# Annual Report 2022-2023





# **About BridgIT**

BridgIT Water Foundation is a result-focused Australian non-profit organisation dedicated to implementing programs to address the water crisis, one of the most urgent needs in the developing world today. BridgIT exists to provide safe drinking water supplies that promote sustainable development.

Lack of access to clean water is one of the leading causes of poverty, and millions worldwide lack access to safe drinking water.

#### Together we can end the water crisis one village at a time

Our programs focus on rural areas to provide the infrastructure that takes people from searching long distances and relying on unsafe open-source surface water to making potable water accessible within their communities.

Pictured is a resident of a rural community in Malawi drinking water from an open water source shared with animals. (Taken during November trip.)



### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to provide suitable, accessible and sustainable water solutions to the poorest and most marginalised people in rural, peri-urban areas and small remote villages in developing countries.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to provide improved drinking water to better the quality of life for people living in rural areas of developing countries.

### **Our Accreditations**

BridgIT is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and endorsed with DGR-1 status which means that donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

BridgIT is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). As a signatory to the Council's international Code of Conduct, BridgIT is committed to conducting our international development work with transparency, accountability and integrity. <a href="www.acfid.asn.au">www.acfid.asn.au</a>



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BridgIT Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We acknowledge and pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

### **How We Work**

BridgIT works with implementing partners to deliver a complete water system from design, construction and installation to empowering the recipients to manage the water resource. As a result, BridgIT leaves an enduring asset of value so that the recipients have a safe, secure and sustainable drinking water supply far into the future.

**Access to clean drinking water transforms lives.** Three out of four people in developing countries live in rural areas and primarily rely on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. Therefore, we concentrate our programs to provide water supplies into rural communities without water infrastructure.



**Every person deserves** clean drinking water



# **Directors Report**

As the African proverb says, 'once you carry your own water, you will learn the value of every drop'. But, unfortunately, carrying water hinders every part of development, and BridgIT exists so that the recipients of our programs are relieved of this burden. I am delighted to present an overview of how we have done this in the 2022/23 financial year.

We are proud to have raised \$380,417 this financial year. With the help of your funding, 127 rural communities and 107,165 people in our programs in Uganda, India, Nepal, and Malawi received safe water supplies centrally in their villages.

BridgIT reaches our 500<sup>th</sup> water project and serves 1 million people with safe water. BridgIT celebrated a momentous milestone of providing clean drinking water to over one million people and also cracked our 500<sup>th</sup> water project.

This year BridgIT added projects in Malawi to our program portfolio. Since Malawi remains one of the poorest countries, BridgIT is eager to help this impoverished nation.

Our Malawian projects include a unique water and conservation element; wildlife and people benefit. Projects surrounding the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve provide security for villagers and habitat security for elephants.

I travelled to Malawi in November to meet with the Wildlife Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) and visit the target area. Water needs in these rural villages are acute and communities currently get their water from holes dug in dried-up creek beds.

BridgIT finalised the partnership and our projects in Malawi are now operational.

BridgIT is committed to strengthening and empowering our downstream stakeholders, partnering organisations, and communities. Research backs up those investments in capacity makes a meaningful difference to sustainable development.

The investment of an innovative piece of drilling equipment, the Village Drill, for our Ugandan implementing partner has meant they have increased efficiency, enabling them to drill more wells for their impoverished communities, improve staff pay and most significantly, improve the safety of the drilling team.

All 127 communities supplied with a water system this year have been empowered with complete ownership of their wells and provided with training packages to ensure the sustainability of the equipment left in place.

Results from an independent M&E study reiterate what we already know about the provision of safe water transforming lives. For example, it contributed significantly to their social well-being by promoting gender equality; it profoundly contributes to the beneficiary's health by reducing the cases of drudgery, facilitates health workers to serve clients effectively and reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases, and the economic advantages of the program include creating enough time to participate in productive activities and reducing the expenses of ill health.

One village at a time, BridgIT will continue to impact the water crisis by striving to reach our strategic goal of providing 1.5 million impoverished rural people with water accessibility and security by the end of 2024.

Wendy Tisdell, OAM Founding Director



# **Our Impact in 2022/2023**

**Raised for Water Projects** 



\$375,416

**Financial Year Funding Received** 

**Water Projects You Funded** 



127

**Water User Committees Established & Trained** 

**People Have Access to Safe Water** 



107,165

People impacted this year

**Effective Altruism** 



\$3.50 cost per person

Total project costs ÷ people impacted in 2023



### **Strengthened & Empowered Partners**



BridgIT is committed to working with our implementing partner organisations and to guide them on their operational performance and project collaborations. This requires the appropriate capacity for project implementation, including physical facilities and equipment.

