



Charity No: 1118810

The One Foundation Annual Report 2024

Photography: Water For People

The Global Water Crisis

The global water crisis remains one of the most urgent and complex challenges of our time, affecting billions of people worldwide. Access to clean water, safe sanitation and proper hygiene (often referred to as WASH) are fundamental human rights that remain out of reach for millions of people, especially in low-income and vulnerable communities. Despite significant progress in the last few decades, large portions of the world continue to struggle with inadequate access to these essential services. This has a profound impact not only on health and well-being but also on dignity, economic development and social stability.

To effectively tackle the global water crisis, a coordinated and multi-faceted approach across the sector is essential – one that considers the intricate connections between social, economic, environmental and political factors. Central to this strategy must be the prioritisation of equity, sustainability and resilience. Achieving a water-secure future requires urgent, collective action to dismantle the barriers that prevent universal access to clean water and sanitation for all. Without this, the well-being of millions is at risk, and global progress will remain hindered.



Photography: Water For People

Global WASH statistics

Access to Clean Water

2.2 Billion People Lack Access to Safe Drinking

Water:

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, approximately 2.2 billion people around the world lack access to safely managed drinking water services.
- 703 million people are still lacking access to basic drinking water services.

Source: UNICEF & WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), 2021 & 2023

Water Access in Rural vs. Urban Areas:

- Globally, approximately 73% of the population have access to safely managed drinking water services, 62% rural and 81% urban.
- This reflects the disparities in water access between urban and rural areas, with rural areas often facing challenges due to poor infrastructure.

Source: UNICEF & WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), 2023: JMP - Water

Access to Sanitation

3.6 Billion People Lack Safe Sanitation:

- More than 3.6 billion people globally live without access to safe sanitation. This includes a lack of toilets, proper sewage systems and waste treatment facilities, leading to open defecation and contamination of water sources.
- 1.9 billion people are lacking access to basic sanitation services.

Source: UNICEF & WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), 2021 & 2023

Open Defecation:

- Around 419 million people (approximately 6% of the global population) still practice open defecation, which is a major contributor to the spread of waterborne diseases, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and parts of Southeast Asia.

Source: UNICEF & WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), 2023: JMP - Sanitation

Global WASH statistics

Water Stress and Scarcity

Water Stress Affects 2 Billion People:

- More than 2 billion people globally live in countries experiencing high water stress. This is a result of increased competition for water resources, reduced availability due to climate change and unsustainable water management practices.

Source: United Nations (UN) Water, 2021: UN Water - Water Scarcity

By 2025, Half of the World's Population Will Live in Water-Stressed Areas:

- According to UN Water, by 2025, 50% of the global population will live in areas with high water stress. This is largely driven by rapid urbanization, agricultural demands and climate change.

Source: UN Water, 2021: UN Water - Water Scarcity

Diarrheal Diseases

Diarrheal Diseases cause over 43,000 deaths in children annually:

- Diarrhoeal disease is the third leading cause of death in children under 5 years old and is responsible for killing over 43,000 children every year.

Source: World Health Organisation/News Room/Fact Sheet/diarrhoeal-diseases

Cholera:

- Cholera continues to be a major concern in countries with poor sanitation and inadequate water treatment. The disease causes thousands of deaths each year, with Africa being the most affected continent.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), 2020: WHO Cholera

Global WASH statistics

Global Water Use and Waste

Global Water Withdrawal is Rising:

- The total global freshwater withdrawal has increased by approximately 1% per year over the last 40 years. Water use for irrigation, industry and domestic purposes is growing rapidly, putting increasing pressure on available freshwater resources.

Source: United Nations (UN) World Development Report 2024

Agriculture Is the Largest Consumer of Water:

- 70% of global freshwater use is dedicated to agriculture, primarily for irrigation. As the global population grows, so does the demand for food and water for agriculture, exacerbating the water crisis in many regions..

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2020: FAO - Water for Agriculture

Climate Change and Water Resources

Climate Change will make water scarcity worse:

- Climate change is expected to intensify the global water crisis, leading to more frequent and severe droughts, flooding and water scarcity in many regions. Increased temperatures and altered precipitation patterns will reduce the availability of freshwater in some areas while increasing the frequency of extreme weather events.

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021: IPCC - Water and Climate Change



Photography: Water For People

About The One Foundation

The One Foundation (TOF) is a UK-registered charity (No. 1118810) dedicated to transforming lives in some of the world's most vulnerable communities by supporting sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions.

Working in close partnership with organisations in Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda and Malawi, we tackle urgent challenges together such as water poverty, water security and the impacts of climate change - in both rural and urban settings.

We believe in making every penny count. That's why 90% of our annual funds go directly to support long-term, sustainable WASH programmes, while the remaining 10% supports vital humanitarian responses.

Beyond providing access to clean water and sanitation, the work we support promotes healthier lives, strengthens local economies and enhances climate resilience - creating meaningful, lasting change for generations to come.



Photography: Water For People

Celebrating success, aiming for even greater change

At The One Foundation, partnerships are at the heart of everything we do. As a relatively small foundation with limited resources, we work hard to maximize the impact of every pound we invest by building strong, effective partnerships at all levels.

We are particularly proud of our ongoing collaboration with One Water and The Co-operative Group, alongside many others, to mobilize significant resources that improve and sustain the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

2024 was a landmark year for The One Foundation, as we celebrated raising £30 million to date and positively impacting the lives of 5 million people. This milestone was commemorated with a special event at the House of Lords, where we were joined by key donors whose support was instrumental in helping us reach this remarkable achievement.

We are incredibly proud of the transformation this funding has facilitated - changing lives, strengthening communities and creating lasting impact. This achievement is a testament to the generosity of our partners, and we are excited to continue this vital work together for many years to come.

We are energised by the professionalism, dedication and commitment of our WASH programme and emergency partners such as Water and Sanitation for the Urban Population (WSUP), Safe Water Network (SWN), Self Help Africa (SHA), Water For People (WFP), Fisherman's Rest (FR) and Oxfam.

We are humbled by the leadership, trust and collaboration accorded to us by government partners primarily in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 targets cannot be achieved without government leadership.

Most of our funds this year were primarily granted for long-term development programmes in Ghana (Ashanti and Volta regions), Kenya (Nakuru county and Nairobi), Malawi (Blantyre, Chikwawa and Thyolo districts) and Rwanda (Gicumbi, Gisagara, Karongi, Kicukiro, Kicukiro, Rwamagana and Ruhango districts).

As we are fast approaching the SDG 6.1 and SDG 6.2 target year of 2030, we would like to briefly reflect, in the supporting appendix, on the high-level and summarised progress that our four partner countries have made from 2000 to 2022 - celebrating their achievements, and highlighting the work that still needs to be done if everyone in these countries (and of course, elsewhere too) is going to have access to sustainable WASH services, forever.



Photography: b-photos.co.uk



Thank you for making our work possible in 2024



Over £2.1 million invested in water, sanitation and hygiene programmes



Sustainable water and sanitation systems being built across four countries



Rehabilitation of 190 non-functional water points and 5 water kiosks



£200,000 allocated to emergency response initiatives



29 kilometres of water and sewer pipeline being extended



Capacity strengthening of 10 small-scale service providers



More than 24,100 people expected to gain access to safe, clean water and improved sanitation upon project completion



Over 2,000 households targeted for connections to water and sewer services



Delivery of community and school hygiene promotion campaigns to improve awareness and long-term behaviour change

Kenya



Photography: WSUP

Latest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Statistics in Kenya:

Population: 57 million

Access to Drinking Water:

- 72% of the population has access to an improved drinking water source, 63% has access to at least basic, safely managed drinking water services (UN).
- Access to water is especially limited in rural areas and informal settlements where water supply is intermittent and unreliable.

