14,000 households (62% of the population).

A social connection policy developed through our funding has also enabled 2,500 low-income households – around 10,000 people – to pay connection fees in instalments. By 2024, the utility had risen from 32nd to 3rd place on the national Pro-Poor Performance Index.

In Nairobi's informal settlements, the simplified sewer systems that we have funded are delivering strong results. Early findings from a study conducted this year with sector partners show that 74% of connected households reported improved health – including fewer cases of diarrhoea and urinary tract infections, as well as cleaner local environments.



Impact achieved to date in Nairobi and Naivasha

- 37 km of piped water network expanded
- Over 7,500 households/plots connected to the water supply network
- 63 community water dispensers installed/repaired
- 9 km of simplified sewer network expanded
- 2,800 households/plots connected to the sewer network
- 12 school WASH facilities constructed

Photography: WSUP



Scaling access and innovation

Lives impacted in Kenya in 2025:

- 21,433* through direct water and sanitation access (including new piped water and sewer infrastructure and household connections).
- 20,250* through indirect programming activities (including capacity building and demand creation activities).

In 2025, we continued expanding access to safe water and sanitation across Kenya by helping our partners to strengthen essential services for underserved communities.

In Naivasha, our funding this year is supporting the expansion of 10 kilometres of last-mile water network, and is connecting more than 500 households to reliable utility services. Alongside infrastructure investments, we are strengthening local providers to deliver consistent, high-quality water to families and the wider flower producer region. Hygiene promotion campaigns are reinforcing safe water practices, while 10 licensed small-scale providers are receiving targeted support to improve efficiency, accountability and customer service.

In Mukuru, Nairobi, we are funding the construction of 1.3 kilometres of simplified sewer network, bringing safe sanitation and clean water services to 15,000 residents in one of the city's most densely populated informal settlements.

Our portfolio has also expanded this year through a new partnership with Fresh Life, whose container-based toilets serve dense, low-income communities. Waste is safely collected and converted into fertiliser, briquettes and animal feed, while local entrepreneurs operate the toilets as franchises. Through a results-based grant, we are supporting the installation of 40 new toilets, the servicing of 813 active toilets, and the safe treatment of approximately 134,000 litres of faecal waste.

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.



Transforming lives in Kenya



Nancy's Story

Case Study

Nancy was born and raised in Naivasha. She remembers how difficult life was without access to clean water.

"We used to walk to the lake and carry heavy steel containers. The water was salty and made our food turn yellow. Our teeth turned brown and our bones ached because of the high fluoride levels in the water," she says.

Over the years, Nancy has taken on many roles – teacher, community health promoter, village elder, flower farm supervisor and even a donkey-cart water seller. Deeply respected in her community, she is proud of her journey and her commitment to improving life for others.

With support from The One Foundation, and the local water utility, Nancy was finally able to connect to a clean, reliable water supply. Today, water is available at home for her family. She pays around KES 350 per month (approx. £2) – or as little as KES 170 during the rainy season – a significant improvement compared to the high and unpredictable costs of buying water from private vendors.

Nancy lives on a shared plot with eight family members. She has nine children and 36 grandchildren.

"Water is everything," she says. ***"With clean water, we can have clean homes and better toilets. I'm now building a pour-flush toilet. We don't want our children to have brown teeth like us or aching bones. We need clean water for our children."***

Nancy – Naivasha, Kenya



Rwanda | A decade of system wide partnership

The Issue:

- 5.5 million people don't have clean water close to home. *That's two in five people.*
- 2.7 million people don't have a decent toilet of their own. *That's a fifth of the population.*
- 11.6 million people don't have soap and/or water to wash their hands at home. *That's four in five people.*

Source: WaterAid



Photography: Water For People

Progress with purpose

Rwanda has achieved significant development gains since the 1994 genocide and civil war, including notable improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Despite this progress, many low-income households – especially in remote or hard-to-reach areas – still lack access to essential services.

Over the last ten years, The One Foundation has supported Water For People's Everyone Forever model, a district-wide approach that ensures reliable water and sanitation services reach all families, schools and health facilities in participating areas.

The model builds sustainable systems through collaboration with local governments, communities and businesses, providing the infrastructure, training and tools needed for long-term impact.

