



# Annual Report 2018/19

**Delivering Suitable Accessible & Sustainable  
Water to the People**



## About BridgIT

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

### Mission Statement:

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

### Vision Statement:

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, save lives and influences positive change to the beneficiaries we serve. Our strategic goals are:

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

## Our Values

Trust  
Empowerment  
Accountability  
Impact  
Communication  
Teamwork  
Quality  
Safety

*“Thousands have lived without love, but none without water.”*

*W.H. Auden*

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

ABN: 34 139 883 775

Charity Registration  
Number: CH1853



## Why is providing clean drinking water our passion?



Because drinking water is the essence of life and a basic human need, yet drinking water from contaminated sources is a stark reality for millions of people in rural areas in the developing world.

Because thousands of people living in rural areas lack access to clean water and are stuck in a poverty cycle unable to meet basic needs to improve their living conditions.

Because many rural villages lack safe water and we want to help prevent water-borne illnesses like typhoid, cholera, dysentery and diarrhea.

Because everyday thousands of students head to school and classes with no clean water supplies. Without access to water, education is almost impossible. It takes 3-4 hours for an eight-year-old to carry 10 litres of water which makes children frequently late for school. Dirty water leads to a cycle of disease, missed school days and high drop-out rates – especially for girls. By building wells at schools, all of that changes. A simple investment in school water wells can unlock the potential of every student by helping them stay healthy and freeing them to remain in class.

## **Having clean drinking water changes everything and awakens potential and renewed hope for a better tomorrow**



## Directors Report

Thanks to our incredible supporters, BridgIT has had another exciting year of progress. This financial year BridgIT contributed to the global development goals by providing clean, safe drinking water to an incredible 76 wells in Uganda, India and Tanzania 11 more wells as the same time last year. As well as ramping up our Health, Education and Conservation projects in Uganda, India and Nepal, BridgIT has expanded its area of operation to undertake projects in the acute water scarcity Somali region of Ethiopia.

As a woman, I understand gender issues in the countries in which we work, therefore, gender equity is always at the forefront of BridgIT's work. There is nothing quite so heartbreaking than a crying woman looking you straight in the eye with her hands in prayer begging for clean drinking water. This was the case during my visit to our partners in India in 2018. However, thankfully, BridgIT was able to give this woman, her village and 30 more villages, water this fiscal year.

We all know that providing safe drinking water is beneficial, but it is always constructive to accurately measure and evaluate the impacts it creates, both short and long term. BridgIT has been able to do just that. By working with our Ugandan partners, we were able to produce Baseline and Endline

Evaluation Reports for our Ugandan program. Some things are truly heartbreaking, and these reports outline just how difficult it is for the beneficiary respondents before the installation of our new wells.

Thanks to BridgIT's wonderful volunteers who give their time so freely to help people get clean safe water, BridgIT has reached an incredible accreditation milestone. BridgIT is now ACFID Code Compliant which means we operate our international development activities complying to Australia's Code of Conduct which is one of the best in the world.

According to World Bank data, since the 1960's aid is making a profound difference in developing countries and BridgIT is incredibly proud of our amazing funders and country partners who are contributory agents for this change.

What an exciting time to be alive as developing countries are experiencing extraordinary progress in development and help in relieving the cycle of poverty.

Wendy Tisdell OAM (Founding Director)



# Total Successes to Date

**\$1,383,125** Raised for Water Projects

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**237** Water Systems Installed

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**579,732** People have clean drinking water because of our programs

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**\$2.39** Is all it cost per person to provide clean drinking water



# Uganda

Suubi in Lugandan means 'hope'. BridgIT's Uganda partner, Suubi Community Projects, maintained activities and provided hope in Ntunda, Namaganga, Nagojje, Kasawo, Kyabazaala and Nabaale sub-counties of the Mukono, Ibanda and Hoima regions to continue to address the clean drinking water needs of the rural populations.

## What Made Us Happy

**\$304,861** Raised for water projects

**53** New Wells Installed

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## Success in Uganda To Date

**139** Total Water Systems

**423,717** People have clean drinking water because of our programs

**Highlight** This fiscal year celebrates **100 wells installed**



# India

BridgIT's Indian partner SPREAWS maintained activities in the Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh. Partnered with SPREAWS, BridgIT continues to address water scarcity challenges to the indigenous Dalit tribal people of rural India.

