



2024/2025

Dear donors and friends of the WaterFoundation,

You are receiving our annual letter at a time of upheaval and uncertainty – not only because of the political situation, but also because of the closely related issue of climate change. Its consequences are reaching threatening levels and are being felt by everyone – not only in Germany and Europe, but also in our focus countries.

One thing is clear: we need a great deal of stamina and a resilient approach to counter the problems in the long term. The picture on the right shows a delicate plant, a maturing strawberry plant in a desert of Peru. For us, this is an image of hope and an incentive to give people in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Bolivia and Peru confidence through our projects, so that they can continue to lead their lives independently and sustainably in their regions.

The forces of necessary transformation are at work everywhere. However, they must be cleverly directed in the right direction. There is also a change underway at the WaterFoundation. But it is precisely this generational change that ensures continuity. After almost 25 years of supporting tens of thousands of people in disadvantaged regions, the continuation of our extremely successful and sustainable work is secured in terms of personnel. The motivation and commitment of the team and the advisory board are also outstanding. However, we continue to rely on financial support, for which we kindly ask you.

Best regards

Dr. Beate Grotehans

Robert Balthasar

Monica Denomy



"There is hope!"

Let us look to the future with serenity, commitment and confidence and act responsibly.

Donate now!



Donations are also possible online on our website!
www.wasserstiftung.de

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SMART MEASURES ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

The WaterFoundation is committed to securing the future and protecting resources in the sense of comprehensive and sustainable ecological, economic and social development. The necessity of thinking about water supply and nature conservation in combination has also been reflected in the addition to our statutes since the summer of 2023: "The foundation promotes nature, environmental and climate protection." Three recent projects in our focus countries Peru, Ethiopia and Bolivia are vivid examples of the successful implementation of this comprehensive approach.

PERU: Vegetation is recovering

To combat the water shortage in the Peruvian highlands, we have been working with Caritas Abancay and the local population since November 2021 to establish three large REPANAS protected areas at an altitude of 3000 meters. With great success! Where cattle used to graze, grasses and bushes are



Reforestation of grazing areas

growing again after just one year. The digging of seepage trenches and tree planting campaigns are also having an effect: 23,350 trees are now helping to ensure that the vegetation is visibly regenerating and that the soil can absorb more water again, benefiting a total of 1,850 people.

The farming families also received 10.5 kg of seeds each: seeds for onions, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, and chard. In the course of the project, 149 families have planted 7.25 hectares of home gardens. The main goal is to achieve a

healthier and more diverse diet for the families. In addition, "surplus" vegetables can be sold. The income is used to buy new seeds.



Home gardens help families to generate income

ETHIOPIA: Measures against climate change

In Ethiopia, people also have to struggle with water scarcity. Around 9,000 people in Dirre Inchini depend on unsafe water sources. 30 percent of these sources run dry during the dry season. This is because the water table is falling. One of the reasons for this is that tree cover in the hilly regions has been reduced from 100 to 25 percent due to overgrazing. One of the key measures is therefore to plant around 500,000 trees in fenced-off protected areas by the end of the project in 2025. 400,000 had been planted by September 2024. The aim is to restore natural habitats through a combination of reforestation as well as soil and water protection measures. Two of the three planned



Soil erosion in the project area as a result of deforestation

spring developments and water supply systems were completed by our partner EDA-E in 2024. To promote environ-

mentally friendly income opportunities such as beekeeping, fruit and bamboo cultivation, 54 cooperatives have been set up, in which around 1,400 people are organized and receive appropriate training.



Thousands of seedlings have already been planted

BOLIVIA: Afforestation and resource conservation in the Amazon region

The new project 'Change through forest and water' started in the Bolivian Amazon region in August 2024. The project, which will run until September 2026, includes large-scale afforestation activities and the establishment of water protection areas in the buffer zone of the Amboró National Park. Four thousand people in 12 communities will benefit directly and a further 76,500 people in surrounding districts indirectly from the improvements in



The enthusiasm of the population at the project launch was great

water quality and quantity. In addition, together with our partner ICO we are making an important contribution to protecting the Amazon rainforest and combating climate change worldwide.



