



**thirst**  
PROJECT

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A close-up photograph showing a person's hands pouring a thick, brown, turbid liquid from a blue bucket into a blue plastic bottle. The liquid is being poured into a body of water, creating ripples. The background shows green foliage and a body of water.

# WATER CRISIS

**785  
MILLION  
PEOPLE  
ACROSS THE  
WORLD  
STILL LACK  
ACCESS TO  
SAFE, CLEAN  
DRINKING  
WATER.**



# MISSION

***THIRST PROJECT IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS WITH THE SUPPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO END THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS BY BUILDING FRESHWATER WELLS IN DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES THAT NEED SAFE, CLEAN DRINKING WATER.***



# 2020 RECAP

**\$846,459.15** RAISED

**255** WATER PROJECTS FUNDED\*

**127,500** PEOPLE SERVED\*

**4** COUNTRIES SERVED

*\*INCLUDES 130 COVID-19 RELIEF PROJECTS, SERVING 65K PEOPLE*



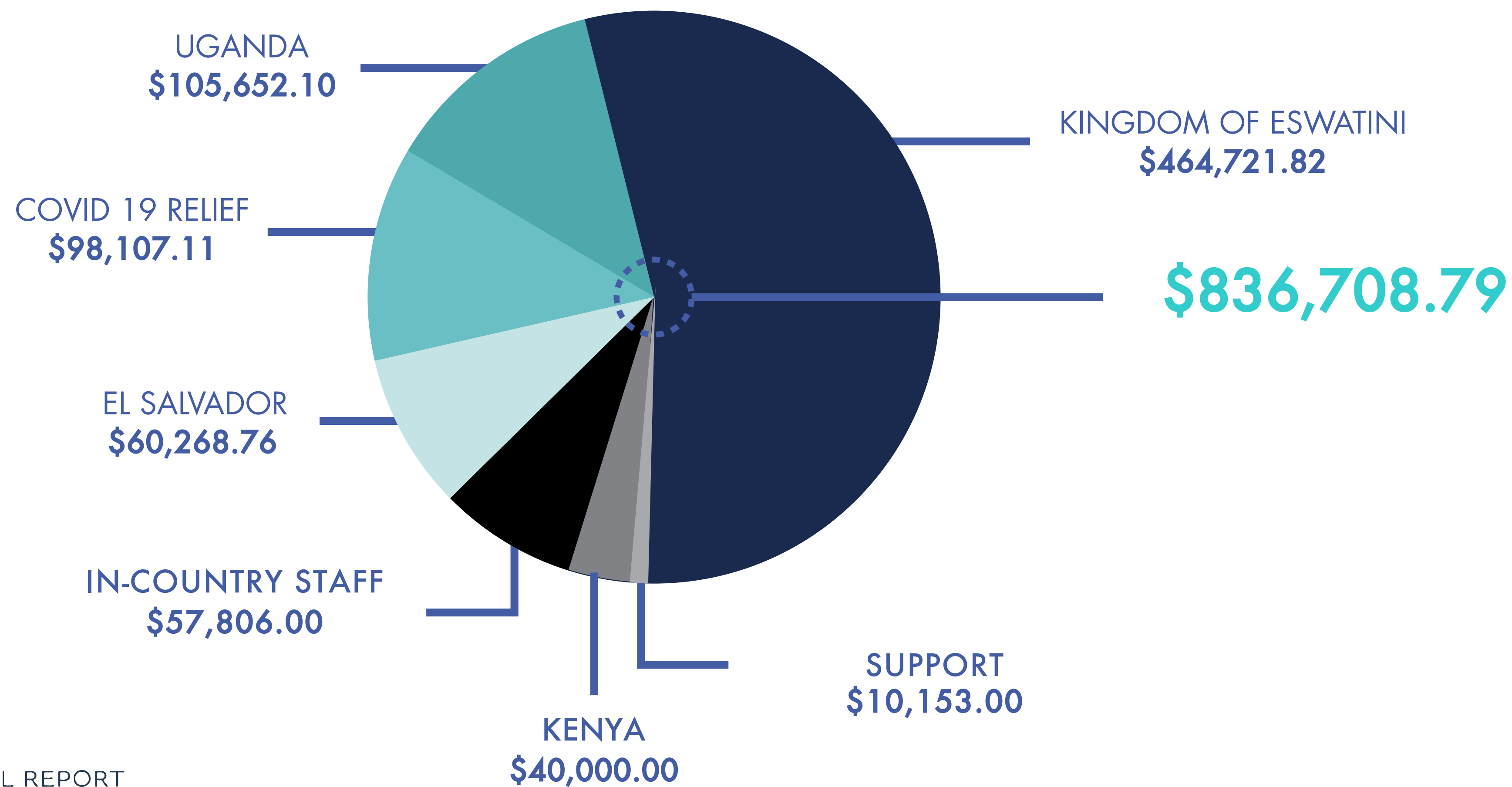
# STATEMENT ON 2020

As it was for everyone, 2020 was an extremely challenging, but important year at Thirst Project. In a year marked by incredible loss, the risk that COVID-19 posed to the world was even greater in the communities that we serve. Without safe, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, it's almost impossible to fight COVID-19. This year, we continued to deepen our relationships with the for-profit drillers we hire to work with the communities we work in to implement all of our water projects. These for-profit drillers complete all of this work under the direction of, and in coordination with, our In-Country staff. These staffers are nationals from their own country within which they work. Just as we have done in the past, we invested heavily in these relationships in 2020, as well as in implementing improved Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Projects in response to COVID-19 in the Kingdom of eSwatini last year.



2020