## What Made Us Happy

**\$54,477**

Raised for water projects

**24**

New Wells Installed

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## Success in India To Date

**60**

Total Water Systems

**74,865**

People have clean drinking water because of our programs



## Health Centre Projects

Access to health care should be a basic human right. It is tragic that health care availability for many rural people in the developing world is unavailable, overcrowded, or otherwise problematic. One issue facing people in rural Uganda is that even when health centres are within reach, they are not in a condition to provide an adequate level of care. One example of the fundamental nature of the facilities is a lack of water. For example, expectant mothers are often required to lug their own, often contaminated, water to the centre prior to admittance for the birth of their children.

BridgIT has identified Health Centre IIIs, which are mandated to exist in each Subcounty. These facilities are meant to provide a high level of care; however, this is a challenge without an adequate supply of water. BridgIT and our Ugandan partners' aim is to improve the capacity of rural health centers to deliver quality medical services to the rural poor. Health Centres in Uganda serve entire sub-county populations, therefore reach a broader community impacting sub-county populations of 30,000 to 40,000 people.

Therefore, BridgIT has a goal to drill water wells at these facilities, and equip them with solar or electric pumps so the water is readily and easily available. Funding for these projects is a bit challenging because the costs are much higher than a typical village hand-dug and hand-pumped bore hole. However, the benefits to funders and users alike with a greater investment having greater reach and impact to the village, medical and healthcare prospects, and improvement in village life. BridgIT and our partners witness so many changes in service provision at these facilities after a reliable water system is put in place.

With the support of our awesome donors BridgIT was able to install water systems at 3 Health Centres in Uganda impacting 95,585 people this fiscal year.

<b>Kapapi Health Centre</b> , Hoima region	<b>27,585</b> people
<b>Seeta Namagunga Health Centre</b> , Mukono Region	<b>33,000</b> people
<b>Nagojje Health Centre</b> , Mukono Region	<b>35,000</b> people

*Contractors install solar panels at a Ugandan rural Health Centre*



## Education & School Projects

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 26) clarifies that education is a basic right. Therefore, BridgIT also focuses on supporting schools to have capacity to offer quality education to vulnerable children in our targeted rural areas. BridgIT has implemented a goal of installing wells into rural schools.

These projects, which also provide a water source for local villagers, greatly reduce the time burden to students walking kilometres with heavy containers full of unhygienic water. Students are able to focus on their education, which greatly increases their chances to graduate from school and ultimately contribute to poverty reduction in their countries.

Funders are generally eager to support projects that meet multiple humanitarian goals, and safe, clean water and education are very high priorities on most people's lists. Along with our donors, BridgIT has provided a new water well into **20 schools** this fiscal year.



## Conservation Projects

The conservation of nature is so important, particularly in the rural parts of the developing nations where BridgIT works. Forests are cut, which causes the water table to drop, and surface water sources disappear. People are forced to walk further to find water, with great costs to education and economic activity. The disappearance of the forests also impacts the local animal populations, with cascading effects that can result in the extinction of species.

BridgIT believes it is incumbent on humans to contribute to conserving our world's dwindling wildlife and has established a goal to address conservation issues by focusing water projects in areas of concern. BridgIT partners with the Bulindi Chimpanzee & Community Project (BCCP) in the Hoima region of western Uganda so people don't have to enter the endangered chimpanzee's forest to obtain water from a shared source.

Providing water wells in these rural villages addresses urgent threats to wild chimpanzees living in unprotected habitat alongside rural farmers as well as to the people who collect this unsafe water. BridgIT has successfully installed **10 wells and impacted over 5,500 people** by providing safe, clean water wells to rural villages that surround the chimp's remaining forest habitat.

BridgIT will be expanding our conservation program to Malawi in 2020 to provide water to address wildlife and human conflict in villages surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.



## Refurbishment Projects

In sub-Saharan Africa, **one in every three wells is in non-working order**, most commonly due to broken hand pumps. This is because in the past, many government and non-government organisations have simply come in with a drill team, drilled a well, and left. There was rarely any training on well maintenance, the establishment of a water user committee (WUC), or routine follow-ups.

