

# 20 LITERS ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020



**20 Liters' mission is to make dirty water clean  
for the most vulnerable through long lasting  
and innovative solutions.**

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

---

There isn't much to be said about 2020 that hasn't already been said a thousand times. So, let's be brief, and generous, and say that the year has been challenge. As we look back on our fiscal year to evaluate what 20 Liters been able to achieve, we are faced with a difficult question: What does success look like during a global pandemic? The only answer we've been able to find is this: We must see our success in the ways that we've been able to show care and compassion for others; putting people above productivity and community above self.

During the fiscal year, in Rwanda, our volunteers recorded 3,740 family visits. That means for the past year, our volunteers visited at least 10 families each day to care for them and ensure their filters were operating as they should. When you consider that the country spent months under a strictly enforced lockdown, these visits are even more impressive. At times when volunteers were not permitted to leave their homes to work in their fields, they petitioned local leaders for special permission to visit families who needed help with filter maintenance and repairs.

In addition, our leadership responded swiftly to the concerns of staff and volunteers throughout the year. When our shipping container of supplies was delayed in customs; our leadership worked diligently to have it released, and refocused efforts on solutions like Rain Water Harvest Systems that take more time to install, but are built with materials sourced within Rwanda. When the pandemic caused shutdowns, our leadership made sure that staff had the tools to work from home, stay healthy, and find stability in an unpredictable time.

When we look back on this year, it would be easy to feel somewhat discouraged by seeing progress stalled and time lost. When we look forward to the coming year, it would be easy to be discouraged by the uncertainty of a changing economy and world.

But instead, we will focus on what hasn't changed. 2 billion people around the world need access to reliably clean water. Our team of staff and volunteers are healthy, passionate, and ready to face this challenge AND whatever comes next.

We are strong. We are resilient. And we will not be discouraged.

Amanda Mulder  
Director of Outreach

Chip Kragt  
Director of Programs & Operations

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ed Zwylghuizen**  
Board Chair

**Sue Hulst**  
Board Vice Chair

**Hilary Smith**  
Board Treasurer

**Laura Gentry**  
**Abdi Osman**  
**Andrew VanTimmeren**

# FY20 BY THE NUMBERS



## CLEAN WATER BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

When we went to visit Vestine, she was at home with her young daughter. Her husband was at work and her two young sons were visiting a friend. Vestine and her husband had moved to their rural village in 2014 from Kigali. She was surprised that most people in the area were using lake water for their needs. She told us that she also “started using this water, well aware that it is not healthy.”

As we talked, she recalled a time when her son was younger and he became very sick from dirty water. He was vomiting and had severe diarrhea. “It was my first time seeing those things come out of a person. I got really scared and asked the neighbor. They told me that it was the water causing it and we went to the hospital.”

Soon after that, volunteers came to Vestine's home and told her she was selected to receive a filter through the Water Project. When she went to pick it up, they taught her how to clean and care for it. She told us that she is confident that she knows how to



maintain her filter and knows how to contact program volunteers if she ever needs help.

She still collects water for her family from the lake or rain water, but now she passes that water through her filter before using it. Since receiving her filter, her three children have been healthy.

Vestine shares the filter with her neighbors and tenants. They bring water to pass through the filter and come back later to collect the filtered water. The filter has improved her life and the lives of her neighbors.

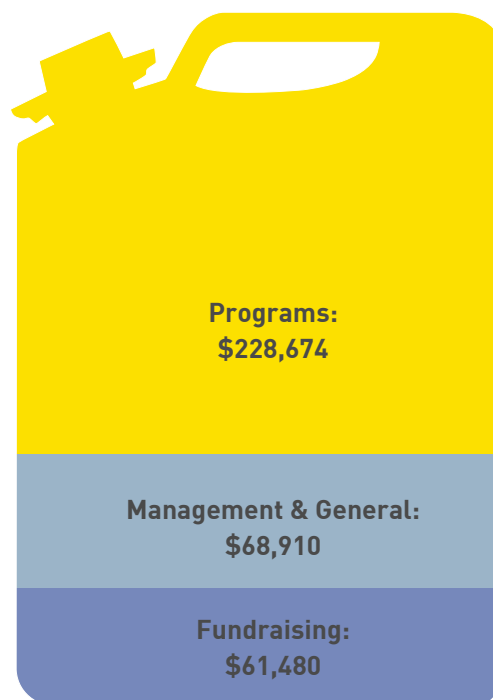
**But she tells us, “What the filter helped me most is to protect my children.”**

# FY20 FINANCIALS

---



**FY20 Revenue: \$386,397**



**FY20 Expense: \$359,064**

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

---

In 2005, more than 500 people in Masaka, Rwanda died from a cholera outbreak. After a conversation with church leaders in the area, World Relief Rwanda connected with a team of volunteers from Mars Hill Bible Church that were interested in making dirty water clean. Over the years, that team of volunteers became 20 Liters. And the project that 20 Liters and World Relief Rwanda took on together became the Water Project.

In support of the Water Project, 20 Liters provides finances, technical expertise, and filter technologies, while World Relief Rwanda provides staff, volunteers, logistical support, and the organizational structure for the project. This is the partnership that started it all. And in the years since we began working side by side, we have reached over 150,000 people with access to clean water.

We've worked together for many years to make the Water Project a success. But in 2020, what used to be manageable, became a herculean task. Despite the challenge, World Relief Rwanda was ready to show everyone what a real partnership looks like. They committed to regular update calls with 20 Liters staff, using their limited internet bandwidth to talk about the project, the challenges, and the successes of each day. As government mandated shutdowns caused anxiety and fear, World Relief Rwanda kept reminding us not to underestimate the power of passionate volunteers, ready to serve.

As we move into the uncertainty of the coming year, the relationship between 20 Liters and World Relief Rwanda continues to grow stronger. We are ready to not just do good, but to do better, together.