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Issue 4, Q3 2023

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce the latest edition of our Water-Share Ireland e-Zine. Your steadfast support has played a pivotal role in our significant and positive progress in delivering WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) projects in Eastern and Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, and NW Syria.

I am also delighted to reiterate the launch of an official partnership between Water-Share Ireland and Uisce Éireann.



support structures. This marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of the Water-Share Ireland initiative, opening doors to new opportunities and expanding positive impact.

In the coming months, we are set to present our plans for a more robust organisational framework for the Water-Share Ireland initiative. This new strategic plan, set for launch in March 2024, will emphasise our mission, vision, value, and goals in tandem with enhanced management and oversight. Your commitment will be invaluable as we shape our vision for Water-Share Ireland together.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to Malcolm Edger, whose recent trip to Eastern Uganda has reaffirmed the value of our collaborative efforts. His firsthand account in this e-zine highlights our vital work and the potential for further growth and development.

Looking ahead to 2024, our commitment remains steadfast. With the unwavering support of our existing Water-Share Ireland supporters, from the Irish water resources sector, we plan to expand our reach and impact.

I urge you to share this e-Zine widely, spreading the word about our shared vision. Together, let's amplify our impact and create lasting change through sustainable water resources and WASH programming.

Thank you for your enduring support for Water-Share Ireland.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Grant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry Grant
Chairman, Water-Share Ireland



Yvonne Harris, Head of Strategic Projects at Uisce Éireann, joins the Water-Share Ireland Committee in a pivotal governance and coordination capacity. Read more: [Uisce Éireann's Yvonne Harris joins Water-Share Ireland to help drive and grow GOAL's WASH Programmes - GOAL Global](#)

WATER-SHARE IRELAND ROUND-UP

A) NORTHERN and EASTERN UGANDA

We are delighted to announce that our project in Mulombi is almost complete, and water will flow by the end of this year. The civil works are being undertaken by Bernoulli Contractors and supervised by GOAL. The project will be handed over to the Regional Office of the Umbrella Authority for operation and maintenance. We sincerely thank Ward & Burke Construction for their significant donation, which funded this vital project. Looking ahead for Mulombi, our next steps are to explore how best to expand the project further to provide water for up to 3,000 people and 800 secondary school pupils nearby. Funding options for this are now being explored.

In Namayingo district, the Ministry has voiced doubts about groundwater availability and plans to purify Lake Victoria water. As significant funding will be required for such a scheme, the potential use of groundwater sources in Buwoya parish is subject to an ongoing feasibility assessment, and investigative drilling will be necessary due to the current water shortage. Costs for this drilling are expected to be in the region of €55,000

There have also been discussions on the Icelandic Government collaborating with Uganda on a Lake Victoria water sourcing strategy, and the intention is that Water-Share Ireland and GOAL will assess its capacity to support this activity.

Following on from the €100,000 funding provided by O'Toole Trust for the Kaabong region, 3,500 people are currently supplied from three poor-quality boreholes, which require improvement. The drilling test has been put out for tender. However, due to the limited availability of groundwater resources in the Kaabong region, there have been challenges in procuring suitable drilling services at a fair price. A revised tender strategy has been agreed

Water-Share Ireland Committee Member Malcolm Edgers' recent trip to Uganda, is detailed in our Spotlight piece below.

B) FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Our pioneering Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Plant in Freetown is now running at a total capacity of 12 trucks/day (>80,000l/day). A key element of our work in Freetown was innovation and research into how we could reuse the sludge generated at the plant. Our innovative approach is now seeing the plant producing GEObags, which can be used as fuel in the form of briquettes, pictured below.



FSM Plant - Images from GOAL Board Visit, October 2023

Eamon Sharkey, GOAL's Director of Fundraising and Communications, recently returned from a Sierra Leone field trip with GOAL Board Member Alison Cowzer and GOAL US Board Member Conor Twomey.

Their 'key takeaways' from the trip include that Sierra Leone suffers from chronic environmental and health issues, including high maternal mortality rates (712 per 100,000) and high teenage pregnancy (21% 15-19 y/o). Seasonal weather hazards, urbanisation and poor sanitation present significant challenges and disease outbreaks are common. Using innovative techniques, WASH programmes in rural and urban settings continue to be one of the five key focus areas.

To date, GOAL has driven and implemented the drilling and construction of 493 water points in Kenema and Moyamba with funding from charity:water. Looking to 2024, we are reviewing how to develop the faecal sludge system, with further capacity and value drain development and the critical capability development that would enable the handover of operation to the local team, probably with private sector support.