# WATER PROJECT EXPENSES



# WATER PROJECTS ESWATINI



THIRST PROJECT CONTINUES TO FUND FRESHWATER PROJECTS IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO COMBAT THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC THAT CONTINUES TO RAVAGE THE COUNTRY. 1 IN 4 PEOPLE IN ESWATINI HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS DISEASE. ADDITIONALLY, WE WORKED TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ESWATINI. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR COVID PROJECTS BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

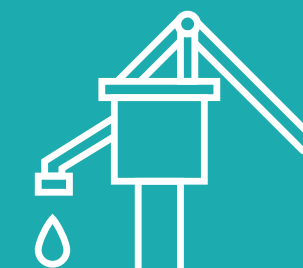


**229** PROJECTS **114.5K** PEOPLE

# WATER PROJECTS UGANDA



IN ADDITION TO OUR ALREADY RIGOROUS SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES WHICH INCLUDE ROBUST TRAINING FOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FOR ALL OF OUR PROJECTS, 2020 SAW THE BEGINNING OF A COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT OF EVERY PROJECT WE HAVE COMPLETED ON THE GROUND IN UGANDA. WE WANTED TO ENSURE THAT ALL PROJECTS ARE STILL FUNCTIONAL AND SERVING THE COMMUNITIES THEY'RE IN.



**12** PROJECTS



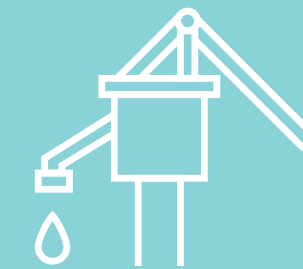
**6K** PEOPLE





# WATER PROJECTS EL SALVADOR

**IN 2020, WE ONBOARDED A NEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR & INCREASED OUR EFFORTS TO BRING SAFE, CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN EL SALVADOR THAT NEED IT MOST. THIS YEAR WE UNDERWENT AN AUDIT OF OUR SUSTAINABILITY IN TERMS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND MATERIALS USED. NOT ONLY DID WE IMPROVE THE DURABILITY OF OUR PROJECTS, BUT WE DID SO WHILE ALSO REDUCING THE TOTAL PROJECT COST.**



**12 PROJECTS**

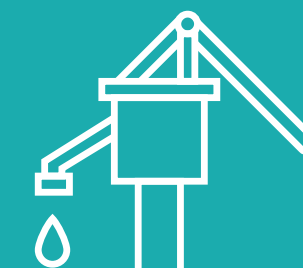


**6K PEOPLE**



# WATER PROJECTS KENYA

IN A YEAR WHERE EVERY ORGANIZATION STRUGGLED TO SUSTAIN DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS, WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO FUND AT LEAST TWO (2) NEW PROJECTS IN KENYA IN 2020. THESE PROJECTS SERVE SOME OF THE MOST ISOLATED POPULATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. AS A RESULT, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE WATER & A HEALTHIER LIFE FOR 1,000 PEOPLE!



