



**dow**  
drop of water

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

**BY MEANS OF SAFE WATER,  
WE GIVE LIFE.**



## PERSONAL INVITATION FROM THE ED

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As we mark the 15th anniversary of Drop of Water, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement. Every day feels like a new beginning, driven by passion and a life-changing moment in April 2009. That month, a visit to rural Tigray revealed the harsh reality of water scarcity and ignited a mission to ensure no one lacks access to safe water.

What began as a university movement has blossomed into a dynamic organization. From our first well in Elkin village in 2010, we've expanded to six regions, implementing over 180 WASH projects, benefiting over 80,000 people. Today, Drop of Water integrates initiatives addressing climate change, youth volunteerism, and nutrition.

As we look to the future, we aim to provide 100% access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene across Ethiopia. Join us in this journey to create a future where lack of safe water is history. Thank you for your support and dedication.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Hermella W.  
Co-founder and Executive Director, Drop of Water





## WHO WE ARE

A youth-initiated local NGO founded in 2009 to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation and promote proper hygiene practices in communities to improve their health and well-being in rural parts of Ethiopia.

## VISION

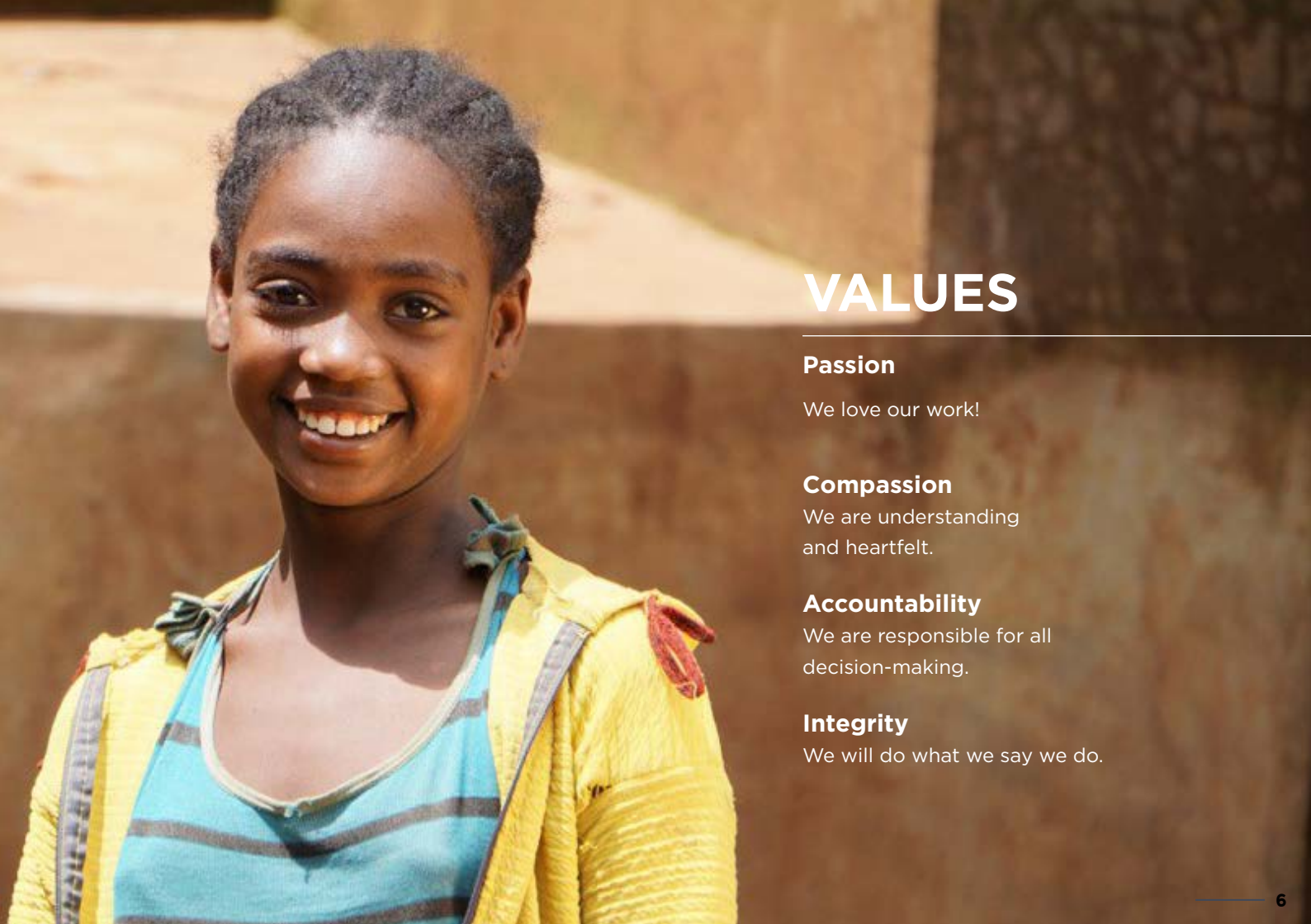
100% access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and proper hygiene practices in all parts of Ethiopia.

