



# Annual Report

## 2023 / 2024FY







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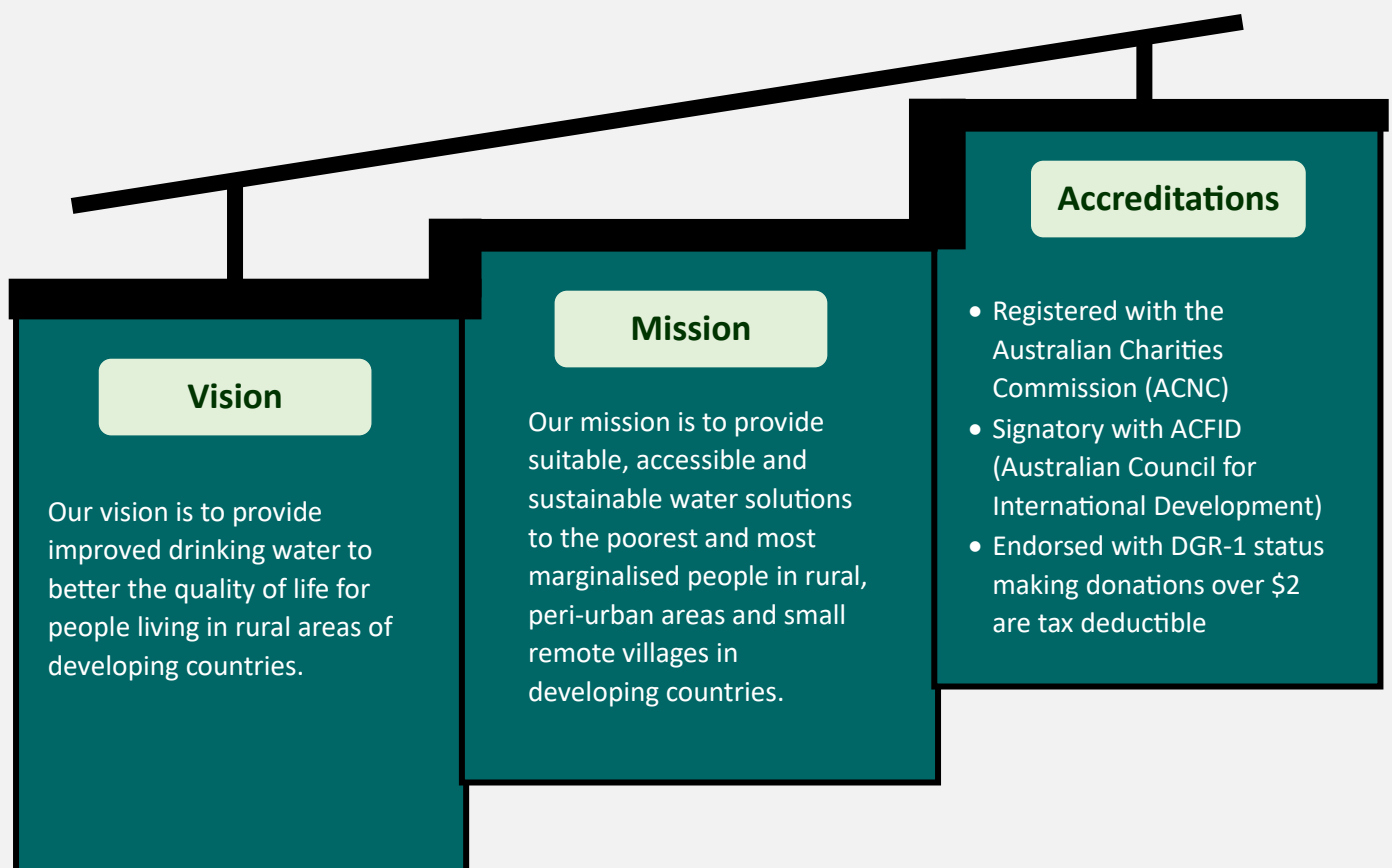


*Pictured are Ugandan women fetching water many kilometres away from their households.*

## About BridgIT

Water is the **Foundation** of all sustainable development and holds implications for every major area of life – health, education, economies, and gender equality. BridgIT exists to combat the world's water crisis by increasing access to an improved water supply **one rural village at a time**.

**Despite progress, over 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.** Without clean water, millions of people living in rural areas of developing countries cannot meet basic needs to improve their living conditions. Our mission is to provide cost-effective water infrastructure facilities to rural communities living in water crisis, giving them a helping hand to ascend the development ladder and out of poverty.





# Our Water Project Approach

## 1. Participatory, integrated approaches with local communities

Community members are engaged in project planning, implementation and monitoring to establish full community ownership. Transfer and sharing of skills within the community are essential to the project's success.

## 2. Installation of appropriate water systems

During consultations, listening to communities ensures that they receive the most appropriate water solution to suit their skill capacity.