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene:

- 61% of the population has access to an improved sanitation facility, 31% has access to at least basic, safely managed sanitation services (UN).
- 18% of the population has access to a hand washing facility at home with soap and water, 43% has access to a limited service that lacks either soap or water, or both (UN).
- Open defecation is still a major issue in rural and informal urban areas, with around 11% of the population practicing it (UNICEF, 2023).
- In urban informal settlements and rural areas, there is significant reliance on shared or unimproved sanitation facilities, exacerbating hygiene risks.

Climate Change Impact on Water Resources:

- Kenya is experiencing growing water scarcity due to climate change, with more frequent droughts and floods - especially in the northern and eastern regions. This is worsened by El Niño and La Niña weather patterns, which cause erratic rainfall, seasonal flooding and prolonged dry spells.

Water Infrastructure Issues:

- Kenya's water infrastructure has improved but still faces challenges, particularly in rural and arid areas, where small-scale systems struggle to meet demand. Aging infrastructure in urban areas causes inefficiencies, water losses and service interruptions.

Waterborne Diseases:

- Waterborne diseases remain a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, with diseases like Cholera and Dysentery causing significant public health concerns, particularly in areas with poor sanitation and inadequate access to clean water.

Government Efforts:

- The Kenyan government is implementing several key initiatives to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) across the country. Under Kenya Vision 2030, the government aims to achieve universal access to clean water and improved sanitation by 2030. The National Water Master Plan supports this through infrastructure development, including dams, water harvesting systems and community water projects.

Kenya

Lives changed in 2024: 45,000*

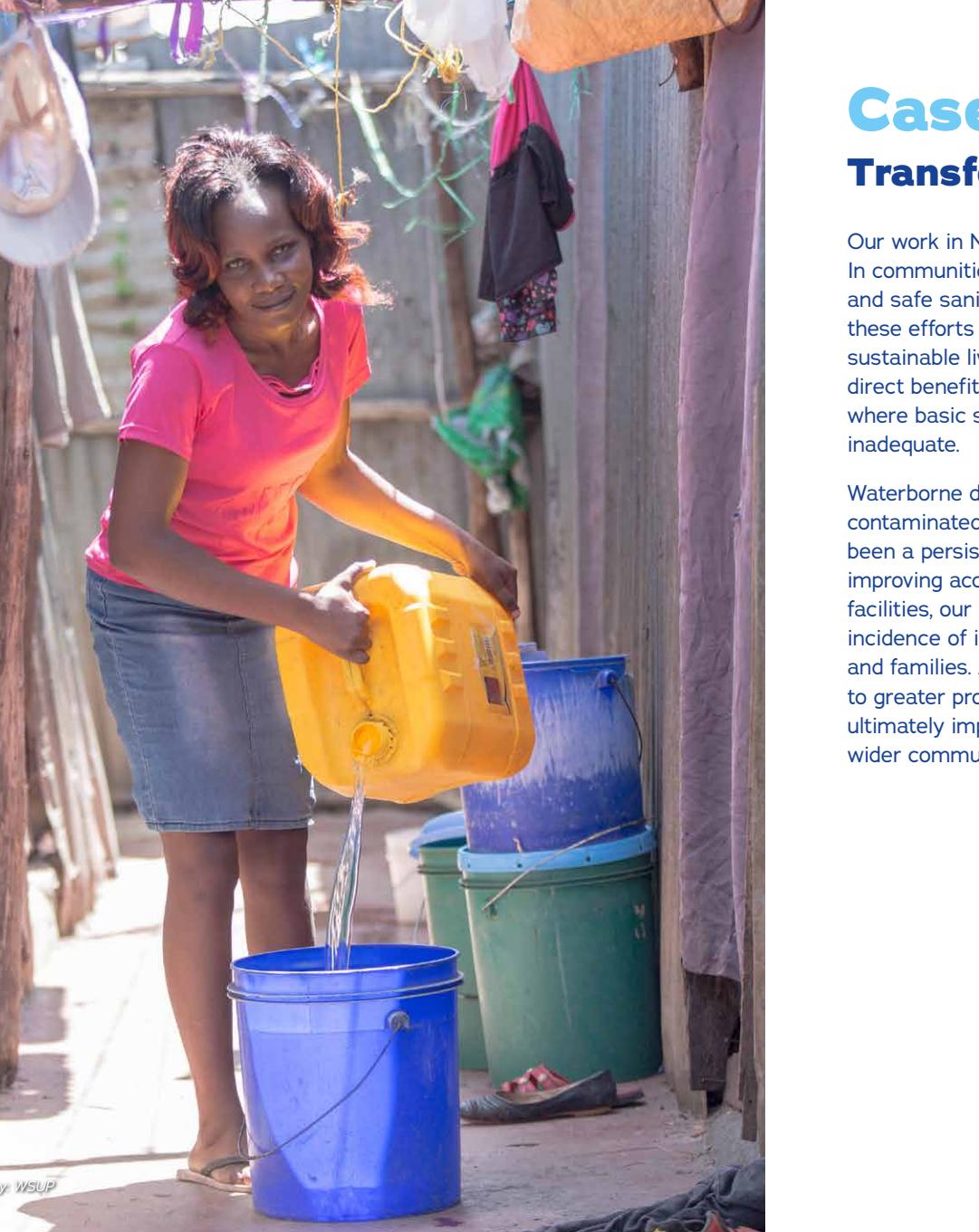
Kenya, like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, faces a severe water crisis that impacts millions of people, particularly in rural areas and informal urban settlements. This crisis is fuelled by a combination of climate change, rapid population growth, inadequate infrastructure and poor water management. Access to clean and safe water remains a major challenge, with significant implications for public health, economic development and overall quality of life.

Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is experiencing rapid urban growth, with a population exceeding 4 million people. This puts tremendous pressure on the city's water supply systems, leading to frequent water shortages, especially in informal settlements, where the need for reliable access to clean water is critical.

Over the past decade, The One Foundation has remained committed to improving access to safely managed water and sanitation services for low-income communities in Naivasha and Nairobi. In collaboration with our partners, we have supported the construction and expansion of piped water networks and simplified sewer systems, the installation of household connections and the promotion of essential hygiene practices.

In 2024, our work continues to drive meaningful progress across both regions. New funding is enabling the expansion of water networks by an additional 9 kilometers – directly connecting over 1,400 households to safe water and improved sanitation services.

We are also focused on strengthening the long-term sustainability of these services. Our partners are working closely with local water utilities and service providers to enhance their capacity through the development of robust business plans, pro-poor policies, water resource management strategies and climate resilience initiatives.



*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.

Case Study

Transforming lives

Our work in Naivasha is delivering real results. In communities where access to clean water and safe sanitation has long been a challenge, these efforts are helping to build healthier, more sustainable living conditions. One group seeing direct benefits is the flower farming community, where basic services have historically been inadequate.

Waterborne diseases – often caused by contaminated water and poor sanitation – have been a persistent issue in these areas. By improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities, our programmes are helping reduce the incidence of illness, leading to healthier workers and families. A healthier workforce contributes to greater productivity and economic stability, ultimately improving quality of life across the wider community.

