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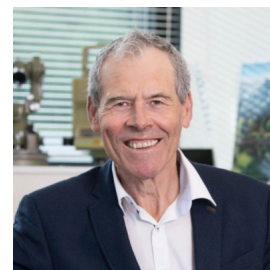


Issue 1, Q1 2024

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first ezine of 2024, which offers a review of our key activities in 2023 and a glimpse into our 2024 programme of works.



Your unwavering commitment has been a driving force in developing and implementing sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects in Eastern and Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, and NW Syria throughout the past year and since the inception of this programme, and we thank you for that enduring support.

I am delighted to proudly introduce the official new name for our initiative, 'Water-Share Ireland - a GOAL Programme'; a revised logo has complemented this, as you will see at the top of this e-Zine.

In this regard, I would like to thank Uisce Éireann and GOAL for championing this change as part of developing an enduring operating model for Water-Share Ireland.

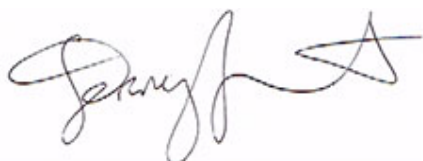
Our new strategic plan, scheduled for launch in March 2024, will showcase our mission, vision, values, and goals alongside the restructured management and oversight. This will include a Memorandum of Understanding with GOAL and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee. Your continued commitment will be crucial as we collectively shape the future of Water-Share Ireland.

As we step into this new year, my enthusiasm is fueled by the steadfast commitment of the Water-Share Ireland committee. We are poised to make even more impact, emphasising innovation and delivering practical and groundbreaking WASH solutions to the communities that we work with. For example, we are exploring extension options for our Mulombi project in Uganda based on solar-powered pumping and pipe networks in an area of severe potable-quality water deficit. This extension aims to cater to a more densely populated area with a secondary school and health centre. We are also investigating a more sustainable approach for our successful Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) plant in Sierra Leone. Currently operating at full capacity, the FSM plant is actively producing briquettes from dewatered sludge for use as fuel.

I also look forward to seeing you at the annual Water-Share Ireland meeting on Wednesday, 10th April, at Stephen's Green Club (SGC), our first of 2024.

As always, I encourage you to share this e-Zine widely, helping spread the word about our shared vision.

Warm regards,



Jerry Grant
Chairman, Water-Share Ireland

SAVE THE DATE: WATER-SHARE IRELAND ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, 10th April, Stephens Green Club, 6.30 pm

WATER-SHARE IRELAND ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Wed

10

04

24

Day

Month

Year

Stephen's Green Club (SGC),
9 St Stephen's Green, Dublin, D02 C891

Water-Share Ireland is delighted to invite you to our Annual Meeting, which will take place on Wednesday 10th April at 6.30 pm in the Stephen's Green Club, Dublin 2.

In previous years, this has been a really enjoyable and engaging evening, bringing together people across the Irish water sector. This year, with the support of Uisce Éireann, we will highlight our proposed changes to Water-Share Ireland to deliver a sustainable and enduring model into the future. We will provide an overview of our projects in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Syria and showcase our plans for 2024 and how you and your company can get involved. You will also have the opportunity to network and meet some key figures in the Irish water sector.

WATER-SHARE IRELAND ROUND-UP

A) **NORTHERN and EASTERN UGANDA**

Mulombi (Eastern Uganda) solar-powered water system.

The Mulombi project, which included a new borehole scheme, storage tanks and a gravity feed scheme to serve 5,200 people, involved civil works by Kampala-based Bernoulli Contractors with GOAL supervision. The project however encountered pipe-stand and SIM card authorisation issues and a temporary workaround was commissioned in January, with plans to change the SIM card at a later stage. The final SIM cards have now been installed and the scheme is fully operational. There has been a delay in handing over operations to the 'Umbrella Authority' and GOAL is supporting the local 'Water Users Committee' in the meantime. The project is considered to have been a great success.

the confirm cost of the extension. The Steering Committee has approved Malcolm Edger (Water-Share Ireland Committee Member) to kindly conduct further investigations into this extension, as the proposed area for extension encompasses a significant community in Mulombi B, which includes a school and health centre. Although the coverage area matches the central cover, there is currently no data on the secondary school, making it challenging to understand the population's needs. We hope to have definitive plans for full utilisation of this excellent water source with costings in the next two months before deciding on funding and implementation.