## 3. Lasting sustainability strategies

Communities are provided with training in the governance and maintenance of their new water resource as an integral part of every project.

## 3. Proving our impact

Donor satisfaction is a high priority and BridgIT is committed to accountability for its activities, and transparency reporting its results.





## Director's Report

We often take our infrastructure for granted, yet water scarcity and poor water quality affect billions of people globally and despite progress, 1 in 3 people still lack access to clean drinking water and sanitation.

I reflect with gratitude the impact BridgIT and our amazing funders have achieved with our water management projects in 2024FY. Together, we funded 65 community borewells, including 5 schools, 13 refugee villages and 1 health centre, serving 107,572 people with clean and safe water.

This year BridgIT implemented two new programs: water for refugees in Uganda and a borewell infrastructure program in rural Tanzania.

Uganda is the biggest host of refugees in Africa, currently hosting over 2.5 million people who have fled conflicts in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda. However, in the refugee camps, there is great need for safe water for the new arrivals. BridgIT works in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement where 80 percent of new arrivals are children, having lost their parents due to the conflict in their countries. BridgIT is proud to have provided 13 community borewells, providing 17,800 residents in the refugee camp with safe, clean water.

This year also saw the recommencement of a program in Tanzania. We completed projects in the Arusha area of Tanzania in 2014, and this time we are partnering with Lifetime Wells International to deliver life-saving water infrastructure into the rural Kilosa District.

A high proportion of the rural population in the developing world are illiterate, unskilled and have high percentages of elderly. Often the younger generation migrate to the city where employment opportunities are greater, giving hope for a better quality of life. Often this leaves the elderly caring for the children, including the chore of household water collection, which was very clearly seen on my last program inspection trips to Nepal and Uganda. Being elderly and ill, collecting water from far away is tough, so placing borewells closer to their households makes the elderly more self-reliant.

Our local partners are the true heroes of our programs. Each time I visit with partners, the more impressed I am with their understanding of the complexities of poverty and the best interventions to address it.

We realize the importance of evaluating the work that we do to ensure it has the lasting intended impacts and to gain valuable insight for ways to improve our programs. Each year we dedicate funding to carry out yearly monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reviews on the benefits of the provision of a clean water supply. (Read more about the results for our Ugandan rural recipients on page 17).

We go into the next financial year continuing to provide one village at a time with a new or refurbished water systems and aim for our milestone target of serving 1.5 million people with safe water.

Wendy Tisdell OAM  
Founding Director



*I'm pictured at one of the funded wells in the Chittoor District of India, February 2024.*

## 2023/24 Impact at a Glance



Raised for water projects

**\$276,156**

Financial year funding received



Water projects you funded

**65**

Water user committees established & trained



**A hand up, not a handout = strengthened and empowered communities**

People accessed safe water

**107,572**

People impacted 2024FY



Project effectiveness

**\$2.57** Cost per person

Total project costs per person impacted 2024FY





# Water and Meaningful Philanthropy Unites Us

We are all united by our need for safe and reliable water for drinking and domestic use. Water is also irreplaceable for other agricultural and economic purposes. Our world needs to become united in confronting the water crisis and water-related challenges.

BridgIT strives to create meaningful philanthropy through our water projects and unite our donors in connecting with the end beneficiary. BridgIT strives for donor satisfaction and the goal is to give our supporters the fulfilment that they are directly helping hundreds or thousands of people who may never have had access to a clean, safe water supply. BridgIT's donors are encouraged to 'sponsor a community water supply', much like World Vision's 'sponsor a child' concept. Our donors are presented with a collection of water scarcity villages that are awaiting a water supply, and we match them to contribute to target areas with priority community need ensuring those villages with the most need are served first.

BridgIT, and our partners are united in making water available to all. BridgIT could not carry out our work without our hardworking partnering organisations with the passion and local knowledge to transform their rural communities. We want our donors to feel a part of this family too. Every donor that sponsors the full cost of a community water supply is acknowledged as the official sponsor on a plaque attached to the equipment, which means that the community members know who has sponsored their water supply, and it also allows them to have direct contact with the partners should they need assistance in the future.

Let water be the focus and unite with us in contributing to a sustainable future for all.

