

Handwashing to prevent the  
spread of Covid-19, Zimbabwe  
2020. Photo: Ben Mahaka

# Trócaire



# THE WATER FUND

INCREASING  
ACCESS  
TO CLEAN  
WATER IN  
MALAWI,  
ZIMBABWE  
& ETHIOPIA





# HOW DO YOU WASH YOUR HANDS IF YOU DON'T HAVE CLEAN WATER?

## AND HOW DO YOU WATER YOUR CROPS WHEN THE RAINS DON'T COME?

In Ireland these are questions we don't think about. But water shortage is a huge global problem, and it is worsening as the planet heats up.

The UN estimates that nearly 40% of the world's population don't have the facility to wash their hands at home. Tragically, every day 700 children under the age of five die from diarrhoea linked to unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Water access also has a gender dimension, because it's mainly women and girls who collect water, missing precious school hours each day to trek long distances to fetch water.

**This is not just.**



**“AS THE LARGEST PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF OUR LIFETIMES CONTINUES, DISPARITIES IN THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ARE SIGNIFIERS OF DEEPLY ROOTED INEQUALITY, WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE HARDEST HIT”**

Caoimhe de Barra, CEO Trócaire



Women fetching water from a well in the dry riverbed of the Svizi River, Zimbabwe.  
Photo: Isabel Corthier

## WATER AND THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has made us all acutely aware of the importance of soap and clean water in protecting our health.

Our Water Fund was created to help the most vulnerable people who've been hardest hit by Covid-19. The goal is to provide clean water to 65,000 people, a population equivalent in size to County Sligo, in areas of greatest need in Ethiopia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

## WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Trócaire sees the impact of climate change in the developing world every day. The world's poorest countries and those least responsible for causing climate change are paying the highest price. It's one of the greatest injustices of our time. Access to clean water is essential for those experiencing the worst effects of climate change.

## WATER AND WOMEN CARRYING THE HEAVIEST BURDEN

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in eight out of ten households with water off-premises. When water sources dry up, girls are forced to drop out of school to spend more time collecting water from sources further away. This disrupts their schooling and places a heavy physical burden on them. It also puts them in harm's way, as they trek longer distances away from the protection of their villages and communities. By increasing the number of water points in villages, more girls can stay in school and reach their full potential.



Without pumps and hoses, water is collected in buckets to irrigate crops.  
Photo: Eimear Lynch, Zimbabwe.



# WHY ETHIOPIA, ZIMBABWE AND MALAWI?

These three countries are the focus of our Water Fund due to their acute water shortages. Our local partners have both the experience and capacity to meet this need with solutions that will significantly increase water and food security.

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia has already endured ten major droughts since 1980. For the past four decades, the average annual temperature in Ethiopia has been increasing by 0.37 degrees per decade. Trócaire has a long history of working in Ethiopia. In particular, we have water programmes in drought-afflicted areas of Borena, South Omo, Tigray and Afar. Communities in conflict-affected regions of Tigray and Afar are currently experiencing shortages described by UN officials as 'catastrophic'.

## Malawi

Malawi is one of the 20 poorest countries in the world and experiences considerable water stress. It is particularly vulnerable to drought and extreme weather events, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Over one third of Malawi's population of over 18 million don't have access to clean water.

## Zimbabwe

Today, the majority of Zimbabweans live in poverty, especially in rural and marginalised areas, where people rely on small farms to feed their families. Rising temperatures and worsening droughts are leaving many farmers without harvests.



Collecting water for filtering in Borana, a water stressed region in Southern Ethiopia, 2019.

**“WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE WATER, ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS WATER. IT'S BAD WATER. IT MAKES US SICK.”**

Abdellah Tesfalem, Ethiopia 2019.  
Photo: Barnaby Skinner



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE HOPE TO RAISE ONE MILLION EURO OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, TO GIVE ANOTHER 65,000 PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER.

Whether you give a one-off donation or a pledge over three years, allowing us to plan ahead, thank you for giving the gift of water to some of the world's poorest people. We welcome any amount gratefully.

## 1. SUPPLY WATER PUMPS AND HOSES

€2,500

Human powered treadle pumps and hoses enable farmers to irrigate their land and grow more in the dry season from April to November.

€2,500 could provide five treadle pumps, hoses and training in their use and maintenance, giving access to water for farming and providing food for 150 people.



A treadle pump means farmers don't have to walk long distances to draw water by bucket from lakes or rivers to irrigate their crops.

## 2. INSTALL A NEW WELL

€7,000

Repairing a well or building a new one gives over 100 families water for drinking, cooking and cleaning – transforming their quality of life.

€7,000 could drill a new well for a community with no reliable water source. It also provides training on maintaining and managing the well and in healthy hygiene practices.

## 3. PROVIDE A SOLAR POWERED WATER SYSTEM

€40,000

Solar powered water systems provide sustainable and reliable access to safe, clean water. They reduce the impact of extreme weather events by enabling pumping from deeper levels below the ground – even during droughts, when shallow wells dry up. Crucially, they can continue operating after storms, when electrical systems shut down.

€40,000 could provide a new solar powered water supply system, giving at least 2,500 people clean water.



Trócaire is promoting the use of solar panels and other climate sensitive ways of powering pumps to bring water to communities in need. Tigray, northern Ethiopia, March 2018.



Some of the families who can now access clean water from the borehole well and solar powered pumps provided by Trócaire, Malawi 2019. Photo: Alan Whelan



# IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WATER FUND PLEASE CONTACT:

**Susan Kirk**

Senior Philanthropy Advisor

**T** +353 1 6293333

**E** [susan.kirk@trocaire.org](mailto:susan.kirk@trocaire.org)

**Niamh Dockery**

Philanthropy Advisor

**T** +353 1 6293333

**E** [niamh.dockery@trocaire.org](mailto:niamh.dockery@trocaire.org)

---

**Trócaire Head Office**

Maynooth, Co.Kildare, Ireland, W23 NX63.

**T** +353 1 6293333

**W** [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

# Trócaire