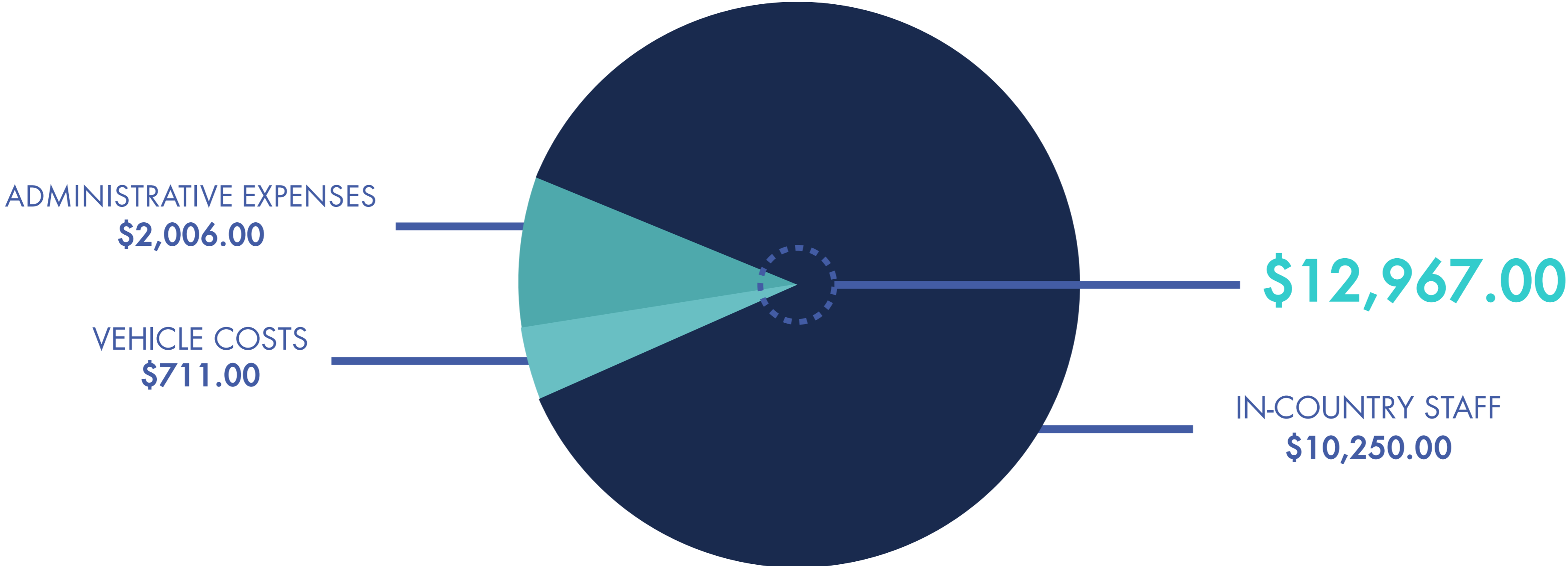
**2 PROJECTS**



**1K PEOPLE**

# 2020<sup>1</sup>

## OPERATIONS EXPENSES



# OPERATIONS STAFFING

THIRST PROJECT HIRES LOCAL NATIONALS FROM EACH COUNTRY THAT WE BUILD PROJECTS IN TO OVERSEE AND LEAD THE FIELD IMPACT WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. THESE IN-COUNTRY STAFFERS SERVES AS THE NUCLEUS BETWEEN ALL OF THE COMMUNITIES WE WORK WITH, THE FOR-PROFIT HYDROLOGISTS & DRILLERS WE HIRE TO BUILD OUR PROJECTS, AND OUR TEAM BACK IN THE UNITED STATES. EACH COUNTRY DIRECTOR OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER LEADS THEIR IN-COUNTRY TEAM TO SUPPORT ALL OF THEIR WORK IN THE FIELD. THIS COST REPRESENTS THE TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT IN 2020 ON CHARGES RELATED TO ALL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES IN THE FIELD.