## MISSION

Providing access to safe drinking water and enabling rural communities in Ethiopia to adopt proper hygiene and sanitation practices.







## VALUES

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### **Passion**

We love our work!

### **Compassion**

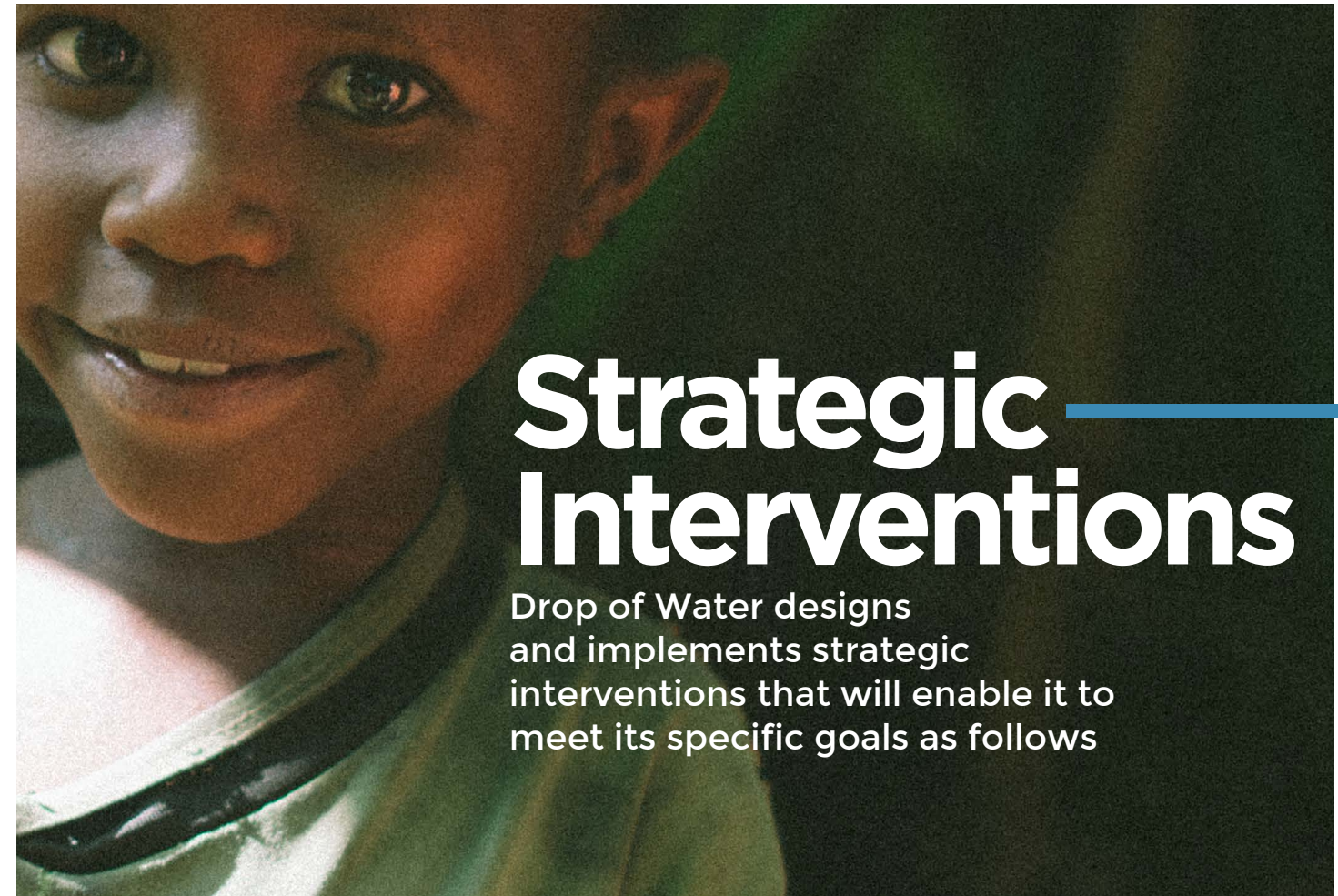
We are understanding  
and heartfelt.