FSM Plant – Images from GOAL Board Visit, October 2023

with a limited local workforce and dilapidated infrastructure, following the earthquake in early Feb 2023, in an already war-torn area, the Water-Share Ireland programme continues to address difficulties in providing consistent access to clean water for over 50,000 people in Salqin City.

Barry De Clerk and others from RPS are working closely with the GOAL Syria team to help develop a suitable strategy for determining likely leakage levels within the transfer, storage, and distribution networks.

In the coming months, the team hope to repeat earlier leakage tests on the transfer pipework and storage tanks using a zoning approach to limit errors and increase resolution.

Following this, they will attempt to conduct night-time loss measurements in particular neighbourhoods of the city, whilst maintaining their regular distribution schedules. This task is made considerably more complicated than for a comparable city with adequate water supply due to this scheduling. This means different sections of the network are empty at different times over a two-week period, as each neighbourhood receives water for one day every two weeks.

Gerry Baker and his colleagues from Arup continue to refine their initial hydrogeology model using actual borehole water level data from eleven boreholes across NW Syria. Once the model is sufficiently calibrated, it will be used to determine future groundwater changes under different climate change scenarios.

WATER-SHARE IRELAND FUNDING & SUPPORT

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



Malcolm Edger Visits Uganda

On his recent visit to Uganda, our valued Water-Share Ireland Committee Member Malcolm Edger delved deep into the heart of our collaborative initiatives with GOAL, bringing back invaluable insights and connections from the field.

His visit encompassed pivotal meetings and field assessments, marking a significant stride in our mission to deliver sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes to vulnerable communities.

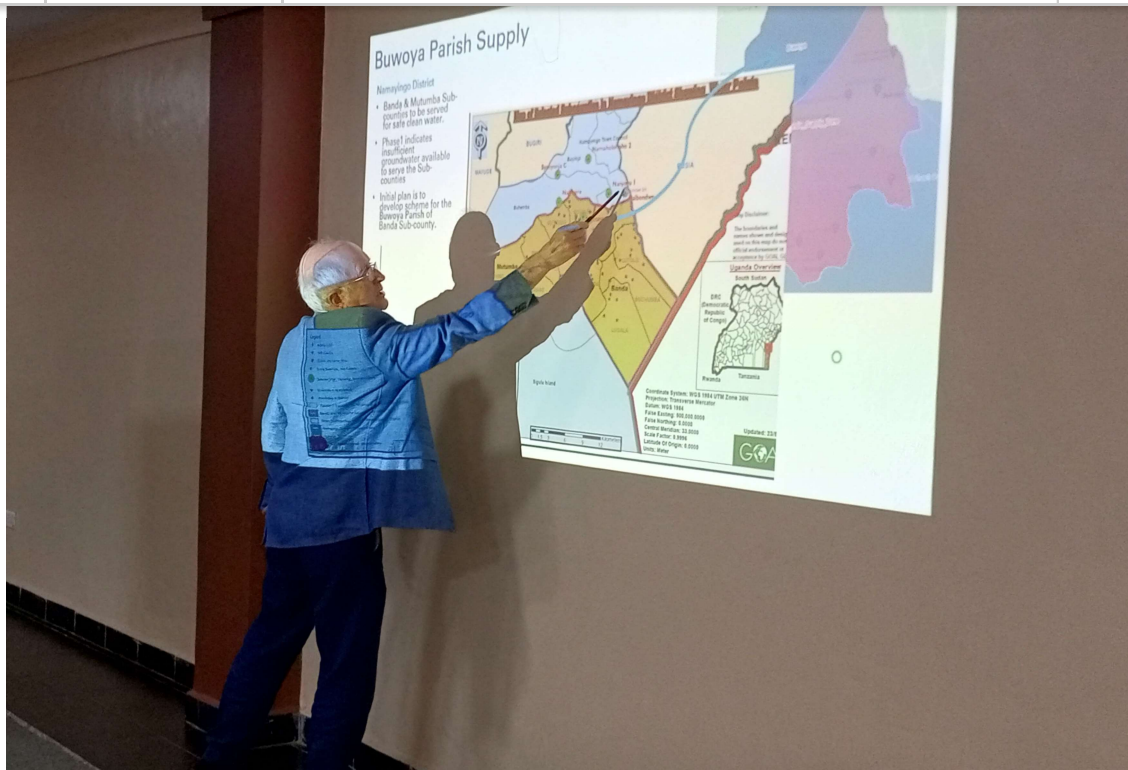
Talking about his trip, Malcolm shared,

“It was a wonderful opportunity to witness the outstanding gains GOAL is making in the provision of drinking water to rural communities and the role Water-Share Ireland is playing in strengthening this capacity.”