## Global partnerships making water available to all



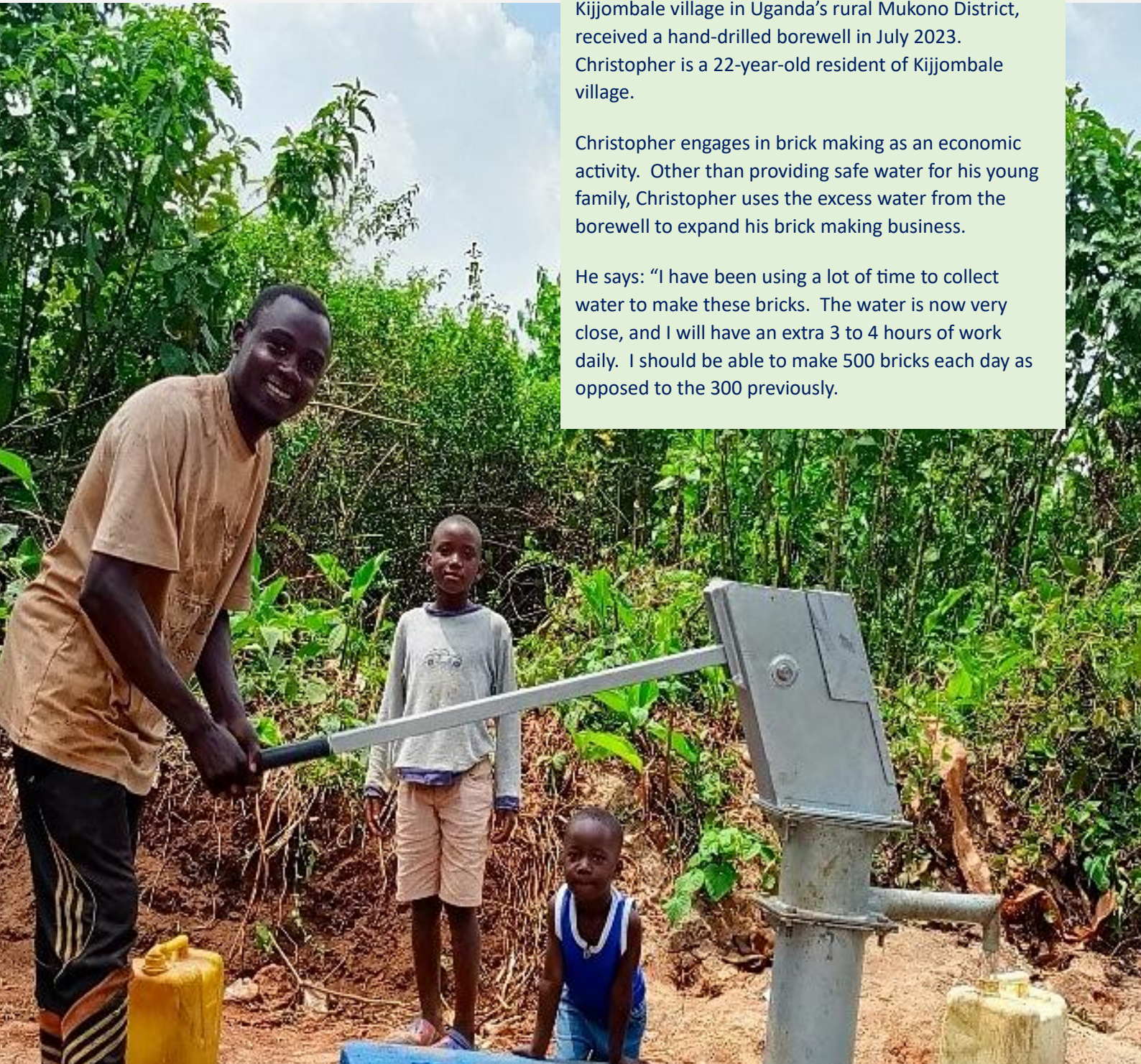
*Pictured are the Suubi team in Uganda refurbishing a broken down well.*



## Access to Safe Water Creates Jobs

During community monitoring, villager members often ask our partnering organisations for income generating suggestions, especially the village women. Our country partners are always happy to help their rural communities' economic development, and in the past have helped with income creation such as, sewing machine procurement, tree crop seedlings, and beekeeping to name a few.

But the first step in community development is in the provision of access to safe water because it allows income opportunities enhancing economic development for rural communities as outlined by Christopher in the story below.



Kijjombale village in Uganda's rural Mukono District, received a hand-drilled borewell in July 2023. Christopher is a 22-year-old resident of Kijjombale village.

Christopher engages in brick making as an economic activity. Other than providing safe water for his young family, Christopher uses the excess water from the borewell to expand his brick making business.

He says: "I have been using a lot of time to collect water to make these bricks. The water is now very close, and I will have an extra 3 to 4 hours of work daily. I should be able to make 500 bricks each day as opposed to the 300 previously.



# Water and Poverty Reduction for Subsistence Farmers

The livestock and agriculture sector are pillars of the global food system and contributors to food security and poverty reduction.

About 78% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and rely largely on farming, livestock, and other agricultural work to put food on their plates and make a living.

Livestock play a major role in sustainable food systems and are important assets for vulnerable communities. For example, livestock are used as draft animals and can help boost productivity in regions where there is low mechanisation and manure is a critical source of natural fertilizers.



*Pictured above is a typical way of housing livestock in a rural Nepal village.*

*Pictured below is a family garden in a mid-mountain rural village of Nepal where subsistence farming is important.*

Agriculture is critical in developing countries, both economically and in its potential to improve people's lives. Agriculture has always been a challenge for the hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers and pastoralist families who rely on the food they can produce on their own.

