

# Water for a Village

## Annual Report 2023–24

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### **Vision**

Clean, fresh water – one village at a time.

### **Values**

#### **Bravery**

We have the courage to take bold steps, even when the path is uncertain, because we believe that meaningful change requires us to challenge the status quo and take risks.

#### **Trust and be trusted**

We are committed to maintaining trust through transparency and integrity. Our focus remains on being accountable to our supporters and the communities we serve, regardless of the external challenges.

#### **Wholehearted**

We lead with compassion, always considering the impact of our actions on the people we serve. We remain committed to acting with empathy, understanding, and a deep sense of responsibility to communities at home and away.

### **From the CEO**

This 23/24 year has been difficult for WFAV due to the effects of the pandemic and the instability in Ethiopia. The security situation in Ethiopia over the past year has posed significant challenges to our ability to safely carry out our work. Its inherent risks impact on our logistical operations, making it difficult to transport goods and materials, to travel freely, recruit contractors, and to engage with communities in person. As the safety of our staff, partners, and the communities we serve is our highest priority, we made the difficult decision to postpone our construction activities for 2024.

While these circumstances delayed our planned construction work, we needed to take every precaution to ensure that no one was put at risk. We are monitoring the situation and are planning for when conditions improve, so we can continue to provide support to those who need it most.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our ability to engage directly with the public, particularly schools, business organisations and community groups, which have

traditionally been an important part of our outreach efforts, awareness raising, and fund-raising.

However, our in-country manager Yalew Tafete has been providing support to our caretakers in addition to maintaining contact with our local partners and creating new connections there. He continues to maintain our excellent working relationship with the water offices of several woredas and together they are planning for our future projects together. Meanwhile in Australia, we have used this time to reflect on the organization's direction, strengthen our internal processes, and lay the groundwork for a more vibrant future.

Although there were no major fundraising activities this year, we had a modest income and have maintained careful stewardship of our funds. We are looking forward to ramping up our activities as the year draws to a close and a new building season approaches.

Although everyone at WFAV has found the year frustrating, we remain deeply proud of the work we have done in previous years. Since 2014, we have project managed and funded the construction of 111 community-built improved water sources (wells and tankers). These provide around 54,000 people, 10 schools and several clinics with clean fresh water and the accompanying benefits of greatly improved health, improved school attendance and the chance for people to escape from poverty. Our work has changed many lives, and we are looking forward to being able to continue it.

To our donors, volunteers, and community partners, who share our vision, your support has kept us going during this challenging year and has reassured us that we can overcome the challenges of the past year and return to fulfilling our mission more effectively. Thank you so much for being part of our journey.

## **Our Impact & History**

Since 2014, WFAV has raised over AUD 500,000 and installed over 100 improved water sources, serving over 41,000 people. Benefits include improved health, school attendance and reduction in poverty risk.

## **Governance & Board**

WFAV is registered with the ACNC and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Name	Role
Cameron McCulloch	President / Public Officer
Louise Bain	Treasurer

Michael Brough	Board Member
Joanne Stubbs	Board Member
Greg O'Meara	Board Member
Peter Wheatley	Board Member

### **Financial Assurance**

The organisations financials were externally audited by Bentleys Chartered Accountants on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### **ACFID Compliance Statement**

WFAV is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct and is committed to full transparency and integrity. Compliments, enquiries or complaints may be made to [president@waterforavillage.net](mailto:president@waterforavillage.net). Complaints about non-compliance with ACFID's Code of Conduct can be directed to [complaints@acfid.asn.au](mailto:complaints@acfid.asn.au).

### **Looking Ahead**

We plan to resume construction once security conditions allow in Ethiopia, renew fundraising and outreach to schools and community groups, and strengthen internal governance and systems to support sustainable growth.