



# Annual Report

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2019 / 2020



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BridgIT Water Foundation wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land our Brisbane office is located on, the peoples of the Yuggera Nation and to the Yindinjdi Nation of far north Queensland, home of BridgIT's Director. We wish to acknowledge and respect the continuing culture and the contribution it makes to our cities and regions.



## About BridgIT Water

BridgIT is an Australian non-government organisation (NGO) dedicated to improving the lives of those in developing rural communities without access to clean and safe water.

### Our Mission

To provide suitable, accessible and sustainable water solutions to some of the poorest and most marginalised people in rural, peri-urban and small, remote villages in developing countries.

### Our Vision

To save lives by providing improved drinking water that reduces water-borne diseases in rural areas of developing countries.

## Our Strategic Aims

Our aim is to impact as many people as possible by increasing access to safe water that reduces poverty, saves lives and influences positive change to the beneficiaries we serve.

### Our strategic goals are to:

- Increase water access to the most impoverished
- Contribute to sustainable rural development
- Provide donor satisfaction through participatory relationships
- Engage in strong partnerships



BridgIT is about delivering suitable, accessible and sustainable water to people in rural communities in developing countries

### BridgIT aims to promote prosperity

Broadly, BridgIT's development approach is that our programs engage and empower the water scarcity communities to be self-reliant and independent. We train our communities to develop water sustainability strategies that free them from the constant search for safe water.

#### Engaging with our donors

BridgIT matches our donors to the highest priority water scarcity communities in the developing countries in which we work.

#### Ensuring value for money

BridgIT looks for cost-effective programs that offer the most bang-for-donor-buck and as a result can convert even the smallest of donations into great outcomes.

### BridgIT aims to empower women and girls

The most important stakeholder are the communities in which we work. Our implementing partners use a bottom-up participatory approach to include all sections of the community including women and people with disabilities.

#### Working with effective partners

BridgIT's programs are successful due to:

- Careful program and needs analysis.
- Effective partnerships.
- Appropriate water solutions that suit the skills capability of the community.
- Supporting community capacity building activities directed at the sustainability of the water resource.

## Director's Report

Like everyone else, BridgIT and its partners have battled the challenges that COVID and its global restrictions have placed during 2019/20. Water is the life blood of a community but it is even more so now during these difficult times and it is vitally important to provide clean water so that the vulnerable people of the world can wash their hands and improve hygiene practices.

Despite the challenges, thanks to the kindness of its awesome supporters, BridgIT managed to raise \$361,000 which contributed to the installation of 57 wells providing almost 120,000 people with clean drinking water. Our programs resulted in exceptional value for money for our funders at a cost of \$2.90 per capita. BridgIT's global programs provided 7,000 rural school students and 11,500 rural households with access to clean drinking water.

BridgIT's COVID response in Uganda was to focus on the provision of water to rural schools. The Ugandan government requirement during the pandemic was for schools to have running water in order to reopen. Our refurbished well program, which provides repairs to existing drilled wells, has been highly successful as it establishes immediate access to water for sanitation during the pandemic.

This year BridgIT expanded its area of operation in India to the Chittoor District working with the target marginalised 'untouchable' populations. We also received funding to direct toward our Ethiopian WASH program.

Looking ahead. When COVID restrictions lift, BridgIT will investigate expansion into the remote Sagaing and Magway Regions of Myanmar and also to expand our conservation program into the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve of Malawi.

Our funding saw a 12 percent decline on last year but despite that, we are very much looking forward to the year ahead as we are hoping to have positive response to our application to gain DFAT accreditation.

Incredible results are produced with the participation and teamwork of many resourceful people. We feel much love and gratitude to our partners and the people who work so tirelessly for the communities in which we live and work. It is always a team effort.

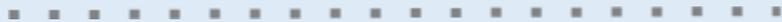
Wendy Tisdell OAM  
Founding Director



# Year in Review

## BridgIT's Achievements to Date

Raised for Water Projects		<b>\$1,744,425</b>
Water Systems Installed		<b>294</b>
Total people with water because of our programs		<b>698,638</b>
Program cost per capita		<b>\$2.50</b>



## BridgIT's Achievements in 2019/20FY

Raised for Water Projects		<b>\$361,300</b>
People Impacted in 2019/20		<b>118,906</b>
Households received safe water		<b>11,500</b>
Schools / Pupils received safe water		<b>20 / 7,000</b>
Healthcare facilities received safe water		<b>2 / 35,000</b>
Conservation projects		<b>3</b>

*This little girl in Thanda Pandikunta Community Well India loves her new well*



## India

### Our COVID Response in India

BridgIT is working with a new partner in India and consequently expanded into the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh State. Our Indian projects aim to create sustainable, community-managed water supplies in the rural communities.

