

EQUAL AQUA

England & Wales · Charity number 1190730

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-08-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 85 Church Street
Ainsworth
Bolton
BL2 5RD

Phone 07533534482

Email info@equalaqua.org

Website www.equalaqua.org

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT GOOD HEALTH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA BY:-1. IMPROVING ACCESS TO SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER;2. EXPANDING ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE, PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THOSE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS;3. TAKING ACTION TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; IMPROVE WATER QUALITY BY REDUCING POLLUTION; PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS.4. INCREASING WATER-USE EFFICIENCY TO ADDRESS WATER SCARCITY AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM WATER SCARCITY;5. SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN IMPROVING WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT;6. IMPROVING EDUCATION AROUND WATER AND SANITATION ISSUES IN SCHOOLS, YOUTH GROUPS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES; 7. COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE UGANDA TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES;8. RAISING AWARENESS AROUND WATER INEQUALITY IN AFRICA, TO BUILD SUPPORT IN THE UK AND WORLDWIDE TO TACKLE THESE INEQUALITIES;9. RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THESE ACTIVITIES THROUGH GRANT APPLICATIONS, PERSONAL AND PRIVATE FUND RAISING, AND CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS; AND10. PROVIDING MENTORSHIP, TRAINING AND OTHER PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF EQUAL AQUA AND OUR AFFILIATES. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH (SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEES INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005) AND (SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008).

Activities: 1. Improving access to safe and sustainable drinking water;2. Expanding access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations; 3. Taking action to promote conservation of the natural environment; improve water quality by reducing pollution; protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bury

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£44,735	£51,454	-	-
2023-12-31	£53,664	£44,490	-	-
2022-12-31	£12,163	£11,537	-	-
2021-12-31	£13,498	£12,687	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Nishay Nathwani	Chair	2021-02-01
Bernard Ekongu		2024-11-17
Dr Thomas William McLenachan		2020-08-05
Micheala Chan		2021-03-24
Natasha Chadwick		2021-02-01

EQUAL AQUA

England & Wales - Charity number 1190730

Accounts

Executive Summary

As we write, it is exactly five years to the day, 3 January 2020, that we founded Equal Aqua Uganda with a shared vision for water equality. Over the last five years, our team of passionate volunteers around the world has worked to make this vision a reality, providing improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for over 50,000 people.

2024, our fifth year of operations, was our most successful to date. We want to express gratitude to our Partners Haileybury Youth Trust and International Lifeline Fund, with whom we have continued to improve our sustainable pit latrines. With continued support from Festival Medical Services and other major donors we increased our focus on schools for people with disabilities, providing water tanks, and essential WASH skills and knowledge.

As we look to 2025, we request that you continue to support us so we can make WASH equality a reality.



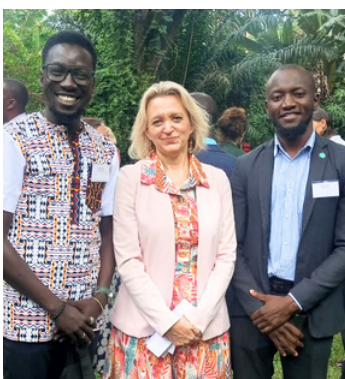
Abel Odeke
Managing Director



Tom Mclenachan
CEO



Sustainable Pit Latrine at Ebenezer Primary School, Eastern Uganda



EAU team and the British High Commissioner

"In Uganda about 50% of the population lack access to safe water. Equal Aqua Uganda are addressing a great need and challenge in Uganda and I am delighted this has been officially recognised with a Points of Light Commonwealth award."

- British High Commissioner to Uganda



Key Outcomes 2024

9,526

people with
improved
access to safe
water

9,460

people with
improved
sanitation

1,180

people with
improved
WASH
knowledge
& skills

1,212

people with
improved
menstrual
hygiene
knowledge

5 YEARS

2020-2024



Our impact to date

EAU formed in January 2020, and we are proud to celebrate 5 years of success operating throughout Uganda.

outputs

30

rainwater harvesting tanks

24

pit latrines

132

water filters

16

jobs in sustainable construction

outcomes

32,866

people with improved access to safe water

11,044

people with improved sanitation

11,755

people with improved WASH knowledge & skills

3,877

people with improved menstrual hygiene knowledge

As EAU approaches its sixth year of operation in 2025, we continue to celebrate steady growth in our achievements. The Trustees are pleased to see new levels of income in the UK and, more significantly, in Uganda. It has been gratifying to see our relationship with Festival Medical Services deepen and significant donations from a private donor were also gratefully received.

A successful event with the UK Civil Service Jazz Band put the fun into fundraising at Christmas!

2024 saw a shift in emphasis in the work undertaken in Uganda. We placed greater focus on building ISSB (Interlocking Stabilised Soil Blocks) latrines, completing 16 this year. This is a reflection both of the need, as asserted by the communities we serve in Uganda.



Trustees Report



The equally important activities of delivering our WASH and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) curricula in schools has continued, with increased numbers of children and adults benefitting from these skills.

Fundraising continues to be difficult in the present financial climate. EAU has set new and realistic targets for some growth in 2025, and we are grateful to our volunteers in the UK and Uganda, but also around the world (Zimbabwe, Belgium, Italy, Indonesia and Kenya) for their continued efforts.

We are very pleased to welcome three new Trustees to the board. Firstly, Daphné Carliez, a Dutch fundraising specialist based in London, and Ekongu Benard and Zion Okama, who have joined us from Uganda. Benard has a focus on community development in Northern Uganda and Zion is an experienced economist working in the energy sector in Kampala. We look forward to gaining from their expertise in their diverse areas.

ISSB Latrine Construction

In total 16 latrines were constructed in 2024, benefiting almost 10,000 people. EAU's sustainable construction team use Interlocking Stabilised Soil Bricks (ISSBs), made from compressed earth. This method has a significantly lower carbon impact compared to standard kiln-fired bricks, as well as other benefits compared to other methods.



St Joseph Primary

During construction of the new EAU ISSB drainable latrine, the existing latrines (boys and girls) collapsed in extreme winds and the school was closed for several weeks. This made the timing of this intervention particularly fortuitous! The school was able to reopen on completion of the new latrine, benefitting 592 students in total (shared by boys and girls). The school's Headmaster described it as "the best sanitation facilities in the town council."

Ebenezer Primary School

Co-funded with Festival Medical Services, EAU constructed a fully drainable 5-stance ISSB pit latrine at Ebenezer Primary School in Eastern Uganda. This provided essential sanitation facilities for 315 students, with specialised access for students with disabilities.



St Francis School for the Blind

EAU provided a 10,000 litre ISSB rainwater harvesting tank to diversify the sources of water available to the school. This tank is mainly used for non-consumptive water use, such as cleaning, washing clothes or toilet flushing. To increase access to safe drinking water we also provided three ceramic water filters that remove 99.9% of bacteria.





Menstrual Hygiene Management



Jovia Namihanja
Project Officer

In Uganda, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) remains a critical challenge, particularly for women and girls in rural areas. As of 2024, while we have made progress in raising awareness and providing resources, many barriers continue to affect menstrual health. An estimated 60% of girls in Uganda struggle to access affordable menstrual products, and many are forced to use unhygienic alternatives such as rags, leaves, or old clothes, which increases the risk of infections.

