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Issue 3, EOY Wrap-Up 2024

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear friends,

I am delighted to write to you today in my new role as Chair of Water-Share Ireland, a position I am honoured to have assumed in October. Before reflecting on the last few months, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable progress made over the past several years under the leadership of my predecessor, Jerry Grant.



His unwavering dedication has transformed Water-Share Ireland into a thriving programme, successfully delivering essential WASH projects across Eastern and Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, Northwest Syria, and Zimbabwe. Thank you, Jerry, for laying such a strong foundation. We look forward to continuing our partnership as you step into your new role as Chair of Uisce Éireann.

We've reached some exciting milestones since the last edition of Water-Share Matters. Among them

participants who contributed their time and expertise to the event. Once again, thanks to our colleagues at Dublin City University for being more than generous hosts and to Uisce Éireann, GOAL and RPS for their collective contributions.

We also recently held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and lunch, generously sponsored by Engineers Ireland. During the meeting, the Steering Committee made several key decisions that will shape the direction of the programme, and both existing and prospective patrons made strong commitments over lunch. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact these developments will have on our programme's growth and effectiveness.

On a celebratory note, we marked a significant achievement when our colleague James Riak, Country Director for Sierra Leone at GOAL, was honoured by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Planning and Economic Development last month. The award recognises GOAL's impactful contributions to the water sector in Sierra Leone, supported by Water-Share Ireland. This recognition is a testament to the efforts of our entire network.

As we reflect on the past few months, I hope you share my excitement for what lies ahead. The coming months will be pivotal as we begin to map out our plans for 2025, and I look forward to an even more impactful year ahead.

As always, please feel free to share this e-Zine widely to help spread the word about our shared vision and efforts.

Warm regards,



Alan Curran,
Chair, Water-Share Ireland

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL WATER-SHARE IRELAND HACKATHON

In September, we hosted the inaugural Water-Share Ireland Hackathon. This exciting event brought together over 70 water sector professionals and academics to tackle real-world WASH challenges faced in the countries where GOAL works. The event was a tremendous success, highlighting the power of collaboration, creativity, and determination.

Over 24 hours, 14 teams—including experts from Uisce Éireann, RPS, AECOM, and an international team from Makerere University, Uganda—developed innovative solutions to WASH challenges. The winning idea, the Urine Diversion Dry Toilet (UDDT), addresses critical sanitation challenges in Sierra Leone, offering a practical and sustainable alternative for regions with unsuitable ground conditions.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event possible, including Professor Fiona Regan and Ciprian Briciu-Burghina from DCU Water Institute, Aisling Buckley, Lourda Casserly, Paul Murray, and Yvonne Harris from Uisce Éireann, Alan Curran and the team in RPS, Courtenay Pollard, Saoirse Gleeson, and David Coveney from GOAL, and Alan Reade on the judging panel. **This Hackathon was a milestone for Water-Share Ireland, and we look forward to future Hackathons!**

We're excited to share more! Below, you can download a summary of the team pitches and ideas.

Hackathon Pitches: Summary Download

WATER-SHARE IRELAND ROUND-UP

A) NORTHERN and EASTERN UGANDA

On the work front, Uganda continues to be a major focus. Following the commissioning of the Mulombi Villages water supply and its handover to the Umbrella Authority for operations, the team are currently tendering for contractors to build out the extended network to serve several more villages from the excellent source well. Ward & Burke funding continues to be

After a significant period of exploratory drilling and hydrogeological work, guided by technical support from Arup, the Kaabong project in Northern Uganda can now proceed to detailed design and tender, with excellent prospects of delivery for that community in 2025. This scheme is advance funded by the O' Toole family trust contribution. It will serve a very rural community with inferior water supplies, which should have immediate impacts on health and economic activity.

Having developed a larger scale project for the Buwoya area in SE Uganda, with up to 50,000 potential beneficiaries, further exploration is required to identify adequate secure water availability of the required quality. A hydrogeological team in Tobin is supporting the work. This assurance of a secure and sustainable water source is a prerequisite for obtaining funding for the larger project. Therefore, Water-Share Ireland is funding further detailed geophysical investigations informed by previous borehole tests, likely leading to further confirmatory drilling in the area. This preliminary work will likely require Water-Share Ireland financing in 2025.

The GOAL Uganda team has recently sought additional technical support in design and contract/procurement. The response has been extremely positive, with member companies teamed up to deliver this support. We will report further on this in Q1 2025.

B) FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, work is well advanced on the next stage ('Quick Wins') to improve the Faecal Sludge treatment plant and make it more resilient and efficient. This is made possible by the technical and financial support of EPS, the technical support of Nicholas O'Dwyer and the coordination of Aisling Buckley and Robert Kennedy (both Uisce Eireann).

EPS has procured and begun assembly of the plant required, with GOAL providing for shipment to Freetown in the coming weeks. In addition, Water-Share Ireland is funding a project manager in Freetown to oversee the installation of this equipment and to ensure the efficient operation of the plant on a daily basis. The project team expects this work to be completed by Q1 2025. GOAL and Freetown City Council are working with donors to enable the plans for biogas from digestion and its use to make sludge briquettes advanced to full-scale. This will need significant input from Water-Share Ireland partners next year.