When the hand pump eventually needs repair, the communities are unable to do so because of the lack of resources, proper management, and sense of ownership. The situation is not any different in the areas where BridgIT works in Uganda. While we are working in these villages, our partners receive several requests from communities for support to repair their broken boreholes. In most cases, the repair requires a complete overhaul of the hand pump system which is way too high a cost for the communities to repair themselves.

The first training is offered to members of the beneficiary community at the pre-construction meeting. In this first encounter with the beneficiary community they are educated on their responsibility during the project implementation and also the long-term benefits of the resource once repaired. Training includes establishing a Water User Committee (WUC) and guidance on its governance and the cultivation of good WASH practices.

The community WUCs are trained in basic water resource maintenance and management, and help on how they can maximise the impact by enforcing other good sanitation practices like use of clean containers, boiling all drinking water and the use of latrines at their homes.

This fiscal year, BridgIT has **refurbished 12 existing wells**.

*1 in 3 wells in Uganda are in non-working order*



## Strategic Highlights

### Accreditation Highlight

Thanks to our incredible international volunteers, this year BridgIT Water achieved official ACFID Code compliance. This means that BridgIT has passed the rigorous ACFID application process and now our international aid and development work is compliant to Australia's Code of Conduct.



ACFID  
MEMBER

BridgIT Water is now part of a network which unites Australia's non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty. This enables BridgIT to be engaged in and informed by dialogue on emerging issues that affect our sector and have the opportunity to contribute to and influence decisions affecting our work and credibility.

*The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. BridgIT Water Foundation is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self - regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)*



## Supporter Highlight

There are many touching moments with funders during site visits when they inspect the wells they have sponsored. One of those times was in Uganda when Richard met Robert the head well digger, and his digging team.

Robert and his team had dug a well for free in honour of Richard's unflagging fundraising walk up the coast of Australia to provide wells in developing countries.

Digging a well to 80+ feet is back breaking work and not only did they want to honour what Richard was doing for Ugandan communities, they also wanted to give a poverty-stricken rural community water.

It was a magical moment when these 2 men met. They hugged and shed a tear like brothers in arms. Although strangers from different parts of the world, they joined for the same cause to help their fellow man.



## Impact Highlight

**This year marks an incredible 100 wells in our Ugandan Program.**



## Partnership Highlight



BridgIT Water Foundation is incredibly lucky and grateful to be the chosen water charity to partner with a venture called Wine to Water.

Wine to Water is a socially responsible Australian wine company dedicated to giving people access to clean water in developing countries. The wine brand is called **Little Ripples** and the venture is producing wine with a difference - \$1 of every bottle of **Little Ripples** wine sold provides 1 year of clean water for 1 person. The venture is the brain child of Dustin Leonard, founder and CEO of Wine to Water, and he partners with Dean Wells, the creative director, John Cassegrain, the wine supplier from Cassegrain Winery in Port Macquarie and BridgIT Water Foundation.

Buying and trying a beautiful drop of **Little Ripples Wine** will be helping people receive water wells on BridgIT's program in developing nations.

# Wine to Water



## BridgIT's Awesome Supporters

Put simply, we wouldn't exist without our supporters. It is with the utmost gratitude that we acknowledge the funders who make our projects possible.

### Philanthropic Trusts & Foundations

Incite Foundation  
 The Very Good Foundation  
 SMEC Foundation  
 The Denis Langley Foundation  
 Axel Pitzner Foundation Denmark  
 Bakonyi Global Aid Trustees

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### Corporates & Community Partners

Westpac Group and Matching Funds  
 Wine to Water & Little Ripples Wine

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### International Fundraisers & Affiliates

BridgIT Water Foundation USA & The Webber Family San Francisco  
 BridgIT Water Foundation Denmark & The Andersen Family Copenhagen  
 Drop 4 Drop UK

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### Individual Donors

Kent Family  
 Dwan Family  
 Moylan Family  
 Tisdell Family  
 Wardrop Family

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### In-Kind Donations

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

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### Community Fundraisers & Volunteers

Walk 4 Water 100 and the Guarnuccio Family

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BOOKS, BAS & PAYROLL



## BridgIT's Management and Structure

BridgIT's Board are committed to adherence to compliance and our statutory requirements as a not-for-profit incorporated company under the Corporations Act 2001.