Cultural taboos, lack of education, and societal shame often prevent open discussions about menstruation, leaving many girls and women ill-informed and unprepared. As a result, many girls miss school during menstruation, contributing to higher dropout rates, especially in rural and low-income areas.



Mukomo School for Special Needs & Sir Apollo Kagwa Secondary School

In 2024 we were able to reach more disadvantage young women and girls through our 5-part MHM curriculum, totalling over 1,200 people. Our curriculum opens up conversations about MHM to break the stigma and track essential MHM knowledge and skills.

Please consider sponsoring our MHM curriculum in 2025 so that we can reach out to more schools in Uganda and keep girls in school longer.

Change Stories 2024



WASH Skills Training

As a highlight of our WASH skills programme in 2024, Amus Primary School in Bukedea District became a hub of empowerment for a total of 268 students and teachers. Our team facilitated hands-on training, offering two distinct workshops: liquid and bar soap making, and reusable sanitary pad making.

The liquid and bar soap making workshop drew 148 participants, comprising 86 girls, 54 boys, and 8 teachers. Meanwhile, the reusable sanitary pad making workshop attracted 120 participants, including 98 girls, 12 boys, and 10 teachers. Throughout the training, the enthusiasm and eagerness to learn was palpable. The students and teachers actively engaged in all activities, mastering the skills and techniques shared by our facilitators. A notable highlight of the training was the support from the teachers, who translated complex procedures into the local language, ensuring everyone grasped the skills.

As a result, 120 individuals acquired the skills to make reusable sanitary pads, while the liquid and bar soap making workshop empowered participants with practical knowledge. This initiative also fostered a sense of confidence and self-reliance. As we continue to empower marginalized communities, we're reminded that even the smallest actions can spark profound change.



Financial Report

Equal Aqua, UK-registered CIO

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Period 1/1/24 to 31/12/24

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Funds (2023)
RECEIPTS				
Grants	£ -	£ 12,123.15	£ 12,123.15	£ 35,718.00
Donations	£ 30,743.09	£ -	£ 30,743.09	£ 13,277.85
Fundraising, Events & Campaigns	£ 1,869.17	£ -	£ 1,869.17	£ 4,668.13
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 32,612.26	£ 12,123.15	£ 44,735.41	£ 53,663.98
PAYMENTS				
Programme Expenses	£ 29,262.46	£ 20,498.15	£ 49,760.61	£ 42,877.71
Public Relations & Administration	£ 1,693.27	£ -	£ 1,693.27	£ 1,612.12
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 30,955.73	£ 20,498.15	£ 51,453.88	£ 44,489.83
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	£ 1,656.53	-£ 8,375.00	-£ 6,718.47	£ 9,174.15
Cash In bank Funds as at 1 Jan 2024	£ 935.18	£ 9,875.00	£ 10,810.18	
Cash In bank Funds as at 31 December 2024	£ 2,591.71	£ 1,500.00	£ 4,091.71	
Statement of Financial Position at the end of the period				
Cash in Bank	£ 4,091.71			£ 10,810.18

Equal Aqua Uganda, Uganda-registered CBO

Statement of Receipts for the Period 1/1/24 to 31/12/24

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	GBP Equivalent
RECEIPTS				
Grants	£ -	UGX 42,799,700	UGX 42,799,700	£ 9,196.70
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ -	UGX 42,799,700	UGX 42,799,700	£ 9,196.70

The accounts were approved and authorised by the Equal Aqua Board of Trustees on 3 March 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Equal Aqua



Nishay Nathwani
Chair of the Board



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
EQUAL AQUA

**On accounts for the year
ended**

YE 31/12/2024

**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 **31/12/2024**

**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").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

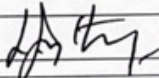
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) 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:



Date: 25/04/2025

Name:

JEYAVATHANY LOGATHASAN

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

J. Logathanan FFA, FIPA

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



2025 Forward Look

We believe our 2025 targets demonstrate realistic growth following on from our best annual performance to date, in 2024. Notable progress was achieved in adaptation and innovation, to overcome challenging local factors. Our construction team are empowered to continue this development, specifically with our latrines and water tanks (Targets of 12 and 6 respectively). Our newly modified drainable, long-lasting ISSB latrines and a more secure tap system for the water tanks means our work is more effective in achieving our WASH objectives, primarily in schools. We anticipate helping in excess of 11,000 Ugandans with improved sanitation and access to WASH.

An associated target is to further expand our WASH and MHM educational classes, aiming to reach a total of 3,000 school children during the year.

To achieve these targets, we must increase the impact of our fundraising team. One initiative during 2025 will be an ambitious 'Water Wheel' cycling challenge. Our two founders, Tom McLenachan and Abel Odeke, will be cycling the 3,300+ miles from Kampala to Cape Town. Your support for this charitable endeavour would be most appreciated.





Support us

want to tackle the climate emergency?

EAU
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?

EAU
EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

£3/ MONTH

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

MENSTRUAL HEALTH

- Menstruation starts at 12
- Sanitary towels
- Pads for months
- How to use

Clean Water Clean Planet
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



www.equalaqua.org/donate

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

EAU
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.

EAU
EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

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



PLEASE CONTACT US FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION



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@equal.aqua



Equal Aqua Uganda



@equalaqua



www.equalaqua.org



Our latest videos

EQUAL AQUA

England & Wales - Charity number 1190730

Accounts



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



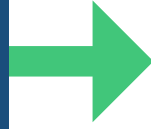
This additional income has enabled our work in Uganda to expand and improve with two significant developments. Firstly EAU has been able to purchase two Interlocking Soil Brick (ISSB) machines and, working with partners, trained our construction team in their use in the building of water tanks which 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.

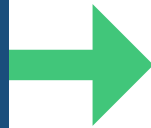
In 2023 we increased our ambition with new Vision, Mission and Objectives

**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 2023.

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?

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?

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



www.equalaqua.org/donate

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

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.

EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

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**



**UG: +256787370875
UK: +447871144161**



info@equalaqua.org



@equal.aqua



Equal Aqua Uganda



@equalaqua



www.equalaqua.org



Our latest videos

EQUAL AQUA

England & Wales - Charity number 1190730

Accounts

Executive Summary

On behalf of the Equal Aqua team - both in Uganda and around the world - I would like to convey my appreciation to all those that have supported our essential work in 2022. This has enabled us to expand our **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** skills workshops, menstrual hygiene programme and start our own Equal Aqua Sustainable Construction team, who are building water tanks and latrines. With your support we have reached over **5,000 people in 2022**, including increasing our impact among refugee groups and those with disabilities.

This was all made possible by our growing team of passionate volunteers, now representing over ten different countries. I was honoured to receive the **Commonwealth Point of Light Award** on behalf of the team from the British High Commissioner to Uganda in 2022. Working with the Commission and other likeminded organisations we aim to further build international solidarity and awareness around Equal Aqua's work to tackle UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for All).

2022 has not been without its challenges. The continuing **COVID pandemic and recent Ebola outbreak** forced some limitations to our work, while further emphasising the importance of good WASH.