ETHIOPIA

SCHORNDORF DONATES 15 DONKEYS

At the second water awareness day of the Rotary Club of Schorndorf, around 120 third-graders learned how precious water is on the circuit in the city park. The water awareness day vividly demonstrates how arduous it is for children and women in Ethiopia to fetch water. The aim of the „water run“, including a quiz, is to collect as many donations as possible for water transport donkeys in Ethiopia, which the WaterFoundation regularly distributes to needy women and their families there. A water donkey with a carrying frame and water canisters can be financed with as little as 175 euros.



Susanne John, public relations officer at the WaterFoundation, supervised one of the stations and took the opportunity to personally thank all the primary school children, who were eager to learn and enthusiastic about the subject. The Rotarians converted the children’s efforts into a further donation to the WaterFoundation, which will enable the purchase of 15 water donkeys. As always, the highlight of the event were the four tame donkeys, which – led by the children – took over the task of carrying water for the children at the end. A noticeable relief – for the children in Schorndorf and for the women in Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIA

CLEAN WATER FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

The war in Ethiopia has had devastating consequences for Tigray. Most of the water supply systems have been destroyed. People and animals have to get their water from open, unprotected sources that are contaminated. The need is great and help is urgently needed. Therefore, the WaterFoundation plans to rebuild a reliable water supply for 200,000 people in 13 rural woredas in Tigray, where transitional aid is not effective, with the support of local authorities and civil society, and to strengthen village communities in their management of water resources. The planned measures include: the repair and restoration of 550 wells, WASH workshops, capacity building for 13 local authorities, the establishment of water committees, training in maintenance and repairs, and the reintroduction of a running fund for spare parts. Together with our German partner well:fair, we want to show that co-operation for a common goal can be implemented.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all our donors, some of whom have been supporting our work for a long time, for their financial support, as well as for the positive feedback we receive by phone, letter, social media or during conversations at our events. In the past year, the projects have been particularly generously supported by the Oswald Foundation, the Cordes & Graefe Foundation, the Schlittenhardt family, the Edith-Haberland-Wagner Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

PROMOTION FOR THE GOOD CAUSE

The foundation has been a member of the German NGO Network for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) since 2021 and has also been active in the Association of German Foundations since 2024. The German Foundation Day in Hanover, under the motto “Right in the middle of it - how foundations shape transformation”, provided ample opportunity to discuss the topic with experts.



Monica Denomy, Luca Wesel and Beate Grotehans in Hannover

In the Green Pavilion of the Tollwood Summer Festival in Munich, the WaterFoundation took the opportunity to inform interested parties about its projects and to include new donors in the funding network.



The company HTI Gienger has been supporting the WaterFoundation for many years. In 2024, this offered the foundation the opportunity to report on its projects in Africa and South America from the perspective of sustainability in the influential magazine of the CO2 initiative. In addition, the WaterFoundation was invited to participate in the 10th Drinking Water Day in Ingolstadt in November, along with numerous representatives from relevant professional associations, under the motto “Future Water”.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Beate Grotehans
Robert Balthasar
Monica Denomy

PATRONS

Seine Heiligkeit der Dalai Lama
Friedensreich Hundertwasser †

ETHIOPIA

TOILET FACILITIES INAUGURATED

Due to the tense political situation, the four toilet blocks with 68 hand washing facilities for 5,000 students and teachers at two schools in Bilaa, which were completed late in April 2024, could not be inaugurated until May 2025. Before-



Hygienic conditions in 2020

hand, the children were taught important basics of health care and hygiene in numerous WASH workshops. They then created large murals illustrating how to wash their hands and use the toilets properly. Our local partner EDA-E worked under particularly difficult conditions. He can now be all the more proud of what they have achieved.