In October 2020, BridgIT's Ugandan partner organisation, Suubi Community Projects Uganda (SCPU,) presented a proposal to purchase an innovative manual drilling machine called the Village Drill. The objectives for procuring this piece of equipment were to solve technical, safety and financial challenges experienced with the hand-dug borehole construction method used to secure groundwater in the Ugandan program.

BridgIT agreed that an investment in the equipment would significantly enhance SCPUs capacity, so funding was provided in November 2020. After 5 months of manufacturing and clearances, the equipment arrived in Uganda in April 2021, and formal training, in the classroom and on-site, was

provided in May. A payment plan was set up with the U.S manufacture so that SCPU has a stake and ownership of the equipment.

The first well was successfully drilled in June 2021, and until June 2023, SCPU has installed just under seventy wells with the Village Drill. Forty-five of these were BridgIT-funded and the remainder were from SCPUs other partners and private clients.

The Village Dill has had many advantages for SCPU:

- SCPUs organisational financial capacity has significantly improved because of this equipment.
- The most significant advantage for the SCPU team, has been work safety improved over the previous hand-dug method.
- Efficiency allowing SCPU to produce better quality work.
- The cost per well is equal to hand-dug wells, and half the cost of hiring large drilling rigs, benefiting twice as many people per dollar raised.
- Due to the efficiency of the equipment, SCPU is able to develop more wells per year than before, bringing in more income which allowed them to open a permanent office, improve staff pay and fund the purchase of a new field vehicle.
- The drilling team were able to work continually, improving their incomes. The SCPU staff are progressing financially because of their continual work from the Village Drill.
- SCPU are ahead with their portion of the Village Drill supply loan repayments.

BridgIT Water is investigating procuring this equipment for our partner in Malawi.

# **Strengthened & Empowered Communities**



Locally owned water systems ensure empowered communities

Working extensively with partners on the ground indicates that communities can take care of their water resources if they are empowered with the right kind of knowledge and training. BridgIT's implementing partners provide strong community capacity building packages as an integral part of every water project we implement - in every recipient community we work with.

BridgIT's implementing partners have delivered community training to all our village recipients in this year's projects. As a result, all recipient communities have been empowered with complete ownership of the borewells and provided with community training packages to plan for future maintenance and repairs of their gifted infrastructure.

- Water User Committees (WUCs) were established and training provided on WUC governance.
   Partners guided all communities on WUC member roles; an equitable collection of water user fees and how to keep the money safe and use it; guidance on the role of well caretaker; and the security of the well.
- Equipment Operation Training. Partners have trained all the communities on the proper operation and use of the installed equipment.
- Equipment Maintenance Training. The WUC and local artisans selected from each village have been trained and equipped with the basic skills on borehole maintenance and the repairs required for the long-term sustainability of the well.
- Health and Hygiene Awareness Training. Partners have trained all the communities on using clean water regarding disease prevention, the containers used to fetch water, and cleanliness around the well itself.
- Environmental Impact Awareness Training. Partners have trained the beneficiaries to observe environmentally friendly approaches while accessing and using the well.

# **Designing Programs for Impact & Scale**

We understand that our donors want to ensure that their money is invested in a way that gives maximum benefits. BridgIT's low-cost, high-impact solutions allow donors to achieve effective altruism through a high philanthropic return on investment.

# Designing our programs for maximum impact

We ensure that communities with the highest need are selected and recommended to our donors. Partners define and identify stakeholders' perspectives, including analysis of gender, vulnerable and marginalised groups at risk, which informs appropriate project planning and design.

Sponsoring the total cost of a community water supply gives maximum value to the invested funds. Our water supplies focus on underserved, remote rural communities with average population sizes of 500 to 2,000 people making donations for the total cost of a well very effective.

Providing the total cost of a drilled well is the preference because it allows the installation of infrastructure in communities that have never had a safe water supply, taking potable water into areas for the first time.

We design our projects for scale by helping our partners expand their interventions geographically. So, for example, we provide small, local villages in a District with water infrastructure, work with local government on safe water expansion plans, and then extend into neighbouring districts systematically, assisting them in balancing their organisational growth.

We provide appropriate water solutions in our program design. The communities know what technology suits them best based on affordability and availability to repair the equipment should it require maintenance, and the skill set within the community.