### **Accountability**

We are responsible for all  
decision-making.

### **Integrity**

We will do what we say we do.



# Strategic Interventions

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Drop of Water designs  
and implements strategic  
interventions that will enable it to  
meet its specific goals as follows





### Increase and improve the water supply systems in rural communities

- Construct appropriate Water Supply systems in rural communities
- Improve functionalities and rehabilitate relevant Water Schemes
- Establish and support effective water management structures
- Improve the communities' ability to maintain the safety of the water supply system.



### Improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards good hygiene and sanitation practices.

- Equip communities with knowledge and information on good hygiene and sanitation practices
- Organise and deliver community outreach programs
- Conduct training on better hygiene and sanitation programs to target populations.
- Improve rural school children's access to good WASH practices
- Equip rural girls and women with good menstrual hygiene management.





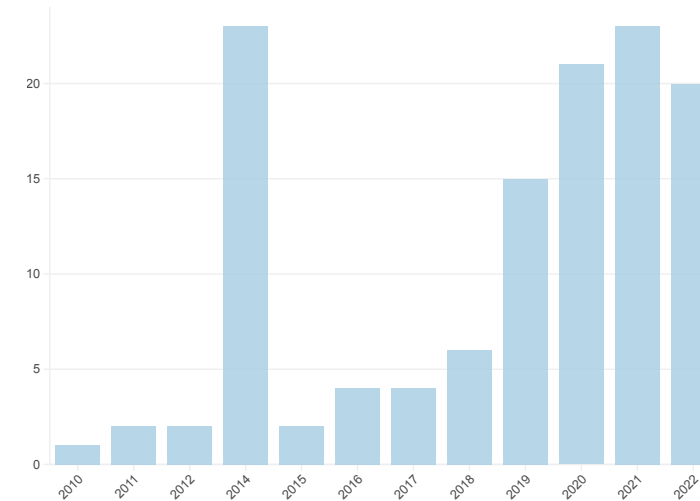


**Promote and establish healthy nutrition and feeding practices for mothers and children in target communities.**

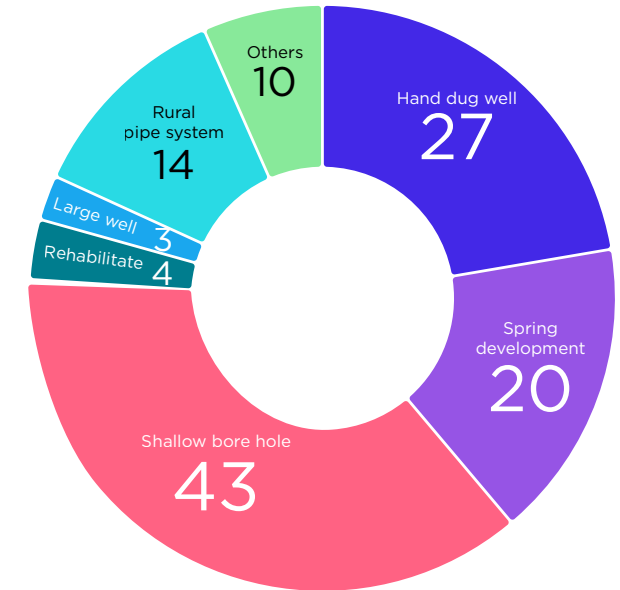
- Equip households with knowledge and information on food diversification and quality improvement practices
- Support households to develop and sustain adequate kitchen gardening practices.
- Conduct appropriate learning forums on good nutrition practices.