The beneficiaries of our projects in India are the marginalised 'untouchable' Dalit communities, so called for their societally deemed 'untouchability' that segregates them from the mainstream and other castes. They are also termed backward class, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.

In these rural areas, households have no access to piped water schemes to meet drinking and domestic needs and most of the people use water from tube or open wells.

Our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs definitely address these challenges.

Understanding and improving hygiene behaviour goes hand in hand when installing a water system, which is especially relevant during the pandemic. Once the water facility is in place, BridgIT and its partners ensure that all our communities receive training on the formation and purpose of a Water User Committee (WUC) as well as WASH training. The committees help to ensure the facility is sustained by collecting an agreed and affordable amount of money that is used for maintenance and repairs.



**11 Village Wells | 18,283 people | \$41,910 | \$2.29 per capita**

*Women in Parvathareddygaripalle Village celebrate their new well*



## Uganda

### Our COVID Response in Uganda

Like in many parts of the world, the major challenge in Uganda is the ability for rural schools, villages and healthcare facilities to access clean water. Schools in Uganda have been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and the Ugandan government has implemented new regulations that dictate schools must have a clean water source within 500mtrs in order for them to reopen.

Unfortunately, these poor rural children have to walk at least 2km to collect dirty water as most rural schools lack access to basic handwashing with soap and water - a key condition for schools to be able to operate safely in the midst of the COVID pandemic.

If the government restrictions become severe, 53% of rural schools may not reopen unless they can find a way to get a clean water source. The hopes of the children from poor and less privileged families to gain a basic education could come to an end....

BridgIT and its Ugandan partner have tackled the COVID challenge by providing refurbished wells to existing boreholes. Refurbished wells are much cheaper, they restore water to many people almost immediately and they allow recycling of the well and thus gives value to the investment.

Some schools and villages have existing boreholes that have broken down and remain unusable, while others don't have a borehole at all.

While we are working in the villages, we receive many requests for support to repair their broken boreholes. Mostly, the repair requires an overhaul of the hand pump system but this cost is way too high for the communities to fund if they have not been pooling together a maintenance fund over time. We train the community and put in place a sustainability plan, so that the community members are responsible and empowered to fund any needed repairs on their well in the future.

**38 Village Wells | 82,208 people | \$172,118 | \$2.09 per capita**

*Every day thousands of rural students head to class with no access to clean water*



## Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, BridgIT's target intervention area is located in the remote Berano District which is in the Somali Regional State (SRS) of Ethiopia.

The Berano District is characterised by a critical shortage of clean water. Most of the population is scattered and almost all of the economy depends on agro-pastoral (animal rearing and small-scale farming) along the Shebelle River as a means of livelihood.

Sanitation and hygiene practices are far below average compared to other parts of Ethiopia. Due to this chronic problem in the region, BridgIT and its partner are committed to contributing to the national program and policy for the provision of access to safe water and sanitation to poor rural communities.

Lab, Hosweyne, Hoomaay and Kalagoyska villages, including 4 schools, received funding for the rehabilitation of traditional hand dug wells.

The existing community water supplies were traditional hand dug wells that were operational and producing enough water during dry seasons, but during the rainy season floods would bury the wells and digging construction would have to start again during the dry season creating continual work every year. During the rainy season the communities were forced to get their water from open natural small ponds shared with their animals.

As rehabilitation of the wells progresses there have been some challenges causing project delays of well rehabilitations, mostly due to COVID restrictions, but also due to unusually heavy rains in East Africa and certain cultural practices in the Somali region. However, when Ethiopian restrictions lift, the projects will resume work and final hand over to the communities will ensue.

**4 Villages | 12,650 people | \$60,793 | \$5.53 per capita**

*Hoomay, Hosweyne and Lab village rehabilitated traditional hand dug wells Berano District, Somali region of Ethiopia*



## Program Highlights

### Our Work Supporting Wildlife Conservation

Echoing David Attenborough, our dwindling wildlife really need our help. BridgIT's chimpanzee conservation program in Uganda has provided more than a dozen water wells to rural villages in the Hoima region of western Uganda, located in the dwindling chimpanzee habitat. Providing clean water to people will ultimately help build primate awareness, which helps with chimpanzee conservation, according to our partner Bulindi Chimpanzee & Community Projects (BCCP). BCCP continue to be inundated with requests from villages wanting clean water supplies which will ultimately help build primate awareness.



