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Issue 2, Q4, 2022

CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

Dear <<First Name>>,

A warm welcome to the second edition of the quarterly Water-Share Ireland e-Zine, in which we are delighted to bring you our Water-Share news and updates.

Water-Share Ireland is an alliance of Irish water sector stakeholders that acts in partnership with GOAL to help deliver life-changing WASH (Water and Sanitation Hygiene) programming to the world's poorest and most disadvantaged communities and Water-Share initiatives are currently focused in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Northwest Syria.

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Appeal

In the first instance, I would like to bring your attention to the horrific earthquake that struck NW Syria and neighbouring Southern Türkiye on Mon 6th Feb. Early that morning, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit the vast region, closely followed by another earthquake of similar strength. Over 33,000 deaths have been reported, with a massive international relief effort now underway to reach those left without shelter and in need of the basic essentials of life.

The earthquake has also been a very personal disaster for GOAL. As I write, GOAL has confirmed that 26 staff from the GOAL Syria programme and two from the GOAL Türkiye programme lost their lives and a small number of staff are very sadly still unaccounted for.

GOAL is the leading Irish humanitarian aid agency in Türkiye and NW Syria and has been working in NW Syria since 2012 and currently has a staff of 950+ there delivering aid and support across Idlib and Northern Aleppo. GOAL has also been implementing refugee response programmes in Türkiye since 2016, with 250+ staff working in the country's southeast provinces to help the most vulnerable and marginalised refugees access essential services and aid. GOAL's operations in Türkiye are in Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, and Şanlıurfa. Before the earthquake GOAL was reaching 1.5 million people in NW Syria and 33k people in Türkiye with its humanitarian programmes every year.

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If you have any queries, please contact Courtenay Pollard in GOAL's Fundraising Team, cpollard@goal.ie or call 01-2809779



Planning Ahead for 2023

As we immerse ourselves in the new year, we need to remind ourselves that up to two billion people across the world lack access to safe drinking water and 3.6 billion people lack access to safe sanitation. And the impact of rapidly escalating climate change is putting even more highly vulnerable communities under increasing pressure. For example, it was sobering to review existing water sources in our focus area of Namayingo, SE Uganda and find that the vast majority failed the tests for potable quality.

Save the Date: Water-Share Ireland Annual Meeting. We are delighted to invited you to our Water-Share Ireland Annual Meeting which will take place on **Wednesday 29th March** at 7.30pm in the **Stephen's Green Club**, Dublin 2. In previous years, this has been a really enjoyable and engaging evening which has given great impetus to the work in the [field](#).

At this event we will present an in-depth overview of what Water-Share has achieved to date, what our plans for 2023 are and how you and your company can get involved. You will also have the opportunity to meet some key figures in the Irish water sector, GOAL WASH experts and colleagues who have already given their time and expertise to Water-Share initiatives. We will send you an invite to and programme for this important event but if in the meantime you have any queries, please contact us at watersharecomms@goal.ie

On another note, one of the themes of the UN Water Conference (22-24 March 2023, New York) is 'accelerating change'. Through your support of Water-Share, you are helping to bring about that change for communities whose access to safe, clean water is severely limited due to the combined impacts of climate change, conflict and soaring global inflation in the cost of goods and services.

By tapping into the expertise, commitment and generosity of their employees, Irish engineering companies and other stakeholders in the Irish water resources community are helping to accelerate that change and transform thousands of lives every day.

One final thanks to all for your continued support, and please do share this e-Zine across your organisation and with anyone you may think would be interested in furthering the mission and vision of Water-Share Ireland.

With best wishes,

Jerry Grant
Chairman, Water-Share Ireland



WATER-SHARE ROUND-UP

Uganda

- **The Molumbi Borehole and Mini-Pipe Scheme** comprises construction of a project to serve 800-1,000 people directly with drinking water in this rural community in Eastern Uganda, largely with funding provided by Ward & Burke. Following successful water source assessment which revealed spare capacity and excellent quality, the works are being sized for potential expansion to a significantly larger benefitting community in future stages. The project is being managed for Water-Share by Malcolm Edger and is currently out for tender, with a target to have selected a Contractor in the coming weeks.
- **Fr O'Toole Charitable Trust** – Water-Share will leverage the wonderful €100k donation made via the Fr O'Toole Charitable Trust in late 2022 towards delivery of a water supply project in Kaabong District, Northern Uganda, close to where Fr O'Toole ministered. GOAL staff are now exploring feasibility of a solar pump and mini-pipe project in the region. This project will be managed by Tim O'Connor of Uisce Éireann and will increase access to sustainable safe water and improve the sanitation and hygiene for almost 600 households in Mugadishu Village and surrounding communities.
- **Namayingo District in Southeast Uganda** – We have now finalised the feasibility study for a larger piped scheme to address water supply deficits in Namayingo District. Work in this area, which borders Lake Victoria, will impact some 80,000 people where almost all ground and surface sources are polluted or chemically unsafe.
- **Nsibonwe in Namayingo District** – We identified only one significant source with good water quality close enough to supply this area. However, the quantity available in that source is inadequate and the next task, if we can access the required funding, is to drill in that area to prove adequate volumes of water. We are looking to partner with an engineering company in Ireland to support this project further, as an assured supply of water would open opportunities for a large donor to fund the whole project. Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

