



AN
AWARD-WINNING
INTERNATIONAL
NGO

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - 1190730
Ugandan Community Based Organisation (CBO) - 749/2020

Executive Summary

Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a human right. When billions lack proper WASH facilities and knowledge, we do not have a liveable planet. While progress is being made, in Uganda 10 million people still lack access to clean water, 35 million don't have a proper toilet, and 33 children die from water borne diseases each day. This inequality has devastating impacts on health, education and employment outcomes, especially for women and girls. The time has come for us to drive real change.

In 2023 EAU expanded its work in ending WASH inequality to enable shared prosperity on a liveable planet. After four years of our grassroots work, we have the expertise, capacity and tools to scale up impact across Uganda.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the generous financial and advisory support of our partners like Bukedea Local Government, Festival Medical Services, Geoff Herrington Foundation, Kitchen Table Charities Trust and many others.

Thank you and please help to reach more communities in Uganda in 2024.



Abel Odeke
Managing Director



It is clear that WASH conditions have been majorly neglected in our communities – and are critical in the context of gender and economic recovery.

A big thanks to all of our sponsors, supporters and partners. Thanks to your efforts, the communities which we work with will benefit massively, especially the young women and girls.

Jovia Namihanja
Project Officer

EAU's third year of operations as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in the UK has seen significant progress in a number of areas. The fundraising team is to be hugely congratulated on more than doubling the target set for the year. We were very fortunate in receiving repeat donations from several grant giving organisations, which suggests we are doing something right!

Trustees Report



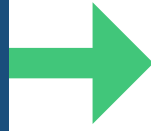
This additional income has enabled our work in Uganda to expand and improve with two significant developments. Firstly EAU has been able to purchase two Interlocking Soil Brick (ISSB) machines and, working with partners, trained our construction team in their use in the building of water tanks which are more robust and long lasting. These machines have also been used in progressing our WASH abilities with the construction of seven latrine blocks in schools. We are very grateful to our friends at Haileybury Youth Trust (HYT) who shared the necessary skills with EAU's construction team.

This expansion in workload has been made possible by the dedication of both the Uganda team and also our international volunteers in Europe and around the world who provide the essential 'back office' skills of fundraising, financial and project management, communications, monitoring and reporting. As a result, the Trustees would like to extend our gratitude to these volunteers who continue to selflessly give their time to ensure that we keep working towards tackling WASH inequalities in Uganda.

We look forward to continuing to support this work in the coming year. We would also like to very much thank our fellow Trustee Dr Cecilia Oyet who, as a result of other commitments, has had to resign from the board of trustees. Her wise counsel on the Board of Trustees will be missed.

In 2023 we increased our ambition with new Vision, Mission and Objectives

**Our
Vision**



We will become a leading organisation in Uganda in addressing inequality in WASH, and interrelated issues of gender and sustainability

**Our
Mission**



We will achieve this by working with partners and local communities to develop the required skills, knowledge and practical interventions



Primary Objectives

1

To improve access to safe and sustainable WASH for those facing the greatest inequalities in Uganda

2

To strengthen the participation of local communities in WASH, in particular women and girls, and displaced people.

3

To take action to protect the natural environment, reduce pollution and tackle climate change



Key Outcomes 2023

14,608

people with improved access to safe water

1,584

people with improved sanitation

1,074

people with improved WASH knowledge & skills

613

people with improved menstrual hygiene knowledge

2,800

trees planted, tackling climate change & biodiversity

28,000

plastic bottles upcycled, protecting the environment

12

jobs in sustainable construction created

275

kg of CO₂ avoided via sustainable construction



Change Stories 2023

Miroi Rock School

1,138 **29** **62**
students staff disabled

Intervention: Latrine

Before: The 1,100 boys and girls at Miroi Rock school shared a single, dilapidated pit latrine. This was completely inadequate for their sanitation and hygiene needs. This WASH inequality led to severe health issues and negatively affected education outcomes.



After: "I thank Equal Aqua. You have offset a great burden on the school. We don't take this for granted."