*Wild chimpanzees living alongside human populated areas cross the road in Hoima West Uganda*

### Our Work Supporting Healthcare Facilities

Nyamarebe Health Centre III in Ibanda, rural Uganda receives 50 patients per day, 20 admissions weekly and 3 expectant mothers daily minimum. This healthcare facility and surrounding community of 300 households, 1,800 people and a nearby Trading Centre had no safe water supply. Their water source was 3km away and patients had to fetch drinking water from a surface pond in a nearby swamp, including expectant mothers and healthcare staff.

The healthcare facility and community received a drilled borehole, solar pump and panels, storage tanks and community taps, which helps 22,000 people annually receive clean water.

The Person In-charge of Nyamarebe Health Centre Mr. Tumuranzye, says “the water facility has greatly improved the facilities sanitation and hygiene.”



*A mother of two says, “the facility has come timely to save us and it will not leave us the same. Before, we could send expectant mothers to go and fetch water that they would use to wash and clean themselves after delivery. But as I speak now this is no longer the case. They just need to get clean jerry cans and fetch water from this tank”.*

## Our Work Supporting Education

Without access to water, education is almost impossible. Dirty water leads to a cycle of disease, missed school days, and high drop-out rates - especially for girls.

*“Last year I was transferred by the government to start work at this school. Once I arrived at my designated accommodation, the first shock was that there was no water anywhere nearby. I considered abandoning my duty. I almost gave up. Some of the parents and school children volunteered to collect water for me for the first 2 weeks. However, I was not happy with this offer, and I could tell that it was hard work for them since they also had to collect water for their families. I started paying some boys to collect water for me on bicycles. I have been spending at least 15% of my monthly salary on collecting water. With the new well on the school compound, I will save this money and I can even bring my family to stay with me.”*

Mr. Lutwama, Head Teacher at Wagaala Primary School Uganda.



## Our Work Supporting the Socially Vulnerable

While going to a well can be fun for kids like Derrick because they get to meet their friends, Derrick was not always allowed to go to the Well for fear of being kidnapped. Children living with albinism face a greater risk of being kidnapped for rituals in this region. A water source placed close to homesteads helps to alleviate such risks. *Derrick says: “My parents have not always allowed me to go to the well because it was far and that there are men who will take me. I am sure since this new well is near my home, I will be allowed to collect water with my friends.”*

Derrick a 6-year old boy with albinism from Namugongo village Uganda.



For the elderly especially those living alone like Mzee Saverino, walking long distances to collect water is a tedious task. Bringing water closer to them greatly improves their health and livelihood.

*Mr. Mzee says: “I lost my wife 3 years ago, and since then I am living alone since my children are mature and have moved to the city to look for jobs. Walking 3km to collect water from the swamp has been my most tedious task. With this new well 500m away from my house, my life will be much easier.”*

Mr. Mzee from Namulaba village Uganda.



## Our Work Supporting Gender Equality

To attain gender equality in all our interventions, it is important to understand the factors that affect gender equity and equality in our benefiting communities. Typical gender roles in the developing world dictate that the very nature of water projects address gender equality as it is the job of women and children to collect water, while men are historically the community leaders.

It is been observed that access to resources and participation in decision-making will automatically lead to empowerment and greater gender equality. BridgIT's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs promote the participation of women through their active involvement in the water user committees (WUC's) so women's voices are heard.

Research has shown that WASH systems with women involved in planning and management are more sustainable over time and better access to sanitation gives young women the opportunity to attend school.



*Pictured is Mrs. Jyothi from Kotala Village, Andhra Pradesh India.*

*“Now we do not need to walk 3kms away for good water whereas we are getting the same in our own village. Now my children's studies are well in progress, as now my children are going to schools in right time, because now I am saving my time of 3 hours which I spent previously for bringing water from distance place. Now this borewell is very near to my home, so I can easily bring the water within minutes” says Mrs. Jyothi.*

*Pictured is Irene, a mother of 5 children from Kakakala village, Uganda.*

*“Since March when a curfew was introduced due to the virus, I have been on tension as on most days it has been very hard to keep the 7pm curfew time. I work on the family gardens in the afternoon, and after work I need to collect water for the family. I needed at least 2 hours to walk to our old well and back. Sometimes the lines would be long and I would spend more time there. I was always worried of getting punished by the local defence personnel. Last month, my neighbour was shot at and badly hurt as she run away from those men (the curfew enforcement personnel). This new well is very close to my house and we will not worry again” says Irene.*



## Partnership Highlight

BridgIT and its corporate partner **Wine to Water** are dedicated to giving people in developing countries access to clean water.