Jane

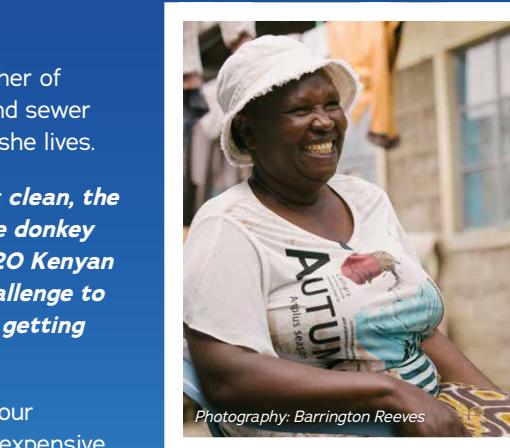
Naivasha Sub County, Nukuru County

Jane lives in Naivasha Sub-County, she is a grandmother of two. She has recently benefited from both a water and sewer connection that has been installed in the plot where she lives.

“Before we connected, the place was dirty and not clean, the children were dirty. We used to buy water from the donkey water vendors. One 20 litre jerry can would cost 20 Kenyan Shillings. We needed three containers. It was a challenge to wash and to cook with that. Our clothes were not getting clean because of limited water.”

Since Jane has connected to a water supply through our programme, life is easier and the financial burden of expensive water vendor costs have significantly reduced from 20 KSh to 5 KSh per 20 litre jerry can.

“We now have a continuous supply of water, our personal cleanliness is better. We can shower when we want to shower. We used to have a pit latrine. With the latrine, I would have to hold my grandchildren's hands for safety. They would get dirty. I am now confident for my grandchildren to go to the toilet. We have water so they can wash their hands after and we have soap. It is much better. I am very happy”.



Rwanda



Photography: Water For People

Latest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Statistics in Rwanda:

Population: 14 million

Access to Drinking Water:

- 84% of the population has access to an improved drinking water source, 65% has access to at least basic, safely managed drinking water services (UN).

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene:

- 88% of the population has access to an improved sanitation facility (UN).
- 88% of the population has access to a hand washing facility at home with soap and water (UN).
- Open defecation rates have decreased significantly, with only 7% of the population still practicing open defecation, primarily in rural areas (UNICEF, 2023).

Climate Change Impact on Water Resources:

- Climate change is increasingly affecting water availability in Rwanda, with erratic rainfall and extended dry periods impacting key regions like the Eastern Province. The Lake Kivu basin, a major water source, is under growing pressure from both population growth and shifting rainfall patterns.

Water Infrastructure Issues:

- Rwanda's water infrastructure has seen significant improvements over the past decade. However, many rural areas still rely on small-scale and decentralized systems that often struggle to meet the demand.

Waterborne Diseases:

- Despite improvements in access to safe drinking water, waterborne diseases remain a significant public health issue in Rwanda, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Diseases such as diarrhoea, Cholera and Typhoid continue to affect vulnerable populations.

Government Efforts:

- Rwanda has a comprehensive National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, aiming to achieve universal access to clean water and sanitation as part of the country's Vision 2030 goals.

Rwanda

Lives changed in 2024: 3809*

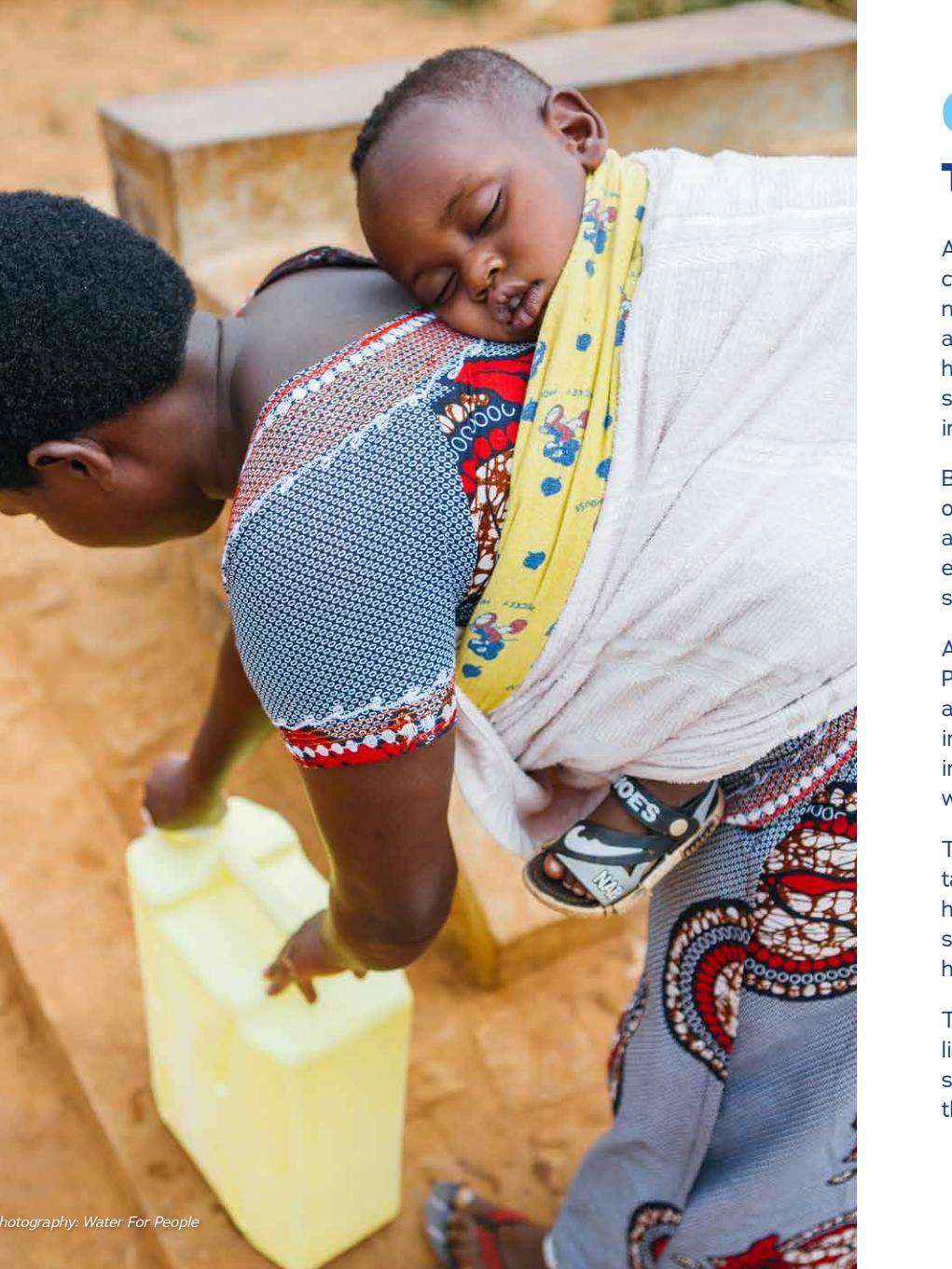
Rwanda has made major strides in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) over the past decade, driven by strong government commitment and strategic partnerships with international organisations and the private sector. Today, over 65% of the population has access to a safely managed water source – an impressive achievement given the country's challenging geography and infrastructure.

Urban areas have seen the greatest gains, but rural regions still face significant hurdles due to rapid population growth, difficult terrain and the growing impacts of climate change. To address this, Rwanda has adopted a District Wide Approach, including the 'Everyone Forever' model pioneered by Water For People. This approach strengthens collaboration with local governments and communities to deliver inclusive, sustainable WASH services to every household, school and health clinic.