Scaling district-wide water and sanitation systems

Support from The One Foundation has helped Water For People to expand its programme from three districts – Gicumbi, Rulindo, and Kicukiro – to six, including Gisagara, Karongi, and Nyamagabe, thereby enabling thousands of households to access improved water and sanitation.

At a national level, our funding has also contributed to sector transformation – shaping Rwanda's district-wide approach, modernising customer systems through mobile money integration, and reducing non-revenue water.



Impact achieved to date from the broader programme

- Over one million people reached across six districts over the last ten years

Photography: WSUP



Photography: b-photos.co.uk

Achieving milestones across six districts

Lives impacted in Rwanda in 2025:

2,857* through direct water and sanitation access (including new piped water infrastructure and sanitation facilities).

The success of this Rwandan programme was clearly demonstrated in 2025. By year-end, 70% of people across the six districts were receiving intermediate or high levels of water service. Kicukiro District achieved all Everyone and Forever milestones, marking Water For People’s first successful district exit in Africa. Gicumbi, Karongi and Rulindo Districts also reached key Forever milestones.

In 2025, our funding continues to support Water For People’s broader programme, which is constructing nine new piped water systems across 65 communities and upgrading water and sanitation facilities in 38 schools and 13 health centres.

The programme is also delivering behaviour change training in schools, assessing service contracts against key performance indicators, and providing ongoing technical support to government leaders – to strengthen national strategies, sector financing and long-term investment.

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.



Transforming lives in Rwanda



Photography: Water For People



Beta’s Story

Case Study

For Beta, a 57-year-old resident of Ruhamagariro Village in Rwanda’s Gisagara District, daily life once revolved around a difficult choice: how to use the limited water she could collect after a two-hour walk downhill. Water was needed for drinking, household chores and watering crops – but there was never enough.

“Choosing what to prioritise was never easy,” Beta recalls.

Each day, Beta used 6-10 jerrycans of water. When she could afford it, she paid others RWF 300 per jerrycan to fetch water; otherwise, she made the long journey herself.

That changed when Water For People and WASAC, a government-owned utility responsible for water supply and sanitation services in Rwanda, completed the Muyaga-Ramba Water Supply System, bringing reliable water closer to home for over 15,000 people.

Today, Beta walks just a few metres to a public water point and pays RWF 20 per jerrycan – more than 15 times less than before.

“Now I don’t have to choose between drinking water, housework or crops,” she says. **“The money I save will be used to expand my business. I’ve also been able to buy tiles, put a roof on my house, and I have bought a cow. You can tell how excited I am.”**

Beta’s story reflects the transformation experienced by thousands of families whose daily burdens have been eased through access to clean water.

Beta – Gisagara, Rwanda



Ghana | Water services for growing communities

The Issue:

- 18 million people don't have clean water close to home. ***That's 58.6% of the population.***
- 27 million people don't have a decent toilet of their own. ***That's 87% of the population.***
- 18.8 million people don't have soap and water to wash their hands at home. ***That's more than half of the population.***

Source: WaterAid



Photography: Nyani Quarmyne

Meeting the demands of a growing population

Ghana's rapid urban growth is placing increasing pressure on water and sanitation services, leaving many communities without reliable access to clean water or safe sanitation. These gaps affect health, safety and livelihoods, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas.