Please consider supporting our work at **www.equalaqua.org/donate** so that we are able to expand and diversify our work.



Abel Odeke

Managing Director



Abel receiving the Queen's Point of Light award from Kate Airey, British High Commissioner to Uganda.

Key Outcomes 2022



3,293

people provided access to safe water

2,864

people upskilled in WASH skills and vocational training

1,570

students completed our Menstrual Hygiene Management curriculum.

2,600

trees planted, tackling climate change



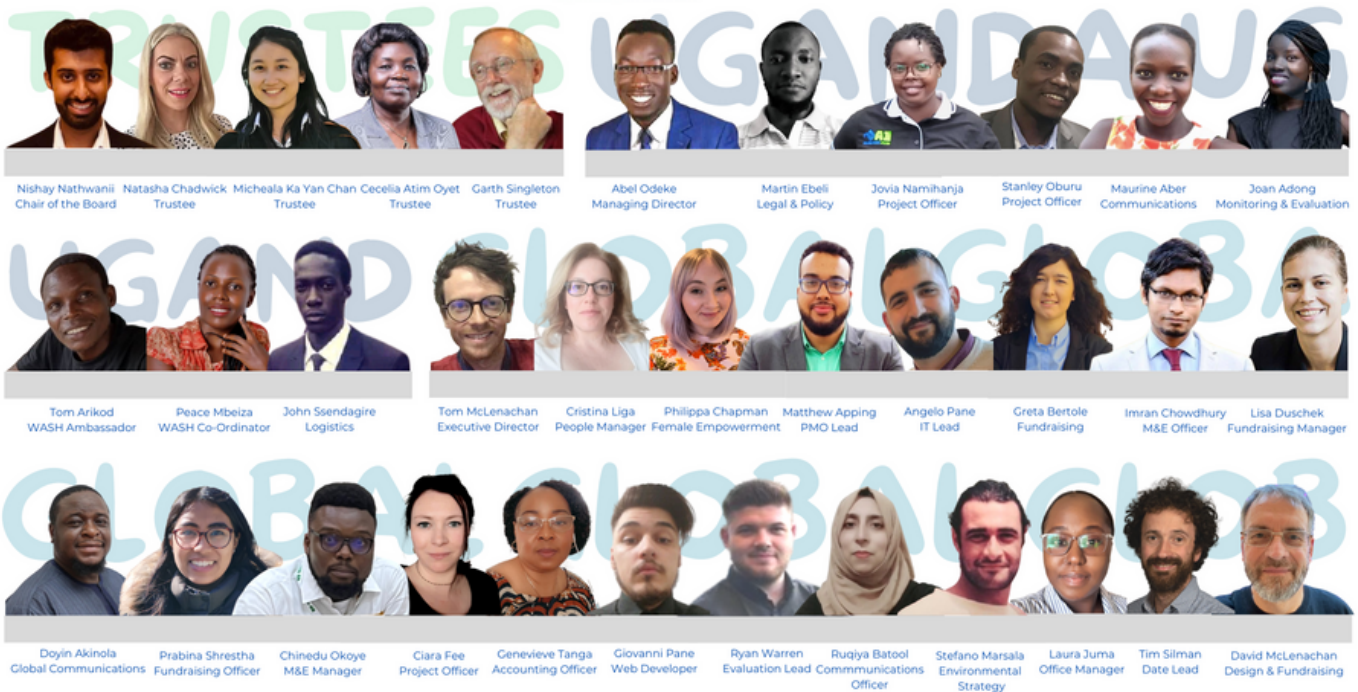
"In 2022 we expanded our outreach in refugee camps throughout Uganda - reaching over **one thousand vulnerable people**, mostly women and girls.

This included Menstrual Hygiene sessions in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Western Uganda, breaking taboos on the subject in order to **support girls to stay in school for longer**.

We also continued our WASH workshops in Bidi Bidi, Northern Uganda (the largest refugee camp in the world), teaching practical skills that people can turn into business opportunities"

Jovia Namihanja
Project Officer

About Us



The people at Equal Aqua are what make this journey possible. In 2022 we continued to increase our volunteers base, **growing 30% in size to over 30 people.**

This year we introduced a new role of People Manager to demonstrate further our commitment to the People function. The people we recruit, their skills, background and uniqueness are at the core of our success. **A culture of inclusiveness, high collaboration and strong team spirit** permeates our organisation and is based on one of our core values: “everyone is equal at EAU”,



Cristina Liga
People Manager

Our guiding philosophy remains the same.

Our projects are driven by Ugandan grassroots needs, as identified by our Ugandan Team, who also design and deliver the solutions. This is supported by the UK/Global Team, who lead on fundraising, communications and other business functions. **We are always looking for additional volunteers with various skillsets to join the EAU family.** Please contact us to explore opportunities. This will help us to achieve our aim of attaining NGO status in Uganda in 2023.



Our Vision

Our Mission

We will become a leading organisation in Uganda in addressing inequality in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and interrelated issues of gender and sustainability.

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



Our Primary Objectives

1

To improve access to **clean, safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** for those facing the greatest inequalities in rural communities in Uganda.

2

To support and strengthen the **participation of local communities** in improving WASH management, in particular women and girls, and those in vulnerable situations.

3

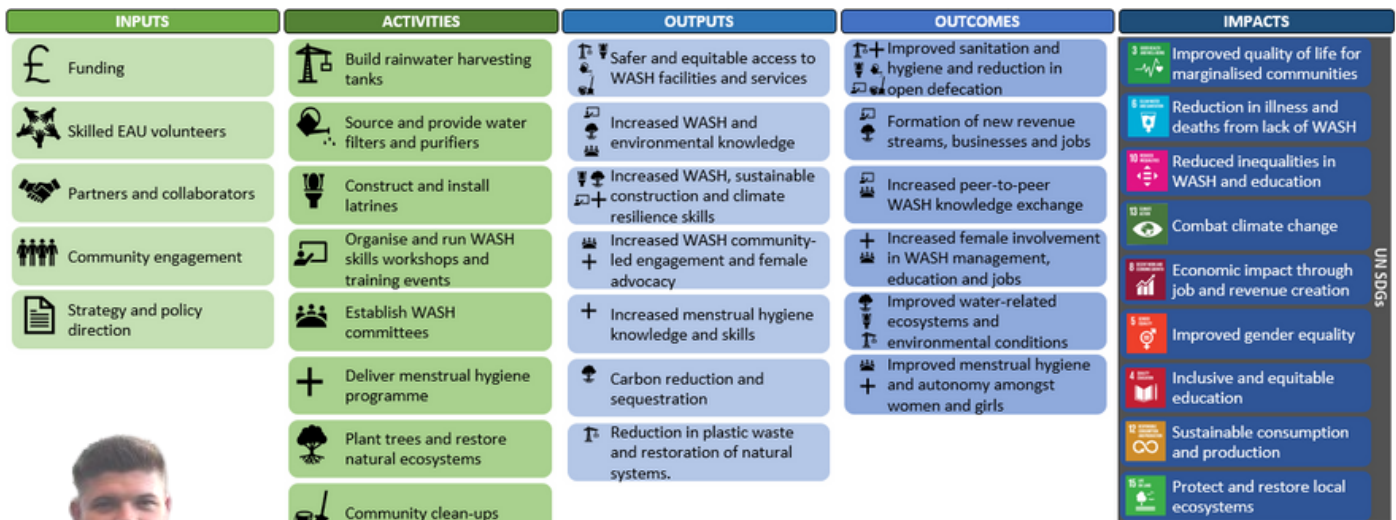
To take action to **promote conservation of the natural environment**, including tree planting; improve water quality by reducing pollution; and protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

Theory of Change

This year we are proud to introduce a brand-new Theory of Change (ToC) for Equal Aqua Uganda. Our ToC demonstrates **how we achieve impact through the activities we run as a charity** and determines our monitoring and evaluation approach. This will provide us with the information we need to evaluate progress against our objectives. The ToC also acts as a key strategy, fundraising and stakeholder engagement tool.