Small-scale farming is a primary livelihood for millions of households worldwide and typically takes place on less than five acres and relies on rainfall for water rather than irrigation.

Although the primary use of providing secure water points is to provide safe drinking water for people, the excess water from the water collection points can be used for watering vegetable gardens and livestock which contributes to increasing family incomes. Therefore, when a secure water supply is provided, there are far reaching impacts on poverty reduction.





# Providing Water for People to Reduce Wildlife Poaching

Many magnificent animals across the world have been pushed to the brink of extinction due to poaching. One solution to reduce poaching is to support local communities.

Conservation of Africa's wildlife is ultimately in the hands of the local people living alongside them. In rural communities where poaching occurs, people should be offered other economic opportunities that could remove their motivation to engage in poaching. Our partnering organisation's approach is to identify and address constraints faced by villagers and offer support in key areas. Thus, in our African program, we offer water projects to conserve the wildlife primarily by helping people.

A recent study in Uganda on the links between poverty and wildlife crime indicated that one of the most effective ways to reduce illegal wildlife hunting is poverty reduction. Providing access to clean and safe water to the local communities also reduces potentially dangerous encounters between village residents and wildlife and the wildlife will be less threatened by human interaction.

Our water, conservation and biodiversity projects aim to provide quality drinking water to water-scarce communities living alongside wildlife reserves and help them understand the importance of protecting wildlife and show them how to participate in conservation activities. The provision of water wells in our water and conservation projects are a gift to the communities in exchange for their efforts in wildlife conservation.



*Pictured is a girl waiting for a mother chimp and her baby to cross before collecting her water cans in our Chimpanzee Conservation program in Uganda.*







## Program and Performance

*Pictured are Ugandan school children collecting dirty water to drink at their school taking them away from their lessons and learning.*



## Uganda

This year saw the commencement of a very worthwhile and important program to provide water into refugee camps. Uganda hosts more than 2.5 million refugees who have fled conflicts in neighbouring South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia and Rwanda. Uganda has favourable refugee policies, but as a developing country, it simply needs funds to support the large number of refugees it is hosting. There is great need for safe water for the new arrivals at Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. 80 percent of new arrivals are children, having lost their parents due to the conflict in their countries. BridgIT funded 13 community wells, providing approximately 17,800 residents with safe, clean water in this program.



*Lillian (pictured), moved to Kyaka Refugee camp from the Congo in 2022. Her husband and neighbours had been taken as war hostages. She took the long trek with a large group and arrived in Uganda two months later. Lillian integrated into the community happily, however, water has always been a challenge, with much of her time taken up daily with walking to or from collecting water. The new borewell was installed very close to her home and now she doesn't have to face the many dangers encountered during these water collection excursions.*

**33 village borewells impacting  
60,867 people in Uganda this FY**



*Pictured is a young resident of Kigalama village proudly looking at his borewell that was installed in January 2024.*



# India

BridgIT partners with two extraordinary organisations in India. SRHED, carry out our drilled well program in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh and SPREAWS, carry out our borewell restoration program in the Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh.

Following a site visit in February 2024, we were advised by SPREAWS that it would be beneficial to change the name of our Refurbished Borewell Program to the Borewell Restoration Program. The reasoning is that SPREAWS don't just refurbish, they replace everything downhole and above, including removing and replacing the concrete apron. The old wells are often installed with inferior equipment, which is often why they fail, which essentially means restoration to a completely new borewell.

Our Borewell Restoration Program establishes immediate access to clean water for the recipient communities and gives high value to the invested funds.

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*For Rajamma (pictured), a 39-year-old mother of three, a trek to the distant well was the only way to secure water for her family. The well water was often murky and unreliable, a constant worry for Rajamma's family's health. Waterborne illnesses were common, keeping her children from school and adding to her already stressful days. The long hours spent walking to and from the well took a toll, leaving her with less energy for housework and childcare.*

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**17 village borewells impacting  
17,279 people in India this FY**





## Nepal



*A Tamang woman and her child are pictured happily collecting water from the new tap outlet at her doorstep.*

This year Wendy was very lucky to visit last year's drinking water construction project in Nepal, implemented in the rural municipality of Rasuwa District in the Bagmati Province.

The absence of drinking water infrastructure was causing acute water crisis for the villages in this region.

Due to the lack of clean water, people had to resort to drinking contaminated water, making it challenging for them to maintain sanitation. Skin rashes, diarrhea, and stomach cramps were often reported; hence, building a proper water supply system would raise the basic health standards of the people in the 4 villages making up this program.

The recipients of this project belong to the ethnic Tamang group of Nepal.

The project was a collaboration between the local government, KEEP Nepal, BridgIT Water Foundation and funded by **the Reece Foundation Australia**.

A gravity-fed water system provided four villages, including a school and health post, 618 village residents from 150 households with a clean and safe drinking water supply.

