



Inspiring women who have access to
clean water to get it to those who do not.



Letter From the Co-Founders

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Water is vital to all life. Yet, 1 out of every 10 persons on the planet lack access to clean water, and every 60 seconds a child dies from diarrhea caused by unsafe drinking water.

As a women-led organization The Waterbearers at its heart, holds the simple intention to bring clean water, light and love to those in dire need. Each year, we raise the consciousness of women globally through our awareness campaigns; thereby energizing women grateful for their privileged ease of access to water to help those who lack this human right.

Millions of women and children, struggling to provide a better life for their families, bear the burden of fetching water. Often walking half a mile, three or four times a day, they bring water home, knowing the water could be contaminated.

Our mission is to inspire women who have access to clean water to get it to those who do not. By providing safe drinking water to marginalized communities, we are empowering women and girls, improving health, and creating educational and economic opportunities worldwide.

Your generous support provided clean water to almost 40,000 people. We could not do that without you!

Also, in 2020, despite worldwide travel restrictions, we've been able to increase our impact by strengthening in-country partnerships, and expanding sustainable water solutions like rain harvesting and drilling wells that can serve even more people.

We are committed to continuing our reach to women around the world and hope that 2021 will hold a brighter future for those who lack access to safe drinking water, and who have also been challenged by the coronavirus in unimaginable ways.

With love and gratitude,

Jane and Erin



Jane Brinton
Co-founder | Executive Director



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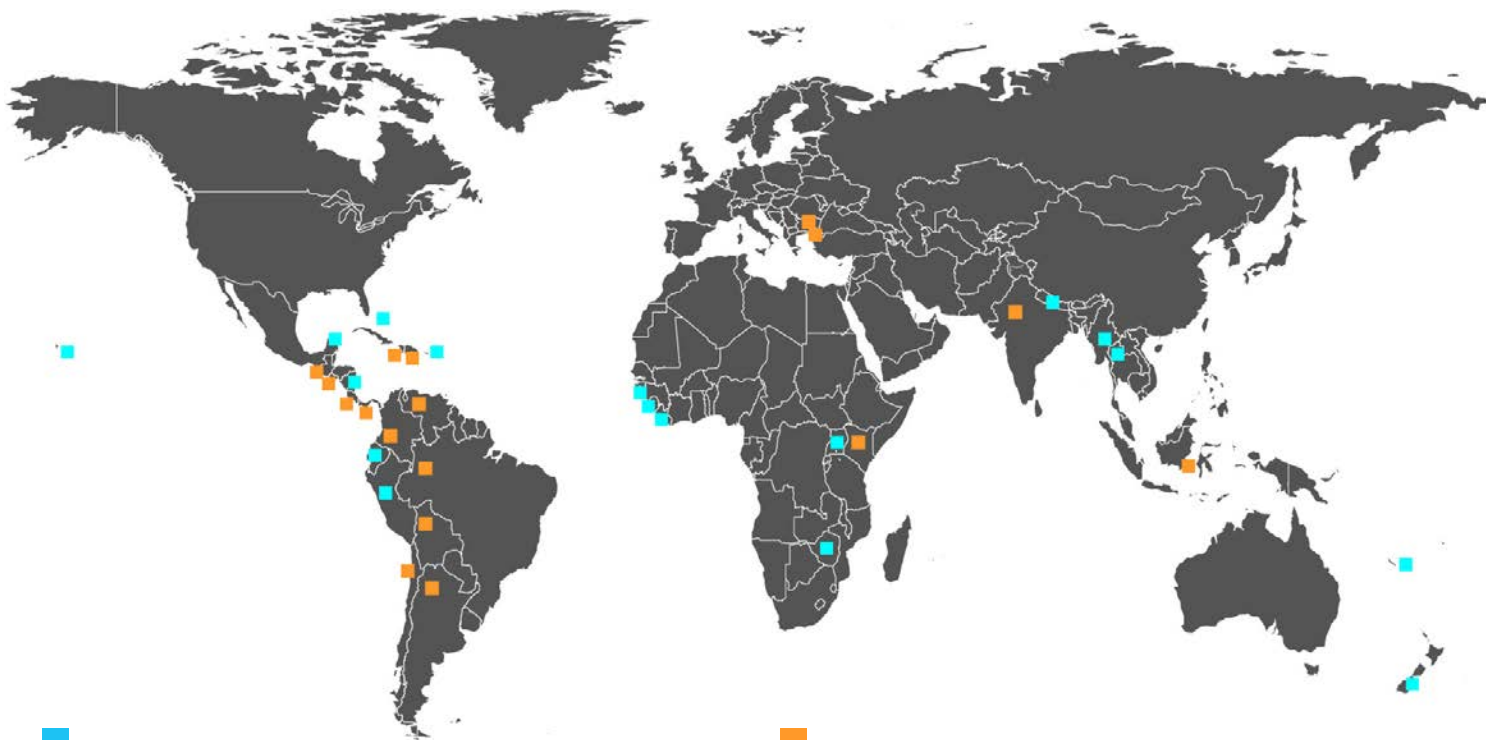
Website: www.thewaterbearers.org