The ToC should be read left-to-right. The diagram is simplified and does not include all possible connections. Therefore, whilst the ToC is presented as a linear process **the interactions between outputs, outcomes and impacts are expected to be more dynamic.**

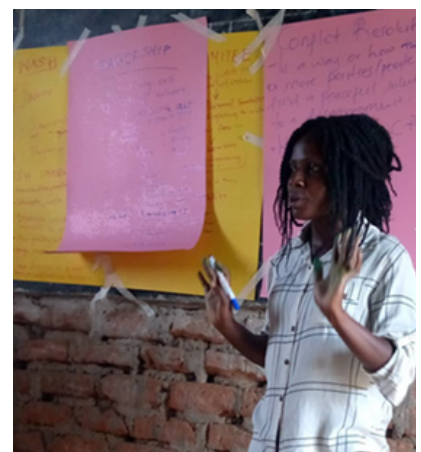
In this ToC, an output is considered as something that is directly achieved as a result of running an activity. An outcome is a result of the output or a series of outputs, but requires an external enabler. An impact is the result of achieving outcomes.



Ryan Warren
Evaluation Lead

"The vision, mission, activities and target beneficiaries are set by the Ugandan Team, with influence from the Global Team, **UN SDGs**, monitoring frameworks, policy decisions and research outputs.

The ToC will be reviewed annually, to ensure it accurately reflects the strategic direction of the Charity."



Trustees Report



Our second year of operations as a registered **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** in the UK has seen the expansion and capacity building of our team to include volunteers based around the world across a range of sub-teams, particularly in core roles. This has enabled us to consolidate and formalise our organisational structure to better serve our mission.

Meanwhile, we are very pleased to report that our work on the ground in Uganda has continued, with dedicated funding from **Festival Medical Services** supporting our WASH workshops and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) sessions at a number of locations, including the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. These programmes will benefit over 800 people over 18 months, including ongoing implementation support. The newly designed **MHM curriculum** will be made available online for free, thus facilitating a wider implementation base and reducing barriers to the content. Construction of water tanks is ongoing, with the team investigating other sustainable construction methods through knowledge sharing with other organisations working in the field and the country. Building partnerships is key to achieving our vision and we continue to be honoured by the support received from our partners around the world.

Furthermore, our work is now underpinned by the **Theory of Change (ToC)**, which will enable effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as acting as a stakeholder engagement tool and supporting fundraising.

The Trustees extend our gratitude to our dedicated volunteers from the UK, Uganda and beyond, who continue to selflessly give their time to ensure that we keep working towards tackling WASH inequalities. **We look forward to continue to support this work in the coming year.**



Our Impact in 2022: Change Stories

At Equal Aqua Uganda, we see beyond the numbers - looking at the real change stories of the people benefiting from our programmes. We demonstrated again in 2022 that we are making a positive impact on lives in Uganda, tackling WASH inequality to deliver better **health, education and livelihoods outcomes** for thousands of people.

Below are a series of case studies highlighting some of the groups we had the pleasure of working with in 2022. We look forward to working with these groups in 2023 to deliver **adequate and equitable WASH for all**.

Mbale School for the Deaf Mbale District, Eastern Uganda

WASH Workshops and Menstrual Hygiene Management



Our highly skilled trainers Jovia, Peace and Joan delivering the first part of EAU's MHM curriculum for a group of 70 highly engaged students at Mbale School for the Deaf. Many trainees have complex and multiple disabilities, making delivery challenging, but extremely rewarding for the learners.

Martin, Tom and Abel leading a session on how to produce homemade liquid soap from readily available chemicals. A total of 61 in attendance, with a member of the school providing a running translation into sign language.



Kongunga Secondary School

Bukedea District, Eastern Uganda



The first WASH workshops at Kongunga Secondary were oversubscribed, with many hundreds wishing to learn how to make their own WASH products. We also set up a sanitation club at the school, with an elected group of engaged students with the aim of teaching those unable to attend.



24 students of Kongunga Secondary participated in the MHM sessions, in which the EAU team taught how to make reusable sanitary pads and discussed the biology of menstruation.

Kyaka II Refugee Camp

Kyegegwa District, Western Uganda

The EAU team leading WASH and MHM sessions with a women's group in Kyaka II Refugee Camp in Western Uganda. The majority of the population of Kyaka II are Congolese, having fled on-going conflict in the neighbouring country.



Training learners in smaller groups enables us to deliver more hands-on learning and can lead to more substantial long-term outcomes, e.g. number of participants turning the skills into business opportunities.

EAU Sustainable Construction Team

Founded in 2022

In 2022 EAU created its own Sustainable Construction team to lead on the development and delivery of WASH infrastructure using sustainable building materials and methods. Including tanks built together with partners the Ichupa Upcycle Project early in the year, we have supported the construction of 5 new tanks in 2022, taking our total to 18 thus far.

The team are planning to further develop the designs for water tanks and latrines using ecobricks (recycled plastic bottles), as well as investing in a ISSB moulding machine to provide larger structures. Both solutions replace plastic and kiln-fired bricks, thereby reducing climate and other environmental impact.



After receiving the Commonwealth Points of Light Award in 2021/22, the team were delighted to welcome Matthew Little, Deputy Development Director at the British High Commission, to visit our projects in person. Mr Little was our guest of honour at the launch of the ecobrick water tanks at Mbale School for the Deaf.

We look forward to continue working closely with the Commission in 2023, who are kindly spotlighting our work.

We would like to pay special thanks to the Nathwani and Agarwal Family, who sponsored the construction of the 10,000-litre water tank at Jane Alison School in Kachumbala.

The school has demonstrated exceptional care in the use and maintenance of the tank, due to the good school management. We are now raising funds for a latrine for the school to replace the current dilapidated facilities.



The Member of Parliament for Bukedea District again demonstrated support for EAU's work by attending the ceremonial commissioning of our water tank at Kongunga High School.

This also gave the MP the opportunity to observe our on-going WASH and MHM workshops with the school. He has indicated that he will support our application in 2023 for full NGO status in Uganda.

Kongoidi Youth Development Group

Bukedea District, Eastern Uganda

WASH Workshops



We provided the first of three WASH training sessions for the Kongoidi Youth Development Group, with a total of 40 trainees, including 14 women. Member of the EAU team are able to provide translations into local languages to support learning of diverse groups.



The team supported trainees to conduct pre-programme assessments, which will support our monitoring and evaluation of outcomes and impacts.