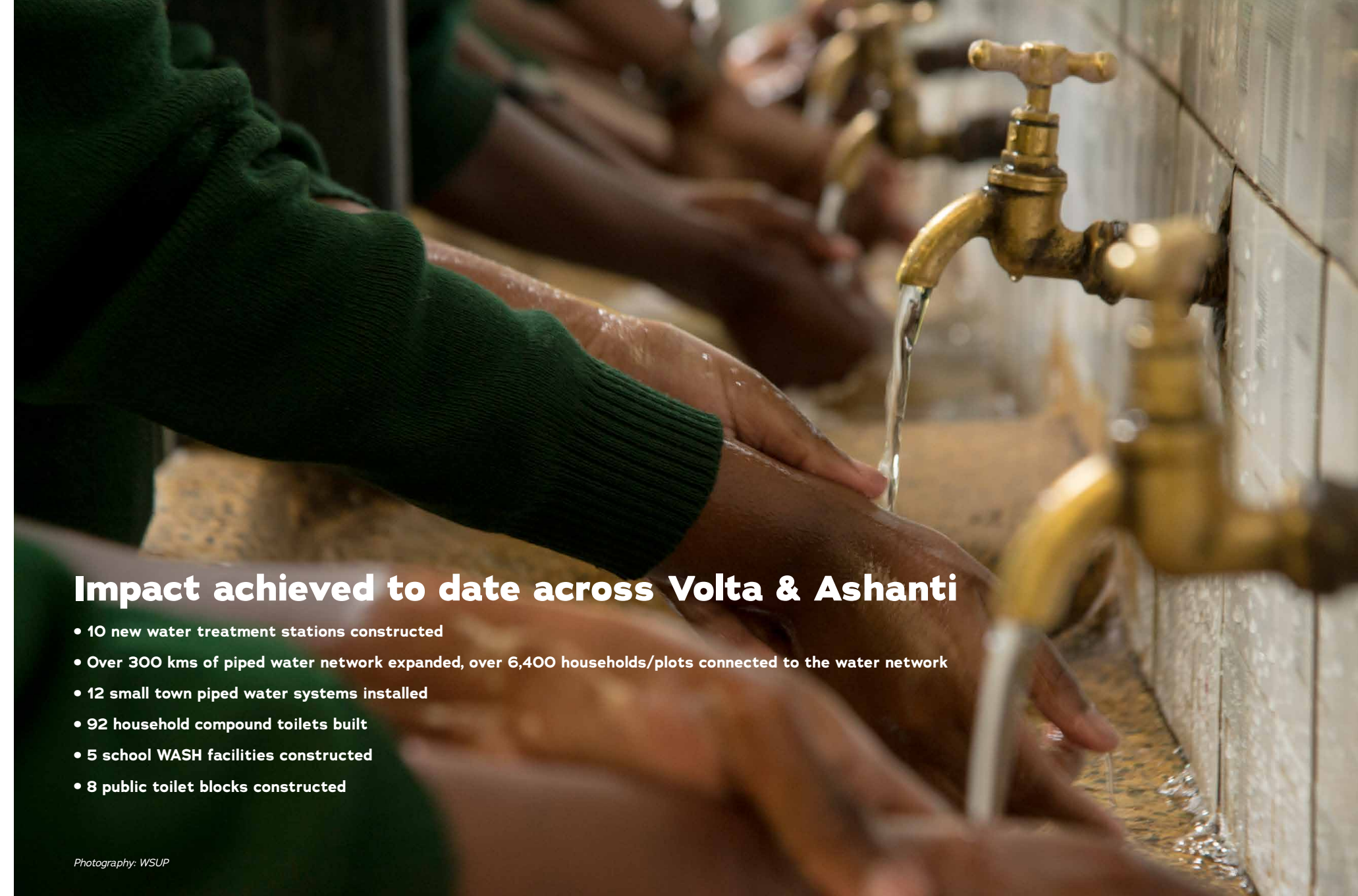
Investing in infrastructure

To address these challenges, The One Foundation is investing in critical infrastructure across Ghana. In the Volta Region, a key hub for banana production and export, we have supported the construction of ten new water treatment stations and the upgrade of essential water networks over the past decade.

Working with local partners, our funding has helped to optimise piped water connections, giving households reliable access to clean water, improving community health, supporting the livelihoods of agricultural workers, and strengthening the financial sustainability of water stations.

In the Ashanti Region, a key sourcing region for cocoa, we have supported the upgrade of water networks and sanitation facilities in schools and surrounding communities, enhancing the resilience of cocoa-farming families and the wider population.

At a national level, our support has helped the Community Water and Sanitation Agency to strengthen operational systems, build staff capacity, and lay the groundwork for efficient, scalable water service delivery across Ghana.



Impact achieved to date across Volta & Ashanti

- 10 new water treatment stations constructed
- Over 300 kms of piped water network expanded, over 6,400 households/plots connected to the water network
- 12 small town piped water systems installed
- 92 household compound toilets built
- 5 school WASH facilities constructed
- 8 public toilet blocks constructed

Photography: WSUP



Photography: Nyani Quarmyne

Strengthening operations for long-term service delivery

Lives impacted in Ghana in 2025:

- 25,615* through direct water and sanitation access (including new piped water infrastructure and household water connections).
- 6,160* through indirect programming activities (including capacity building and demand creation activities).

In 2025, our funding through Safe Water Network is supporting the upgrade and expansion of water services in Asuogyaman District, Eastern Region, Ghana – a major banana-producing region – delivering direct household connections to 250 homes across three producer communities. We are also contributing to a wider programme to construct three new water treatment stations and install 10 km of pipeline, with the potential to connect more than 800 households.