A group of students at the inauguration of the toilets



Murals show how it's done

ETHIOPIA

GETTING STRONGER TOGETHER

This project, launched in August 2023, aims to improve the quality of life in rural Ethiopia by setting up self-help groups for women and providing access to clean water. The first workshops for the self-help groups, with a total of 460 women, took place at the end of 2023 and covered topics such



Women learn how to make cooking stoves themselves

as basic business skills – as a basis for three income-generating measures: the production and sale of cooking stoves, small animal husbandry and vegetable growing. In the case of the energy- and wood-saving cooking stoves, female multipliers are trained according to the train-the-trainer model, and then pass on their knowledge. In the meantime, the groups are now in a position to generate their first income.

In addition, all four water collection



One of the new water points

points will be completed by the end of 2024 by our project partner Facilitator for Change. 200 donkeys for water transport have already been distributed to the women.

ETHIOPIA

PUMP REPAIR ENSURES CLIMATE PROTECTION

The project area in the South Gondar zone suffers from climate-related weather extremes. It is affected by both prolonged droughts and flooding. Such flooding often contaminates water sources with harmful germs. As a result, 67 percent of households there report that they boil water before using it. With serious consequences for the tree population in a country where 88 percent of the energy needs of rural households are covered by wood. The WaterFoundation plans to repair 200 defective water pumps in the five districts where a good 60,000 people



Inspection of the defective water pumps

live. This prevents further deforestation of the tree population – an important contribution to the stabilization of natural resources. A WASH research project, which is part of the project and runs until 2026, is investigating the extent to which the desired climate resilience is being achieved.

Despite adverse political circumstances, our project partner Vita so far has already repaired almost half of the 200 pumps that were identified as needing repair.



The delivered repair parts are checked

TANZANIA

PUMP REPAIR AT SCHOOLS

In Tanzania, about 30,000 water points are not functional. In certain regions, 30 to 50 percent of the water sources are unusable. While a lot of money has been invested in new water systems in the past, it is often forgotten that follow-up repairs are necessary over the years to maintain operation. This is a particularly big problem in schools. Without functioning water access, there is not enough to drink and personal hygiene is limited. Often, children are assigned to carry water, which means they cannot attend classes.



Finally fresh water for the students

Together with its project partner MSABI, the WaterFoundation has already repaired defective pumps at 13 schools and in 8 villages in the summer of 2023, providing 10,000 people with access to clean water. Because the pilot project was a great success, a second round of the "Pump for Life" (P4L) project started in October 2024. This time, 50 primary and secondary schools are benefiting. In addition to 20,000 children, mechanics (50 percent women) are also benefiting, as they are being trained as part of the project. A maintenance service subscription guarantees the sustainable functionality of the water supply for a small fee.

CLOUDFISHER

DRINKING WATER FOR PROFAM IN PERU

Good news comes from the project launched in November 2023: All CloudFishers have now been installed on the barren hills near Lima. The 200-meter-long water pipes were also laid down to Profam in 2024. Now the water collected by the fog collectors supplies the people in the dust-dry suburb of Lima. Before they had to rely on expensive drinking water delivered by tanker. Now they can even create and water small home gardens. The vegetables grown provide healthier nutrition for the disadvantaged population. And surpluses can be sold at the market. We thank our local partner APRODES.

CLOUDFISHER AWARDED

In May 2024, the WaterFoundation received the unendowed Award for Sustainable Development from the German Association for Hot-Dip Galvanizing. The award was accepted by the Chair of the WaterFoundation, Dr. Beate Grotehans, in Cologne. The award was presented at the industry event FEUERVERZINKEN 2024, which attracted 200 participants from industry, politics and science. She used her acceptance speech to inform the audience about the work of the foundation and to solicit support – with success. During the subsequent fundraising event, 22,337.48 euros were collected for CloudFisher projects.



Martin Kopf, Chairman of Feuerverzinken e.V.; Dr. Beate Grotehans, Chairwoman of the WaterFoundation; Presenter Dr. Therese Thürmer

CLOUDFISHER

WATERFOUNDATION IN MARBURG

Alongside climate change, the global water crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Creative approaches are needed to deal with the consequences of the water crisis,



particularly in the Global South. That is why the WELTLADEN in Marburg invited the WaterFoundation to present the technology of fog collectors as part of its series of events "Water in times of the climate crisis". In his presentation, Project Manager Luca Wesel explained the function and benefits of the CloudFisher and answered numerous questions from the interested audience.