C) IDLIB PROVINCE, NORTHWEST SYRIA

In Syria, the GOAL team in Idlib is keen to move forward with the groundwater modelling and leakage projects carried out by Arup and RPS. Plans have been agreed on both projects to implement the recommendations from the first Phase investigations. This would ensure that additional data is produced to refine existing approaches and increase confidence before taking the findings to scale. Unfortunately, the recent outbreak of intense conflict in Northern Syria may impact this in the short term.

D) Zimbabwe

In Harare, Zimbabwe, we have completed a feasibility review of options to provide safe water to outlying suburbs where the local supplies are contaminated and poorly managed. Under the existing water policy, there is no provision for private water supply other than bulk sales to water bottling companies. This has led to detailed engagement by the local GOAL team with Harare City Council on options for piloting privately operated supplies to demonstrate potential operating models and to showcase the advantages small-scale private operators could bring. Water-Share Ireland has advanced funding from a private donor to support this work in 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR INAUGURAL AGM

In October, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where Alan Curran was welcomed as the new Chair of Water-Share Ireland. The meeting was attended by members who engaged in meaningful discussions, with the Steering Committee making key decisions to shape the programme's future direction.

Following the inaugural and very well-attended AGM, a lunch was kindly sponsored by Engineers Ireland, which brought together members and friends of Water Share Ireland. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the sector's involvement and the programme's progress, reflect on the achievements, and hear strong commitments from both existing and prospective patrons. The gathering highlighted the shared dedication and enthusiasm of all involved, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in driving the Water Share Ireland mission forward.



SPOTLIGHT: Alan Curran – Meet the Chair

Water-Share Ireland is delighted to announce that Alan Curran has taken on the role of Chair of the Committee. Alan has over 30 years of experience in the Irish water and utilities sector. He spent his entire career in consultancy, initially with MC O' Sullivan and then RPS/Tetra Tech.



Alan is a Senior Director with oversight of their water & PMO services departments. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland and the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland. Alan has been a contributor and strong advocate of Water-Share since its inception.

Speaking on his new role, Alan said:

Ireland would not be where it is today without him. With the support of GOAL, Uisce Éireann, our Patrons and Committee, I am committed to strengthening Water-Share Ireland to ensure we can support the growing needs of GOAL teams on the ground and positively impact the lives of as many communities as possible.

I have been part of our water sector for most of my career. Still, it has been truly inspiring and rewarding to see our water community come together to help others in Uganda, Syria and Sierra Leone. Small projects, in our terms, have major impacts on those benefitting locally.

My hope is that we build on the work done to date to help impact hundreds of thousands of lives by improving standards of living and, thereby, access to education and economic development. The exponential impact of the provision of even the most basic water and sanitation has been a real eye-opener for me.

I feel we have only touched the surface of the capacity within our local sector, and I intend to reach out to the industry to harness it in support of our mission.

The beauty of our model is that we do not just need financial support through donations. At the core of what we do is drawing on the sector's time and technical expertise. This can be in the form of small, targeted pieces of work supporting local teams or longer-term project involvements.

Strengthening Water-Share Ireland means widening our membership base and attracting both individuals and companies to become involved.

I would strongly urge anyone interested, either from a company or personal basis, to reach out to me, GOAL or any of our members to jump on board."

GOAL SIERRA LEONE RECIEVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Earlier this quarter, the GOAL Sierra Leone team received a prestigious award from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. This honour recognised their exceptional dedication and impact in advancing water and sanitation initiatives across the country.

Country Director James Riak Mathiang accepted the award on behalf of his team and extended heartfelt thanks to the Ministry, SLANGO, and Water-Share Ireland for their collaboration and support. This achievement highlights the collective power of partnership and the vital role Water-Share Ireland plays in delivering sustainable WASH programs in Sierra Leone, Eastern Uganda, and Northern Syria.

We invite you to revisit and celebrate this milestone by reading the original post on LinkedIn: [GOAL Global LinkedIn Post](#).

**GOAL SIERRA LEONE RECEIVES
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

ACEI ASSOCIATION OF
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
OF IRELAND

of Ireland's engineering and water sectors through strategic engagement and awareness activities to drive innovative WASH solutions for vulnerable communities worldwide.

WATER-SHARE IRELAND FUNDING & SUPPORT

We are 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.



SUPPORT WATER-SHARE IRELAND APPEAL

THANK YOU for your commitment! 2024 has been a year of remarkable achievements, and we are proud of the strides we've made together. Only together can we look to 2025 with confidence and purpose. We see immense potential to build on the current momentum, scale our impact, and deliver even greater support for communities in need.



With your expertise and continued membership contributions, we hope to raise €100,000, which will allow us to scale up current water projects and begin new ones.

We need you! This is a reminder that the annual subscription for Patrons is €5,000 per year, and each Patron is invited to join the steering committee. An annual commitment of €1,000 is also welcome and equally affords staff the opportunity to engage in project delivery.

As always, Water-Share Ireland is seeking technical expertise and pro bono support, especially in the areas of solar power, flow measurement, leakage detection, supply chain management, and procurement.

We invite you to contact John Gowen (watershare@goal.ie or +353 89 234 9554) to learn more.

A special note of thanks to ACEI for selecting Water Share Ireland as their charity partner. We are excited about the opportunity to work together and share a vision for creating meaningful and lasting impact.

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goalglobal.org/water-share



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