**Little Ripples** is a wine brand with a difference. \$1 of every bottle of **Little Ripples** wine sold provides 1 year of clean water for 1 person in a developing country. The wine supplier from Cassegrain Winery in Port Macquarie produce a beautiful drop.



*Pictured are the team L to R - Dean Wells (Little Ripples Creative Director), Wendy Tisdell (BridgIT Founder), Dustin Leonard (Little Ripples Founder) & John Cassegrain (Cassegrain Wines)*

In 2019/20, **Little Ripples Wine** provided life-giving water wells to 3 rural Ugandan villages and a Primary School, giving over 4,000 people safe, clean water. **Little Ripples** turns wine into water.

**Support BridgIT and buy *Little Ripples Wine* to help BridgIT's programs give people safe water wells**



## Our Awesome Supporters

### Trusts and Foundations

Incite Foundation  
The Very Good Foundation | Perpetual Philanthropic Services  
The Denis Langley Foundation  
SMEC Foundation  
Axel Pitzner Foundation Denmark  
Bakonyi Global Aid Trustees

### Corporates & Community Partners

Little Ripples Wine - Cassegrain Wines  
Westpac Banking Corp

### International Fundraisers & Affiliates

BridgIT Water Foundation Denmark and our Danish donors  
BridgIT Water Foundation USA and our US donors  
Global Giving

### Individual Donors

Kent Family  
Webber Family  
Dwan Family  
Wardrop Family  
Tisdell Family  
Mr. Maheshwari  
Wehbe Family

### In-Kind Donations

Nexia Brisbane Accountants - Accounting and Financial Auditing  
Books, BAS & Payroll - Book Keeping and Accounting Services  
Facilitating Futures - Governance Strategies



## Management Board & Offices

Any development work BridgIT engages in is approved by the Australian Government's overseas aid program. BridgIT has satisfied Overseas Aid Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) eligibility criteria and is an approved organisation and endorsed by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT).

As a signatory organisation with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), BridgIT's aid development activities are in alignment with the Australian government guidelines for international aid.

To meet detailed statutory requirements, it is incumbent on BridgIT Directors, Board Members other relevant officers to be aware of these demands.

BridgIT has an endorsement as a deductible gift recipient (DGR-1) under Subdivisions 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and is provided for the operation of a fund, authority or institution. BridgIT gained DGR status in 2016.

BridgIT's Directors and Board members are committed to maintaining the standards expected of the above bodies as well as the detailed statutory and other requirements that result from the above-mentioned accreditation and endorsements.



ACFID  
MEMBER

### BridgIT's International Development Offices

**USA:** BridgIT Water Foundation, San Francisco, California - [bridgitwaterusa@gmail.com](mailto:bridgitwaterusa@gmail.com)

**Denmark:** BridgIT Water Foundation, Copenhagen - [danmark@bridgitwater.org](mailto:danmark@bridgitwater.org)

### BridgIT's International Partners

**Uganda:** Suubi Community Projects, Kampala - [officesubbiprojectsug@gmail.com](mailto:officesubbiprojectsug@gmail.com)

**India:** Society for Rural Health, Education & Development, Jodichinthala, Andhra Pradesh  
[srhedngo@gmail.com](mailto:srhedngo@gmail.com)

**Nepal:** Kathmandu Environment Education Program, Kathmandu - [keep@info.np](mailto:keep@info.np)

**Ethiopia:** Association Development Horn, Addis Ababa - [adhorn2005@hotmail.com](mailto:adhorn2005@hotmail.com)

Our Board is a group of passionate individuals working together to further BridgIT’s strategic aims and ultimately our vision - to focus on saving lives through the provision of safe water.



## Financial Summary

BridgIT is transparent about the activities it undertakes, the funding it receives and the people it helps. BridgIT promotes building trust between the donor and the foundation, thereby increasing the chances of getting continuous support. BridgIT understands the importance of managing the funds we are entrusted to very carefully and respects the need to be accountable to donors who support us.