Sierra Leone

- **FSM Plant, Freetown** – Following the successful delivery of this Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) plant in the country's capital of Freetown by Water-Share Ireland, GOAL WASH Teams continue to support its operation. The team is now exploring options to scale up the plant, with assessments being done on potential locations for additional plants. GOAL WASH teams are also considering how best to conduct handover of all plant management to local authorities in Freetown.
- Water-Share Ireland is currently specifically **seeking the support of an engineer in the water sector** with sludge operation experience to offer their expertise and dedication towards this project in Sierra Leone. Please contact John Gowen (watershare@goal.ie or +353 89 234 9554) to learn more.

Syria

- **Impact of February 6th earthquake** – While the GOAL-provided generators are still powering water systems in regions of Idlib province, it is not yet known what the wider implications are for water supply at user-level in the region. It is clear, however, that people in NW Syria will need the support of initiatives like Water-Share more than ever in the months and years to come.
- **Salqin, Idlib Province** – RPS, with support of Cully Automation, is working with the GOAL WASH Team in Northwest Syria to complete a water network study and to establish water loss measurement systems in the town of Salqin, Idlib province. This project is being led by Alan Curran of RPS and while in the early stages has already flagged significant losses through preliminary step testing.
- Gerry Baker at ARUP is supporting the **Hydrology project in Idlib Province in Syria**. This area is facing extreme drought which is putting huge pressure on water supplies. The next step is to obtain data on irrigation demand for which new Terms of Reference are being prepared.

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Delivery on UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (**SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**) and its related targets is central to the work of Water-Share Ireland. This SDG aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by providing safe and affordable drinking water, access to sanitation and hygiene, improving water quality and wastewater treatment, and supporting local engagement in water and sanitation management.

Commitment by Water-Share to SDG 6 also completely aligns to GOAL's Vision which is for a world beyond humanitarian crises where poverty no longer exists, where vulnerable communities exposed to shocks and stresses are resilient, where barriers to well-being are removed and where everyone has equal rights and opportunities. Read more about how Water-Share works towards achieving the SDGs [here](#).

Upcoming International Water Events

As an Irish based initiative which works on the world stage, Water-Share encourages engagement by all our stakeholders in global awareness days, conferences, and events to promote a better planet for all. Here is a whistle stop tour of key upcoming international water events.

- **World Water Day (WWD) 2023, Wed 22nd March.** The theme of WWD 2023 is 'Be The Change' which encourages people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water. Please visit <https://www.unwater.org/news/world-water-day-2023>
- **UN Water Conference 2023, 22-24 March, New York.** The vision for the UN Water Conference 2023 is that we all fundamentally understand, value and manage water better and take concerted action to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Conference will seek to shine the spotlight on commitments that create impact and set a clear agenda for the second half of the Decade and beyond until 2030, while promoting a longer-term approach and perspective, going beyond 2030. To scale up commitments including concrete actions and agreements, an effort will be made to promote successful and scalable solutions. Please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>
- **World Oceans Day, Thurs 8th June.** The purpose of World Oceans Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilise and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. Please visit <https://worldoceanday.org/>



WASH PROGRAMMING AND WATER-SHARE SPOTLIGHTS

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Pius Nishimwe – GOAL Sierra Leone

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and where you work?

My name is Pius Nishimwe, I am the Country WASH Coordinator, GOAL Sierra Leone

Can you tell us about your experience in the water engineering sector?

I am involved in water engineering sector for the last 11 years from policy, implementation to service delivery. I have strong experience in implementing systems approaches, with a focus on WASH Market systems development and strategic planning.

Since 2011 I have a strong commitment to developing WASH market systems in developing countries including Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Why did you choose to work in this sector?

My choice was influenced by my childhood experience. I once lived a refugee camp and was GOAL's beneficiary. One of the major challenges was access to drinking water and improved sanitation. This has changed my perception on water and sanitation. Every day we will be fighting at the communal taps to get water. Every morning and evening we would be on the queue to use the communal latrines. Going to the toilet was something to plan. Apart from water being a right to everyone, I consider water and sanitation as a lifesaving service. Lack of water can lead to death. Giving access to water and sanitation is saving someone's life. That has been my motivation in taking on water sector challenges as my personal responsibility.

What motivates you about working on a Water-Share project?