The One Foundation is proud to have partnered with Water For People over the last several years to support this impactful model. In 2024, our funding has contributed to a large-scale programme that is helping to deliver clean water, safe sanitation and improved hygiene to 284 communities, 47 schools and 11 health clinics across underserved districts.

This ambitious work includes the construction and upgrade of water systems, sanitation facilities and handwashing stations, alongside efforts to strengthen the capacity of local service providers.

“I now have a decent toilet. I can sleep peacefully knowing it is easy to access and can be used by me and other elderly or disabled people who visit. Plus, it is very easy to clean” she says.



*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.

Case Study Transforming lives

As part of this broader programme, work has continued in the district of Rwamagana, where two newly developed water and sanitation systems are now operational. These systems are already helping to expand access to safe water and sanitation for over 28,000 people, significantly improving public health and quality of life.

Beyond infrastructure, the programme also focuses on strengthening service delivery by establishing and supporting private operators responsible for effectively managing and maintaining local water systems.

Additionally, members of the Young Water Professionals Association have been trained across key areas including policy and legislation, institutional coordination, planning and finance, infrastructure management, and monitoring and water resource management.

To complement these system-level improvements, targeted community awareness campaigns have promoted the adoption of safely managed sanitation solutions and encouraged healthy hygiene behaviours at the household level.

Thanks to this holistic approach, individuals like Germaine now have reliable access to safe sanitation and improved hygiene – empowering them to live healthier, more dignified lives.



Germaine Rwamagana District

Germaine, 67, from Kigabiro in Rwanda's Rwamagana District, has long suffered from arthritis, which limits her mobility and made using a traditional pit latrine painful.

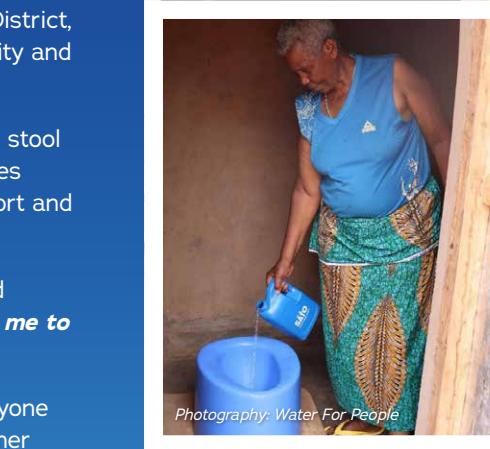
Recently, she benefited from the installation of a SATO stool – an affordable, sit-down toilet designed for communities with limited access to proper sanitation. It offers comfort and accessibility for people with disabilities like Germaine.

Her old latrine had a low, unimproved slab that required squatting. ***“Though it was clean, it was very hard for me to use with these arthritic knees”*** she recalls.

After attending a community session through the Everyone Forever programme, Germaine took a small loan from her Village Savings and Lending Association to buy a SATO stool for RWF 20,000 (approximately £10) from a local showroom.

“I now have a decent toilet. I can sleep peacefully knowing it is easy to access and can be used by me and other elderly or disabled people who visit. Plus, it is very easy to clean” she says. Germaine also upgraded a second toilet for her family and visitors.

The impact has been life-changing. ***“This came at the right time and helped me find a solution to the challenges I faced”*** she reflects.



Photography: Water For People



Ghana



Photography: WSUP

Latest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Statistics in Ghana:

Population: 34 million

Access to Drinking Water:

- 94% of the population has access to an improved drinking water source, 44% has access to at least basic, safely managed drinking water services (UN).
- Access to clean water in urban informal settlements and peri-urban areas remains a major challenge, particularly in cities like Accra and Kumasi, where water supply is often intermittent.

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene:

- 73% of the population has access to an improved sanitation facility, 16% has access to at least basic, safely managed sanitation services (UN).
- 38% of the population has access to a hand washing facility at home with soap and water, 29% has access to a limited service that lacks either soap or water, or both (UN).
- Open defecation is still common in rural and informal urban settlements, particularly in the Northern and Western regions of Ghana. As of 2023, approximately 19% of the population practices open defecation (UNICEF, 2023).

Climate Change Impact on Water Resources:

- Climate change is increasingly affecting water availability in Ghana, with more frequent and intense droughts in the north, flooding in the south, and changing rainfall patterns. These shifts, along with the impacts of El Niño and La Niña, make it harder to predict and manage water resources, exacerbating water scarcity, particularly in the Upper East and Upper West regions, and further stressing agricultural productivity.

Water Infrastructure Issues:

- Ghana faces significant challenges with outdated water infrastructure, especially in rural and peri-urban areas. In urban centers like Accra and Kumasi, water supply systems are often overstretched, leading to intermittent supply and rationing. Despite efforts to expand infrastructure, there remains a notable coverage gap, particularly in the Northern regions of the country.

Waterborne Diseases:

- Waterborne diseases continue to be a major health issue in Ghana, particularly in rural areas and informal settlements, with Cholera, Dysentery and Typhoid fever remaining prevalent, especially in areas with poor water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Government Efforts:

- Ghana's National Water Policy aims to achieve universal access to safe drinking water by 2030. The government is focusing on improving water supply in rural areas and ensuring that sanitation infrastructure meets the needs of rapidly growing urban populations.

Ghana

Lives changed in 2024: 19,400*

Ghana's water crisis remains a significant barrier to health and development, especially in rural and underserved areas. While national efforts – such as those led by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), which oversees rural and small-town water services – have made progress, challenges like aging infrastructure, poor water quality and climate-related disruptions still limit reliable access.

In parts of the country, piped water systems are either outdated or entirely lacking. As a result, communities often rely on boreholes, which are vulnerable to breakdowns and contamination, or are forced to purchase expensive – and often unsafe – water from vendors. In urban areas, frequent leaks and inefficiencies in aging infrastructure lead to significant water losses and unreliable access for residents.