Our Board members advocate the participation of community representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation of our programs and policies. They provide input and guidance into the unprejudiced and appropriate allocation of resources and are responsible for establishing the guidelines for the procedures that reflect the mission, vision and operating methods of the organisation.

### Management Board



**WENDY TISDELL OAM**  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR



**MARK TISDELL**  
DIRECTOR



**JOSEPHINE WYCHERLEY CA**  
FINANCE



**GRAHAM HOWLETT**  
IT CONSULTANT



**EMILIO VAN ZEELAND**  
ENGINEERING CONSULTANT



**WILLOW PRYOR MSc,  
BComm**  
FUTURES CONSULTANT



**MEL METCALFE**  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
ACCOUNTS



**HAARLEN TISDELL**  
ELECTRICAL CONSULTANT

### Organisational Structure & Functions

BridgIT Water operates within the following organisational structure:

**1. Marketing, Fund Development  
& Public Relations Department**

**2. Program & International  
Development Department**

**3. Finance, Administration &  
Strategy Department**

## BridgIT's Financial Summary

Financial transparency is a fundamental component of good governance. We understand it is imperative to be transparent and accountable with our fund's collection and dispersal.

### Financial Statement (Profit & Loss Report)

	2019 (Audited)	2018 (Audited)	2017 (Audited)
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations – Corporations	8,805	15,200	7,200
Donations – International Fundraising	14,962	9,647	7,160
Donations – Private Individuals	52,494	50,292	42,665
Donations – Trusts & Foundations	333,096	313,633	258,297
Interest Income	18	10	20
M&E Contributions	9,646		
Other Revenue	-		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>419,021</b>	<b>397,167</b>	<b>315,342</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
International Project Costs	355,039	229,909	313,250
Program Support Costs	48,408	22,022	
Travel – International	11,099	13,176	
Other Operating Costs	3,070	9,563	8,602
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>417,616</b>	<b>274,670</b>	<b>321,852</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>117,497</b>	<b>(6,510)</b>

## Financial Statement (Balance Sheet)

	2019FY (Audited)	2018FY (Audited)	2017FY (Audited)
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Bank</b>			
BridgIT AUD\$ Fund Account	129,519	98,422	10,928
BridgIT US\$ Dollar Account	202 <sup>1</sup>	29,966	1,662
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>129,721</b>	<b>128,389</b>	<b>12,590</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>129,721</b>	<b>128,389</b>	<b>12,590</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>131,491</b>	<b>130,086</b>	<b>12,590</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Current Year Earnings	1,405	117,496	(6,510)
Retained Earnings	130,086	12,590	19,305
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>131,491</b>	<b>130,086</b>	<b>12,590</b>

