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March 2026 Newsletter

About Water

Water is life. Clean water is good life. Dirty water is sickness, or death. Yet, two billion people a year drink contaminated water. More than a million die. Tens of millions are made ill.

The problem is multi-dimensional. First, water doesn't fall evenly in all areas. Even when it falls in sufficiency, it isn't necessarily stored in sufficiency for when it's needed. Often, it is contaminated. And getting it uncontaminated is a semi-technical process.

The result is that hundreds of millions of people drink whatever water they can get to. And, they drink the water as it is. It's either that or die of dehydration. That often means drinking pooled water that is laden with pesticides, herbicides, animal feces, and all manner of organic and inorganic contaminants—everything from dysentery and typhoid to sulfates, nitrates, ammonia, and more. This is the situation in much of Africa.

In the U.S., we are blind to this. We turn the tap and out comes an infinite stream of clean, potable water. We don't even think about the trillions of dollars invested in the dams built to collect the water, aqueducts delivering it from hundreds of miles away, municipal treatment plants where it's made clean, and the billions of miles of underground pipes that reliably deliver the water to every tap in every kitchen and bathroom in every home in the country. It's the closest thing there is to a social miracle. But it's not available to most of the world.

So, then, what do we do?

In Cameroon, we dug boreholes, literally reinforced holes in the ground that go down 100 feet or more. There, we encounter porous rock in which a water table has accumulated through seepage over geological periods of time. Because it is so deep, toxic agricultural runoffs (which are only decades old) haven't yet reached it. The water is usually pretty clean. It's just a matter of getting the hole dug and getting the water to the surface.

In Tanzania, we've learned how to take the water pooled from rain runoff and put it into a tank using a low volume, solar-driven pump. There, the particulates settle to the bottom. We then wick the water from the top of that tank, through a filter, and into a second tank, until it is full. Then, we add a precise dose of chlorine, which kills all organic contaminants. The result is water that is about 95% pure, vastly higher than if the water was drunk from the collection ponds untreated.

In Kenya, we install a lot of rainwater catchment systems at schools. The water is among the purest of all sources. But you need buildings which need to be guttered, while the tanks tend to be expensive and have limited use once the rains stop. As the Sahara Desert moves south in Africa at about five miles per year, this recourse is becoming more and more limited.

In Uganda, we are beginning the test of a precisely targeted purification method that delivers municipal-quality water to school-scale settings at a cost of less than $.60 (sixty cents) per child, per year. It's vastly cheaper than the sickness that comes from thousands of children drinking impure water. And, it's vastly cheaper

than running billions of miles of pipe under the ground, which is simply not practical.

The system uses a three-stage filter from a company in the Netherlands, **Sensiblue**. The filters contain a small turbine which is driven by the pressure in the water system. The turbine generates a micro-current of electricity that creates electrolysis, turning salt into chlorine, which disinfects the water.

The magic is that there is no electricity required—a HUGE plus for much of Africa. There are no pipes running under the ground, either—another plus. And, one pound of salt, that costs about 10 cents, purifies 11,000 liters of water.

We've completed installations at eight schools in the Kampala area. Water quality was tested at Ndejje National University Water Research and Development Center. All installations are meeting WHO drinking water purity standards for ammonia, nitrates and sulfates. We're getting a 100% reduction in E.coli and coliform organic pathogens. 99.9% reduction in viruses.

The combined population served, so far, is 3,187 students. The cost per student served is $.59 (fifty-nine cents) per student, **per year**, an unfathomably low cost considering the public health benefits it delivers. It's the closest thing there is to a social miracle.

You always want to be cautious about proclaiming breakthroughs. We are beginning a Phase Two, installing systems at another 16 schools. We're calling the program ***Clean Water for Africa*™**. If it continues to work—and we don't see any reason it won't—and if it scales—as it should—it could revolutionize the clean water problem in Africa. We'll keep you informed.

If you would like to help provide clean water to students in Africa, **click here**.

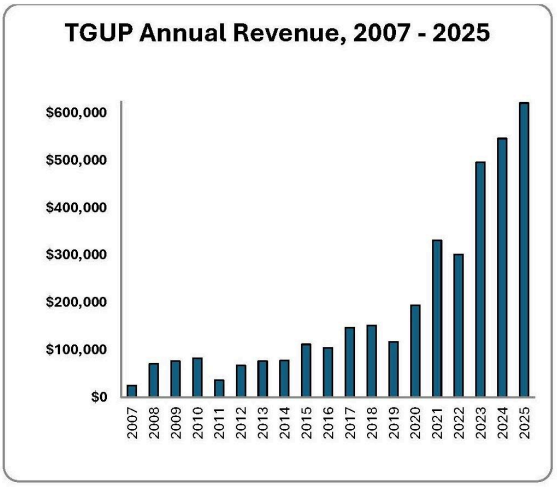
Final Word

TGUP just published its **2025 Annual Report**. It was a record year in many respects: record revenues; record number of projects completed; record number of people helped; record number of new partners added.

Some highlights:

- Total revenues: $621,000.
- 130 projects completed in 11 developing world countries. That's a project completed, somewhere in the world, every three days.
- Average cost per project: $4,014.

- 4.4+ million people are helped by a total of 648 projects since we started, in 2007.
- Cost per person helped since 2007: $.84 (eighty-four cents).
- New partners were added in India, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Zambia.



Money raised from foundations was 229% of Operating Expenses. Since that is specifically designated for overhead, ***100% of every dollar donated by an individual or other organization*** went to their intended project. We don't know of any other organization that can demonstrate that. It's one of our most treasured methods.

Three words summarize it all: THIS IS WORKING.

Thank you to those whose belief and support makes all of it possible. It continues to be true and astonishing: We CAN change the world. We ARE. Let's do more. The world needs us. **Join us**.

TGUP

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