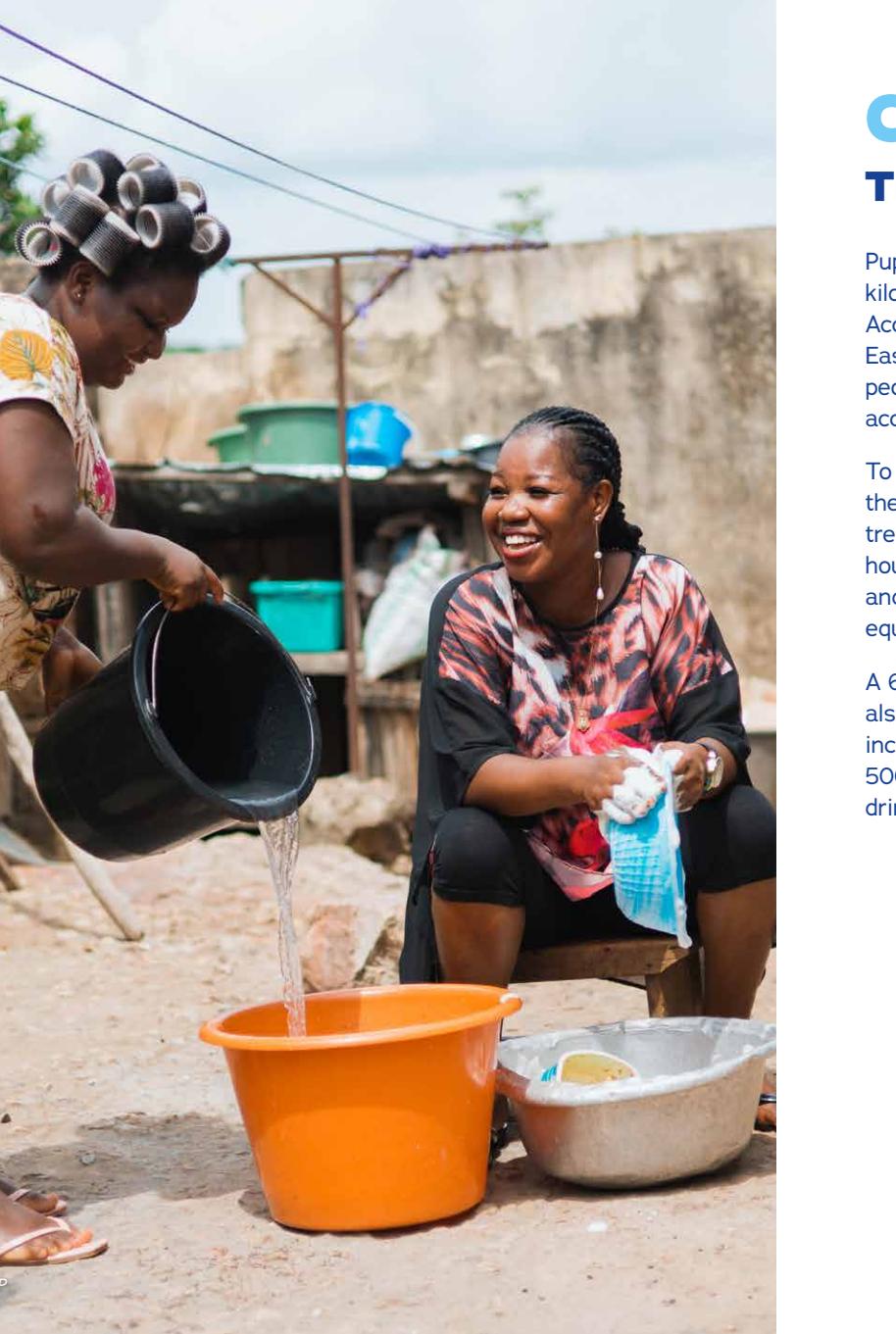
To address persistent water access challenges, The One Foundation is investing in infrastructure upgrades across Ghana. In 2024, our funding is supporting the rehabilitation of three water stations in the Volta Region, alongside the extension of 18 kilometres of water pipeline. Together, this work is helping to deliver clean, reliable water to an additional 600 households – significantly improving access to safely managed water across the area.

In the Ashanti Region, our partners are also expanding water pipelines in the towns of Onwe and Juaso and improving sanitation facilities in schools and surrounding communities.

At a national level, our funding is enabling Ghana's Community Water and Sanitation Agency to strengthen systems, reduce inefficiencies and build staff capacity – laying the groundwork for more effective, scalable water service management.

A key focus in 2024 has been empowering women in WASH. By championing women's leadership and involvement in decision-making, we are helping to build more inclusive and sustainable water systems.

*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.



Case Study Transforming lives

Pupuni is a rural community located about 100 kilometres – approximately a 2.5-hour drive – from Accra, in the Asuogyaman District of Ghana's Eastern Region. With a population of around 3,000 people, the community previously lacked reliable access to safe water.

To address this, The One Foundation funded the construction of a fully mechanised water treatment station. The system includes a pump house, dual-source water pumps, solar panels, raw and treated water storage tanks and chlorination equipment.

A 6-kilometre piped distribution network was also installed, connecting 100 households – including Agnes's – and providing approximately 500 residents with access to safely managed drinking water.



Agnes Pupuni, Volta

Agnes is a mother of three. Before the construction of the water station in Pupuni, she used to fetch water from public standpipes near the Volta River Authority (VRA) township in Akosombo.

Agnes recalls, *"Not only was the hour-long journey exhausting, but there was also the constant risk of being knocked down by a vehicle. You had to join a long queue for water and I often had to make multiple trips each day just to meet my family's water needs."*

Thanks to a programme supported by The One Foundation, water services were introduced to Agnes' town, including direct piped connections to homes. Agnes quickly signed up for the service. *"Having water right within my yard has been a game changer – it has been a lifesaver. My children and I can now fetch water anytime, right from the comfort of our home."*

With reliable access to water, Agnes can now spend more time focusing on her business and taking care of her children.



Photography: WSUP

Malawi



Photography: b-photos.co.uk

Latest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Statistics in Malawi:

Population: 22 million

Access to Drinking Water:

- 93% of the population has access to an improved drinking water source, 18% has access to at least basic, safely managed drinking water services (UN).
- Low-income and rural communities face significant challenges accessing clean, reliable and safe water sources.

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene:

- 76% of the population has access to an improved sanitation facility, 46% has access to at least basic, safely managed sanitation services (UN).
- 76% of the population has access to a hand washing facility at home with soap and water, 46% has access to a limited service that lacks either soap or water, or both (UN).
- Hygiene awareness is low in many rural communities, leading to improper disposal of human waste and contamination of local water sources.

Climate Change Impact on Water Resources:

- Climate change is placing growing pressure on Malawi's water resources and infrastructure. The country is experiencing prolonged droughts in the south, flooding in the north, and more frequent cyclones - all of which are disrupting water availability and damaging critical infrastructure. Unpredictable rainfall patterns have made water resource management increasingly difficult, leading to both shortages and seasonal floods, and further compromising water quality.

Water Infrastructure Issues:

- Malawi's water infrastructure mainly includes boreholes in rural areas, often poorly maintained, and solar-powered systems in drought-prone regions. Urban areas face overstretched piped systems. Water User Associations help manage these systems, but challenges like inadequate funding and climate change persist.

Waterborne Diseases:

- Waterborne diseases like Cholera, Dysentery and Typhoid remain a major public health threat in Malawi, particularly in areas lacking clean water and sanitation. Cholera outbreaks, including a severe one in 2023, have affected both rural and urban communities without access to safe water and sanitation, resulting in high morbidity rates, especially among children.

Government Efforts:

- Malawi's National Water Policy aims for universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030, prioritizing community involvement and climate resilience. A dedicated ministry and increased funding support this goal, but major financing gaps remain, requiring greater investment and partnerships.

Malawi

Lives changed in 2024: 49,303*

Malawi – often referred to as “the warm heart of Africa” – has made notable progress in expanding access to improved water sources, now reaching nearly 93% of the population. However, functionality remains a critical challenge, and access to safely managed water is still limited. Many communities continue to rely on unsafe, contaminated sources, putting public health at significant risk.

These challenges are compounded by climate change, which is placing growing pressure on Malawi’s fragile water systems and livelihoods. Frequent flooding damages vital infrastructure, while prolonged droughts deepen water scarcity.