In Ashanti, a key cocoa-growing region, we are supporting WSUP to operationalise a high-yield community borehole with a solar-hybrid pump. Network upgrades – including 2 km of replaced pipe and extensions into underserved areas – will restore reliable water services to 330 households, reactivate 30 inactive connections, and enable 100 new household connections, improving overall efficiency.

Our funding is also supporting school WASH improvements, including the construction of a gender-separated toilet block with menstrual hygiene support, water provision through a new borehole, and environmental activities such as waste segregation, composting and tree planting. Funding is further strengthening the local utility's core operations – such as meter reading, billing, maintenance, and customer service – to ensure long-term, sustainable water service delivery.

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.



Transforming lives in Ghana

Case Study



Samuel and Charity's Story

Samuel, a cocoa farmer, and his family now have access to a household water connection thanks to The One Foundation. Previously, they walked 20 minutes each way to fetch water from a nearby stream.

"The whole family is relieved that we have now been able to connect to the main water lines. We are very, very grateful," says Charity, Samuel's wife.

Safe water at home, costing just 90–120 Cedis (£6–£8) per month, saves time, improves health, supports school attendance, and strengthens the family's livelihoods.

Abigail's Story

Abigail, Samuel and Charity's daughter, attends Juaso Methodist School, where The One Foundation has also funded the construction of a new toilet block. The previous washrooms lacked privacy and facilities for teachers and disabled students.

"Now we have toilets for everyone, and a separate menstrual changing room for girls," Abigail explains.

Improved facilities have helped to reduce absenteeism and support better hygiene, dignity, and confidence.

Samuel, Charity and Abigail – Ashanti, Ghana



Charity washing her hands using water from the family's home connection. Photography: Nyani Quarmyne



Abigail, in her Form 3 classroom. Photography: Nyani Quarmyne

Malawi | Climate-resilient water and sanitation

The Issue:

- 1 in 3 people don't have access to clean water.
That's 5.6 million.
- 9.6 million people don't have access to a decent toilet.
That's more than half of the entire population.
- More than 3,100 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor sanitation.

Source: WaterAid

Resilience at the heart of Malawi

Malawi is widely recognised for the generosity and resilience of its people. While access to water has improved in recent years, many rural water points remain unreliable, leaving communities dependent on unsafe sources and exposing families to serious health risks.

The country also sits on the frontline of climate change. Although Malawi contributes minimally to global emissions, it faces increasingly frequent floods, droughts and cyclones that damage infrastructure, displace communities and undermine livelihoods.

These challenges underscore the urgent need for reliable water services, improved sanitation and climate-resilient systems.

Strengthening WASH services at scale

Through our long-term partnerships in Blantyre Rural, Chikwawa and Thyolo, The One Foundation is strengthening WASH services at scale.

Over the years, our support has enabled the repair of more than 3,000 water points and the construction of 68 new boreholes, restoring safe, dependable water for thousands of people.

In agriculturally important districts such as Thyolo, a hub for tea production, and Chikwawa, known for sugar farming, our funding supports entire communities, alongside key local industries, while improving resilience to climate shocks.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, we have also funded a climate impact study, with our long-standing partner Co-op, to better understand how changing weather patterns affect water systems and communities. Findings from the study are now being used to guide government district planning and to help strengthen climate resilience across Thyolo.



Photography: WSUP

Impact achieved to date across Blantyre Rural, Thyolo and Chikwawa

- Over 3,000 water points repaired
- Over 60 new boreholes constructed
- 146 communities supported to build over 24,000 latrines in 3 T/As
- Gravity fed water schemes constructed, comprising of 107 taps, supplying water to 3 villages
- Over 200 public health campaigns delivered
- 8 public toilet blocks constructed

Photography: WSUP



A targeted strategy for long-term security

Lives impacted in Malawi in 2025:

- 7,214* through direct water and sanitation access (including the rehabilitation of water infrastructure and the construction of school toilet blocks).
- 129,362* through indirect programming activities (including the repair of water points, capacity building, community training, public health awareness, chlorination and groundwater monitoring activities).