Many of Nepal's upper mountain villagers survive on subsistence farming. Animal husbandry and vegetable farming have been their family's source of income for generations. Therefore, providing easy access to water close to people's homes opens opportunities for income generating activities.

**Monitoring and Evaluation trip to inspect last year's funded projects**



## Malawi

Our Malawian program has a water, conservation and biodiversity component.

The program provides quality drinking water to water-scarce communities surrounding the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. The projects aim to provide good quality water to communities, help them understand the importance of protecting wildlife in the Reserve and show them how to participate in conservation activities. Through structures such as Natural Resource Committees, communities surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve will be fully empowered and trained to manage the Reserve at a community level.

Over 50% of the people of Nkhotakota are illiterate; hence it becomes difficult for them to understand some of the conservation messages. This program is the first initiative around the Reserve to improve community participation, and the project plans to fill the knowledge and capacity gap currently seen among communities in return for their efforts in wildlife conservation.

The aim is also reducing wildlife trafficking, particularly relating to elephants.

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*Looking very happy and enjoying drawing water from the village refurbished borewell is 32-year-old Ester.*

*Ester says “This is a big development and change in my life as well as the lives of my fellow villagers as it has been a long time since we tasted clean water without walking a long distance. Sometimes, our lives were in danger of being hurt by wild animals because we used to drink water together with the wild animals in the conservation area.”*

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**8 village borewells impacting  
8,131 people in Malawi this FY**



## Tanzania

Tanzania's impoverished rural population lack access to basic water supply and safe sanitation, which results in not only tremendous human health and economic costs, but also gender and other societal inequalities. (UNESCO).

Tanzania is a vast country with almost 1 out of every 2 people in rural areas having no access to safe water supplies and sanitation services. Due to the vast geographic dispersion, rural Tanzanians often must travel long distances over many hours to fetch water. Often, this results in girls dropping out of schools as they must join their mothers in fetching potable water.

Due to demand, BridgIT has recommenced our Tanzanian program. Approximately 30 boreholes have already been drilled by Lifetime Wells International in the Kilosa District which still require platform construction and hand pump installation. BridgIT partners with Lifetime Wells International to equip these drilled borewells with hand pumps and apron construction.

**1 village borewell impacting  
1,560 people in Tanzania this FY**





## Program Learning and Effectiveness

BridgIT commissioned an independent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) consultant in Uganda to conduct an impact study aimed at estimating the cost saving and economic benefits as well as monitoring project sustainability rates. The study was carried out in the Mukono district on 20 randomly selected villages from 60 beneficiary communities from BridgIT's 2019 program. It was assumed that a study after 5 years of benefiting would get valid measurements of the project's economic value to communities.

A cross-section of 385 people were the study participants.

According to the project's economic and financial appraisal, it was hypothesised that there was a strong positive correlation between the project and household cost saving as well as participation in productive work. Cost saving was perceived in the reduction in the number of sick days, reduction in the time collecting water and the reduction in health bills.

The headline objectives agreed for the study were:

- To estimate the cost saving for households because of the project.
- To determine the economic benefits of the project to the recipients.
- To establish whether the project communities were adhering to the project's sustainability plan.



The findings are based on an average number of households in the treatment group and indicate that on average, each rural household saved US\$180 (rounded), while each community saved US\$31,884 annually, indicating significant economic benefits to the recipient communities.

The study indicated 95% sustainability with 19 of the 20 communities having functioning wells with functional water user committees.

The monitoring and evaluation assessment is vital to BridgIT's resources because it allows the organisation to learn and adapt to deliver the very best results to the recipient communities on behalf of our funding partners.



# BridgIT into the Future



## What Guides our Work?

### Sustainable Rural Development

BridgIT aims to increase water accessibility by bringing water closer to people's households. This is achieved by locating every one of our water supplies within 500mtrs of rural households.

### Poverty Reduction

Aim for the installation or refurbishment of up to 100 water systems per year.

Aim to impact 70,000 to 100,000 people in our programs per year.

Aim to save women and children a minimum of 2 hours per day on water collection so they can use this time to pursue income-generation and school activities.

Aim for US\$2 per week saved on community household expenditure in our programs.

### Capacity Strengthening

Supporting the capacity of our community-based partners by providing mentoring and training to manage joint initiatives in a participatory manner consistent with current good practice.

### Donor Satisfaction

Provide prompt action on project implementation and prove every project with exceptional donor reporting.

We are looking to engage more corporates who wish to increase their social impact. Giving to water projects is a great way for corporates to embrace their social responsibility.



## Acknowledging Our Awesome Supporters



Little  
Ripples.