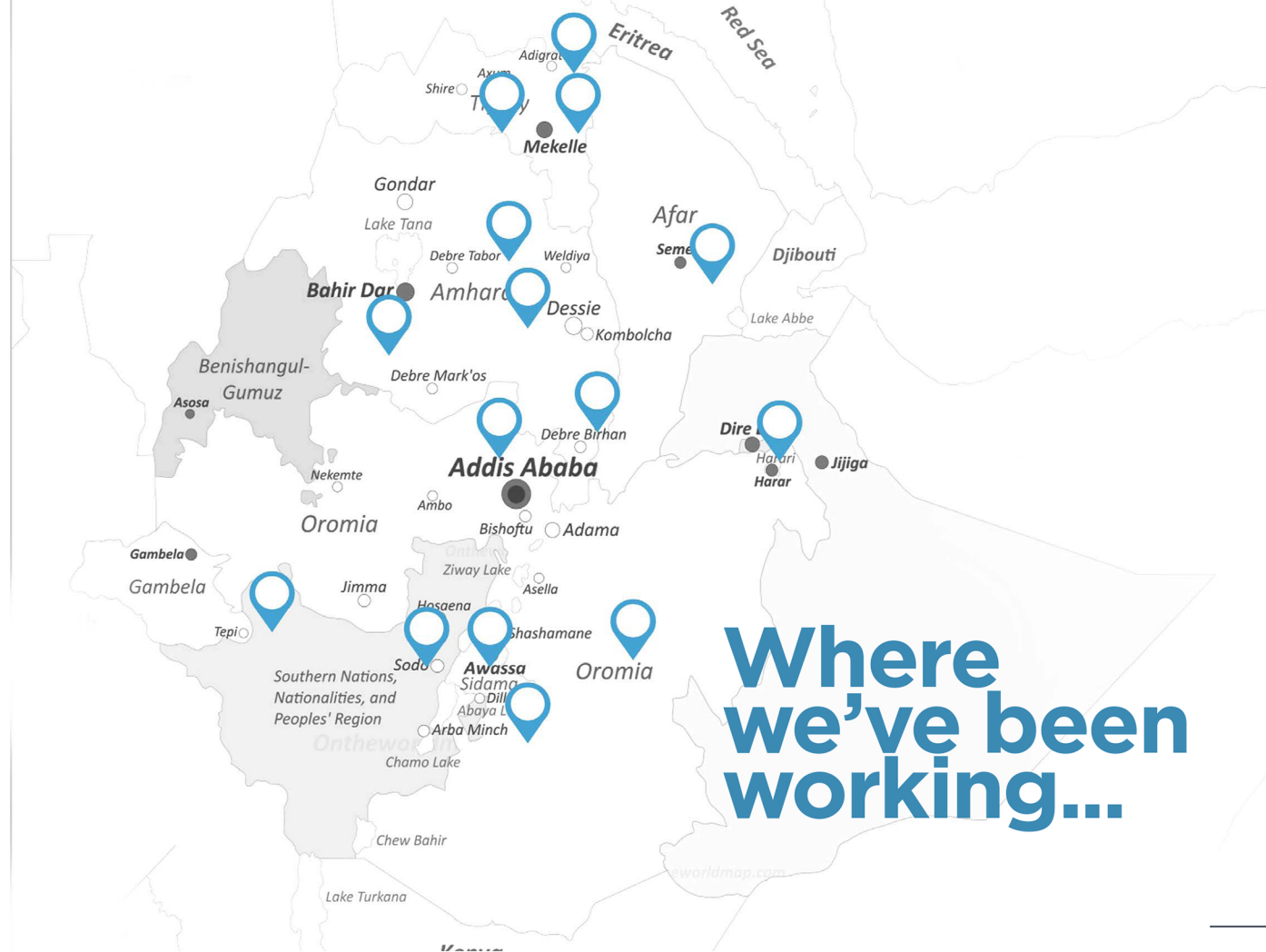
# Through out the years...



**TOTAL PROJECTS**







## DOW LEADING THE WAY: PIONEERING CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH SOLUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is a high-risk country for climate change (World Bank, 2021). The various range of its impact and threats to our area of work focus i.e. Water, which is a fragile and highly susceptible natural resource to effects of climate change, has increased our efforts and commitments to climate actions.

Drop of Water has pioneered bringing climate change actions into its WASH program and in the country's development agenda back in 2013 by piloting a Water safety plan in rural parts of Ethiopia where we comprehensively and continuously assess the risk and manage small water supply systems by taking climate change impacts.