BridgIT guarantees the sustainability of our projects by implementing village Water User Committees to take ownership and responsibility to manage and maintain their new water systems, which makes BridgIT's development work very compelling.



Pictured are village members looking on in anticipation as first water appears from their new well in Nykabala Village, Hoima
District of Uganda.



Safe Water to the People One Village at a 7ime



### **Our Program in Uganda**

23 | Community Wells Installed 24,771 | People access secure drinking water

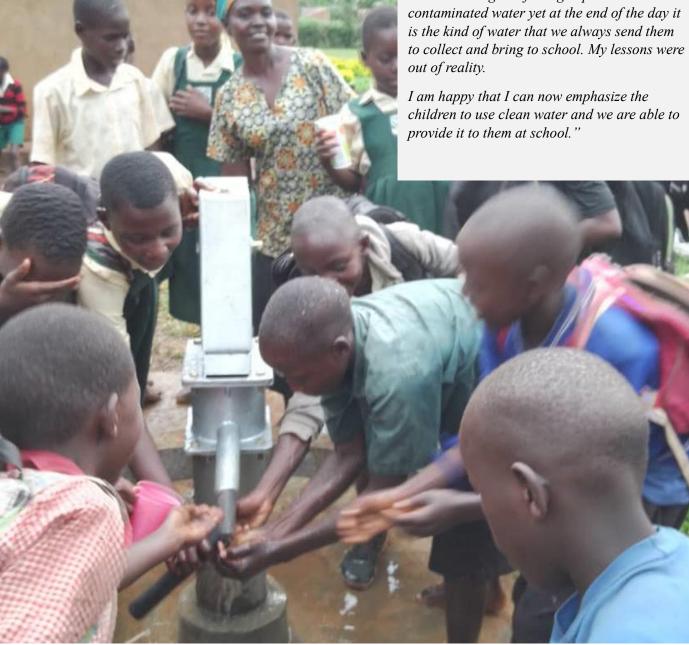
BridgIT granted \$83,407 to our Ugandan program providing 23 communities including, 1 school and 2 villages in a chimpanzee conservation area with safe water supplies in rural Mukono and Hoima Districts.

The program funds provided 24,771 rural people in the recipient communities with secure drinking water close to their homes. All beneficiary communities have complete ownership of their wells and established water user committees to manage the resource.

# A Teachers Story

Racheal has worked at Seeta Namanoga Primary School as a science teacher for the past 7 years. Racheal says:

"As a science teacher, I always felt bad during the lessons when I had to teach these children about the dangers of using unprotected is the kind of water that we always send them



### **Our Program in India**

64 | Community Wells Installed 64,340 | People access secure drinking water

BridgIT granted \$84,940 to our Indian program which helped 64 rural villages belonging to the marginalised scheduled caste or 'untouchable' tribal Dalit communities who struggle with water scarcity challenges in the Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

64,440 marginalised Dalit beneficiaries now have ownership of their new wells and established water user committees to look after their safe water supplies going forward.

# This mother of a 7-month-old baby boy from Iralamitta ST Colony says:

"Our village is next to hilly terrain and doesn't have direct access to public services. A small amount of water is available from ponds and canals, but they dry up in summer and we have to walk long distances to reach them.

Myself and my husband make bamboo crafts which is our basic income. With this program, we are happy to get good quality water for us and our community and we no longer have to walk far to fetch water. My sincere thanks to the donors for making this possible."

# A Mother's Story



### **Our Program in Malawi**

30 | Community Wells Installed10,887 | People access secure drinking water

BridgIT granted \$39,109 to our Malawian program providing 30 impoverished rural communities surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve with safe water supplies. Our Malawian projects have a water and conservation component, particularly the resident elephant population that live in the Reserve.

The program funds impacted 10,887 rural people providing them with secure drinking water close to their homes and all beneficiary communities have established water user committees to manage the resource after equipment handover.

# An Elders Story



### **Our Program in Nepal**

4 | Rural Communities

618 | People access secure drinking water

BridgIT granted \$20,265 to our Nepali program providing 4 rural communities in the Ghormu District in Nepal's mid-mountain region, with a gravity-fed water supply.

The program funds impacted 618 community recipients, providing them with a secure drinking water outlet close to their homes. The beneficiary communities have been given complete ownership of their new gravity-fed water system and water user committees established to manage the resource.



Our African projects have a water and conservation component. Providing a borewell in a conservation area impacts both humans and wildlife where there is conflict over water resources. All of our projects in Malawi are water and conservation related and projects in the Hoima District of our Ugandan program.