Perpetual



**SMEC**  
FOUNDATION

Supporting People in Need

**reece** foundation  
Working with tradies for a better world



UNIVERSAL  
CHARITABLE FUND



**discover.**  
airlines

GlobalGiving

### Trusts & Foundations

Perpetual Philanthropic Services  
The Very Good Foundation  
The Peter Falvey Foundation  
SMEC Foundation  
Reece Foundation  
Tucker Foundation

### Water Project Sponsors, Australia

Kent Family  
Tisdell Family  
Whitfield Family  
Harrington Family  
Bakonyi Family  
M. Water Projects

### Corporate Partnerships

Little Ripples Wine Australia  
Discover Airlines  
Geoleaf UK  
Humanscale USA  
Grill'd Eatons Hill  
Water Charity Research House

### Water Project Sponsors, International

Webber Family USA  
Webber Family Foundation USA  
Homstad Family USA  
Grossman Family USA  
Bryant/Caplan Family USA  
Watson Family USA



### In-Kind Contributions

Nexia Brisbane Accountants  
Pink Diamond Advisory Solutions





## Our Governance Board



Jo Wycherley, Financial Director  
Financial reporting and management.



Wendy Tisdell OAM, Founding Director  
Planning, project management and  
fieldwork.



Mark Tisdell, Technical Director  
Design, engineering and risk.



Maree Tisdell, Board Member  
Child protection and family health.

BridgIT's governing body comprises of honorary officers who provide an individual skillset within BridgIT's organisational structure. Board members provide input into equitable and appropriation allocation of resources and are responsible for establishing the guidelines for the effective procedures that reflect the mission, vision and operating procedures for BridgIT's internal controls.

The board meets quarterly to discuss where we are going and how we are going to get there.



Graham Howlett, Marketing Manager  
IT and digital marketing.



Sue Birtles, Board Secretary  
Urban and social planning.



Mel Metcalfe, Board Treasurer  
Administration and finance assistant.



Maria Phillips, Board Member  
Marketing and social media strategy.



# Financial Reporting

## Finance Director's Report

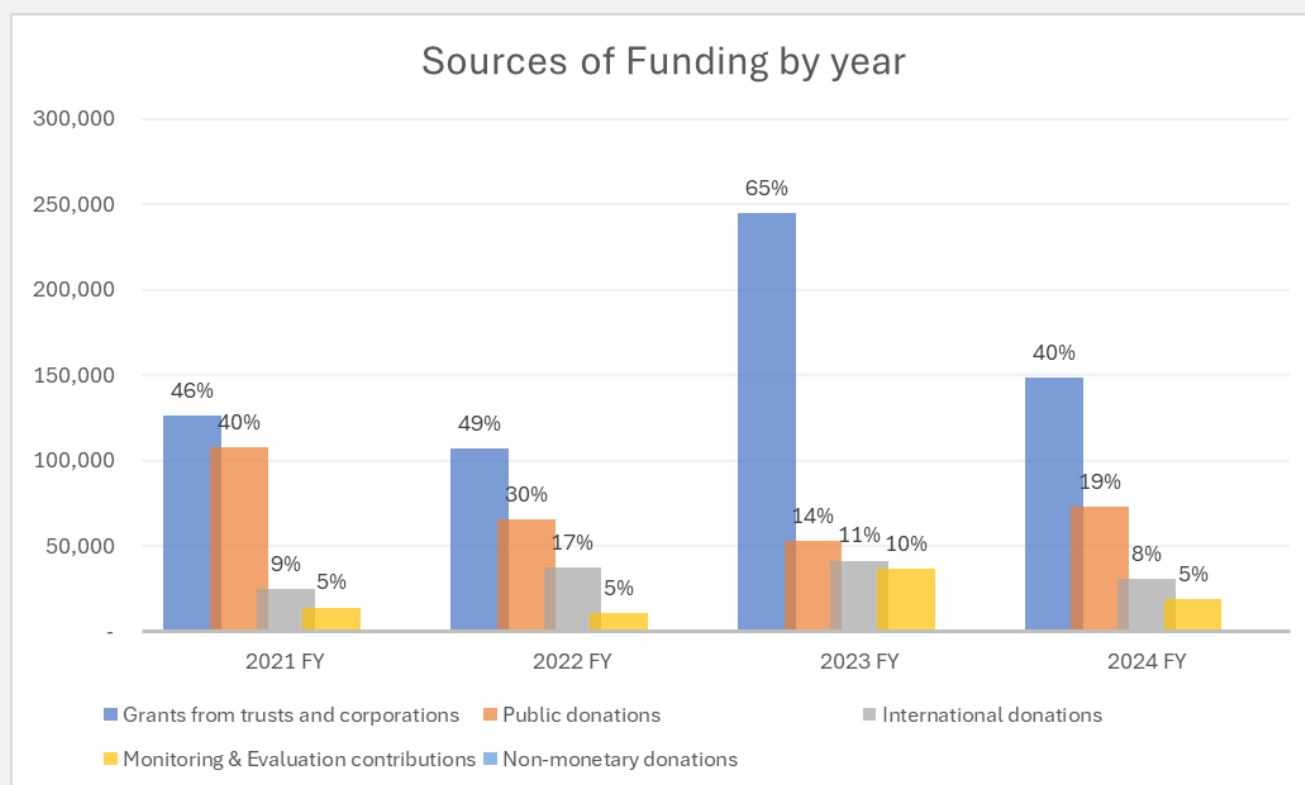
BridgIT has had another busy year, delivering value for money impact in developing communities. Overheads and administration costs are kept low to maximise the impact our donors' contributions have on the lives in these communities.

