



CALGARY GALA IMPACT REPORT

The importance of access to safe and clean water on children cannot be overstated. It is a fundamental right for all children to have a healthy environment in their homes, communities, schools, and healthcare facilities. UNICEF's work in over 100 countries worldwide in 2023 has played a vital role in advancing this fundamental right by improving access to sustainable and climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

Despite progress in reaching 2.1 billion people with safely managed water supply since 2000, challenges still remain. The impact of unsafe drinking water on communities is staggering, with over 2.2 billion people still lacking access to safely managed drinking water.

Your support enables UNICEF to address these pressing issues head-on, making a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need.

Because of your support at our 2023 Gala, we were able to successfully install 2,789 solar-powered water systems across 56 countries.

In addition, the 442 solar panels donated by the Calgary community at the event, were vital to UNICEF's work in scaling up solar-powered water systems globally. This is a significant achievement made possible with your help and demonstrates the expanding reach of UNICEF's support for innovative WASH solutions. Your dedication is instrumental in driving positive change and securing a brighter future for generations to come. Thank you for being a part of this special evening in support of the world's children.

Solar-Powered Water Systems Serve Thousands in Malawi

Two years ago, 13-year Roydah Silumbu's performance at Kiwi Primary School in Karonga took a nosedive. She would travel long distances to fetch water, get tired and hardly had time to study. At times, she would be absent from school.

"I was greatly affected, and teachers were worried about my dwindling performance. Long distances to access water affected my concentration on school. And since the water we were accessing was not treated, I was exposed to waterborne diseases," recalls Roydah.

Roydah is one of more than 1,200 learners at Kiwi Primary School who now bask in the glory of uninterrupted water supply at the school. The school taps the water from a nearby Kaporo Health Centre where UNICEF supported installation of a solar-powered water scheme. The health facility has a tower comprising twin 10,000 litre water tanks that are powered by 12 solar panels.

"The hygiene and sanitation at this school has greatly improved. Apart from drinking safe water, we are also able to mop our classrooms and surroundings and wash our hands regularly. The water has also improved our menstrual hygiene as well as our performance in class. I am now one of the top performers at this school," said Roydah, a Grade 6 learner.

Kaporo Health Centre's Environmental Health Officer Benson Mithi said the solar powered water system has saved community members from water borne diseases because they are now accessing treated water.

"Before this system, community members were only accessing unsafe water as evidenced by numerous tests that we were carrying out. This hospital was never short of cases of waterborne diseases. But now that's history, the solar powered water system has been a game changer. Apart from covering the hospital with clean and safe water, the system also provides piped water to the primary school, the market and six points spread within the surrounding community, catering for 347 households," said Mithi.



Roydah and friends access safe water using a water facility provided by UNICEF at Kiwi Primary School in Karonga, Malawi.

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So far, with UNICEF assistance, Kaporo, Wililo, Hara and Fulirwa health facilities in Malawi are equipped with solar-powered water schemes that extend safe water supply to Ukanga, Gumi and Kazeze Primary Schools in the district.

A 15-year-old Tendai Sichali who is sitting for primary school leaving examinations at Gumi Boarding School says accessing safe water means everything to him as a learner at a boarding school. He says he is able to be neat and clean his utensils.

“We are 37 boarders here and 620 day-scholars. As you can see, we keep our uniforms, classrooms and hostels clean all the time because we have access to water. This water has also been extended to communities around this school, helping our parents to access safe water conveniently,” Tendai observed.

To ensure sustainability of solar powered water systems, community members contribute money based on the water usage at their respective kiosks. This money is used to purchase chlorine, clean the tanks and service the system.

Karonga District Water Development Officer Marcel Kaunda says solar powered water schemes are a good innovation that has proved to be impressive and user friendly. According to Kaunda, the seven solar powered water systems that the Government of Malawi has installed in the district with UNICEF support are a good investment in the provision of safe water.

“Access to safe water is a prime pillar in sustainable development goals. With this system, Karonga has made a lot of gains in improving access to safe water to its populace. The system supplies a lot of water than the hand-pumps which are mostly shallow wells,” noted Mithi.

Statistics from Karonga District Water Office indicate that the seven solar powered water systems that UNICEF rolled out in the district collectively provide safe water to a catchment area of about 16,500 households. Currently, Karonga has 75,102 households, and Mithi says more similar systems are needed to expand access to safe water across the entire district.



Tendai and friends posing for a picture beside a solar-powered water scheme at Gumi School in Karonga, Malawi.

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Thank You For Your Support!

We are immensely grateful for the generous support, which has helped UNICEF provide access to safe and reliable water to communities around the world. Your support of the 2023 Water for Life Gala has made a significant impact in addressing water scarcity, a dangerous effect of climate change that disproportionately affects children.

The 2023 UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary raised \$1,273,352!

442 solar panels, valued at \$287,300 were purchased, providing communities, schools and healthcare centers with access to safe water year-round through solar-powered water systems.

Proceeds from the event, through UNICEF's Global WASH programming, have supported the use of innovative solutions such as solar-powered water systems. Through this support UNICEF has been able to provide access to safe water to children like Roydah and Peace in Malawi. All children everywhere have the right to a safe and clean environment in their homes, communities, schools and healthcare facilities.

For over 32 years, the UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary has supported the greatest needs of children around the world and has helped to break barriers and supporting children to fulfill their potential and transform their communities. We extend our deepest gratitude to you for your tremendous support in making a difference for every child.



12 year old Peace and her classmates at Chikuli Primary School now have access to safe and clean drinking water.

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