Since then, by joining the national force in enhancing the resilient community and their adaptiveness to climate change effects, DoW has been prioritising the increased need to consider the implications of how climate change is emerging in the local contexts by highlighting poor and rural communities' vulnerabilities.

“...has pioneered bringing climate change actions into its WASH program in the country's development agenda...”





## OUR APPROACHES TO BUILD CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT COMMUNITY INCLUDES



### **Climate Risk Assessments for Resilient WASH Programs**

Conducting climate risk assessments to identify potential climate impacts and plan critically/systematically for the necessary adaptation and mitigation actions, thus ensuring climate-resilient WASH programs.



### **Building Climate Resilience Water Safety Plans in Vulnerable Communities**

Implementing a climate resilient Water Safety Plan in vulnerable communities with a focus on capacity building/training, risk assessment, and developing a comprehensive improvement plan to ensure water safety from source to consumption in a proactive manner.



### **Green Legacy Initiative** Planting for Soil and Water Conservation

Supporting the green legacy initiative through technical support such as contributions for plant nursery, cultivation, and plantation of indigenous plants that will contribute to better soil and water conservation.

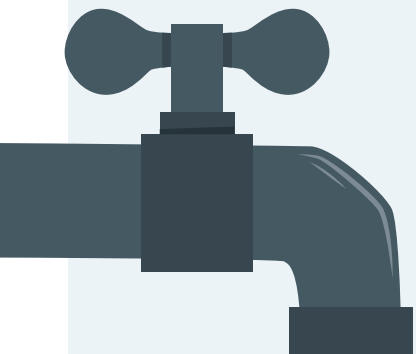


Dow's commitments and actions to inspire such climate-sensitive actions and influence local stakeholders, especially vulnerable communities are key to improving community living through empowerment of communities, increasing a sense of ownership, and creating a more secure livelihood.

“We believe all our efforts that are being done at community levels are yet laying the ground for a much broader need.”

# 2023

## IN REVIEW



## 2023 IN REVIEW

### WASH

## ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

17

Water points were constructed across four regions of Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama and SNNPR, Ethiopia.

102

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASHCo) committee members, composed of men and women in equal parts (51 men and 51 women) were selected.

28,037

Overall 28,037 members of the community have benefited from these projects.

### 2023 IN REVIEW

## HYGIENE PROMOTION AND ACCESS TO SANITATION

On our campaign of supporting proper sanitation facility construction for every household, we were able to reach and support over 120 HHs to construct improved latrines complete with hand washing basins and providing access to 625 individuals.

The WASH Promotion events hosted at community gatherings and schools were able to reach more than 1950 people.





2023 IN REVIEW

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Dietary diversification and home gardening support

Different events of nutrition promotion were held, reaching more than 80 women on the importance of a balanced diet and even supporting the distribution of seeds of fruits and vegetables benefiting more than 120 HHs.



2023 IN REVIEW

## GIRLS EMPOWERMENT

As part of our WASH promotion campaign, special attention was given to girls in school regarding menstrual management, by creating a safe space for them and providing training on how to manage it safely. As a whole, we were able to work with 7 schools and facilitate the construction and furnishing of 7 MHM (menstrual Hygiene Management) rooms. 71 girls in total, 10 girls from each school were selected and trained on basic MHM practices, and 160 girls were provided with reusable sanitary pads.



# PINNACLES REACHED IN 2023

## FORGED IN AFAR!

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In 2023, we took a big stride in our organisation when we completed our first-ever project in Afar, one of the hottest regions in Ethiopia and the most physically demanding so far. This project was unique in many ways from its inception to its completion.

Since the beginning of its design, it had to include many factors for it to be successful. The first of which is that we had to work with a community that was especially known for its nomadic lifestyles, cattle herding as their means of income which we had to take into account to success. The other is the extreme temperatures which made working very difficult.

Despite the challenges, we were able to finish three water points complete with cattle troughs and benefiting more than 2500 people. Its completion held great significance to the community, giving them a place to call home and settle down for the first time in their lives.



## A STEP FORWARD WITH AFRICAN VISIONARY FUND (AVF)

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The opportunity to partner and work with African Visionary Fund (AVF) was a giant leap forward for DoW in the year 2023. AVF nominated DoW as one of its 'Visionary Partners' on WASH, climate, health and education. The three year extended partnership presents a unique opportunity for DoW in furthering its vision by implementing pilot projects, spreading our wings and expanding our reach throughout Ethiopia.