1 Figures converted into Australian Dollars using the following rates:

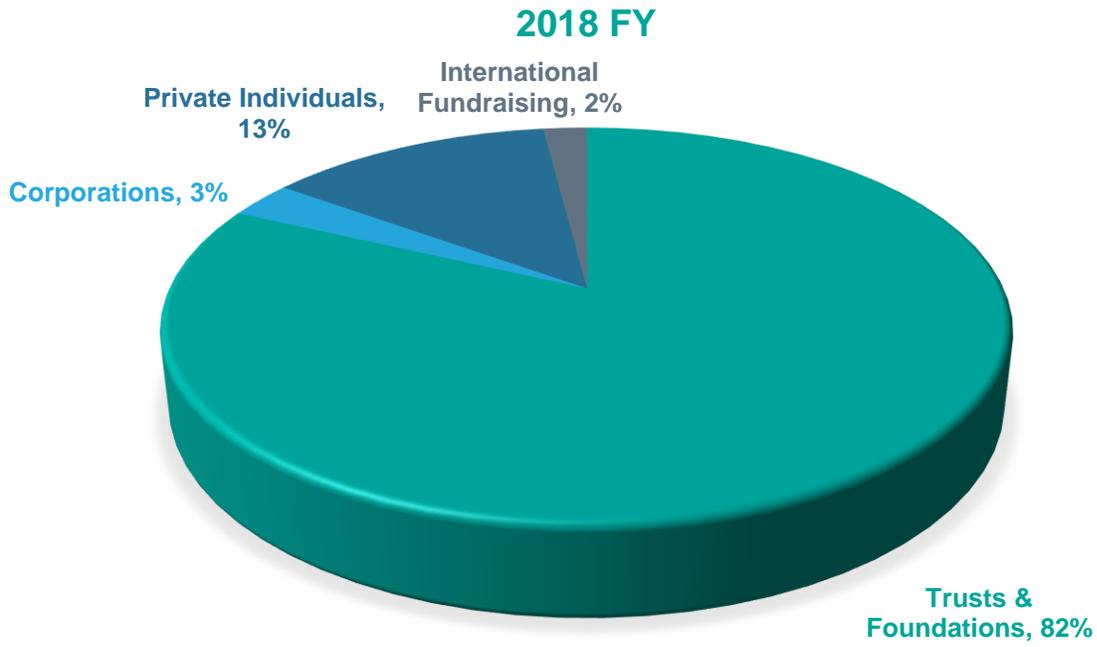
1,613.02 TZS Tanzanian Shilling per AUD. Rate provided by XE.com 30 Jun.2019.

0.702331 USD United States Dollar per AUD. Rate provided by XE.com 30 Jun.2019

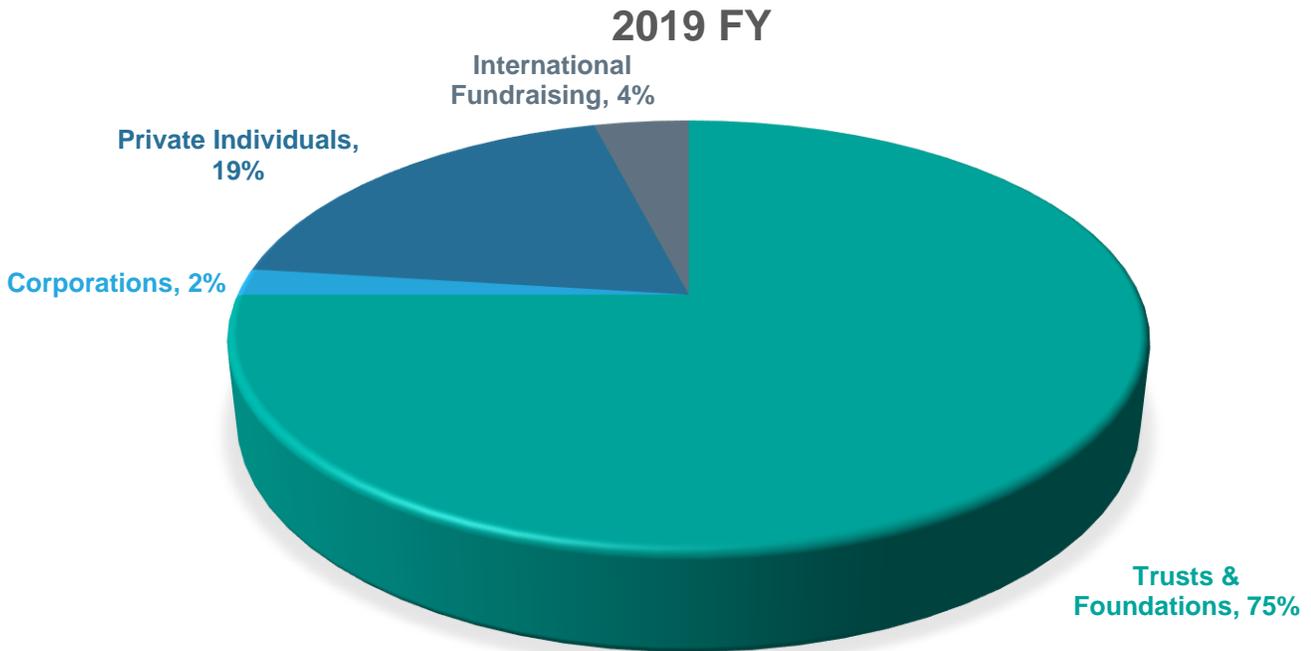
## Independent Auditor's Report

Our financial accounts are audited annually by an independent auditor, Nexia Australia. Our full annual financial report is available on our website.