Following our strategy review this year, we are adopting a more targeted approach in Malawi to achieve greater impact, with a focus on climate resilience, water catchment management and sustained WASH delivery. Groundwater plays a central role in this approach, providing a critical buffer during periods of drought. However, its sustainable management is increasingly urgent, as Malawi’s freshwater availability is approaching 1,000 m³ per person per year – well below the global average of approximately 5,500 m³ – underscoring the country’s growing vulnerability to water scarcity.

To strengthen water resource management, we have partnered this year with a new organisation, BASEflow, on a 12-month project in Mulanje and Thyolo. The project will support the development of a water demand–balance assessment to identify areas of groundwater stress, flood-prone zones and opportunities for managed aquifer recharge (MAR). Findings will inform targeted interventions, including the installation of monitoring wells, floodproofing of water points, and the siting of MAR structures. The project will also strengthen data governance, community stewardship, and stakeholder capacity to support long-term resilience.

Building on our ongoing work in Thyolo, our 2025 funding is also supporting the repair of 144 non-functional water points and the piloting of a results-based rural water point maintenance model in the newly established district of T/A Thukuta. This model links funding to measurable service outcomes – such as sustained functionality and reliability – and, if successful, has the potential to be scaled more widely from 2027.

In the district of Chikwawa, our funding is supporting the construction of a new school sanitation facility serving 1,849 students. The wider programme, to which we are contributing, is supporting the rehabilitation of two solar-powered water systems and 25 additional water points, improving access to safe water and sanitation for sugar farming communities across the district.

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.



Transforming lives in Malawi



Photography: Water For People

Case Study



Sandram’s Story

In Paulo Village, Chikwawa District, 37-year-old Sandram supports his family of six through farming and seasonal work with the Kasinthula Cane Growers, part of Malawi’s sugar industry. Like many households in this sugarcane-growing community, the family once faced severe water shortages.

For years, Sandram’s wife Samalia walked several kilometres each day to collect water or dug shallow scoop holes nearby, often spending hours just to secure water.

“The nearest borehole that had water throughout the year was two miles away from our home,” recalled Samalia. **“Fights often broke out among women as we competed to collect just a few buckets of water. Sometimes, we dug small scoop holes nearby to avoid spending six hours just fetching water.”**

The lack of clean water affected household health, livestock and farming, and at times even disrupted Sandram’s work on the sugar estate.

This changed when Water For People constructed a new water point just four metres from their home, providing safe water to 70 households.

“Now I can manage my home and prepare my children on time,” says Samalia. **“I never thought clean water would be this close.”**

The community now manages the water point through a trained water committee, ensuring long-term functionality. For Sandram and his neighbours, reliable water has improved daily life, strengthened livelihoods and allowed families to focus on farming and work.

Sandram – Chikwawa, Malawi



Humanitarian Response

Lives impacted in 2025:

- 57,000* through direct water and sanitation access (including the rehabilitation and construction of water infrastructure).
- 9,827* through indirect programming activities (including community training, public health awareness).