This year 30 communities Malawi and 2 in Uganda have seen a reduction in conflict with wildlife over water resources after receiving their new village borewells sited away from the forests and centrally in the village.

# A Conservation Story from Malawi



#### Mary, a 62-year-old single mother from Pendwe Village:

Mary has been widowed for some years and has 7 children, all of whom live with her. Mary used to collect water from Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, and sometimes she encountered wild animals while collecting water. Mary says:

"At my age, I have no power to walk long distances looking for water. However, refurbishing our village well will shorten the distance I have to travel.

I want to thank the donors for making this grant to WESM so that my village well is maintained. I have joy that our village well is back to normal.

Water is life and a basic necessity, and everyone in the village should have access to good quality water".

# A Conservation Story from Uganda

#### Patrick, 40yrs old from Kanyanyama Village said:

"I was always worried of the unknown whenever my children went out to collect water from the forest. I heard that in a neighbouring village, a chimpanzee killed a child! That has been my worry. Those animals are stronger than these children.

Typhoid has also been affecting these children's wellbeing. We are in and out of hospital because of sickness. I am sure that the fact that we now have clean water, close to our homes, life will get much better."



# **Program Learning & Effectiveness**

BridgIT funded a study to assess the effects and long-term contributions from our 2015-2016 Ugandan Rural Water Supply Program (our first 20 funded wells in Uganda). An independent consultancy agency was engaged to conduct this in March 2022 to gather the information that would aid the project implementers and us in making a valid statement on the program's long-term contributions.

Three specific objectives guided this study: to observe the functioning status of the well, to ascertain the program's contribution to the well-being of the target population, to establish whether the program's contributions were sustained, and to draw lessons and conclusions and suggest recommendations.



"Mere access is not enough, as water ought to be clean and safe for drinking and if countries fail to step up efforts on safe water, we will continue to live with disease that should have been long ago consigned to the history books."

~Naylor and Neira, 2019

It was established during the study that the program had multi-dimensional long-term contributions to the beneficiary population.

- It contributed significantly to their social well-being by promoting gender equality from a reduction in *Gender Based Violence, facilitating women (girls)* to accomplish their gender and reproductive roles, thus; ushering them into the public sphere rather than just keeping in the domestic sphere.
- It profoundly contributed to the beneficiary's health by reducing the cases of drudgery, facilitating health workers to serve clients effectively and reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases.
- The economic attributes of the program included creating enough time to participate in productive activities and reducing medical expenses due to ill health.



Mr. K from Kakinzi Village, 38-years-old (2016 Program) outlines the program's economic attributes for him.

Mr. K, one of the participants, testified how he has utilized the water that collects from the drainage system to sustain his brick making business.

He had about 1,800 bricks ready for market from which he expected about 2M Shillings and was preparing soil for the July season. He gave examples of friends in the same business who spend a lot of money fetching water using motorcycles, and noted that it negatively impacted on their profit margin unlike him who has access to cheaper reliable water.

## **Looking to the Future & Planning Ahead**

#### **Village Drill for Malawi Partners**

Due to the success of the recently acquired Village Drill for our Ugandan partner, BridgIT is investigating the procurement of a Village Drill for our implementing partners in Malawi.

For SPCU, the efficiency of the Village Drill was notable because they could develop more wells than previous methods. Developing more wells has meant more income for the organisation, allowing them to open a permanent office, improve staff pay and fund the purchase of a new field vehicle.

Read about the success of this equipment on page 7.



#### **Water Projects in Tanzania**



BridgIT is looking to establish and support projects in Tanzania. According to the World Bank, access to safe, functional and improved water points remains low in Tanzania. Only 60% of Tanzanians get their drinking water from an improved source and in 2016, 40% of water points were reportedly non-functional.

Poor WASH undermines public health and human development, therefore, BridgIT will endeavour to have projects in Tanzania and Indonesia up and running in the 2024 financial year.

Our goal is to grant 1,500,000 people access to clean safe water by 2024

With your help we can!

## **Our Awesome Supporters**

We could not provide water to the people in our programs without these incredible supporters. Thank you to the following donors who generously supported our work in the past year.