## Funding Sources

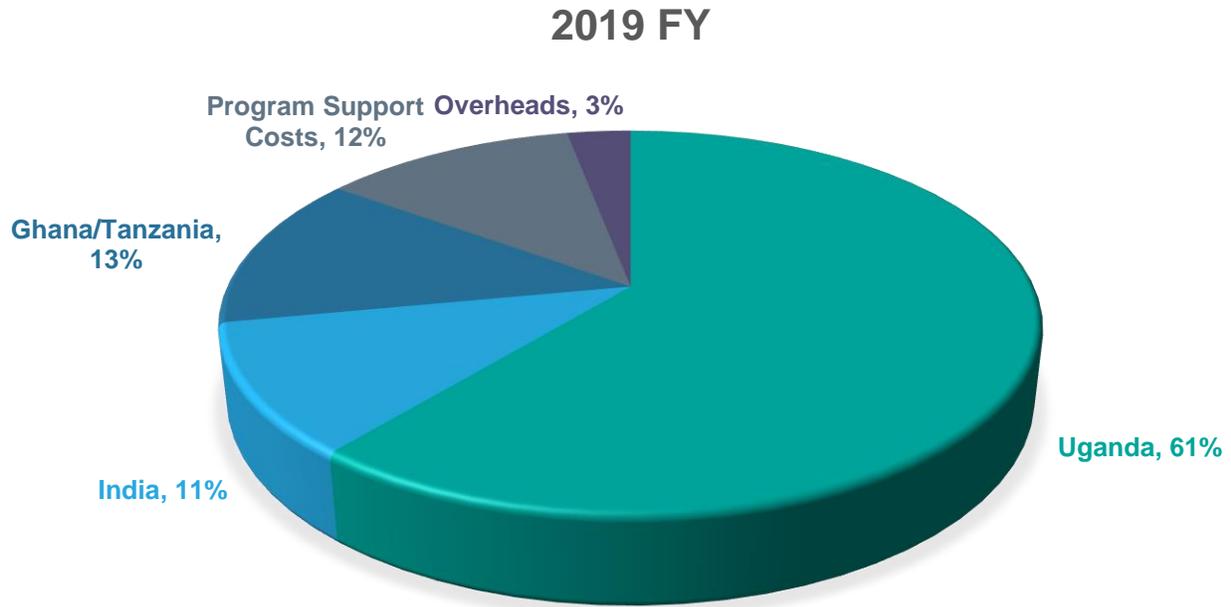


A majority of BridgIT’s funding was sourced from philanthropic Trusts & Foundations (Private Ancillary Funds).