All EAU trainings conclude with a session on business skills - teaching trainees how to source materials, market their products, and establish sustainable business models. This facilitates the ultimate outcome - that participants are able to translate their skills into business opportunities, supporting their families and communities.

Live in Light Ministries

Mityana District, Central Uganda

The ultimate objective of Equal Aqua's skills training is to enable people to turn these skills into **entrepreneurial opportunities**. Following sessions with the EAU team, a church group from Mityana is applying their new WASH skills to start up a business venture that has helped them to become financially self-sustaining.



Equal Aqua Uganda assisted with their company registration as a business to enable them to easily **market their WASH products** as well as teaching others to do the same through community outreach. We will continue to train and mentor the group in partnership with Live in Light Ministries and keep monitoring the groups to ensure they are progressing well.



2022 Financial Report

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Funds (04/08/2021 to 31/12/2021)
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants	-	6,210	6,210	7600
Fundraising events and campaigns	1,364	-	1,364	4683
Donations	3,099	1,490	4,589	1028
Donations in Kind	-	-	-	186
Total Receipts	4,463	7,700	12,163	13,498
Payments				
Programme Costs	4,106	7,105	11,211	12,579
Administrative Expense	11	315	326	108
Total Payments	4,117	7,420	11,537	12,687
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	346	280	626	811
Cash Funds 31/12/2021	1037	(27)	1010	
Cash Funds 31/12/2022	1,383	253	1,636	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

Cash in Bank 1,636

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee Board on 2nd February 2023

Signed on behalf of The Trustees of Equal Aqua



Nishay Nathwani
Chair of the Board



In 2022 Equal Aqua expanded its tree planting programme - restoring national ecosystems with indigenous forests.

2023 Forward Look

We have big plans for 2023. We will fully **register as an NGO in Uganda** so that we can join a consortium of other organisations that deliver projects directly for the Ministry of Water and the Environment.

We aim to have provided a cumulative total of **20,000 people** with clean water through the construction of water tanks and providing filtration systems. We will embark on building latrines to help tackle poor waste disposal in schools and reduce open defecation among communities in Eastern Uganda. We will expand our WASH skills and Menstrual Hygiene programmes, reaching **1,000s** more refugees and vulnerable people throughout Uganda. We also aim to plant **6,000 more trees of native species** by end of 2023, totalling over 10,000 to date.

The People function has ambitious plans to continuously further develop our practices ensuring they remain relevant and suitable for our mission. As we recruit more volunteers, we will ensure that they are well-managed to enable them to reach their full potential while involving them in projects and activities to facilitate their desired personal development. Additionally, we intend to introduce **new learning opportunities for our Global team**, holding sessions with speakers on relevant topics, sharing knowledge, and reflections at team events. We will be introducing more structured ways for volunteers to give feedback over the coming year, ensuring continuous learning and development takes place across the organisation.



Jovia running one of our Menstrual Hygiene Management workshops in 2022

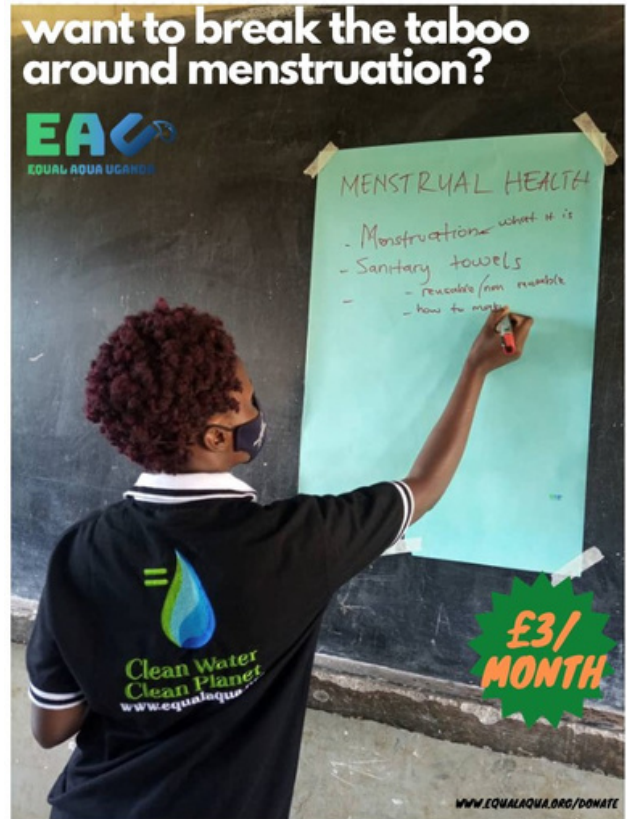
Support Us

Equal Aqua is run by a team of committed, passionate and skilled volunteers. **100% of money raised goes directly towards our projects in Uganda.**

We guarantee a professional service that ensures the best value for your investment into WASH facilities for those facing the greatest inequalities.

You will be providing direct and verifiable aid to those who need it most. We document all our projects and workshops on our social media channels and share messages from the beneficiaries of our projects. All donations, of any amount, are always very welcome.

Please support us at
www.equalaqua.org/donate



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

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



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.



want to tackle the climate emergency?