We are extremely grateful to Ward & Burke Construction for their significant donation and funding of this vital project. As part of GOAL's service delivery, we expect an impact assessment within six months of completion, which we will share with members.

Buwoya (Central Uganda) piped water scheme.

In Buwoya, the major scheme (Feasibility Scheme) developed by Water-Share has been the subject of a roundtable discussion with GOAL, the Ministry of Water, Umbrella Authority and Namayinga District that Malcolm Edger attended in Buwoya in Dec 2023. Since then we have prepared detailed costings and GOAL Uganda has engaged with charity: water with regard to funding. Current estimates for the scheme's costs are around €785,000 or €45/€46 per head in the community. Charity: water viewed the Mulombi Scheme and were impressed by it. We are hopeful that they will look favorably at funding this scheme as part of their programme and we expect to engage with them in the course of the year.

Kaabong (Northern Uganda) piped water scheme.

In Kaabong, the generous €100,000 donation from the O'Toole Trust in 2023 is targeted at enabling water supply for approximately 3,500 people who are currently consuming poor-quality water from boreholes in the area. The scheme can only be taken forward when we have established a viable source of good quality water which is a challenge in that region. The Committee has agreed to reserve this donation exclusively for Kaabong, with a separate Water-Share budget of €27,000 approved for the drilling programme including testing to first prove the source. The drilling test tender proposals have been returned, with the lowest bid for three sites from a local contractor that has already achieved pre-qualification by GOAL. This work has now commenced on site.



B) FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

The FSM (Faecal Sludge Management) plant in Freetown remains operational, facing challenges in the exit strategy (with regard to the handover of the operation to the City Council) and ongoing discussions with GOAL on sustainable practices. Michel Davitt of Nicholas O'Dwyer is expected to visit the plant in the coming weeks to provide critical guidance for long-term operations.

Hardware issues, however, persist, particularly the lack of replacements for key items, impacting operational efficiency. There are also concerns about pollution and the quality of discharge from the plant, which need to be addressed. Water-Share hopes to build on Michel's visit to develop measures that could address three shortcomings and further improve the plant.

The successful securing of FCDO funding is expected to support a successful handover strategy.

Capacity training, which will involve collaboration with local universities (e.g. Freetown University) and engaging engineering students in on-site activities or potential training sessions in Ireland, is also being considered.

In addition, there is a proposal to establish a small technical/advisory group to provide ongoing support, and an updated security report is also required to assess the potential for field visits from the Water-Share Ireland Steering Committee.

C) IDLIB PROVINCE, NORTHWEST SYRIA

The region continues to grapple with the severe impact of conflict and the aftermath of the Feb 2023 earthquake, with unaddressed leakage, resulting in a significant depletion of water resources.

ARUP has been working with the GOAL Syria WASH team to understand falling groundwater levels as part of the Water-Share Ireland partnership. Their analysis of available remote sensing data for Idlib shows that a gradual decline in the water table is likely due to local farming practices (irrigation) rather than changes to rainfall patterns caused by climate change. Irrigation accounts for approximately 80% of water use in this area; however,

and unmonitored. The next step will be to verify these findings with field measurements and share the report.

In addition, with RPS support, GOAL field teams conducted leakage tests pre-Christmas, aiming to address water-related challenges on the ground. The Syrian team is willing to explore more ways to collaborate with Water-Share Ireland (e.g., the potential of sensors to improve pumping station efficiencies), which will be explored throughout 2024. RPS with support from Cully Automation is working with the project team and Water-Share will evaluate how we can deliver effective support in 2024.

Either way, given the ongoing conflict in the region, a thorough assessment is required to determine the feasibility of having a physical presence on the ground. Gerry Baker from Arup is expected to provide an update on the hydrological work completed in the region, and Alan Reade is liaising with Gerry on this project.