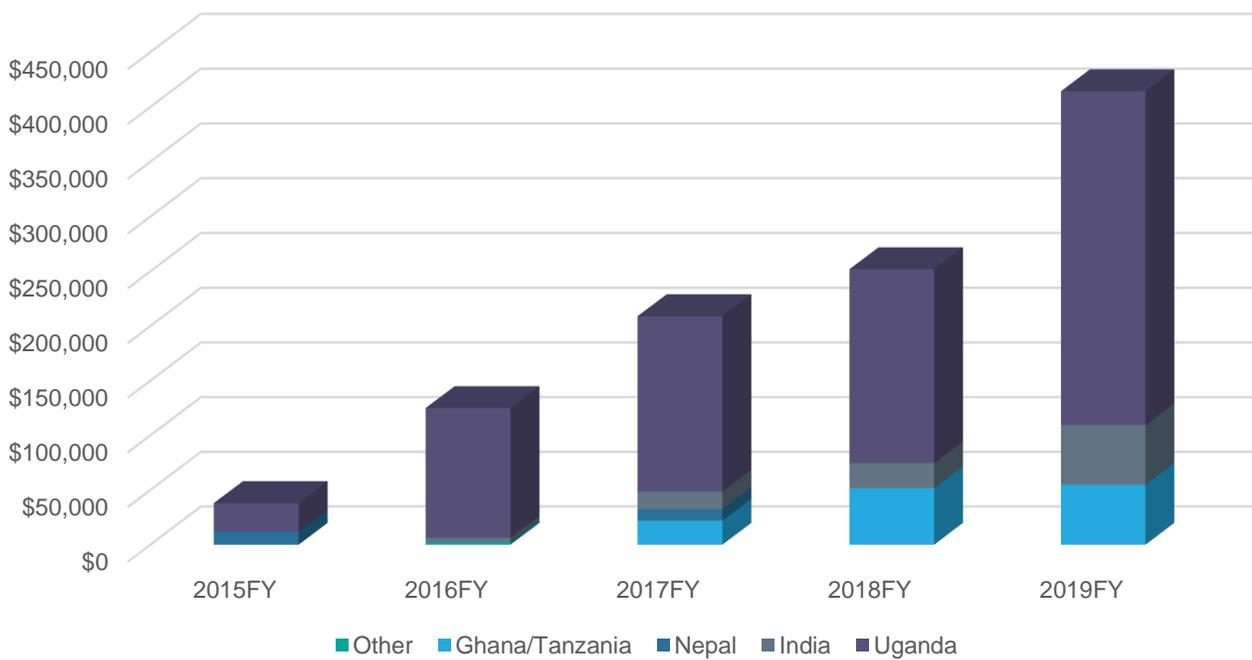


## Funding Allocation

A majority of BridgIT’s funding was allocated to our Ugandan program at 61%.



## Expenditure by Region



## How You Can Help

So, what is poverty? According to Wikipedia *“poverty means not having enough money for basic needs such as food, drinking water or shelter. Many people in different countries live in poverty, especially in developing areas of West and Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and some parts of Asia.”*

There are many ways you can help provide the basic need of water to developing countries.

### Volunteer your time and donate your skills

There are many skills required to run a charity. If you have any of these skills, you can help: Marketing; Fund Development or Fundraising; Grant Writing; Policy Writing; IT, or Administration. Water projects are complex and engineering input is always welcome.

### Provide in-kind services

If you are a business you might like to provide tax deductible in-kind services like our book keeping and audit accountants.

### Become a member

When you become a Board member, you can advocate for BridgIT's cause and provide input in the design and allocation of our programs.

### Support an event or fundraising activity

Fundraising is a fun social event and it supports a good cause.

### Become a corporate partner

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a popular concept in recent times and more and more companies are fast adopting it as a reason for giving back and also as a tax benefit.

### Buy Little Ripples Wine for your meal

\$1 of every bottle of **Little Ripples** wine you buy provides 1 year of clean water for 1 person, so why not buy a beautiful drop of **Little Ripples Wine** and help BridgIT's developing communities receive water wells.

### Make a donation

Provide the basic need of water and sponsor a remote rural village and help us deliver life-saving water supplies, or simply give what you can.

**Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.** Make a donation with a direct secure cash deposit on the website [www.bridgitwater.org](http://www.bridgitwater.org) via the 'Donate' link.



**ATO Approved Tax-Deductible donations over \$2 that support our overseas aid activities**

## Contact Information

Should you wish to contact any member of the BridgIT Water team.

BridgIT Water Foundation Australia  
Brisbane, Australia  
E-Mail: [info@bridgitwater.org](mailto:info@bridgitwater.org)

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

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

Or contact any member of our International Partners

SPREAWS  
Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India  
[Pitchireddyorg@yahoo.co.in](mailto:Pitchireddyorg@yahoo.co.in)

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

KEEP  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
[keep@info.com.np](mailto:keep@info.com.np)

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

## Make a Donation

ATO Approved Tax-Deductible donations over \$2 that support our overseas aid activities

**Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible**

Make a donation with a direct secure cash deposit on the website [www.bridgitwater.org](http://www.bridgitwater.org) via the 'Donate' link

Australian Charity Registration Number - CH1853

ACN No: 139 883 775

ABN No: 34 139 883 775

ACNC Status: Approved

DGR1 Status: Approved

DFAT Approved / ACFID Signatory & Membership

Member of Global Water Partnership

Member of Order of Australia



ACFID  
MEMBER