“There is nothing more professionally rewarding than being involved in the provision of a safe drinking water supply scheme. Water-Share Ireland’s Mulombi and Kabang funded projects will greatly enhance the quality of life in these rural communities.”

Key Engagements: Malcolm met with GOAL's dedicated team in Kampala, introducing Water-Share Ireland and underlining our collaborative efforts in Uganda. Next, he met with the 15-member GOAL WASH Team in Bugiri, discussing the groundwork for water projects. Notably, from this conversation, the ongoing charity:water Programme, set to conclude in 2024, will likely extend, with future projects likely to incorporate essential sanitation components. Venturing into the heart of Ugandan communities, Malcolm visited Namayinga District and Mulombi Village. Conversations with local leaders revealed the transformative impact of our initiatives, raising water coverage from 34% to 60% in Namayinga. In Mulombi, construction of the Water-Share Ireland-funded village scheme is nearing completion, ensuring immediate benefits to the surrounding community. Plans to extend the water network were scoped, expanding the supply to a nearby village community, including a large secondary school.





Infrastructure Assessment: Malcolm inspected the water infrastructure firsthand, evaluating the robustness of the pipe stand system in Nagalama Village. The payment system was demonstrated, and discussions on the maintenance of the system were held with an engineer from the Ministry's Umbrella Authority. The visit highlighted the need for community engagement and support to gain acceptance of the pay-for-water principles needed to sustain these vital resources.

Strategic Discussions: A round table meeting with GOAL, the Ministry of Water, Umbrella Authority, and Namayinga District paved the way for strategic planning in Matumba and Banda Sub Districts. Water-Share Ireland's Phase 1 and 2 report findings were presented and discussed. The meeting identified short-term opportunities as the way forward, focusing on supplying the Buwoya parish and aligning with the Ministry's Master Plan for the region.

Future Collaborations: The visit concluded with a commitment to further collaboration. Malcolm expressed Water-Share Ireland's gratitude for GOAL's hospitality and affirmed our eagerness to continue this impactful journey together. Looking ahead, discussions with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Kampala are advised for future visits, encouraging another step in our relentless pursuit of global water equality and sustainability.



WATER ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE



As an Irish-based initiative which works on the world stage, Water-Share Ireland encourages engagement by all our stakeholders in global awareness days, conferences, and events to promote a better planet for all. As influential voices in this transformative space, it is imperative that we not only engage with but deeply comprehend these sector developments. This understanding empowers us to continually refine and adapt our programming, ensuring Water-Share Ireland resonates with

Since the last edition of this e-Zine, significant events in the water sector and SDG arena have unfolded. Below, we spotlight the United Nations SDG Summit, which took place in September 2023 and distil some vital takeaways.

UN SDG Summit: The 2023 SDG Summit in New York on 18-19 September marked the halfway point to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Led by the President of the General Assembly, the Summit provided vital political guidance and aimed to inspire renewed hope and enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda amidst global challenges.

Key Takeaways:

- **"Halfway to the 2030 deadline, the SDGs are in deep trouble,"** the UN announced at the start of its SDG Summit that **only 15% of the goals set under the 17 SDGs are on track**, with many regressing.
- The Secretary-General Urged World Leaders to **Lift Political Declaration' Off the Page' and invest in Development Like Never Before**. Read more [here](#).
- Guterres presented an **"SDG Rescue Plan" with seven immediate steps** to move beyond the Summit's commitments towards action. Read the SDG Rescue Plan [here](#).

UN-Water & SDG Resource (click relevant line to see full resource)

- [Compilation Messages from UN Entities SDG Summit Political Declaration](#)
- [SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, Facts and Figures](#)
- [What takeaways from the SDG Summit 2023 can be applied to the second half of the 2030 Agenda's implementation?](#)
- [As SDG Summit Concludes, Secretary-General Urges World Leaders to Lift Political Declaration 'Off the Page', Invest in Development Like Never Before](#)

SUPPORT WATER-SHARE IRELAND APPEAL

Once again, we would like to convey our immense gratitude to all our supporters and partners for their continued commitment to Water-Share Ireland. Thanks to you, we can drive forward with life-changing WASH projects while addressing multiple SDGs.

Together, we aim to continue delivering impactful projects in areas where vulnerable communities and families need improved access to safe water and sanitation.

As a friendly reminder, the annual subscription for Patrons of Water-Share Ireland is €5,000 annually. By becoming a Patron, you support our initiatives and will be invited to join our esteemed steering committee. It is an excellent opportunity to contribute directly to project delivery and 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



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 incredible membership and for sharing our vision. Your contributions, knowledge, time and expertise are all invaluable to building a more equitable and resilient world.



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