## Financial Statement - Profit & Loss Report

	2020FY (Audited)	2019FY (Audited)	2018FY (Audited)
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations - Corporations		8,805	15,200
Donations - International Fundraising		14,962	9,647
Donations - Private Individuals	129,736	52,494	50,292
Donations - Trusts & Foundations	218,370	333,096	313,633
Interest Income	38	18	10
M&E Contributions	13,156	9,646	8384
Other Revenue			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>361,300</b>	<b>419,021</b>	<b>397,166</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
International Project Costs	423,837	355,039	229,909
Program Support Costs	37,706	48,408	20,022
Travel - International	1,915	11,099	13,176
Other Operating Costs	7,499	3,070	9,563
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>470,957</b>	<b>417,616</b>	<b>274,670</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(109,657)</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>117,496</b>

## Financial Statement - Balance Sheet

	2020FY (Audited)	2019FY (Audited)	2018FY (Audited)
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Bank</b>			
BridgIT AUD\$ Fund Account	21,834	129,519	98,422
BridgIT US\$ Dollar Account		202 <sup>1</sup>	29,966
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>21,834</b>	<b>129,721</b>	<b>128,389</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>21,834</b>	<b>129,721</b>	<b>128,389</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	-		
Accounts Payable	-	(1,771) <sup>1</sup>	(1,697) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-	<b>(1,771)</b>	<b>(1,697)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-	<b>(1,771)</b>	<b>(1,697)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>21,834</b>	<b>131,491</b>	<b>130,086</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Current Year Earnings		1,405	117,496
Retained Earnings	21,834	130,086	12,590
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>21,834</b>	<b>131,491</b>	<b>130,086</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures converted into Australian Dollars using the following rates:  
1,613.02 TZS Tanzanian Shilling per AUD. Rate provided by XE.com 30 Jun.2020.  
0.702331 USD United States Dollar per AUD. Rate provided by XE.com 30 Jun.2020.

## Independent Auditor's Report

BWF is accountable for its activities, accepts responsibility for them and transparently discloses the results with audited financial reports. Our financial accounts are audited annually by an independent auditor, Nexia Australia. Our financial report is available on our website.



### Auditor's Independence Declaration Under ACNC Act Section 60-40 to the Directors of BridgIT Water Foundation Ltd

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of BridgIT Water Foundation Ltd.

As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of BridgIT Water Foundation Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2020, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nexia Brisbane Audit Pty Ltd".

**Nexia Brisbane Audit Pty Ltd**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "ND Bamford".

**ND Bamford**

Director

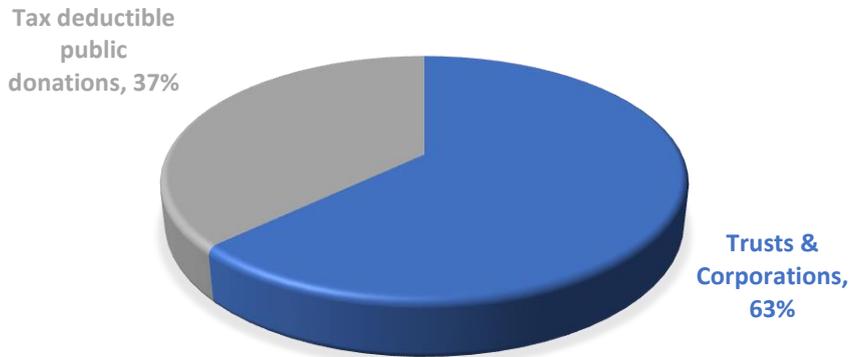
Level 28, 10 Eagle Street,  
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Date: 19/8/20

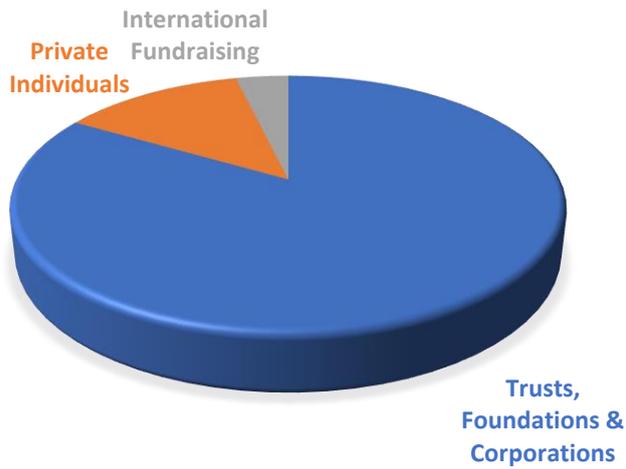
### Where our funding comes from

The majority of BridgIT’s total funding in 2019/20 of \$361,300 came from trusts and corporations and the remainder through tax deductible public donations.