# EXCITING JOURNEY AHEAD

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS COMMON GOALS- OUR FUNDING PORTFOLIO HAS INCREASED.

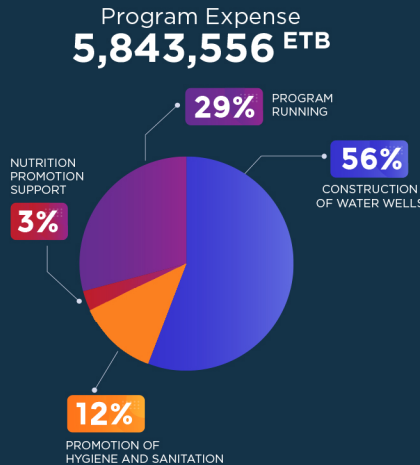
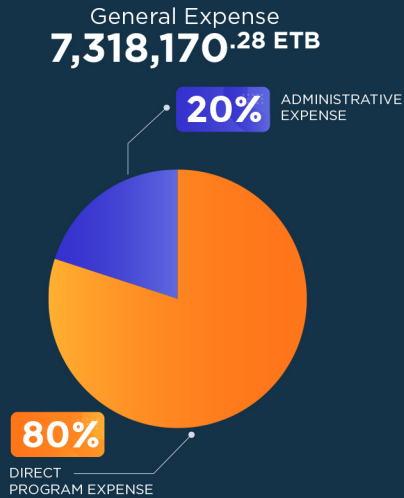
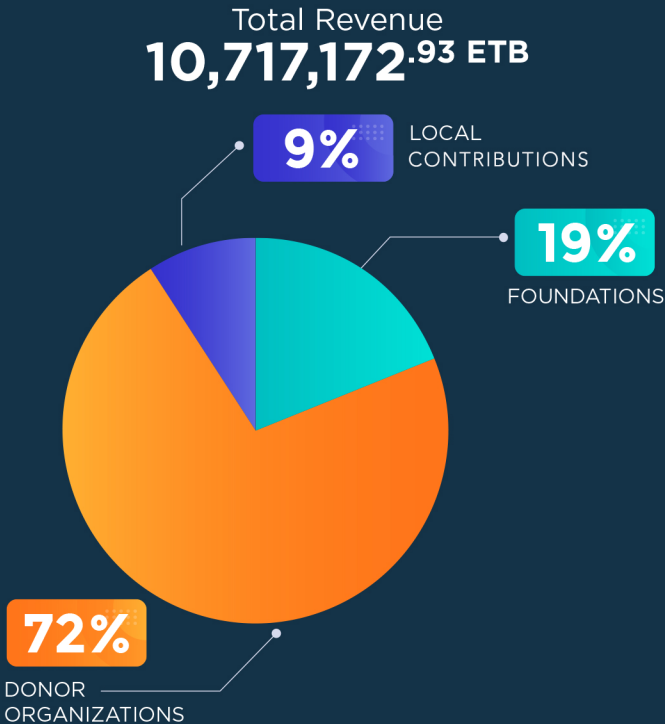
One of DoW's key approaches to meeting its strategic objectives and specific goals is through strong relevant development and resource partnership building. Over the past year, DoW has collaborated with interest groups that share our vision to enhance effectiveness and efficiencies in achieving our outcomes. 2023 is the year where we witnessed a growing number of funding partnerships and networking opportunities. In 2023, Not only did our funding portfolio increase but also diversified in funding type where for the first time we managed to secure foundation organisations' partnerships for unrestricted funding.

Furthermore, our organisations have been empowered to partner with Mighty Ally Institute to receive brand communications training to drive more impact and increase our visibility through one of our newest partnerships named Dovetail Impact Foundations.

In addition, DoW also succeeded in joining the East Africa Philanthropic Network (EAPN) Where we learn and collaborate with over 60 other like-minded East African organisations to promote sustainable communities and philanthropic collaboration.

“...has collaborated with interest groups that share our vision to enhance effectiveness and efficiencies in achieving our outcomes...”

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



EXCHANGE RATE \$1 = 56 ETB

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



## Be part of us!

Be part of a history to end the water crisis in Ethiopia.

You can



Champion  
Drop of Water



Invite Others to  
engage



Invest financial  
resource.





# Thank you!

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