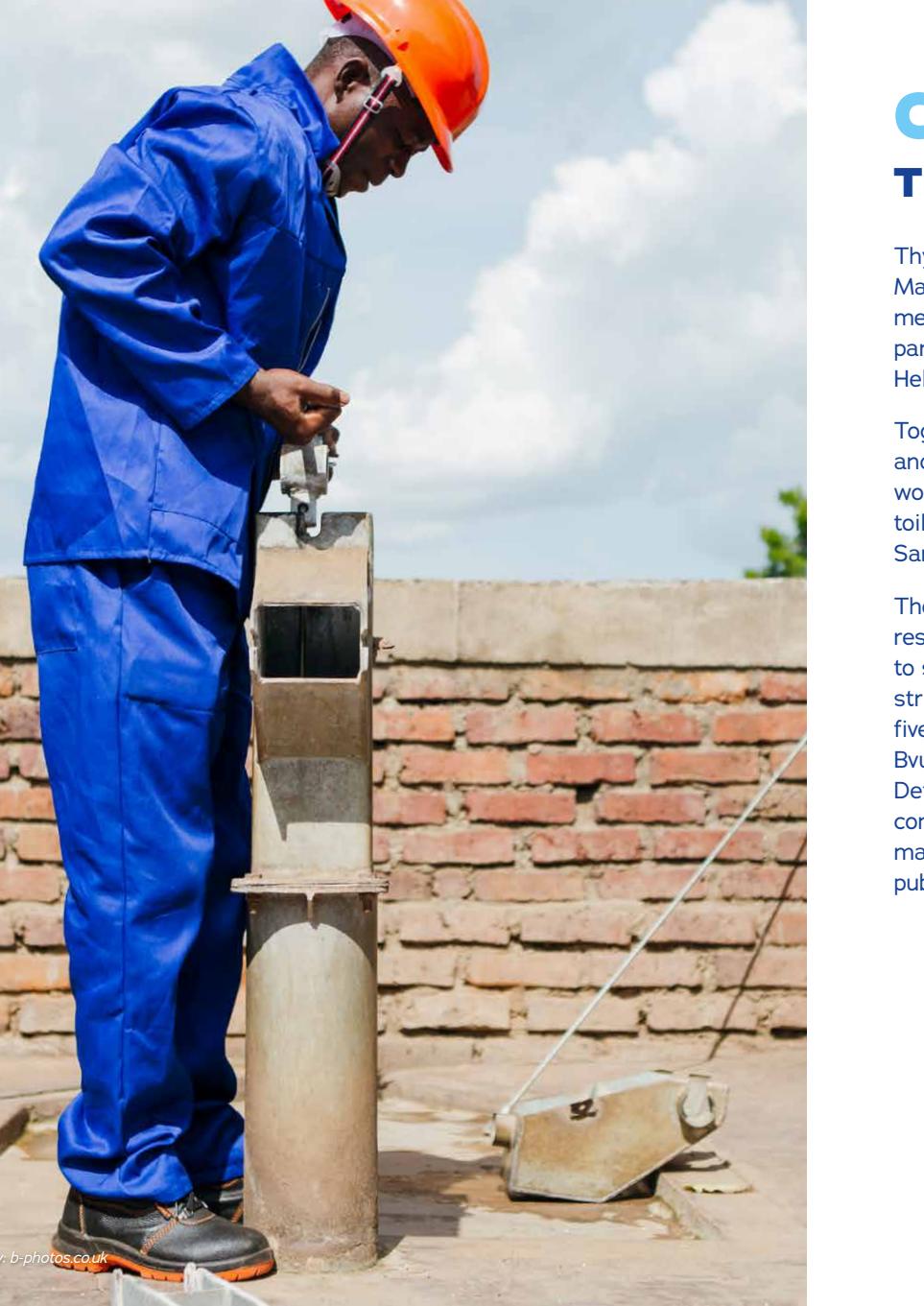
The One Foundation, together with our partners, is driving essential improvements to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) systems across the districts of Blantyre Rural, Chikwawa and Thyolo. In 2024, our funding is supporting the rehabilitation of 190 water points – significantly expanding access to improved water sources for thousands of people across these communities.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts, we’re also investing in the training of Water Point Committees and local mechanics – equipping them with the skills to maintain and manage systems effectively, while strengthening local ownership and resilience.

Working closely with local authorities, our partners are also:

- Constructing sanitation facilities in schools
- Strengthening WASH infrastructure and services to better withstand climate change impacts
- Delivering hygiene promotion campaigns in schools and communities
- Piloting the restoration of a degraded water catchment area to enhance ecosystem health, improve water availability and to build resilience against erosion and flooding

*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.



Photography: b-photos.co.uk

Case Study Transforming lives

Thyolo, a fertile agricultural district in southern Malawi with around 700,000 residents, has seen meaningful improvements through a decade-long partnership between The One Foundation, Self Help Africa and local communities.

Together, we have supported the construction and repair of water points, trained maintenance workers, promoted good hygiene, built school toilets and implemented Community-Led Sanitation (CLS) initiatives.

These efforts have driven significant change for residents like Fales, who now enjoys reliable access to safe sanitation. The district has made great strides in eliminating open defecation. Notably, five Traditional Authorities (T/As), including TA Bvumbwe, have recently been declared Open Defecation-Free (ODF). The majority of households consistently use safe, hygienic toilets, marking a major shift in behaviour and leading to improved public health across the district.



Fales

Bvumbwe, Thyolo

Fales, a 40-year-old single mother of five from Traditional Authority Bvumbwe in Thyolo, has become a powerful example of resilience and determination. After a difficult divorce in 2015 and the devastation of Cyclone Idai in 2019 – which destroyed her only latrine – Fales was left with no choice but to use a neighbour’s toilet, enduring daily humiliation. With an income of just £4.90 per month, rebuilding a toilet seemed out of reach.

Through a project funded by The One Foundation, Self Help Africa introduced Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Fales’s village. Inspired by community hygiene discussions and with support from her neighbours, Fales decided to act. With no spare funds, she dug the initial pit herself and hired local youth to complete it. She hand-moulded bricks, and with help from relatives, built a latrine complete with a handwashing facility, soap, drop-hole cover and roof made from reclaimed iron sheets.

“Now, my latrine is my pride” Fales says. Her determination has inspired others. As a sanitation advocate, she encourages neighbours to build their own latrines, linking sanitation to dignity and disease prevention. **“It’s not just about privacy, it’s about dignity and stopping diseases like cholera”** she says.

Fales’s story shows how access to basic sanitation can restore dignity, improve health and empower communities – proving that even in the toughest circumstances, one person’s courage can spark lasting change.



Photography: Self Help Africa



Understanding the Impact of Climate Change on WASH Services in Malawi

Given Thyolo District's high vulnerability to climate impacts, The One Foundation and Co-op partnered with Self Help Africa in 2024 to fund a Climate Risk Assessment for WASH services in the area. The study aimed to deepen our understanding of both current and future climate-related risks, enabling us to strengthen the resilience of our WASH programmes in Thyolo and beyond.

The findings of the study were sobering. Droughts are leading to significant water shortages and frequent failures at water points, while floods and cyclones are damaging household toilets and increasing the risk of waterborne contamination. Low-income communities are disproportionately affected, as they are more vulnerable to these climate impacts. Additionally, disaster preparedness is limited across the household, community service provider and district levels. The study also revealed that existing WASH strategic plans do not adequately integrate climate resilience measures.

Key recommendations from the study include:

- Adaptation of planning and infrastructure to withstand climate impacts.
- A stronger focus on water resource management, working across sectors such as WASH, agriculture, forestry and natural resources to protect and recharge groundwater.
- Full integration of emergency preparedness into long-term development strategies.
- Increased investment in the resilience of WASH services, which is more costly than standard programming and requires a better understanding of climate finance and improved access to funding by partners, funders and governments.

By acting on these recommendations, we can help build more resilient WASH services and ensure that vulnerable communities are better equipped to cope with the changing climate.