Children in Uganda collect water from the watering hole

Where we make a difference

We work around the world in places where people lack access to clean water, collaborating with communities to provide sustainable solutions. Since 2016, through strategic partnerships, our campaigns have helped fund clean water initiatives in 33 countries and impacted hundreds of thousands of lives.

Clean water systems distributed



The Waterbearers

Ecuador – Guinea – Hawaii (US) – Liberia – Mexico – Myanmar – Nepal – New Zealand – Nicaragua – Peru – Puerto Rico (US) – Sierra Leone – Thailand – The Bahamas – Uganda – Vanuatu – Zimbabwe

Partner Organizations

Argentina – Bolivia – Brazil – Chile – Colombia – Costa Rica – Dominican Republic – El Salvador – Guatemala – Haiti – India – Indonesia – Kenya – Panama – Turkey – Syria – Venezuela

Special thanks to our fundraisers, donors and partner organizations

In 2016, we invited 100 women to lead a 30-day fundraising campaign for World Water Day. All donations went directly to our partner **Waves for Water** a public charity along with subsequent fundraising campaigns. By September 2017, The Waterbearers became a 501(c)(3), that now funds and operates clean water initiatives around the world. Special recognition goes to the first 100 women who answered the call of water and stepped up to meet our challenges to get one million people access to clean water.

“ 785 million people lack access to clean water; that's one in ten people on the planet ”
- WHO/UNICEF

Programs Implemented

Puerto Rico

In January 2020, in a matter of days, Puerto Rico was struck by an earthquake swarm which displaced over 8000 people on the island's southern coast. Local residents, shaken by these events sought shelter in refugee camps, make-shift tent communities or slept in their cars.

Working on the ground with Open World Relief, who already had access to 1000 Sawyer filters, The Waterbearers co-founder Jane Brinton with Andres Morales from Ecuador joined in the relief efforts to distribute and train shelter volunteers and victims on the use of the filters. Special thanks to JetBlue for transporting the filter shipment and The Waterbearers team to Puerto Rico.

Partner Organization: OpenWorld Relief



Ecuador

Thirty-six percent of the Ecuadorian population live in rural areas and the indigenous people remain the most affected by poverty, have little access to education, clean water, or health care.

The Province of Azuay is located in the southern part of Ecuador, in the Andes mountain range. The Waterbearers co-founder Jane Brinton, working together with the local provincial government identified families in need, and during the COVID restrictions, distributed 100 filter systems and demonstrated their use in 48 rural communities in the highlands. This project benefits 1,345 families, impacting almost 10,000 people who lack access to safe drinking water.

In 2021, new agreements between The Waterbearers, the Provincial Government, and the University of Azuay, will ensure a further 20,000 people will have access to clean water.