EXHIBITIONS IN HAMBURG AND ZURICH

From a design perspective, exhibitions in Hamburg and Zurich are looking at the WaterFoundation's CloudFisher. A sample of the fog nets and a film about their use in Morocco were on display from March to October 2024 as part of the exhibition "Water Pressure. Designing for the Future" at the Hamburg Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. The exhibition, which presents innovative and sustainable design solutions for challenges such as water scarcity or water pollution, can then be seen in Zurich. The Museum für Gestaltung will be showing the diverse exhibits there from November 29, 2024 to April 6, 2025. In 2025, the exhibition will then make a stop in Vienna.

CHANGES IN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ernst Frost resigns

The founder and benefactor of the



WaterFoundation resigns from the Board of Trustees, to which he moved in 2018 from his position as Chairman of the Board.

Ernst Frost founded the WaterFoundation in 2000 together with Henner Lang, who died in 2021. During his time as managing editor at the magazine "natur+cosmos", the trained typesetter and graphic designer had already organized fundraising campaigns for nature conservation projects. In the early years of the WaterFoundation, the focus for the now 73-year-old was particularly on the people of Eritrea. Numerous trips took him there, where he realized how much the population and nature there lack sufficient clean water.

On behalf of the many people, especially in Eritrea and Ethiopia, we would like to thank the visionary benefactor with the big heart for his active commitment as Chairman of the Board (2000 to 2018) and member of the Board of Trustees until mid-July 2024.

Kerstin Anker leaves the Foundation Board

In July 2024, Kerstin Anker, a woman who, as a lawyer, has accompanied the work of the WaterFoundation since its inception – initially from 2004 for many years as an honorary member of the board and since 2016 as a member of the Foundation Board. After studying law at the LMU Munich, Kerstin Anker, who was born on Norderney, worked as a lawyer and partner in a Munich law firm from 1995 to 2019. Since July 2019, she has been a member of the legal department of the University of Munich Hospital. The WaterFoundation would like to thank Kerstin Anker



for her many years of dedicated work and her support, especially in legal matters.

Wolfgang Schaal resigns

Wolfgang Schaal has been a member of the Board of Trustees since the WaterFoundation was founded. As managing director of the Geretsried-based tax consultancy schaal & kollegen, he has supported the foundation in legal and commercial matters for more than 20 years and was responsible for accounting and the sometimes complex international billing. For health reasons, Wolfgang Schaal has resigned from his position as a member of the Board and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the end of 2023. We would like to thank him very much for the good cooperation, his commitment and support in building up the foundation and wish Wolfgang Schaal all the best and, above all, good health for the coming years.



Honor for Herbert Hruschka

Dr. Herbert Hruschka, a former member of the Board of Trustees, who retired from active teamwork in the WaterFoundation in 2021, was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by Bavaria's Minister of Economic Affairs Hubert Aiwanger in 2024. Congratulations!



New to the team:

Christiane Lohrmann

Christiane Lohrmann, an experienced foundation woman, joined the WaterFoundation in the summer of 2024 and will volunteer in the area of marketing/fundraising in the future. Welcome!



Outlook: Handover of the chairmanship

Monica Denomy succeeds Beate Grotehans

Dr. Beate Grotehans, who joined the foundation in 2012, will move to the Board of Trustees at the end of the year. Under her chairmanship, which she took over from founder Henner Lang in 2020, the WaterFoundation has professionalized and established a financially solid position. She will continue to actively promote the foundation's interests in her new role as deputy chairwoman of the Board of Trustees. Monica Denomy will become the new chair of the executive board on January 1, 2025. An internationally experienced development cooperation expert, she joined the WaterFoundation as a senior project manager in July 2020. At the beginning of 2022, she was appointed to the board of directors for the operational area. Deputy Chairman Robert Balthasar continues to be responsible for finance.



More information about the founders, board of directors, board of trustees and team at: www.wasserstiftung.de/organization