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Issue 4, Q1, 2025

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear friends,

It's a pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of the Water-Share Ireland e-Zine for 2025. As we reflect on progress, I'm proud of the energy, innovation, and collaboration that continue to define this network despite mounting challenges in the global humanitarian space.



The evolving funding landscape—including the major gap left by recent USAID cuts—has created new pressures for the humanitarian sector, with a projected shortfall of over \$63 billion in global aid. While many of you reading this are not directly affected, many of GOAL's programmes are. As a GOAL-led initiative, Water-Share Ireland relies on your technical expertise, sectoral knowledge, and generous contributions to deliver life-changing WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) solutions in some of the world's most underserved and crisis-affected communities. Now, more than ever, your support is critical.

together. We reflected on the collective impact we've made across our four core programmes in Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Syria, and discussed how we build on that momentum to meet the growing needs of 2025. I want to sincerely thank everyone who participated and made the evening such a success.

The event also formally introduced our first Charity Partnership with ACEI—an important milestone that signals Water-Share Ireland's continued growth and institutional maturity. We are delighted to welcome Shane Dempsey and the ACEI team into a more formal role within the programme, and we look forward to the fresh thinking and momentum this partnership will bring as we deepen our work in advancing WASH globally.

We've seen significant strides across our country programmes already this year. In Freetown, Sierra Leone, our liquid Waste-to-Energy Plant—formerly known as the Faecal Sludge Management Plant—continues to break ground, offering transformational potential for the local sanitation and health. This project is made possible through a combination of institutional donor support from Irish Aid and FCDO (UK government department responsible for foreign affairs, development, and international assistance), and, crucially, through the expertise, innovation and partnership of our Water-Share Ireland members, including Nicholas O'Dwyer (an RSK Company), EPS, RPS (A Tetra Tech Company), DCU, Joe O'Driscoll and Uisce Éireann.

In Syria, we continue to operate in one of the most complex humanitarian and political environments, working to assess and restore critical sewage infrastructure with the expert support of several long-standing member organisations, including ARUP and, again, RPS (a Tetra Tech Company), Nicholas O'Dwyer (an RSK Company) and Ryan Hanley. And in Eastern Uganda, we are seeing ongoing impact through the Mulombi, Mogadishu, and Buwoya piped water schemes with the potential to serve up to 38,000 people—made possible by financial contributions and pro bono technical input from members, including Ward and Burke, O'Toole Charitable Trust, Arup, Tobin, Ryan Hanley, Uisce Éireann and Egis. These projects represent the very best of what this special group can do when engineering meets solidarity.

In Zimbabwe, anticipation continues to build around our proposed pilot Water Kiosk project—another example of our commitment to scalable, sustainable, and community-driven WASH solutions. This project is made possible thanks to the generous contributions of John and Mary Cradock. We'll explore more about this in the pages ahead.

I'm also grateful to the team at DCU's Water Institute for revisiting the success of our first-of-its-kind WASH Hackathon during our Annual Meeting – a moment that captured the energy and ingenuity of this partnership and showed what's possible when fresh perspectives come to the table. We look forward to planning this event again later in the year, so watch this space!

This issue of the e-Zine will take you deeper into many of these stories, including a spotlight on Shane Dempsey of ACEI as he steps into this new role, as well as updates from across our programmes and member initiatives. I hope it leaves you feeling proud of what we've achieved and inspired for what comes next.

Please continue to share this publication with colleagues, collaborators, and anyone who believes in the power of water to transform lives. Your support is not only appreciated—it's urgently needed.

Warm Regards,



Alan Curran,
Chair, Water-Share Ireland

REFLECTIONS ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

On April 3rd, we gathered for the Water-Share Ireland Annual Meeting - thank you to everyone who joined us. It was an energising evening filled with insights, shared purpose, and meaningful connections.

We're especially grateful to our speakers for sharing their time and insights: Prof. Fiona Regan from DCU, Shane Dempsey from ACEI, Suzanne Dempsey, Malcolm Edger, and our GOAL colleagues, including John Gowen, for their project updates. Thanks also to GOAL CEO Siobhán Walsh and GOAL Board Chairperson Barry O'Connell for closing out the evening with vision and purpose.



Pictured: Alan Curran (Water-Share Ireland Chair), Prof. Fiona Regan (DCU), Barry O'Connell (GOAL Chairman), Shane Dempsey (ACEI).

Among the key takeaways was the urgent need to secure a resilient, consistent funding base to deliver on our strategy. While technical expertise and in-kind contributions remain core to Water-Share Ireland's impact, financial support is the most critical enabler of our work. This funding fuels our ability to respond to growing needs and invest in long-term, sustainable solutions in the communities we serve.