Humanitarian Emergencies

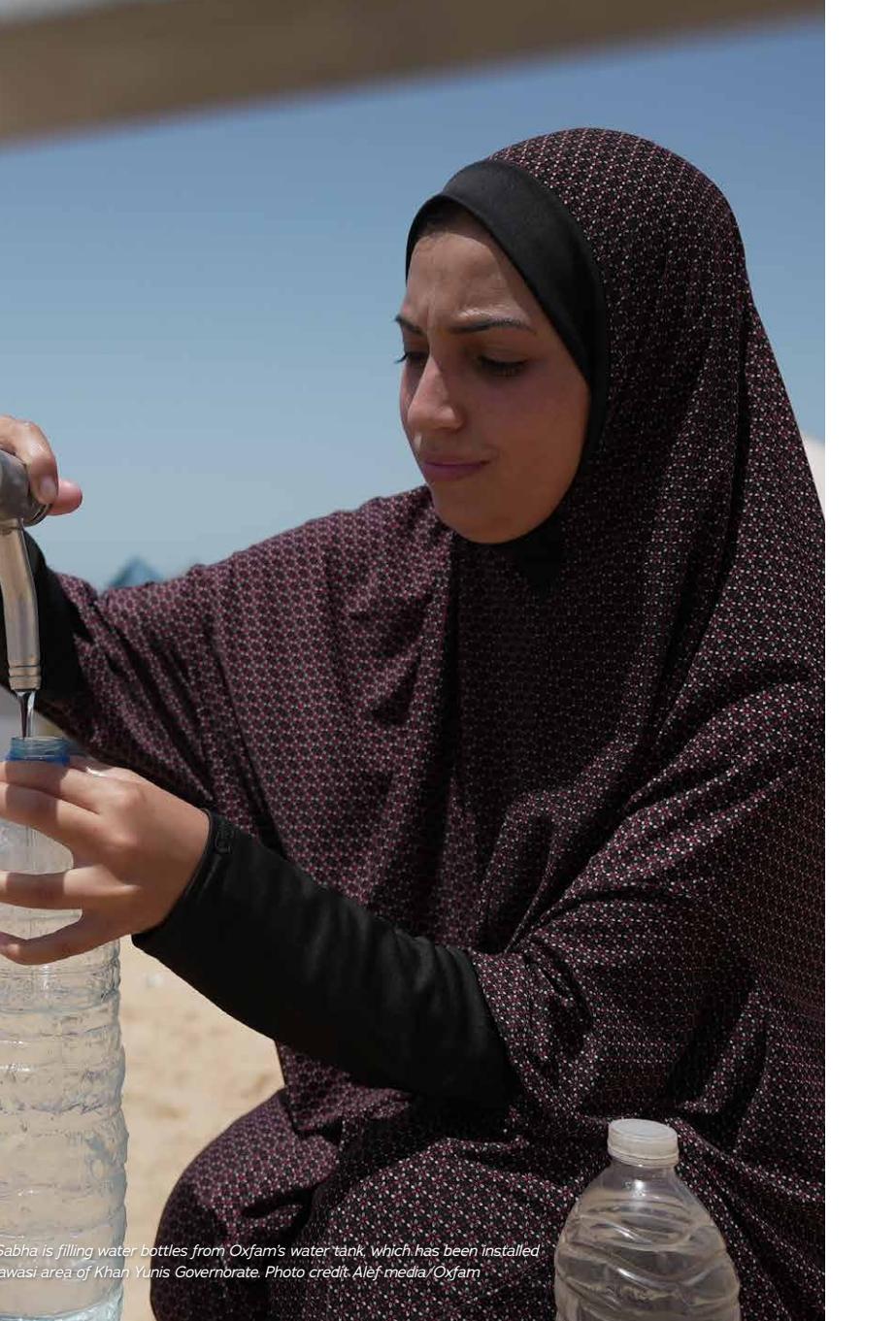
Lives changed in 2024: 124,164*

Humanitarian emergencies are becoming increasingly frequent and complex, driven by the combined forces of climate change, conflict, pandemics and growing inequality. Health crises – including outbreaks of diseases like cholera – place additional pressure on already fragile systems. At the same time, economic shocks and widening disparities deepen the vulnerability of affected populations and drive greater demand for international assistance. Recent aid reductions from major donors, including the US and UK, have further constrained global response capacity.

According to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 363 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2024, with over 73 million displaced by conflict. The IFRC reports that climate-related disasters have tripled in the last 30 years. These realities underscore the urgent need for greater resilience, preparedness and sustainable solutions to reduce the impact of crises.

The One Foundation dedicates a portion of its funding each year to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene support in humanitarian contexts. Over the past decade, we have responded to natural disasters, pandemics and conflicts in some of the world's most vulnerable regions.

In 2024, £200,000 was allocated to support emergency WASH services in Gaza, Palestine and South Sudan – providing displaced families with clean water, safe sanitation and essential hygiene kits.



Duaa Abu Sabha is filling water bottles from Oxfam's water tank, which has been installed in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis Governorate. Photo credit: Alef media/Oxfam

Gaza

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has had a catastrophic toll on civilians, with over 57,000 people reported dead in Gaza and the West Bank. 93% of Gaza's population has been without access to clean water for months, as the region's water and sanitation systems have completely collapsed, delivering less than 5% of their previous output.

An Oxfam report from July 2024 found that the amount of available water in Gaza has decreased by 94% since the start of the conflict, leaving residents with only 4.74 liters of water per day per person – less than a third of the minimum required for survival in emergencies and insufficient for even a single toilet flush. The lack of clean water and basic hygiene items has led to a significant rise in cases of diarrhoea, hepatitis and jaundice.

In response to this crisis, The One Foundation contributed £150,000 to support Oxfam and its wider partners in delivering life-saving WASH services in Gaza. This funding has enabled critical interventions such as water trucking, the installation of desalination units and latrine blocks, the distribution of hygiene kits and the rehabilitation of wastewater networks.



Community members are filling jerry cans with water through water taps installed by Oxfam in the Al Mawasi Area. Photo credit: Alef Multimedia Company/Oxfam

South Sudan

Sudan now represents the largest and fastest-growing displacement crisis in the world. Since conflict erupted in April 2023, the ongoing violence has forced a massive number of people to flee their homes. South Sudan has become a major refuge, with over 900,000 individuals crossing the border in search of safety. On average, 5,000 people are arriving in South Sudan every day, placing immense pressure on already limited resources and humanitarian support systems.