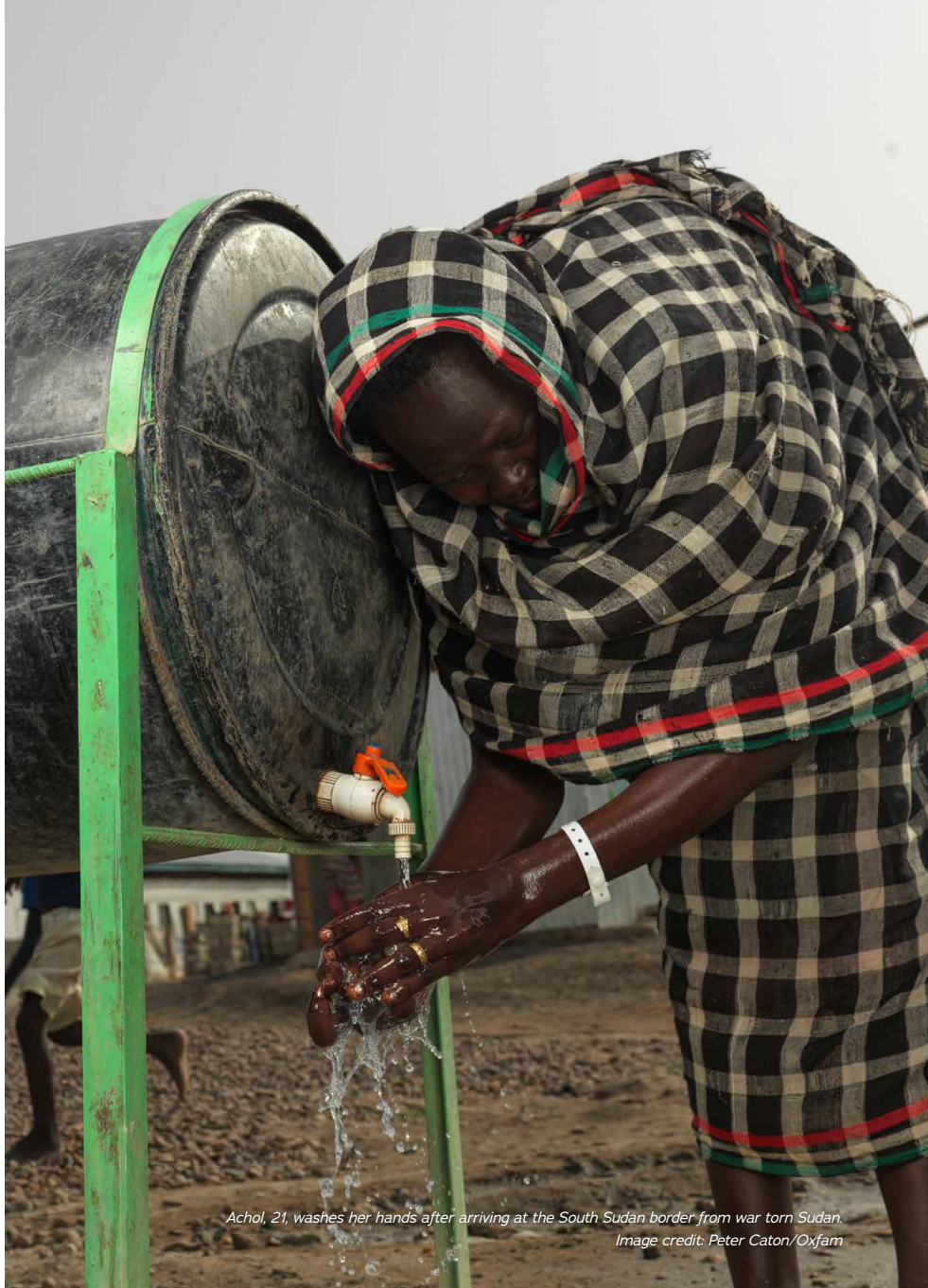
For the past fifteen years, The One Foundation has allocated over £4.6 million to provide urgent support to communities affected by global emergencies.

Our interventions have ensured access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene during conflicts, natural disasters – including cyclones, hurricanes, floods and droughts – earthquakes, and pandemics.

By providing rapid, flexible aid, our partners can reach the most vulnerable quickly while also helping to strengthen sustainable systems that can withstand future crises.

This year, we were able to respond to two critical emergencies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

*Total projected number of beneficiaries on project completion as reported by our field partners. These numbers can change as we receive new updates from the field.



Achol, 21, washes her hands after arriving at the South Sudan border from war torn Sudan. Image credit: Peter Caton/Oxfam

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Since August 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has faced a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis. Renewed conflict, disease outbreaks – including cholera, a new Ebola outbreak, Mpox, and measles – and severe food insecurity have been compounded by drastic cuts to US and global humanitarian funding, creating a public health emergency of unprecedented scale.

Our funding is supporting urgent WASH interventions at Limete-Pakajuma Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) in Kinshasa and in Ebola hotspots, including the drilling of five new wells and water trucking to the CTC. This is vital for patient care, infection prevention, protecting healthcare workers, and helping to reduce cholera rates.

Operating beyond capacity and without a permanent water supply, the CTC relies on our support for safe water access, enabling staff to maintain hygiene standards and care for patients effectively. Longer-term sustainable water solutions are also being explored alongside these immediate and critical interventions.



Jerry cans, buckets and soap are distributed to displaced families in collective centers in Sake, DRC. Image credit: Yves Kalwira/Oxfam

South Sudan

Almost six million people – nearly half of South Sudan's population – are facing acute hunger and limited access to clean water and sanitation due to ongoing conflict. Years of violence have displaced communities, destroyed livelihoods, and damaged already fragile WASH systems.