The event also highlighted the increasing engagement of our sector—reflected in new partnerships, shared innovations, and a deepening commitment to WASH goals through Water-Share Ireland.

Annual Meeting Presentation

WATER-SHARE IRELAND ROUND-UP

A) NORTHERN, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN UGANDA

Uganda continues to be a core focus of Water-Share Ireland's efforts. Multiple piped water supply (PWS) schemes are advancing across the country, each designed to bring reliable, safe water to underserved rural communities.

Mulombi PWS – Eastern Uganda

The Mulombi scheme, commissioned and handed over to the Ministry of Water for operation in early 2024, now serves 3,000 people across three schools. The system draws from a high-yield source with a capacity for 11,000 people. An extension—under construction—will bring access to an additional 6,000 people by mid-2025, including four schools and a health centre. With future upgrades currently under investigation, the system has the potential to serve 9,000 people by 2040. *This work is made possible through continued financial support from Ward & Burke. The current phase is expected to be completed by Q2.*

Mogadishu PWS – Northern Uganda

Following successful exploratory drilling with a safe yield of 60m³/day, the Mogadishu PWS is now moving into final design stages. Topographical surveys are complete, and tendering is scheduled for Q2 2025. The system is expected to serve 3,000 people initially, growing to 6,000 by 2045. *This scheme is being advance-funded by a contribution from the Father O'Toole Trust and represents a critical investment in a highly vulnerable, water-insecure region.*

Buwoya PWS – Southeastern Uganda

Work continues to unlock a larger-scale PWS to serve the Buwoya Parish, with an estimated 12,000 potential beneficiaries. Hydrogeological assessments identified a partial source with a 90m³/day capacity; however, a secondary source is still required. To this end, a geophysical survey has been commissioned in the Nsibondwe area and is due for completion in Q2 2025. *We are currently seeking further funding of €50,000 for further investigation works. The estimated project cost is €1.02 million. Once a viable source is confirmed, GOAL will seek donor support to advance the scheme.*



Pictured: Mulombi PWS current construction.

Ongoing Technical Support

Water-Share Ireland continues to provide critical technical expertise across these projects, with members contributing to hydrogeology, design reviews, and network modelling.

- Hydrogeology: Arup, Tobin
- Design Reviews: Ryan Hanley, Tobin, Egis
- Network Analysis: Ryan Hanley, Uisce Éireann

Impact at a Glance

- **Mulombi:** 3,600 people served, scalable to 18,000
- **Mogadishu:** 3,000 by 2025, potential for 6,000
- **Buwoya:** Scheme designed for 12,000

B) FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Waste to Energy Plant (formerly Faecal Sludge Management Plant)

In Q1, Water-Share Ireland and GOAL completed critical upgrades to the *Waste to Energy Plant* in Freetown—an important evolution of what was previously known as the Faecal Sludge Management Plant. With these works now complete, the focus for 2025 shifts toward transforming waste into marketable energy products.

The next phase will centre on repurposing sludge into smokeless briquettes through a system of dewatering, degassing, and drying, supporting both environmental sustainability and local economic development. This step-change aims to monetise waste, reduce reliance on traditional fuels, and

This innovative work is supported by generous donor funding from Irish Aid and FCDO, along with essential technical expertise and funding from Water-Share Ireland members, including Nicolas O'Dwyer (RSK), EPS, RPS (a Tetra Tech Company), DCU, Joe O'Driscoll, and Uisce Éireann.

Want to see the work in action? Watch our video on the plant and its impact below.



Waste to Energy Plant (formerly Faecal Sludge Management Plant), Sierra Leone (6 minutes)

C) IDLIB PROVINCE, NORTHWEST SYRIA

Amid a challenging and volatile context, Water-Share Ireland continues to support GOAL in advancing essential technical assessments to strengthen WASH systems across Idlib.

Recent efforts include a review of leakage levels in the water distribution network for Salqin city, an assessment of groundwater potential in the face of climate change, and technical reviews of sewage networks, wastewater treatment facility, water distribution network and solid waste sites, and solar infrastructure.

This work is made possible through the expertise of Water-Share Ireland members, including RPS (a Tetra Tech Company), Arup, Glanua and Nicolas O'Dwyer. These efforts are vital to protecting and improving water access in one of the world's most complex humanitarian settings.

reliant on unsustainable, community-managed borehole systems. With funding generously provided by John and Mary Cradock, Water-Share Ireland and GOAL are exploring a new approach: piloting private sector-operated water kiosks to provide safe, affordable, and sustainable water.