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

WWW.EQUALAQUA.ORG/DONATE

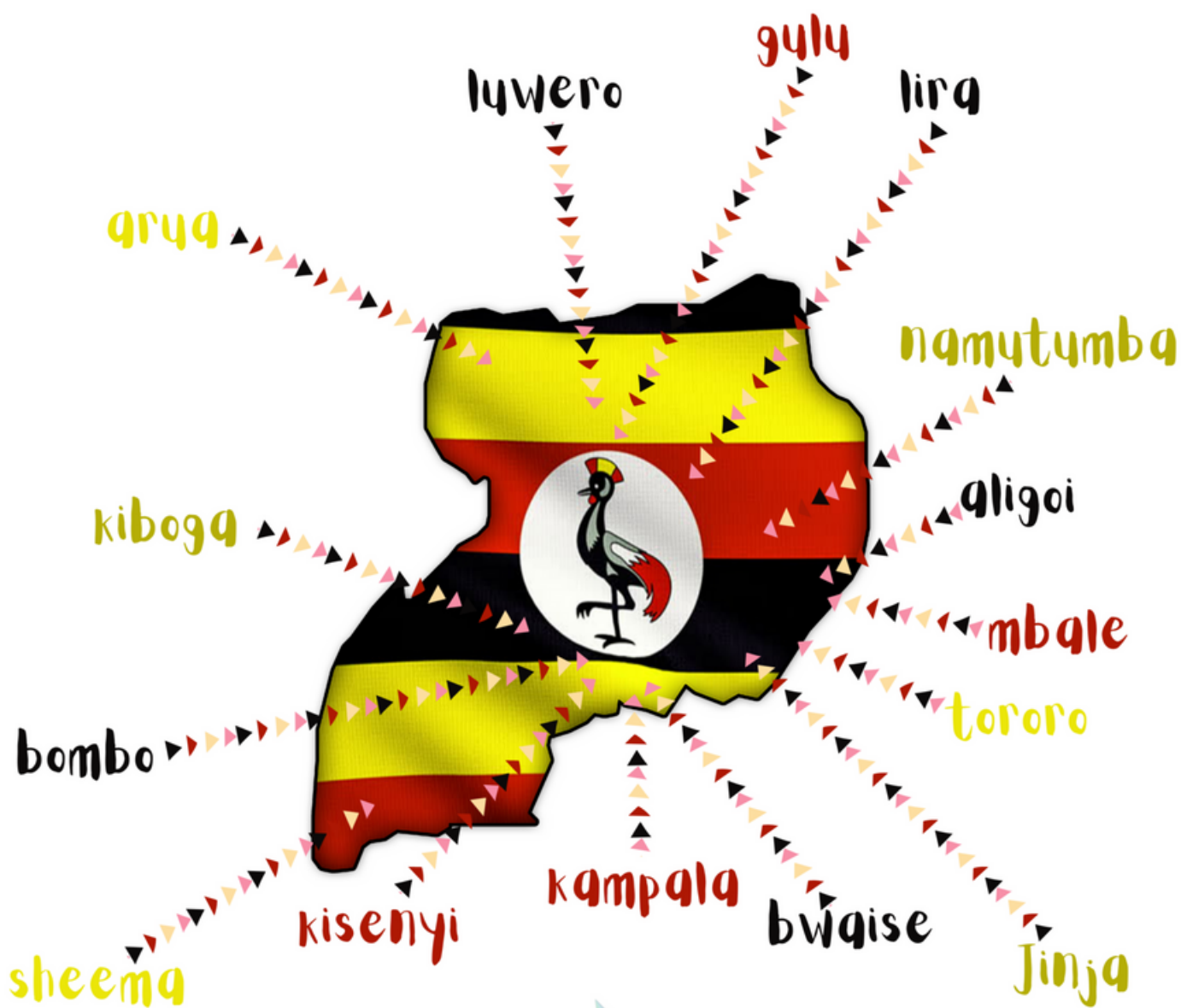


Volunteer with us



We are always looking to expand our volunteer base, inviting applications from a range of skillsets and all nationalities. This includes Project, Communications and Fundraising Officers, and also welcome general expressions of interest.

We cherish every person involved in Equal Aqua – whether volunteers, international partners or community members. We actively listen and learn from those around us and value each contribution. Team members are empowered to design and run their own projects, supported by the wider team.



ACROSS UGANDA



Thank You



Website

www.equalaqua.org



Facebook

[@equalaquauganda](https://www.facebook.com/equalaquauganda)



Email Address

info@equalaqua.org



Instagram

www.instagram.com/equal.aqua



LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/equal-aqua-uganda/



Twitter

[@EqualAqua](https://twitter.com/EqualAqua)

UK Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - **1190730**

Uganda Community Based Organisation - **749/2020**

EQUAL AQUA

England & Wales - Charity number 1190730

Accounts



EQUAL AQUA UGANDA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Transforming lives by providing equal access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Uganda



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Equal Aqua team - both in Uganda and around the world - I would like to convey my appreciation to all those that supported our work in 2021. This has enabled us to grow and diversify our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes, benefitting over 10,000 people in 2021. We continue to provide our WASH training, facilities and infrastructure for those that need it most. This means that we have increased our focus on hard-to-reach rural communities, including refugee camps, in Uganda. In 2021 we also launched our successful Menstrual Hygiene programme, recognising that women and girls are impacted disproportionately by WASH inequality.

While it has not been without challenge - Ugandan schools have been closed for two years due to COVID-19 - we managed to adapt our approach, ultimately reaching more people in total than planned. Please consider sponsoring us again in 2022 so more communities can gain equal access to WASH.



Abel Odeke
Managing Director,
co-founder



EAU co-founder Martin Ebeli leading a WASH workshop with Kalengo Village Women's group



"Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are critical in the context of **health, gender, education and economic recovery**. WASH is also a crucial first line of defence against COVID-19 and future health threats. **Thank you to our sponsors** for really being of great help by giving us funds that has changed lives in Uganda for the better."

Joivia Namihanja, Project Officer

OUR MISSION



Joan Adong
M&E Lead

Access to water and sanitation is a necessity for living but also essential for **empowerment and dignity**. This is a fundamental human right to every human being regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity and colour.

Unfortunately, there are high levels of inequality when it comes to access to WASH in Uganda. One of the most vulnerable groups in Uganda are children who contract **water borne diseases** through drinking unsafe water or eating with contaminated hands that have not been washed with soap. This in turn affects children's **cognitive development** and performance at school, especially among girls and other vulnerable groups.




Our focus is on achieving SDG 6 in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals: 'Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'.

At the same time, our programmes are designed to support delivery of **multiple SDGs**.





Nishay Nathwani
Chair of the Board

Natasha Chadwick
Trustee

Cecelia Atim Oyet
Trustee

Michaela Ka Yan Chan
Trustee

Garth Singleton
Trustee



Abel Odeke
Managing Director

Martin Ebell
Legal & Policy

Joan Adong
Monitoring & Evaluation

Maurine Aber
Communications

Peace Mbeiza
WASH Co-Ordinator

Stanley Oburu
Project Officer

John Ssendagire
Logistics

Jovia Namihanja
Project Officer

Tonny Opoka
Communications



Tom McLenachan
Strategy & Sustainability

Philippa Chapman
Female Empowerment

Jesse Tomlinson
Fundraising

Sarah Croft
Public Health

Georgia Higgs
Creative & PR

Josh Lord
Programmes

Matthew Apping
Project Manager

Genevieve Tanga
Accounting Officer

David McLenachan
Design & Fundraising

Deepa Mohankumar
Project Officer

2021 was the year that Equal Aqua became a truly **international organisation**. Our volunteer base has expanded to countries beyond the UK and Uganda, with new members originating from Trinidad, India and DR Congo. It also marked the foundation of the **EAU Board of Trustees**, who have played an essential role in guiding and sculpting our vision, governance structures and business processes.

Our guiding philosophy remains the same. Our projects are driven by **Ugandan grassroots needs**, as identified by the Ugandan Team, who also design and deliver the solutions. This is supported by the UK/Global Team, who lead on fundraising, communications and other business functions.

We are always looking for additional volunteers with various skillsets to join the EAU family. Please contact us to explore opportunities. This will help us to achieve our aim of attaining **NGO status in Uganda in 2022**.



Tom McLenachan
Executive Director



2021 - OUTCOMES

- 4,751** people provided access to safe, sustainable water with five ecobrick water tanks and two conventional rainwater harvesting tanks
- 105** households provided with water filters, giving access to purified drinking water to almost 600 people
- 5,085** trained in our WASH workshops, of which 78% were women and girls, who learned practical and entrepreneurial skills
- 482** people completed our Menstrual Hygiene curriculum, which we organise for schools and women's groups
- 3** WASH committees, with majority female representation, were formed in order to create sustainable, grassroots change
- 500** trees planted to support groundwater recharge, improve the local environment and tackle the climate emergency

Our progress so far...