Families are once again fleeing for their lives as hunger reaches catastrophic levels, while South Sudan remains a largely forgotten crisis, reflected in severe funding cuts that left humanitarian aid at its lowest level on record in 2025.

With conflict escalating across the region and famine declared in neighbouring Sudan, conditions continue to deteriorate.

Over the last two years, The One Foundation has supported emergency grants in response to this crisis.

This year, we are supporting the rehabilitation of a water reservoir, including embankment repairs, spillway upgrades and erosion control, alongside the provision of water purification tablets and community-based hygiene awareness for 600 households.

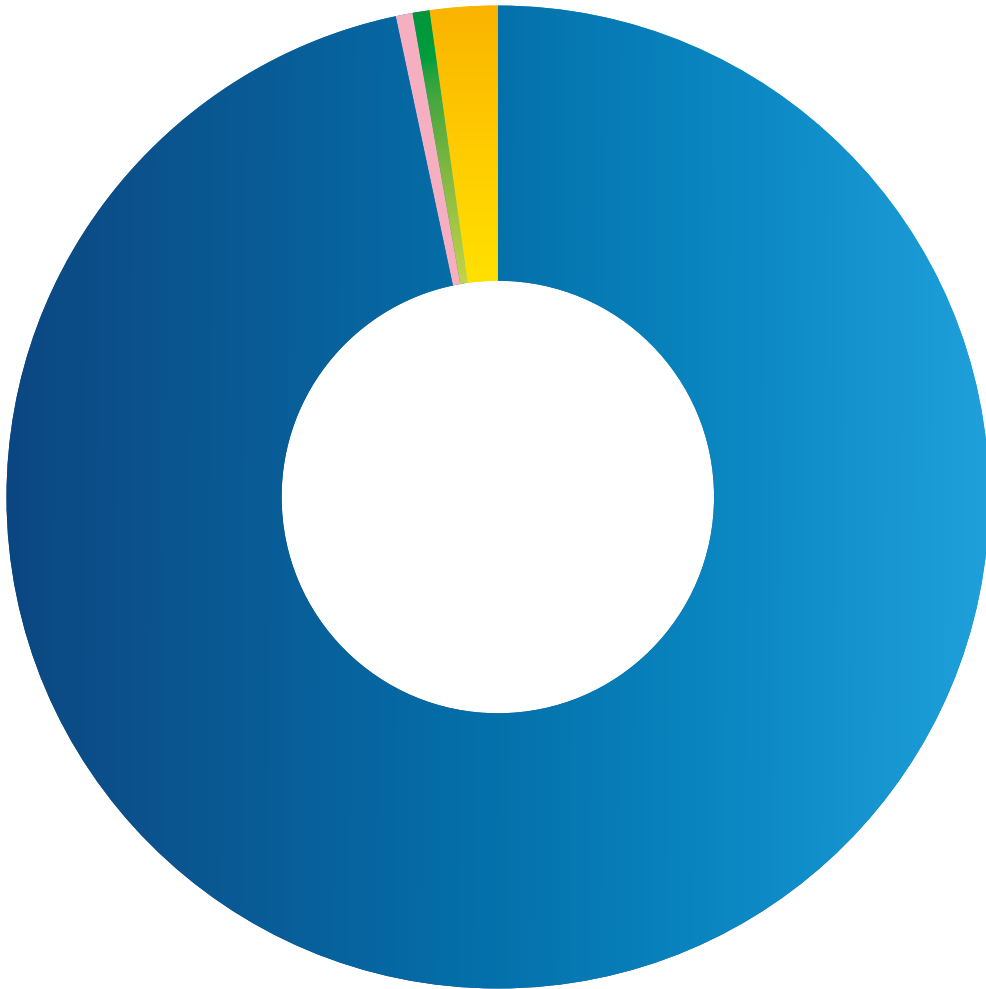
“Within 48 hours of Oxfam's intervention – made possible by The One Foundation – sanitation was restored, open defecation reduced, and disease risks contained. This enabled controlling the spread of cholera in one of the highest-risk zones in South Sudan.”

