

Calgary Gala Impact Report



The 2023 Water for Life Gala in Calgary raised **\$1,273,352** including **442 Solar Panels!**

Drinking a glass of water is a trivial routine for many, but for millions of people worldwide accessing safe water still requires long journeys or strenuous work. Today, 2.2 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion lack safely managed sanitation, and 2 billion lack basic handwashing facilities with soap and water.

All children everywhere have the right to a safe and clean environment in their homes, communities, schools and health-care facilities. In 2023, UNICEF's efforts spanned over 100 countries, aiming to ensure every child's right to a clean and secure environment. Through donor support, including the funds raised from the 2023 Calgary Gala, UNICEF reached **35.9 million people** with safe water, **21.5 million** with basic sanitation, and **12.9 million** with hand hygiene services. Emphasizing support for marginalized communities, especially in fragile regions, UNICEF prioritized gender equality by directing support to women and girls. The integration of WASH services with broader gender objectives, including menstrual health and hygiene programs in schools and health-care facilities, was a key focus area.

A total of **2,789 solar-powered water systems** were installed in 56 countries across all UNICEF regions in 2023, marking the highest number ever achieved and bringing the total number of solar-powered water systems installed since 2019 to over 8,900. These systems serve various purposes, including community use, health centers, schools, and multi-use facilities, contributing significantly to sustainable and resilient water solutions.



Sudan: From Struggle to Sustainability

In the struggle for sustainability, the impact of solar-powered water solutions has been a game-changer, transforming communities and improving lives in profound ways. In Agig, one of the remotest localities within Red Sea state, suffers from recurrent droughts that affect water availability and the overall health and resilience of communities. The few available water pumps installed years ago, often ran dry during periods of low water levels, exacerbating the water stress in the region.

Several villages in the locality grappled with water scarcity, with communities resorting to collecting water from unsafe sources, some of which are also used by animals. Such practices significantly increase the risk of waterborne diseases, as sharing water sources with livestock could contaminate drinking water.



Madina (7) plays with her peers outside her home.

Gelhanty village, home to 7-year-old Madina, relied solely on a creek as its water source. Madina vividly recalls the challenges she faced while collecting water from the stream.

“Before, we used to bring the water from a stream,” Madina said while pointing in the direction of the creek. “The water wasn’t good”.

Madina and her peers made three trips every single day, covering one and a half kilometers per trip, carrying a water container and a jug.

The creek not only provided dirty water but also posed dangers, exposing Madina and her peers to gender-based violence protection risks, including sexual violence during the daily trips.

However, in October 2023, UNICEF and partners constructed a solar-powered mini water yard in Gelhanty village providing clean and safe water to the village and neighbouring Togat and Amma villages.

The children and women of Gelhanty now have access to a reliable water source, eliminating the need to collect water from unsafe streams.

The solar-powered water station has become a source of joy for the community, evident in the smiles of the children as they fill their containers. Women, previously burdened with carrying heavy water containers, now arrive with donkeys to collect large quantities of clean water efficiently.

The impact of solar-powered water systems is not only transformative but also sustainable, creating a ripple effect of positive change that benefits present and future generations.



Children collect clean and safe water from a new water station in Gelhanty Village in Agig locality, Red Sea state.

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