D) Zimbabwe

Water-Share Ireland is looking into possibly expanding our remit into Zimbabwe. We are currently in discussions with provincial Water Officers in Matabeleland South regarding groundwater challenges and the potential output from sand dams. Alan Reade from GOAL will liaise with Michel Davitt, who has contacts in Zimbabwe, on this investigative work and will report to the Water-Share Ireland Committee in the coming week.

WATER-SHARE IRELAND FUNDING & SUPPORT

We're incredibly grateful for our dedicated supporters and patrons. Your commitment enables us to deliver essential WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programmes to vulnerable communities. We also deeply appreciate the invaluable in-kind support and expertise from our partners.



WATER ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE



As an Irish-based initiative with a global presence, Water-Share Ireland actively promotes participation in global awareness days, conferences, and events to advance water and hygiene equity and sustainability worldwide. As influential voices in this transformative field, engaging with these initiatives and deeply understanding ongoing developments in the water sector is crucial. This comprehension empowers us to continually refine and adapt our programmes, ensuring alignment with the latest global strategies.

As we enter the new year, it's an ideal time to anticipate the months ahead, identifying key events and significant dates.

In line with this, I invite you to revisit the objectives outlined in the [UN's International Decade for Action: Water for sustainable development \(2018-2028\)](#). This initiative, adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly in December 2016, prioritises water-related issues over ten years. It highlights the relevance of our Water-Share Ireland mission. To support this endeavour, I encourage you to mark key dates in the water sector on your calendar and urge your team and colleagues to engage in these events to stay abreast of evolving trends, needs, and priorities.

2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
26 Feb- 01 March	Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)
18-19 March	UNFCCC Adaptation Committee: Annual Adaptation Forum 2024
22 March	World Water Day
22 March	UNESCO & UNECE: World Water Development Report 2024 - Paris Launching Event
07 April	World Health Day
09-14 April	International Conference on Urban Drainage
14-17 April	IWA-WLSG: Water Loss 2024
15-17 April	The Global Water Summit
05 May	WHO: World Hand Hygiene Day
17-20 May	IWA Conference on Sustainable Sludge Management
18-24 May	World Water Council : 10th World Water Forum
11-15 Aug	IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition
19 Nov	World Toilet Day
22-23 Sept	UN Summit of the Future
13-15 Oct	World Health Summit
15 Oct	Global Handwashing Day
21 Nov	The All-Ireland Water & Wastewater Conference & Exhibition

To download the above calendar with links to each event, click the button .

SUPPORT WATER-SHARE IRELAND APPEAL

Once again, we would like to convey our immense gratitude to all our patrons and supporters for their continued commitment to Water-Share Ireland. Only with your contributions can we deliver impactful WASH projects while addressing multiple SDGs.



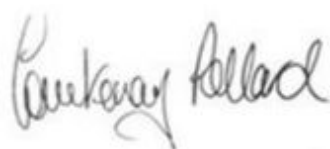
It is our aim for 2024, and beyond that, to continue delivering life-changing programmes in areas where vulnerable communities and families so desperately need improved access to safe water and sanitation.

We will soon share our formal request for contributions to Water-Share Ireland, and we look forward to your support. As a friendly reminder, the annual subscription for Patrons of Water-Share Ireland is €5,000. By becoming a Patron, you support our initiatives and will be invited to be nominated to join our esteemed steering committee. It is an excellent opportunity to contribute directly to project delivery and, in turn, transform lives.

An annual commitment of €1,000 is equally welcomed for those who may prefer an alternative option. This commitment also enables your colleagues to engage in project delivery, fostering a sense of purpose and involvement in our mission.

We also welcome technical expertise and pro-bono support, so please don't hesitate to contact John Gowen at watershare@goal.ie or +353 89 234 9554 with any queries relating to this.

So again, thank you for your extraordinary membership and for sharing our vision. Your contributions, knowledge, time and expertise are all invaluable to building a more equitable and resilient world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtenay Pollard".

Courtenay Pollard

Partnerships Manager, GOAL

cpollard@goal.ie



FOR MORE INFO VISIT
www.goalglobal.org/water-share

goalglobal.org/water-share



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