**\$68,055.76**

\* THIRST PROJECT'S DOMESTIC/U.S. "STAFF" IS COMPRISED 100% OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE SEPARATE ORGANIZATION, LEGACY YOUTH LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS WHO DONATE SERVICES TO SUPPORT THIRST PROJECT'S WORK. SIMILARLY, ANY AND ALL OF THIRST PROJECT'S UNITED STATES OPERATIONS ARE 100% DONATED BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS FROM SIMILAR SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.

# YEAR END RECAP



**\$724,342** NET ASSETS

**\$638,165** TOTAL INCOME

**\$836,708.79** TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES

**\$12,967** TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES





# W.A.S.H

## WATER AND SANITATION & HYGIENE

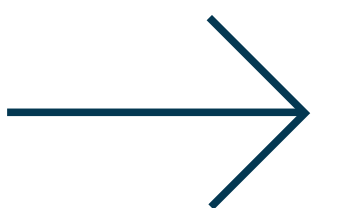
**WE DON'T JUST BUILD CLEAN WATER PROJECTS! ACCESS TO SAFE WATER IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING DISEASE & MORTALITY WHEN IT'S PAIRED WITH GOOD SANITATION AND BETTER HYGIENE PRACTICES. WHEN WE BUILD A WATER PROJECT IN A COMMUNITY, WE ALSO TRAIN THOSE LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON SANITATION AND HYGIENE. WHEN COMBINED TOGETHER, THE RESULTS LITERALLY SAVES LIVES.**



# SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

SUSTAINABILITY IS OUR #1 CORE VALUE IN THE FIELD. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF A WATER WELL IN AFRICA IS 4 YEARS, AND THE FAILURE RATE OF BOREHOLE WELLS IMPLEMENTED BY NGO'S ON THE CONTINENT IS UPWARDS OF 60% WITHIN THE FIRST 4 YEARS. THIS IS ALARMINGLY HIGH, AND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, AS MOST "FAILURES" ARE COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE IF THE FOLLOWING SUSTAINABILITY

MEASURES AND APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ARE IN PLACE. OUR STRINGENT PROCESS FOR WORKING WITH LOCAL FOR-PROFIT HYDROLOGISTS TO CARRY OUT HYDROLOGY & GROUNDWATER SURVEYS BEFORE WE EVER DRILL, ALLOWS US TO ENSURE THAT THE WATER TABLES WE TAP INTO ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.





# SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

SIMILARLY, OUR IN-COUNTRY STAFF ENSURE THAT EVERY COMMUNITY WE WORK WITH ELECTS A WATER COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE COMMUNITY. THESE VOLUNTEERS ARE TRAINED BY OUR DRILLERS ON MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SO THAT THEY CAN KEEP THEIR WATER PROJECT ONLINE & OPERABLE FOR DECADES. EACH COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES SWEAT EQUITY TO THE COMPLETION OF THEIR PROJECT TO ENSURE OWNERSHIP. WE PERFORM PUMP TESTS & WATER QUALITY TESTS ON EVERY PROJECT.

WE COMPLETE TO GUARANTEE ALL OF OUR WATER IS SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. FINALLY, EACH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHES & CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR OWN OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND SO THAT WHEN THEY NEED TO MAKE REPAIRS TO THEIR PROJECTS, NOT ONLY HAVE THEY BEEN TRAINED, BUT, ALL PARTS ARE ALWAYS SOURCED LOCALLY, AND WHICH MEANS EACH COMMUNITY IS FINANCIALLY ABLE TO DO BASIC MAINTENANCE ON THEIR WATER PROJECT.





# ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

**WE DON'T JUST BUILD WELLS. WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR WATER PROJECTS IN THE FIELD ARE HAND PUMP BOREHOLE WELLS, THERE IS NO "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" SOLUTION FOR BRINGING CLEAN WATER TO A COMMUNITY. SOMETIMES WE BUILD ROBUST RETICULATED OR GRAVITY-FED SYSTEMS WITH MULTIPLE STORAGE TANKS & MULTIPLE ACCESS POINTS THROUGHOUT A COMMUNITY. SOMETIMES WE PROTECT NATURALLY-EXISTING SPRINGS. SOMETIMES WE INSTALL RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS. SOMETIMES WE INSTALL BIO SAND WATER FILTERS. SOMETIMES IT'S A COMBINATION OF MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WE WORK WITH.**



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