Partner Organizations: Prefecture of Azuay & University of Azuay



GOBIERNO PROVINCIAL
AZUAY

UNIVERSIDAD
DEL AZUAY



Programs Implemented

Uganda

Thanks to continued donor support for our efforts in Uganda, funding has been provided to complete Phase One of the 1.5km pipeline extension which enables more than 600 women to access water outside their homes, saving a 45-minute walk to fetch water. In March, co-founder Erin Toppenberg distributed 40 filters to several rural communities in Masaka and Rakai districts with our in-country partner John Ssentamu. In alignment with best practices during COVID, some were installed next to handwashing stations.

Thailand

In 2020, The Waterbearers once again partnered with The Charis Project and Shade Tree Foundation where Aaron Blue and his team distributed 20 filters, demonstrating their use in 18 communities in Mae Sot on the border with Myanmar. Mae Sot is home to a large number of Burmese migrant workers and refugees. The potential impact of this project will bring clean water to at least 2000 people.

Partner Organizations: The Charis Project & Shade Tree Foundation



Central America

Answering the call when natural disaster strikes.

In November, Hurricanes Iota and Eta devastated Central America, destroying thousands of homes, taking dozens of lives, and leaving much of the coastal region both without access to safe drinking water and vulnerable to disease. Thanks to the immediate generosity of donors who responded to our relief efforts, 100 water filter systems were sent to Honduras, Nicaragua, and Colombia's Santa Andres island in the Caribbean where they were distributed by local aid groups and Third Wave Volunteers.

Programs Implemented

Guinea

Working through partner organizations Loving Waters, La Fondation Aicha, and Fondation Guinée Solidarité Plus in Guinea, The Waterbearers introduced the clean water filter systems in September as the pandemic restrictions and border crossings eased. 20 filters were provided to a small group of partnership leaders and women from five communities in Kaloum, Conakry who gathered for the demonstration and training by James Bowen from The Village Link in Sierra Leone.

Partner Organizations: Loving Waters, La Fondation Aicha & Fondation Guinée Solidarité Plus



Zimbabwe

Over 40% of Zimbabwe's population live in extreme poverty. For many of these people, especially those living in rural areas, access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains problematic.

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the capital of Harare experienced severe water shortages due to recurring droughts and failure to treat the little tap water that was available, forcing residents to collect water from unsafe sources and overcrowded boreholes.

This was the situation when Precious Nyadongo, representing a group of 50 Zimbabwean women known as Sister to Sister reached out to The Waterbearers partner Fyera Foundation seeking funding help to complete a borehole project in the rural community of Nketa-9 in Bulawayo, home to 800 people.

Of course, we were thrilled to help and fortunate to have 100% of funds available from our previous World Water Day fundraising campaign that could be allocated to this worthwhile project.

The new borehole and water storage tank will provide clean water for more than half the community. The goal is that they will have more regular access to water and will no longer have to walk long distances and stand in long lines in order to collect water, saving community members time for other activities. A bonus of collecting water from this borehole is that Precious and her "sisters" are now creating community gardens enabling her village to be fed with fresh and healthy food.

Partner Organization: Fyera Foundation



SPOTLIGHT ON SIERRA LEONE

"As a donor and fundraiser for The Waterbearers for the past 6 years, I have had the opportunity to accompany the co-founders on distribution trips to Mexico, Nepal, and most recent, Sierra Leone in West Africa.

In February 2020, I stepped into Sierra Leone as a Waterbearer, bringing hope and solutions for clean water, which made me grateful for all that I have. At home, I can turn on convenience anytime like a tap, as cool safe running water fills my glass.

In Bo, in the southern province, we visit rural communities where we hear women raise a resounding chorus, huddled in unison, adamant to speak up about not having clean water. I listened attentively as African mothers spoke with animation and urgency. In Mbondonbur, children repeatedly lost school days they say, taken ill from contaminated water. These women seek to experience the dignity of having access to clean water,

and by extension, the opportunity and peace of mind to care for their families.