Sometimes due to resourcing limits, you may not have all the skills in an organisation to respond to all the needs of a project. It can also be very expensive to hire all of those skills. What attracts me working with Water-Share access to a variety of skills, expertise, and their motivation in giving their skills with strong motivation and commitment. I also learn a lot in engaging and working with them.

AfWA Congress and FSM Conference

Pius will be joined by Alan Reade, GLOBAL WASH Advisor for GOAL, in attending the 21st African Water Association (AfWA) Congress & Exhibition and the 7th International Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa from Feb 19th – 23rd 2023.

The theme for this joint-event is *Acting for sustainable resources management and access for all to water and sanitation in Africa* and is an opportunity to bring together the world's leading experts, engineers, technicians, researchers, and stakeholders, to meet the concerns of our fellow citizens, in a world where water and sanitation challenges are just too many.

GOAL will be presenting a paper titled *Geotextile bags for sludge dewatering in Freetown – Early reflections on operation and efficiency when compared to traditional sand drying bays* and will also co-facilitate a side event hosted by EAWAG (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) at the Conference.

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Alan Curran – RPS Consultants

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and where you work?

I am Senior Director with RPS Consultants with oversight of their water & PMO services department. I'm a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland with 30 years' experience in the water sector. I have been a contributor to and champion of Water-Share since its inception.

Can you tell us about your experience in the water engineering sector?

I didn't really know what I wanted to do early in my engineering career. I had the opportunity to work on site as a resident engineer on a water supply project, an experience I relished. After that, I got involved in a water conservation project – one of the first ever implemented in Ireland. I loved it and it made me understand and appreciate the true value of water. I went on to specialise in water and built up a water conservation team, and that's what I've been doing and loving for the past 30 years. After falling into the sector initially, my experience has made me understand the true need and value of water – it's something that's essential to life, no matter where in the world you are.

How did you become involved in Water-Share?

I've been involved in Water-Share since its early days, and I have been a champion for it here in RPS, who have been extremely supportive. I think its extraordinary how we can collaborate as a sector and share our knowledge and expertise to support countries in the developing world. It's powerful how by bringing people from across the industry together, we can make a real impact on people's day-to-day lives.

Can you tell us about your role and involvement in the Water-Share?

Our work with Water-Share predominately involves providing support regarding water conservation projects in Syria to the local teams there on the ground. We help by providing technical and strategic support on how to overcome the significant challenges they face in meeting their water supply needs, particularly in the context of years of conflict on the ground there.

It was difficult to understand Syria's water supply challenges initially but by pooling our experience and expertise, we are trying to help them gain a better understanding of where their water is used and where it is lost so that they can design solutions to maximise the benefits from their supply. We have also carried out GIS works here locally for projects in Sierra Leone and Uganda.

What motivates you about working on a Water-Share project?

I've been so struck by the enthusiasm and ability of the teams on the ground in Syria, even when progress has been slow. I've found their positive attitude to be infectious and that certainly makes me want to help even more. It's also motivating to know that the support you're providing is having a real impact on people's lives and is appreciated by the locals on the ground.

What advice would you give to someone interested in working on a Water-Share project?

If you're interested in getting involved with Water-Share, reach out to any of the coordinators from one the donor companies, or encourage your own company to get involved. From my own experience, I have found it to be extremely rewarding and it will certainly broaden your horizons.

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SUPPORT WATER-SHARE APPEAL

Dear <<First Name>>,

The Water-Share concept has proven to greatly expand the scope of what GOAL can achieve in its WASH programming. The months and years ahead will see existing and highly vulnerable communities continue to benefit from safe, clean water and sanitation in Uganda, Sierra Leone and Northwest Syria.

Water-Share is hoping to raise €60k and more this year. Annual contributions are €5k per year for Patrons and €1k for Association status. We would like to thank those companies that have already supported us in 2023 but we are seeking that commitment in funding from other interested companies for the coming year. This seed funding is vital to enable the projects to be undertaken in-country.

Aside from company funding, we believe that there is scope for fund-raising by groups of sector staff. Thank you to those who are organising fund raising events including Barry Leonard of Uisce Éireann. Barry is undertaking an initiative to encourage his colleagues to help arrange events in an effort to reach the 2023 Water-Share fundraising target. If you are interested in hosting an event please get in touch.

And as always Water-Share is seeking technical expertise and pro-bono support especially in the areas of project management, solar power, flow measurement, leakage detection, supply chain management and procurement. Please contact John Gowen (watershare@goal.ie or +353 89 234 9554) to learn more.

Let's work together to tackle chronic water borne health and hygiene diseases and support people living in critical need of clean water and sanitation with smart WASH programming. Let's share this Irish water sector's success story which is one about resilient water for all and is a crucial collaboration to achieving SDG 6 and commitment to GOAL's Vision and Values encompassing Humanitarianism, Courage, Partnership, Transparency and Accountability and Inclusiveness.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards

Courtenay Pollard
Partnerships Manager, GOAL
cpollard@goal.ie

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