This pit latrine is very innovative. Now we have good sanitation we can prioritise education. These are the best facilities I have seen in Uganda - they can last many years.

In the district we have 98 primary schools. You are welcome to work with us. What you are doing is in line with the objectives of the Government."



District Education Officer

Bukedea District

Bunambutye Refugee Camp

3,812 **2,081** **271**
refugees children disabled

Intervention: water tank

Before: Over 200,000 Ugandans have been displaced by climate change through flooding, drought and landslides. Bunambutye has the first official climate refugees in East Africa. Their lack of proper WASH is causing health crises, including an outbreak of cholera.



After: "We had to walk for one hour each day to fetch water from a borehole that we shared with the community. Now our school has water so we don't need to worry and can focus on our studies."

We use the water for drinking, washing clothes, flushing toilets and watering the trees that we planted with Equal Aqua.

On behalf of the students here we thank Equal Aqua. Weebale nyo!"



Headboy
Primary School,
Bunambutye



Change Stories 2023

St. David Primary

354

students

39

staff

14

disabled

Intervention: Latrine

Before: The existing pit latrine at St David Primary school was full, lacked proper access for those with disabilities, and the school did not have funds available for a new latrine. It was also located on the periphery of the school grounds and therefore a safety risk for students.



After: Mr Akol the director of the school visited today to say thank you for the latrine.

This is what he had to say: “the ISSB Latrine project is an amazing project which I had never seen before.

I really want to call upon the community to embrace such a technology because communities are able to build affordable housing. In fact my next class room block has to be constructed using ISSBs.”



Headmaster

St. David School



Menstrual Hygiene

Nearly a quarter of Ugandan school girls aged between 12 and 18 drop out of school when menstruation begins (Education and Sports Ministry of Uganda, 2019).

Reasons for this include lack of proper facilities and products, and societal taboos.

This statistic is exacerbated in displacement and low income contexts which often lack feminine health infrastructures. In 2023, EAU focussed on upskilling refugees.



613 people undertook our menstrual health curriculum.



EAU opened discussions around puberty, gendered norms, and the challenges faced by girls living in the camp.

We also taught how to make reusable sanitary pads - an affordable and sustainable option for the girls to help manage their menstruation.



Outputs

613 people with improved MHM skills and knowledge

community dialogue and breaking down MHM taboos



Outcomes

improved hygiene, reducing health & safety risks

improved school attendance for girls



Impacts



WASH Skills Training

Rural communities in Uganda often lack basic WASH products and skills. This creates WASH inequalities and detrimental health outcomes.

EAU's specialist trainers delivered our WASH skills training for a women's youth group in Dokolo, Eastern Uganda. This included how to make liquid soap, bar soap, shampoo, petroleum jelly (vaseline) and reusable sanitary pads.



1,074 people completed our **WASH skills training**



Our workshops empowered the learners to apply these skills – providing essential products for their families and communities, and training others, thus driving sustainable outcomes.

We concluded with business skills – teaching trainees how to source materials, market their products, and establish good business models. This provided the skills and knowledge for the participants to commence WASH-related businesses.



Outputs

1,074 students with improved WASH skills

12 WASH businesses created



Outcomes

improved hygiene, reducing health risks

sustainable employment opportunities



Impacts





Environmental Impact

Equal Aqua intertwines WASH initiatives with a commitment to environmental stewardship, executing a comprehensive strategy for ensuring clean water access while actively contributing to the preservation of nature.



2,800
trees planted



We are dedicated to creating extensive tree plantations in Uganda, where many areas have suffered from extensive deforestation:

- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** our initiative involves the strategic planting of 25 native species and 5 commercial fruit trees to foster biodiverse ecosystems.
- **Water Quality Optimization:** trees, strategically positioned as natural filters, play a pivotal role in reducing evaporation and improving water quality.
- **Environmental Awareness:** we used our platform to galvanise community action to restore and preserve our environment.