9,542

people provided access to safe, sustainable water

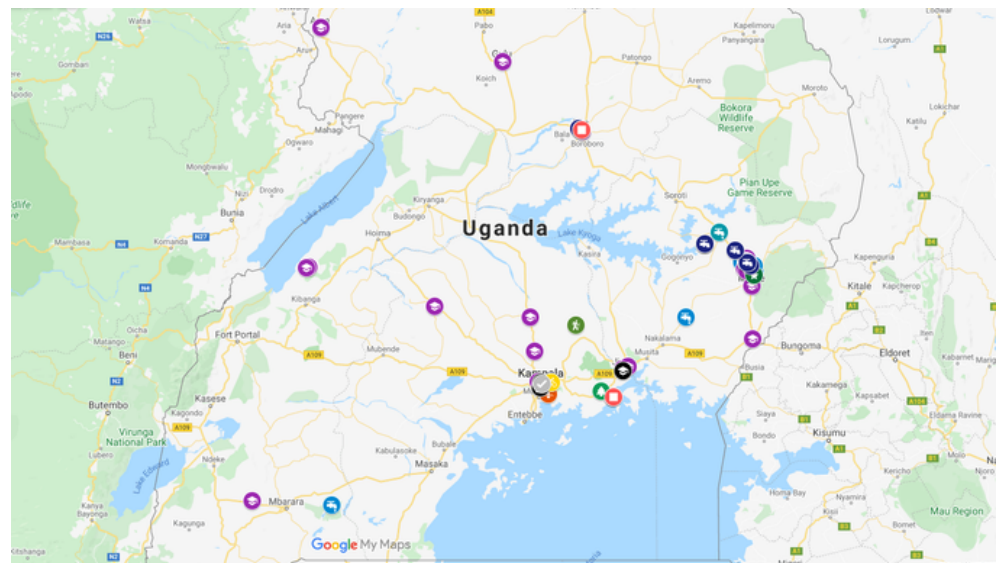
6,627

people trained in Equal Aqua's WASH skills workshops

482

people trained in Menstrual Hygiene Management sessions

Our operations continue to focus on rural communities in Eastern Uganda, in particular Bukedea District. In 2021, with the help of NGO Partners we have expanded our outreach to groups throughout Uganda, including refugee camps.



TRUSTEES REPORT

Nishay Nathwani
Chair of the Board



In this first full period of operation as a registered CIO, the Trustees of Equal Aqua (UK registered CIO) are pleased to report significant progress in the activities undertaken both in the UK and by our partners, Equal Aqua Uganda (Uganda registered CBO). Firstly, our fundraising team has raised over £13,000 during the period, a significant achievement. This was accomplished, in the main, by successfully bidding for 2 grants and we would like to thank The Kitchen Tables Charities Trust and The Waterloo Foundation for their support during the year. In addition, we would like to thank the Steel Donkeyz for their efforts, cycling through Africa in raising £2,500 towards our activities. Every penny raised in the UK is put towards funding WASH activities in Uganda.

These sums have enabled our Uganda partners to support the construction of 5 water tanks at schools in Bukedea District, enabling access to improved water supplies for over 3,000 school children and teaching staff. Despite the Covid epidemic, resulting in school closures in Uganda, our partners have been able to use these physical improvements to increase the understanding of WASH-related issues within these schools and their communities. This has been achieved by facilitating the formation of WASH committees in the school communities and supporting WASH workshops to combat WASH inequalities and promote menstrual hygiene health.

Other activities of the Uganda team have included supporting WASH improvements in refugee camps for those fleeing the conditions in Rwanda, South Sudan and DRC, tree planting to combat deforestation and, in coordination with the District Council, the supply of water filters to needy families in Bukedea District.

The Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, split between the UK and Uganda, and now internationally, who have enabled this successful year of funding raising and WASH implementation in Uganda. Finally the Trustees would like to congratulate the Equal Aqua volunteers in UK for overcoming the many administrative hurdles to obtain registration with the Charities Commission in England and open a bank account to enable the regularisation of our accounting procedures as a sound basis for future activities.

WASH SKILLS WORKSHOPS



In 2021 we ran over 50 WASH workshops for women and girls' groups in Uganda - benefitting 5,085 people. We taught practical skills relating to WASH, such as how to make liquid soap, bar soap, shampoo, petroleum jelly and reusable sanitary pads. These community events were also an opportunity to raise awareness around WASH and provide a platform for dialogue on local WASH issues.

Trainees indicated a marked increase in awareness of WASH, as measured by pre and post surveys, establishing knowledge, skills and empowerment. Our workshops are designed so that Ugandans can use these new skills to support their families and communities, or create entrepreneurial opportunities.

Many groups - for example Abwala Women's group and Nakanyonyi Women's group - have started their own initiatives selling products in the community. The groups have been using this money to reinvest in additional materials and to fund their respective organisations.

We continue to monitor outcomes of EAU interventions over time and support trainees to apply these skills and pass the knowledge to others in the community, creating a sustainable development model. We have set up and funded three local WASH Committees to enable such community-led projects and act as ambassadors for local WASH management, empowering especially women and girls who are often marginalised.



MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Thanks to your support, our new Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) sessions reached **482 people**, of which 57 were men, across multiple locations throughout Eastern Uganda. Due to the fact that Ugandan schools remained closed due to COVID 19, we had to adapt our approach by delivering the training on school grounds, inviting students who live locally, as well as the local community.

Each of the sessions included a variety of educational modules, showcasing **MHM best practice** and uncovering common misconceptions. This encouraged meaningful conversations and raised awareness of WASH-related **gender disparities** in the communities reached. The males and older women who attended also found value in the content, allowing for further realisation of the specific barriers women and girls face.



Trainees indicated a **substantial increase in awareness of MHM**, as measured by pre and post surveys, establishing knowledge, skills and empowerment.

We also provided additional training to EAU WASH Ambassadors and on-going support so they can deliver their own MHM sessions in their communities.



ECOBRIK WATER TANKS

In partnership with the Ichupa Upcycle Project, we supported the construction of five rainwater harvesting tanks for schools in Eastern Uganda. These have provided convenient, free and safe access to water for thousands of students and staff. This means that they do not need to walk for several hours per day to collect water - a task often carried out by girls and young women - leaving them more time for the important things: **education, development and play**. We continue to work with schools to ensure that all tanks are properly maintained and used efficiently.



THE ICHUPA UPCYCLE
PROJECT



The master craftsmen at the Ichupa Upcycle Project construct the tanks using **ecobricks** - recycled plastic bottles filled with sand, which are stronger and cheaper than conventional bricks. With a lack of recycling and waste disposal services in Uganda, communities have to resort to burning their plastic waste, releasing harmful toxins into the air, and discarded plastic often blocks up and pollutes waterways.

We thereby tackle two problems simultaneously: **plastic pollution and WASH inequality**. The tanks enable us to create awareness, both locally and internationally, about these intersecting issues.



CERAMIC WATER FILTERS

In 2021 we distributed 105 ceramic water filters that use a natural process to eliminate 99.9% of bacteria. Our supply Partners, Spouts of Water, employ local Ugandans in the manufacture, and have strong environmental credentials. Selecting beneficiaries was a two-step process: 1.) we worked with local government to identify schools & women's groups 2.) through them we identified families facing the greatest WASH inequalities,

prioritising gender, refugees and those with disabilities.

The filters have a lifespan of at least 2 years and can support large families - with over 600 people benefitting from clean drinking water thanks to our interventions. We are continuing to provide training to ensure that the recipients extract the full benefits from the filters.