The following commentary and graphs display the breakdown of income and expenditures. This data is adapted from the current and prior year [audited financial statements](#) which can be found on our website and are based on definitions described in the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Key financial results for 2023-24:

- **BridgIT raised \$271,156 during 2024** (\$380,417 in 2023).

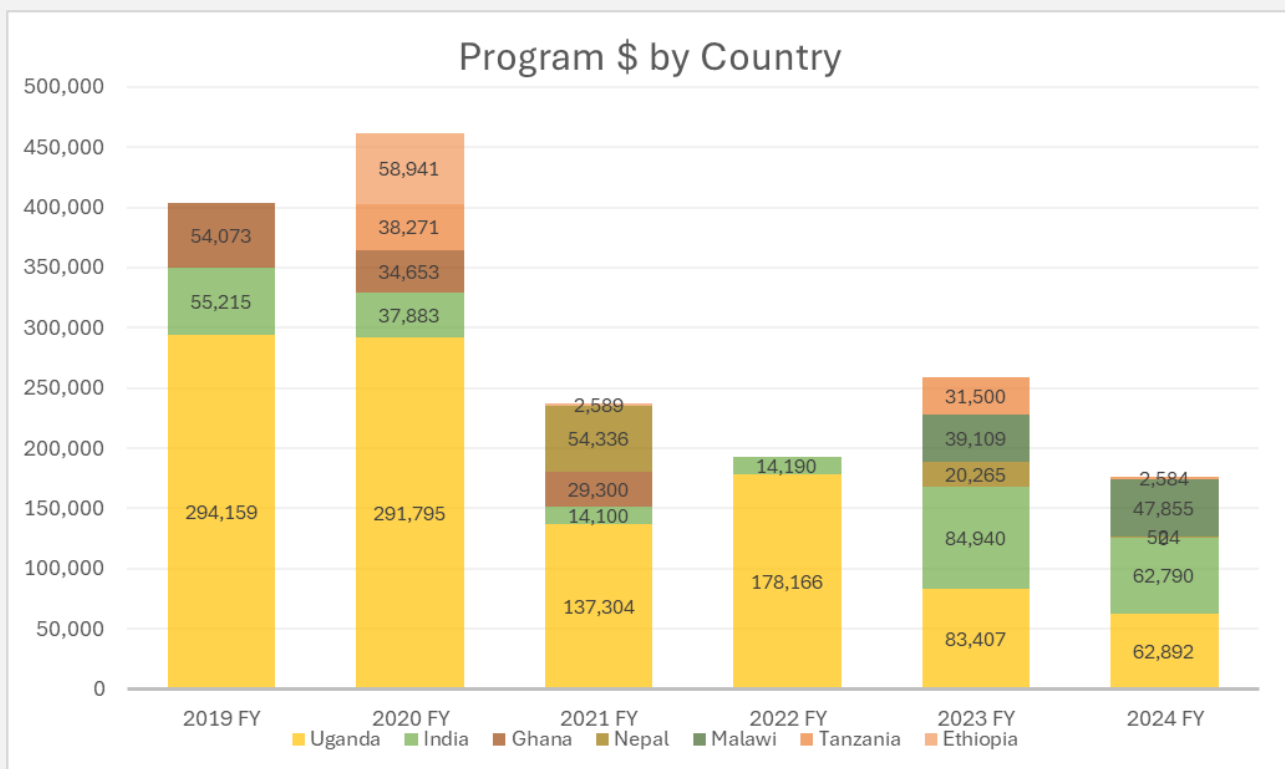
Our direct fundraising model means that Expenditure on Projects always closely matches Donations received as most donations are already committed to a project when they are received. Our projects are typically completed within a month of receiving the funds.