Oxfam's Public Health Team Leader (Cholera Response)



*Tereza, 38, a community member in Abukhadra cleans her compound in Renk, South Sudan.
Image credit: Herison Phillip Osfaldo/Oxfam*

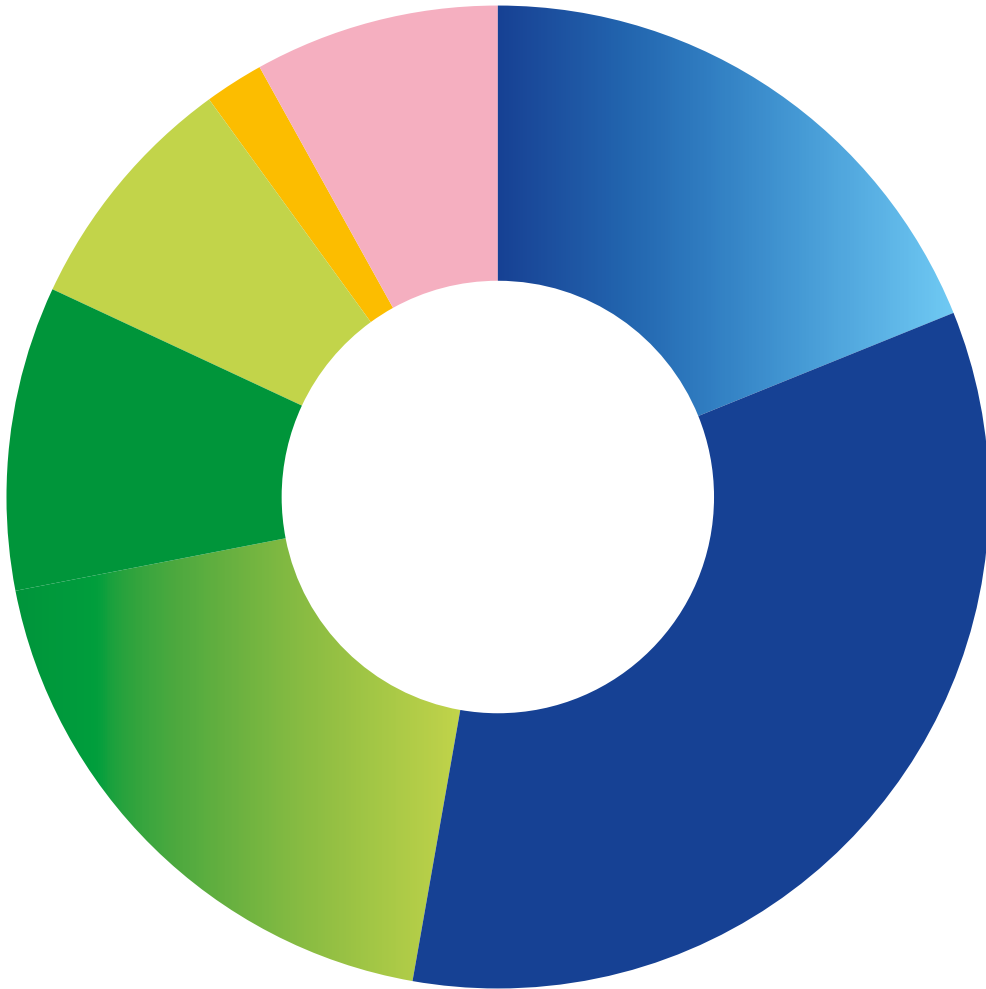
The One Foundation – 2025 Finances



Total Income £3,358,841

- £3,268,874 – Corporate Donations (97.3%)
- £9,976 – Individuals (0.3%)
- £7,477 – Trusts and Foundations (0.2%)
- £72,514 – Other Income (2.2%)

The One Foundation – 2025 Finances



Total Expenditure £3,013,871

- Total Programme Expenditure – £2,718,269**
- £581,670 – Ghana Programmes (19%)
 - £1,029,600 – Malawi Programmes (34%)
 - £556,999 – Kenya Programmes (19%)
 - £300,000 – Rwanda Programme (10%)
 - £250,000 – Humanitarian Emergencies (8%)
- £72,640 – Raising Funds (2%)
 - £222,962 – Other Charitable Expenditure (8%)

*Total programme expenditure in 2025 was lower than income received due to the phasing of donations and the scheduling of programme activities. Remaining funds will be allocated to planned initiatives in 2026.



Thank you

Your support changes lives

Because of your generosity and dedication, more people this year have access to clean water, safe sanitation, and the dignity they deserve. Every tap turned on, every latrine built, and every community strengthened is a direct result of your care.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us to bring lasting change to those who need it most.



Photography: b-photos.co.uk



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