Following a short-term consultancy and engagement with local authorities, a pilot project is being proposed in Hopely Farm, where residents currently rely on shallow, unsafe wells. The proposed solution includes a secure kiosk with a solar-powered borehole, chlorination, storage, and automated dispensing with a digital pre-payment system. In addition, a critical component of the kiosk will be to demonstrate to the local authorities how remote sensing can facilitate service provider performance monitoring and promote quality services to local residents. *Next steps include finalising a business plan with a private sector provider, assessing groundwater conditions, and engaging the community.*

SPOTLIGHT: SHANE DEMPSEY, ACEI

When the ACEI engages with stakeholders, I always state that our members are designing the solutions to Ireland's housing, infrastructure and climate change challenges. The Government has turned to our sector to support the production of 300,000 new homes in five years, deliver €160 billion plus in economic output and contribute to the sustainable design that will underpin our efforts to meet climate change targets. It's an awesome responsibility but one that I know our members can deliver on.



ACEI believes in using its expertise to make a meaningful impact from community to global levels. The contribution companies can make in their communities is tremendous. This is why we're proud to collaborate with Water-Share Ireland.

Our members work across Ireland with Uisce Eireann and other Government bodies to ensure a sustainable and clean water supply. That's why many of our members, such as RPS, are already deeply involved with Water-Share Ireland. Through this partnership, the ACEI will encourage our 120 members to sign up for the Water-Share Ireland programme and contribute their expertise.

Access to clean water is fundamental to health and well-being, yet millions lack this essential resource. Through our involvement with Water-Share Ireland, ACEI members do and will continue to contribute funding, technical knowledge, and engineering expertise to improve water infrastructure in regions such as Sierra Leone, Eastern Uganda, and Northwest Syria. By leveraging our skills and resources, we help ensure that communities in need gain access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and better hygiene facilities.

This initiative aligns with ACEI's broader commitment to sustainability and ethical responsibility. As we look to the future, Shane Dempsey and the ACEI team remain dedicated to driving positive change within the consulting engineering profession and society.

Who We Are: The Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) has been at the forefront of the consulting engineering profession since its establishment in 1938. As a voluntary, self-regulatory professional body, ACEI represents the business and professional interests of firms and individuals engaged in consulting engineering. Our organisation is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of engineering excellence, setting industry benchmarks, and advocating for best practices, sustainability, and ethical conduct among our members.

As the official voice of Consulting Engineering Practices in Ireland, ACEI plays a crucial role in shaping public policy through involvement in working groups and government committees and the development of model conditions of engagement and policy papers. We are committed to ensuring our members provide high-quality, cost-effective engineering solutions that benefit clients and

The ACEI continues to champion the interests of consulting engineers while fostering innovation, sustainability, and global responsibility. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, ACEI remains steadfast in its mission to support its members, advocate for sound engineering policies, and contribute to a better future for all.

We look forward to working with you over the next few decades to improve the lives of millions of people globally.

WATER-SHARE IRELAND FUNDING & SUPPORT

We are deeply grateful to our committed Supporters and Patrons. Your ongoing contributions make it possible to deliver life-changing WASH programmes to some of the world's most vulnerable communities. In addition to vital funding, the generous in-kind support and technical expertise shared by our partners continue to be a cornerstone of our success. *Together, we are driving meaningful, lasting impact.*



SUPPORT WATER-SHARE IRELAND APPEAL


Thank you for your continued commitment to Water-Share Ireland.

Q1 of 2025 has already shown the powerful impact of your support—projects are moving forward, partnerships are strengthening, and we're building on the strong foundation laid in 2024



- Looking ahead, we see real potential to grow our impact. With your ongoing contributions—financial and technical—we aim to raise **€200,000** this year to help scale current projects and begin new ones.
- A reminder that **Patron membership (€5,000)** includes a seat on the Steering Committee. **Supporter contributions (€1,000)** are also hugely valued and offer meaningful ways for your staff to engage directly with projects.

- Become a member and join us. Together, we don't just imagine a better future - we can build it. Please contact me at cpollard@goal.ie for your Water-Share Ireland brochure and learn how your organisation can align its Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Social Governance priorities with impactful and innovative solutions to the world's WASH challenges.
- We continue to welcome **technical expertise and pro bono support**, particularly in solar, flow measurement, leakage detection, procurement, and logistics. To get involved, contact **John Gowen at watershare@goal.ie or +353 89 234 9554.**
- A special thanks to those partners who renewed their membership and support for Water-Share Ireland in 2025. Your continued backing keeps this work moving. Thank you!



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