Each community we visit, we are welcomed with warm open hearts, stretched smiles and generous fanfare. School children demonstrate the use of our donated water filters with gulping glee, while we listen to community leaders share the dramatic shift in health flowing from the filtration system. I learned afresh how precious and rare a commodity water is. The Paramount Chief speaks, showering his thanks for offering him the filters to reduce disease in his village, and for investing in water tanks to harvest rains and store capacity for the dry season. Amidst the obvious hardship, we feel richly blessed to be invited into their unpretentious lives, and we celebrate the presence of each other as a memorable gift."

- *Natasha Singh-Alley, Johannesburg*



SPOTLIGHT ON SIERRA LEONE

Like so many places in Africa, the need for clean water is great, but for isolated communities that lack access to clean water, sanitation, or electricity, life is particularly harsh.

Thanks to generous donations in 2020, The Waterbearers funded two more Rain Catchment Systems (RCS), one in Mbondonbur, which serves 3500 people, and a second in Gerihun serving 5500. This brings the total to five RCS, and 230 filters distributed in the Baoma Chiefdom from 2018 to 2020. Each rain catchment storage tank is connected to a school or community center where our partner, The Village Link, runs

early childhood education and digital training centers. Filters and buckets are provided for each of these villages and schools to ensure that everyone has easy access to safe drinking water.

Partner Organization: The Village Link



2020 Financials

REVENUE

Contributions	\$80,045
Net Assets from 2019	\$17,794
Total Net Assets	\$98,019

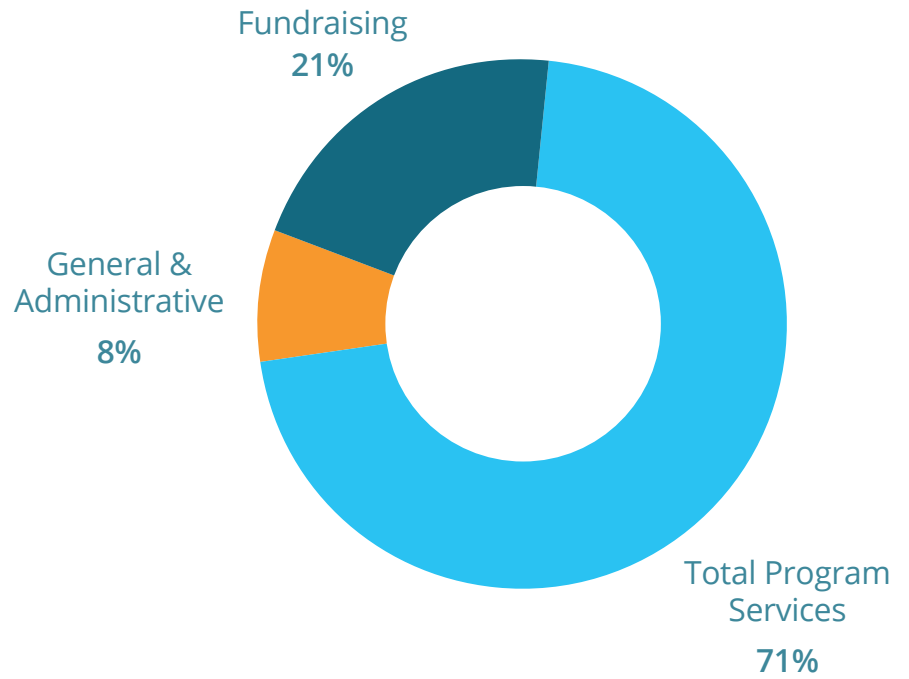
EXPENSES

Program Services:

Water Systems	\$19,376
Freight & Distribution	\$8,470
Total Program Services	\$27,846

Supporting Services:

General & Administrative	\$3,218
Fundraising	\$8,228
Total Supporting Services	\$11,464
Total Expenses	\$39,310



FIND US ON:



THANK YOU

To those who fundraised, donated and volunteered to help us achieve our mission of providing clean water to those in need.

Kathy Steele

Natasha Singh-Alley

Ophelia Ramirez

Pauline McKean

Shelley Greenwald

Sora Garrett

Spryte Lorian



www.thewaterbearers.org