#### Funding Sources - 2020 FY

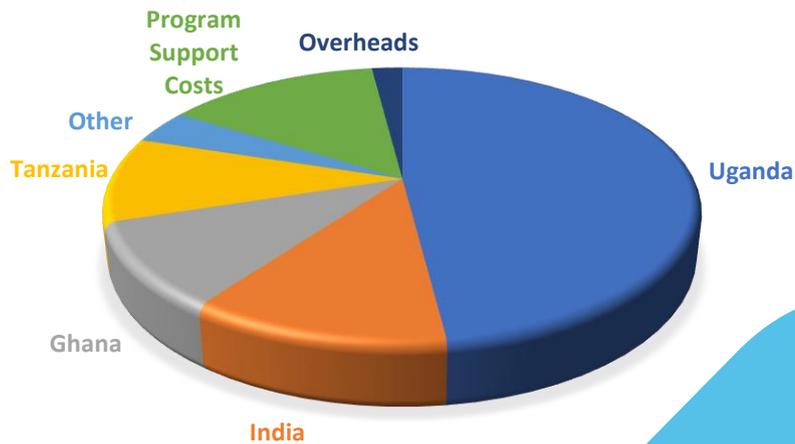


#### Funding Sources - 2019 FY

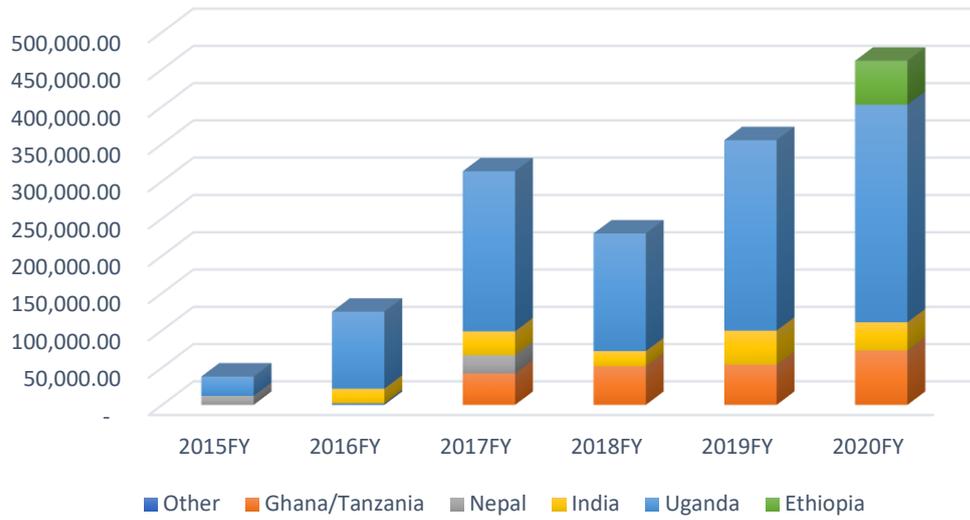


### Where our funding goes to

BridgIT had a nice spread of funding through our countries of operation and managed to keep our overheads low.



### Expenditure by Region



*Children in Uganda look on as first water appears in their new well*



## How you can take action



### Sponsor a Water Supply:

- Support education and sponsor a water supply to a rural School
- Support health and sponsor a water supply to a rural Healthcare facility
- Support animal conservation and sponsor a water supply to a rural village in a wildlife conflict region

### Provide in-kind services:

The work of NGO's could not continue without endless hours of voluntary work from a lot of dedicated people. If you are interested in volunteering, we are always looking for like-minded people to become part of the Bridgit team with in-kind donations or services. If you're keen, we'd love to hear from you. We appreciate pro-bono services such as: Fundraising; Accounting / Financial; Marketing; Engineering; I.T; and Community Development.



# Here's to helping more people receive access to clean drinking water in 2021



ABN: 34 139 883 775

Charity Registration No: CH1853



Member to the Australia's international Code of Conduct with Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)



## Contact Us

 [www.bridgitwater.org](http://www.bridgitwater.org)

 [info@bridgitwater.org](mailto:info@bridgitwater.org)