# Humanscale<sup>®</sup>



K GlobalGiving



Working with tradies for a better world







#### **Trusts and Foundations**

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

#### **Corporate & Community Partners**

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

#### **In-Kind Contributions**

- Nexia Brisbane Accountants
- Pink Diamond Advisory Solutions

#### Water Project Sponsors, Australia

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

# Water Project Sponsors, International through BWF USA and Global Giving

- Webber Family USA
- Leonard Family
- Webber Family Foundation USA
- Rogers Family UK
- Homstad Family USA
- Grossman Family USA
- Bryant / Caplan Family USA

### **Our Awesome Governance Board**

BridgIT could only carry out the development work with the efforts and advocacy of our dedicated board members, who each contribute their unique skills.



#### Wendy Tisdell | OAM

Wendy is the Founding Director and started BridgIT in 2009. Wendy's experience as the Operations Director of an industrial pump company led her to start the organisation and use that experience in running BridgIT Water Foundation.



#### **Mark Tisdell**

Mark is a Director with extensive water movement experience as the previous Director of an industrial pump company. Consequently, Mark provides 30 years of water engineering experience to our projects.



#### Jo Wycherley | CA

Jo is a Director and a Chartered Accountant. With more than 20 years experience working in both public practice and commercial finance roles, Jo is responsible for BridgIT's financial reporting and compliance.



#### **Graham Howlett**

Graham has worked in multi-media for many years and has extensive skills to contribute to BridgIT's IT and digital marketing.



#### Melinda Metcalfe

Mel's experience as a bookkeeper and BAS agent makes her ideal for BridgIT's day-to-day administration and financial duties.



#### **Sue Birtles**

Sue's urban and social planning background makes her perspectives ideal for BridgIT's development work.



#### **Maria Phillips**

Maria is passionate about helping people and volunteers her time to help BridgIT with fundraising events and marketing and social media strategies.



#### **Maree Tisdell**

Maree has extensive experience working in the human services sector, so her skills offer an excellent perspective to BridgIT's international and domestic development programs.

# **Financial Reporting**

#### **Finance Director's Report**

BridgIT continues to deliver great outcomes for thousands of people who would otherwise go without clean reliable water. During 2023FY, BridgIT experienced a strong rebound to the activity levels pre-COVID.

One of the deciding factors when selecting our partners and projects is the level of impact compared to cost. We keep overheads low to maximise the impact that our incredible donors' contributions have on the lives of each beneficiary.

As a Board, we are selective in terms of the geographic and specifics of each project we undertake. Having explored some options within SE Asia and Australasia, we agreed to keep focusing on those countries in which we have already been able to prove the economics and impact of our projects.

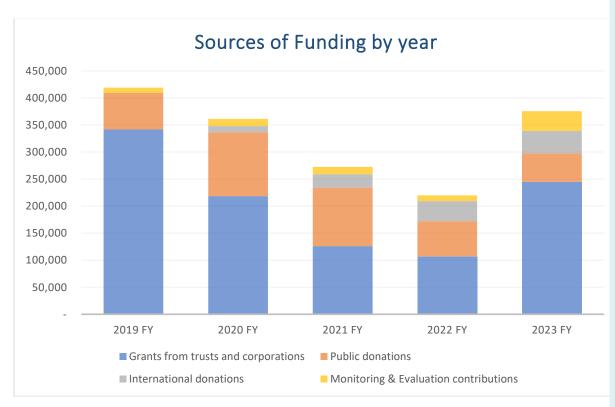
Our long-term partners in Uganda and India continue to deliver both high value and high impact results. We also expanded into Malawi for the first time, with projects that also have a wildlife and conservational impact.

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 <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a> and are based on definitions described in the ACFID Code of Conduct.

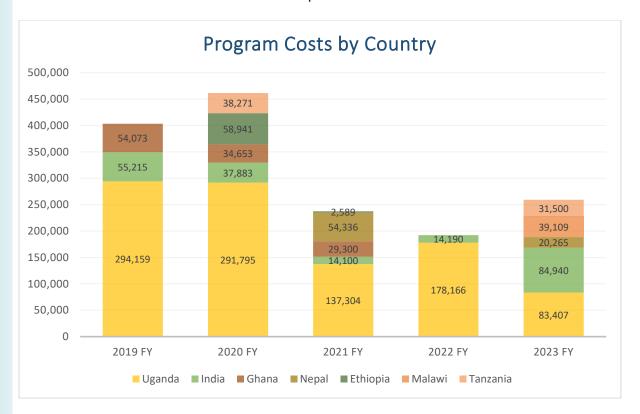
Key financial results for 2022-23:

- **BridgIT raised \$380,417 during 2023**, a 69% increase from the prior year (\$224,718 in 2022). This increase was a result of bringing on new philanthropic donors during 2023, but also due to some existing donors doubling their contributions this year.