"When we heard about Equal Aqua and the work they were doing, we were so excited. For me, and the people in my community, we felt it was such a blessing. We quickly learn what safe water tastes like. Unfortunately, all of our families are not able to have a filter, so we share our water with one another." - Apolot, Aligoi Village



TREE PLANTATIONS



During 2021, Equal Aqua planted 500 trees, focussing on 3 tree plantations in Bukedea District, Eastern Uganda. The importance of this sustainable activity is:

- To improve the local environment - most rural schools have sufficient land to enable us to enhance the locality by planting a range of indigenous trees;
- To provide shade from the elements for the students and teachers;
- To help retain topsoil and when the rooting systems mature to retain water and reduce drain-off;
- With select fruit trees, to provide nourishment to the local community.



Oranges

Mango

Guava

Ashok

Eucalyptus grandis

Pinus caribaea- brazilian

Musizi



Our range of tree species



SPECIAL PROJECT: REFUGEE CAMP AID

Kyangwali Refugee Camp



Kyangwali Refugee Camp began in the 1960's with people fleeing Rwanda. The settlement is situated in Eastern Uganda, near Lake Albert. It is one of the largest camps in the country, with over 125,000 living there. It comprises of 81% women and 19% youths. The recent influx has been from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.



Equal Aqua provided skills workshops in the camp over several days. We were very heartened to see a strong interest, several hundred women and girls attended the sessions.

Our workshops focused on Menstrual Hygiene Management - including how to make sanitary pads - and how to make soaps and shampoo.



Following the success of our visit, we are planning to extend our support to Ugandan refugee camps in 2022



EAU TEAM DEVELOPMENT



Generous donations have also provided the opportunity for us to run **training sessions for the EAU team** - improving capability in key areas and allowing us to reflect on lessons learned - which will help us to grow and meet our ambitious targets for 2022. The team spent three days together, conducting a number of activities, including:



1. Peer to peer knowledge sharing, facilitating skills acquisition from each other.
2. Workshopping ideas to test the viability of EAU's new programmes for 2022.
3. Designing a new community led sanitation approach based on IASC (Inter-Agency Standing Committee) youth guidelines, focussing on modes of participation.

Lessons Learned

- **Barriers to implementation:** groups in more hard-to-reach communities find it more challenging to gain access to materials to implement skills and therefore require extra support.
- **Pacing of delivery:** feedback indicated that some workshops were too fast-paced for some learners and will be adjusted accordingly.



IMPORTANT EVENTS



Proud to be supporting the Flip Flopi Project - a boat constructed out of waste plastic - working to clean the Lake Victoria shoreline of plastics



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS AND FUNDRAISERS THE STEEL DONKEYZ



SOON TO COMPLETE THEIR EPIC CYCLING JOURNEY FROM BELGIUM TO CAPE TOWN. ON THEIR WAY THEY SPONSORED THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OF OUR ECOBRICK WATER TANKS...AND HELPED BUILD IT TOO!



THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US AT EQUAL AQUA

EQUALAQUA.ORG



Please help us to build clean water tanks for schools in Uganda. With your help this will give children a safer and healthier future.



Register for our #WaterWheel cycling event over Easter here: equalaqua.org/waterwheel



FINANCIAL REPORT

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from 04/08/2020 to 31/12/2021

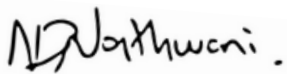
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts			
Grants	-	7,600	7,600
Fundraising	4,683	-	4,683
Donations	1,028	-	1,028
Donations in Kind	186	-	186
Total Receipts	<u>5,898</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>13,498</u>
Payments			
Programme Costs	4,951	7,627	12,579
Administrative Expense	108	-	108
Total Payments	<u>5,059</u>	<u>7,627</u>	<u>12,687</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>838</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>811</u>
Cash Funds 03/08/2020	199	-	199
Cash Funds 31/12/2021	<u>1,037</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>1,010</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

Cash in Bank 1,010

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee Board on 11 March 2022

Signed on behalf of The Trustees of Equal Aqua:



Nishay Nathwani
Chair of the Board



OUR VALUES

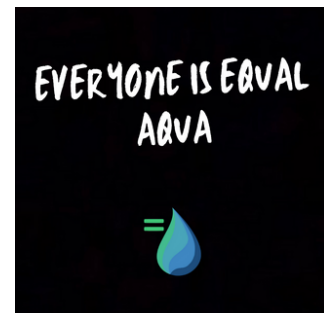
Our programs are targeted towards those suffering the greatest inequalities in access to water, sanitation and hygiene. In 2021 our activities focused on women and girls in rural communities, and young people in challenging urban areas. Our operations centred in Bukedea District in Eastern Uganda, while we also delivered sessions in over 30 towns and villages throughout Uganda.



Our underlying philosophy is that the team in Uganda set the vision, policies and programmes, and the UK team works to help this become a reality. There are now 24 team members in EAU, all volunteers. We have zero fixed costs in Uganda, and none of the money we raise is spent in the UK. 100% of all funds directly support our projects in Uganda and reach the communities that need it most.

(Art: Cindy Salim)

We are committed to running our charity in a fully inclusive, convivial and equal manner. All opinions are able to be voiced and respected. We are non-hierarchical in structure: EAU team members are empowered to design and run their own projects, supported by the wider team. This is one of our mottos:



We actively build partnerships and joint ventures, which help us deliver on our key aims. In 2021 we established more productive arrangements with IGOs in the UK, US and Uganda. We look forward to working with these groups in 2022, and exploring further opportunities to expand our network and reach more vulnerable groups in Uganda.



SUPPORT EAU

Equal Aqua is run by a team of passionate volunteers. 100% of money raised goes directly towards our projects in Uganda.

We guarantee a professional service that ensures the best value for your investment into water facilities for those facing the greatest inequalities.

You will be providing **direct and verifiable aid** to those who need it most. We document all our projects and workshops on our social media channels and share messages from the beneficiaries of our projects.

All donations, of any amount, are always very welcome.



WE ARE DELIVERING ON SDGS



Sarah Croft
Public Health



Sarah joined Equal Aqua in early 2021 to contribute to the improvement of health in lower income countries - working in medical communications. Sarah is passionate about sharing important health messages to a wide audience and helping people make informed decisions.

Sarah recently received her Masters (MSc) in International Public Health. She is a migrant team mentor, and currently is working with the human rights network supporting refugees. She co-founded a vintage clothing business to promote the circular economy.

VOLUNTEER

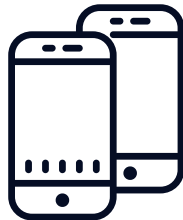
We are always looking to expand our volunteer base, inviting applications from a range of skillsets and all countries. This includes Project, Communications and Fundraising Officers, and also welcome general expressions of interest.

We cherish every person involved in Equal Aqua – whether volunteers, international partners or community members. We actively listen and learn from those around us and value each contribution. Team members are empowered to design and run their own projects, supported by the wider team.



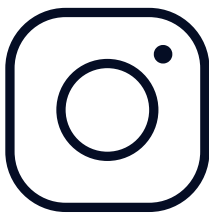


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**EQUAL AQUA UGANDA
2021**