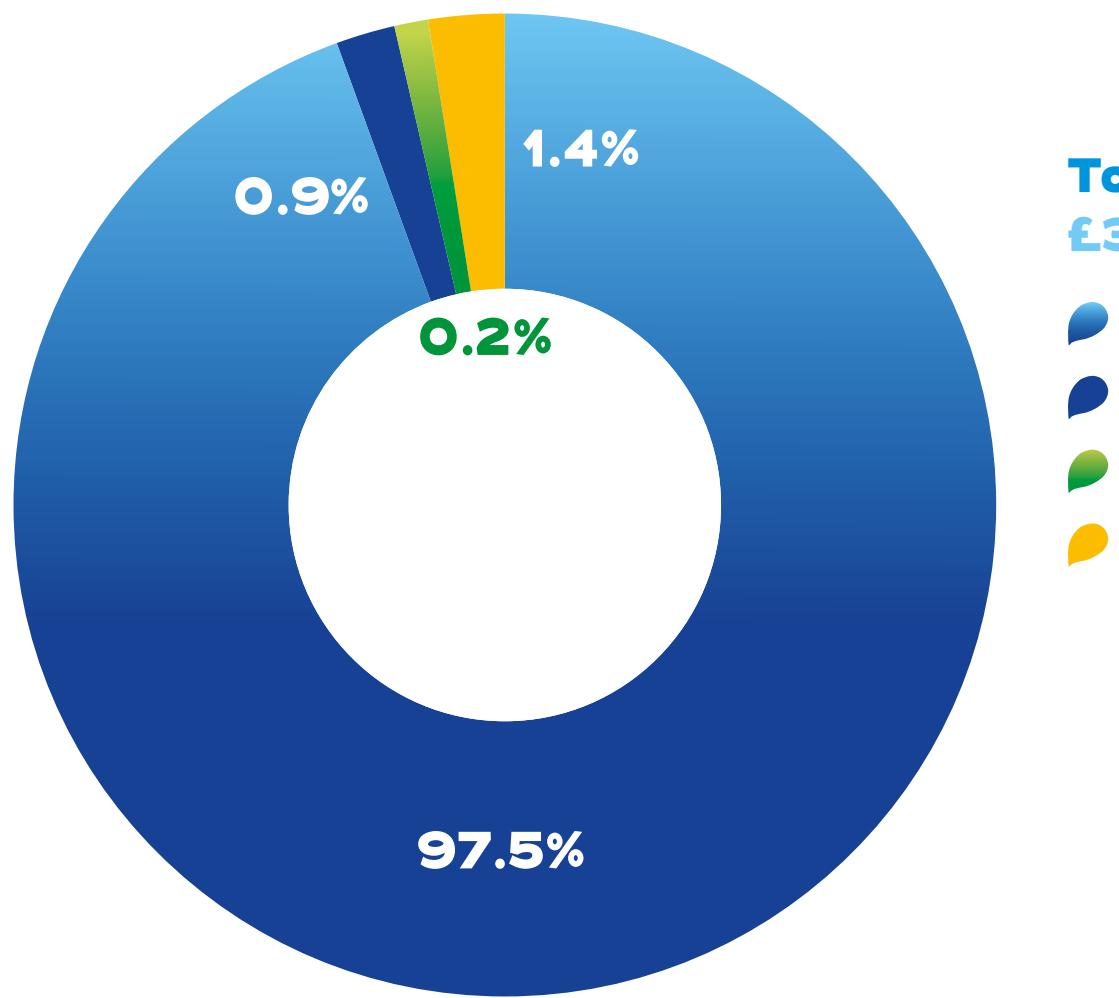
Transit camps, originally designed to accommodate 5,000 people, are now housing more than 13,000 – a staggering 264% increase in capacity. This severe overcrowding has exacerbated existing challenges, particularly in terms of water scarcity and public health, while significantly increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Among the most pressing concerns is the ongoing cholera outbreak, which poses a significant health threat to both refugees and South Sudanese nationals.

The One Foundation is providing vital support through an emergency response with Oxfam that includes the provision of clean water, sanitation facilities, hygiene kit distribution, routine desludging of latrines, handwashing facilities and public health promotion.



Asia* washes her hands and collects water from a water point set up by Oxfam in Renk South Sudan. Image credit: Peter Caton/Oxfam

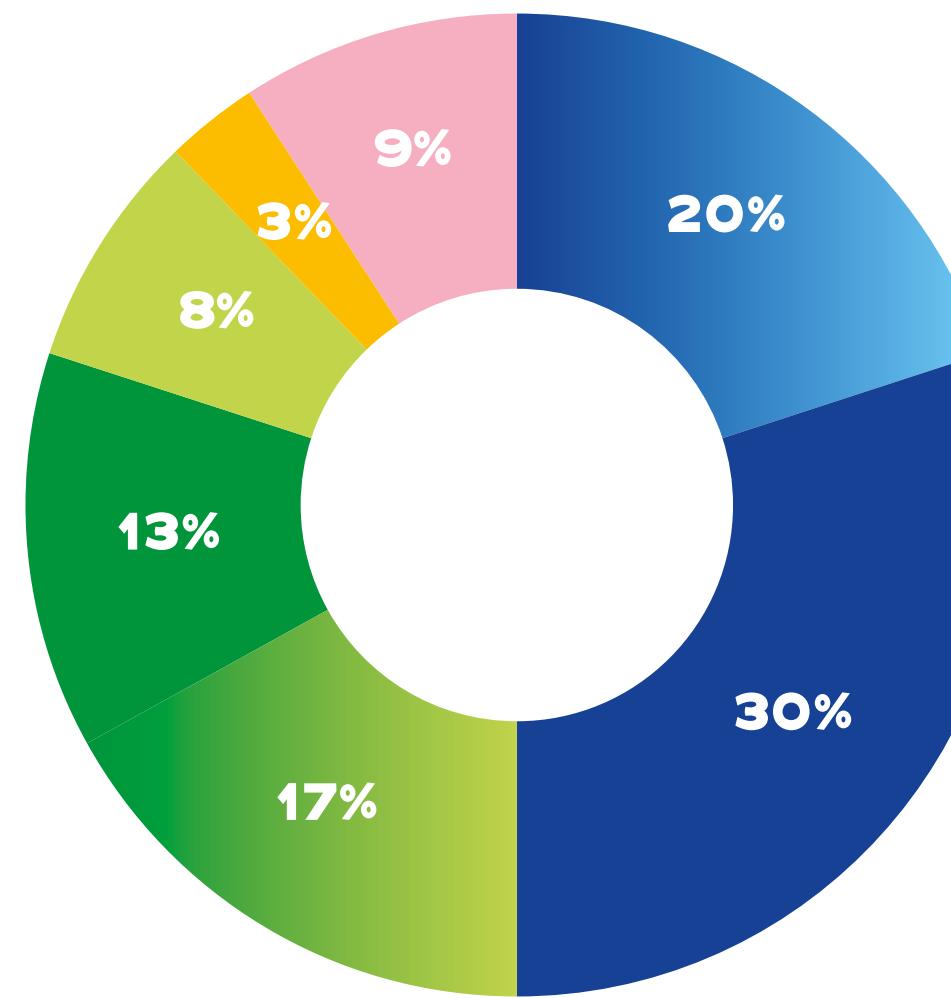
The One Foundation 2024 Finances



Total Income
£3,043,473

- £2,966,267 – Corporate Donations (97.5%)
- £26,430 – Individuals (0.9%)
- £7,200 – Trusts and Foundations (0.2%)
- £43,576 – Other Income (1.4%)

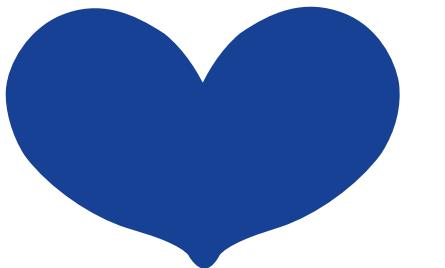
The One Foundation 2024 Finances



Total Expenditure
£2,460,658

- £500,000 – Ghana Programmes (20%)
- £748,716 – Malawi Programmes (30%)
- £406,896 – Kenya Programmes (17%)
- £320,000 – Rwanda Programmes (13%)
- £200,000 – Humanitarian Emergencies (8%)
- £66,430 – Raising Funds (3%)
- £218,616 – Other Charitable Expenditure (9%)

*Total programme expenditure in 2024 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 2025.



Thank You

Your Support Changes Lives

Thanks to all of our supporters and programming partners for being a vital part of our journey. Because of your generosity and dedication, more people this year have clean water, safe sanitation and the dignity they deserve.

Every tap turned on, every latrine built and every life uplifted is possible because you chose to care.

We are proud to have you with us – thank you for making this work possible.



water for people
EVERYONE • FOREVER





Charity No: 1118810