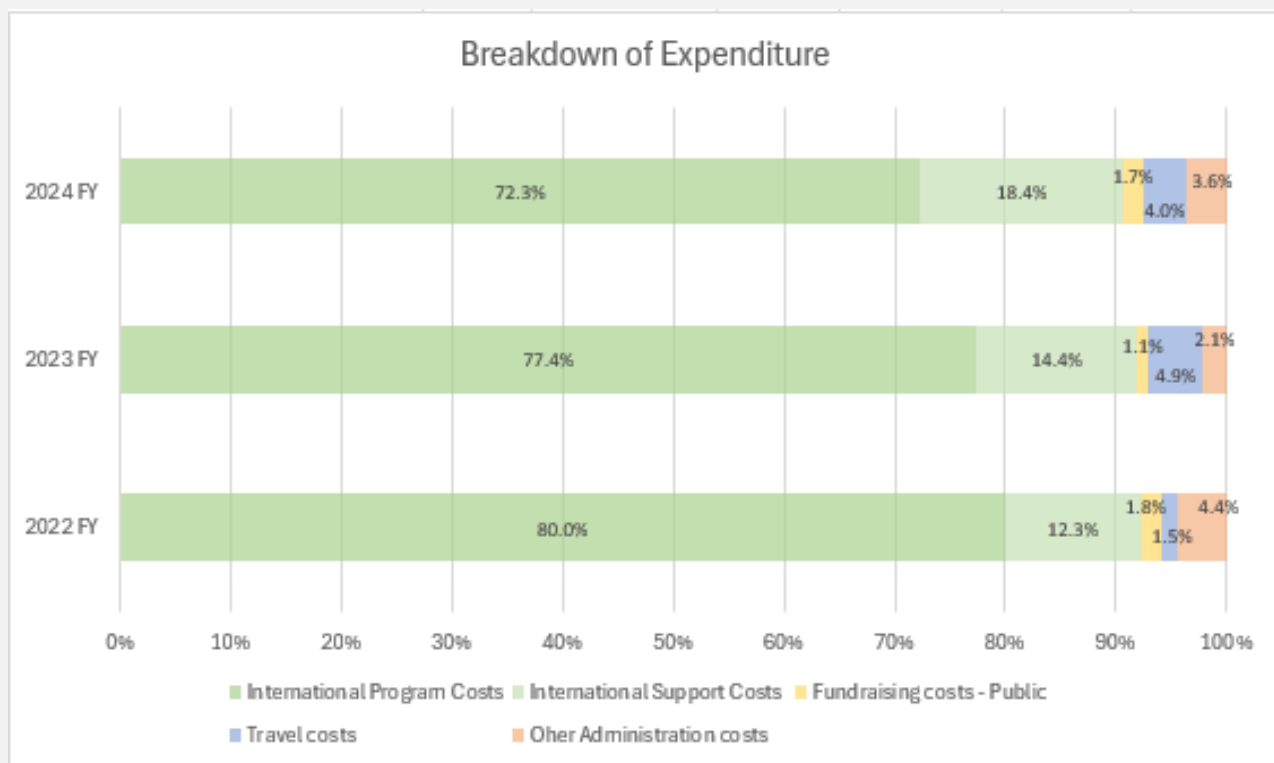
- **Contributions to International Programs** (including in-country Program Support costs) represented **90.7%** of our total costs (92.1% in 2023).

Program Support costs are provided to our in-country partners to fund their ongoing administration and development costs. This capacity building initiative demonstrates our commitment to sustainable development and investment in the communities in which we operate.





- As a volunteer run organisation, we keep overhead costs low. Administration expenses totalled \$14,800 in 2024 (\$19,816 in 2023).
  - o The biggest contributor to these costs was travel. Two trips were undertaken during 2024 for monitoring and evaluation: \$7,818
  - o **Other Administration costs** including depreciation: \$6,983 (3.6% of total expenditure)





## Income Statement

The following Income Statement is a summary from the full audited financial report, which is available on our website. This has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

Income Statement of BridgIT Water Foundation Ltd		
Year Ended 30 June 2024		
	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and Gifts		
Monetary - Australian Public	\$73,023	\$52,831
Monetary - International Public	\$30,456	\$41,374
Non-monetary	\$5,000	\$5,000
Grants - Other Australian	\$148,708	\$244,849
Other Income	\$18,969	\$36,363
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$276,156</b>	<b>\$380,417</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
Funds to International Programs	\$140,892	\$218,461
Program Support Costs	\$35,753	\$40,761
Fundraising Costs - Public	\$3,347	\$3,067
Accountability and Administration	\$13,456	\$18,717
Audit costs	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	\$198,448	\$286,006
Depreciation and amortisation expense	\$1,345	\$1,100.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$199,793</b>	<b>\$287,106</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$76,363</b>	<b>\$93,311</b>



# Impact to Date

(since 2015)



Raised for water projects

**\$2,950,637**

Total funding received



Water projects you funded

**598**

Water user committees established & trained



People accessed safe water

**1,141,048**

People with safe water because of your support



Project effectiveness

**\$2.59** Cost per person

Total project costs vs people impacted





# Contact Us

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*Water management is a key factor in the global battle to remove the scourge of extreme poverty and to build secure and prosperous lives for hundreds of millions of people in the developing world - World Health Organisation, 2007.*

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

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

ABN: 34 139 883 775

If you have a complaint, compliment or wish to provide feedback on any aspect of BridgIT Water Foundation and its programs, please contact [info@bridgitwater.org](mailto:info@bridgitwater.org).

BridgIT Water Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay respects to them and their cultures; past, present and emerging.