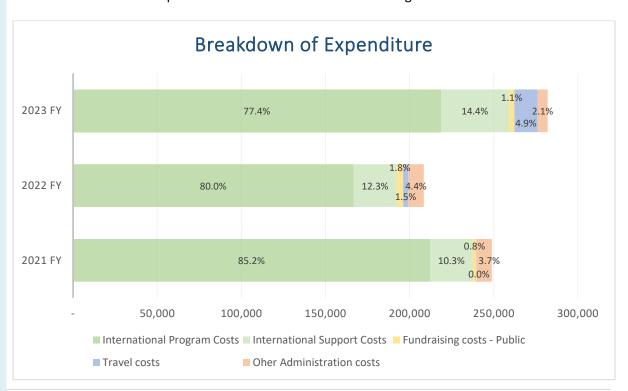
Our direct fundraising model means that Expenditure on Projects always closely matches Donations received as most donations are already committed to a project when they are received. Our projects are typically completed within a month of receiving the funds.



Contributions to International Programs (including in-country Program Support costs) represented 91.9% of our total costs (92.3% in 2022). 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 very low. Administration expenses totalled \$19,816 in 2023 (\$12,289 in 2022).
  - The biggest contributor to these costs was travel. Two trips were undertaken during
     2023 to catch up on necessary monitoring and evaluation activities: \$13,775
  - Other Administration Costs including depreciation: \$6,042 (2.1% of total expenditure)
  - o This excludes the pro-bono Audit fees which are also recognised as in-kind donations.



#### **Income Statement**

The following Income Statement is a summary from the full audited financial report, which is available on our <u>website</u>. 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 <u>www.acfid.asn.au</u>.

### Income Statement of BridgIT Water Foundation Ltd Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts		
Monetary - Australian Public	\$52,831	\$65,207
Monetary - International Public	\$41,374	\$37,101
Non-monetary	\$5,000	\$5,000
Grants - Other Australian	\$244,849	\$107,050
Other Income	\$36,363	\$10,360
Total Revenue	\$380,417	\$224,718
Expenditure		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
Funds to International Programs	\$218,461	\$166,682
Program Support Costs	\$40,761	\$25,675
Fundraising Costs - Public	\$3,067	\$3,783
Accountability and Administration	\$18,717	\$16,557
Audit costs	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	\$286,006	\$217,696
Depreciation and amortisation expense	\$1,100	\$733.00
Total Expenditure	\$287,106	\$218,429
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$93,311	\$6,289

# **Impact to Date**

(Since 2015)

**Raised for Water Projects** 

\$2,674,481

**Water Systems Installed** 

533

People with safe water because of your support

1,033,476

Program cost per person

Based on funding received vs project cost & people served

\$2.59



Pictured are residents of Kasana community in Uganda, recipients of a new water well in September 2022.

### **How You Can Take Action**



Drinking contaminated water like this leads to cyclical bouts of severe illness as part of everyday life.

### Together, we can help stop this!!

#### **Sponsor a Water Project**

Donate the full or partial cost of a clean water supply for an entire rural community or school. BridgIT has hundreds of villages on our waiting list and will ensure that the most impoverished communities are served.

#### **Corporate Partnerships**

Sign up to become a conscious business partner. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) allows businesses to contribute donations and volunteer efforts while boosting their brands.

#### **Fundraise**

Fundraise for the full or partial cost of a clean water supply. We welcome funding events, crowdfunding campaigns, or even walking from one end of your country to the other for the cause.

#### Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering your services, we are always looking for like-minded people to become part of the BridgIT team, or donate in-kind services.

#### **Shop to Support Clean Water**

Buy Little Ripples Wine. BridgIT is the charity partner for Little Ripples Wine, a wine with a difference. \$1 of every bottle of Little Ripples Wine you purchase provides 1 year of clean water for 1 person in BridgIT's programs.

### **Contacts**

PO Box 619 Aspley, QLD, 4034

Email: <a href="mailto:info@bridgitwater.org">info@bridgitwater.org</a>
Web: <a href="mailto:www.bridgitwater.org">www.bridgitwater.org</a>
ABN: 34 139 883 775



#### **Feedback and Complaints**

If you have a complaint, compliment or wish to provide feedback on any aspect of our organisation and its programs, please contact <a href="mailto:info@bridgitwater.org">info@bridgitwater.org</a>

Pictured are village members of Iralamitta ST Colony looking on in anticipation as drilling proceeds in our 2022 Indian Drilled Well Program.