Outputs

25 native trees planted
3 acres of agricultural land thriving with nature

Outcomes

Enhanced environmental resilience
Ecological awareness & education in communities

Impacts





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
EQUAL AQUA

**On accounts for the year
ended**

YE 31/03/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190730

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

J. Logathan

Date:

24/06/2024

Name:

JEYAVATHANY LOGATHASAN

J. Logathan FFA, FIPA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

IFA Member No: 218635
Logan Accountants Ltd

Address:

LOGAN ACCOUNTANTS LTD

Milton Keynes Business Centre, Suite 34
Foxhunter Drive, Milton Keynes, MK14 6GD
Tel: 07957 714850, Email: jeya@loganltd.co.uk

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Financial Report

Equal Aqua, UK-registered CIO

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the Period 1/1/23 to 31/12/23

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Funds (2022)
RECEIPTS				
Grants	£ -	£ 35,718.00	£ 35,718.00	£ 6,210.00
Donations	£ 13,444.93	£ -	£ 13,444.93	£ 4,589.00
Fundraising, Events & Campaigns	£ 4,501.05	£ -	£ 4,501.05	£ 1,364.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 17,945.98	£ 35,718.00	£ 53,663.98	£ 12,163.00
PAYMENTS				
Programme Expenses	£ 17,080.68	£ 25,823.03	£ 42,903.71	£ 11,211.00
Public Relations & Administration	£ 1,313.12	£ 273.00	£ 1,586.12	£ 326.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 18,393.80	£ 26,096.03	£ 44,489.83	£ 11,537.00
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	-£ 447.82	£ 9,621.97	£ 9,174.15	£ 626.00
Cash In bank Funds as at 31 December 2022	£ 1,383.00	£ 253.03	£ 1,636.03	
Cash In bank Funds as at 31 December 2023	£ 935.18	£ 9,875.00	£ 10,810.18	
Statement of Financial Position at the end of the period				
Cash in Bank	£ 10,810.18			£ 1,636.00

Notes

1. Funds as at year end available in bank account.

The accounts were approved and authorised by the Equal Aqua Board of Trustees on 17 May 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Equal Aqua



Nishay Nathwani

Chair of the Board

2024 Forward Look

We have big plans for 2024 and beyond.

We are in the final stages of registering as a full NGO in Uganda. This will elevate our status in Uganda, open up the possibility of applying for Government grants, and mean that we can work with communities across all regions. We will increase our focus on tackling WASH inequalities for refugee groups in Uganda, whose numbers are increasing by the day.

2024 is the year in which we scale up our programmes in Eastern Uganda, serving those most in need. We will work in partnership with the local Ministry of Education to survey the 193 schools in the region and make interventions in locations with the most severe WASH inequality. We will also expand into other districts, with a focus on displaced peoples and those with disabilities.

We aim to improve access to WASH for 20,000 people, bringing our cumulative total of 50,000 people over our five year lifespan. We will be building a new training centre with ISSB technology to increase the number of people that we can upskill in our WASH skills and Menstrual Hygiene programmes. To support our environmental impact, we have a target of planting 10,000 indigenous trees

With your continued support we can make these into a reality.





Support us

want to tackle the climate emergency?



EAG
EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

**£2/
MONTH**

for just £2 per month you can plant 20 native trees EACH MONTH

www.equalaqua.org/donate

want to break the taboo around menstruation?



EAG
EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

**£3/
MONTH**

for just £3 per month, you can sponsor a girl to complete our menstrual hygiene curriculum.

www.equalaqua.org/donate

children spend on average two hours per day collecting water in Uganda



**£20/
MONTH**

for just £20 per month you can ensure 200 children have clean water in schools.

Transform lives

To have an enduring impact on more communities, please visit our website to set up a monthly donation

DONATE



www.equalaqua.org/donate

do you want to empower women and girls to become financially independent?



EAG
EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

**£5/
MONTH**

for just £5 per month you can sponsor one young woman to enrol on our WASH skills programme so they can start their own business.

www.equalaqua.org/donate

do you want to provide access to clean drinking water for families in Uganda?



**£10/
MONTH**

for just £10 per month, you can provide a natural water filter for 10 families



EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION**



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Equal Aqua Uganda



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