

GROUNDWATER RELIEF STRATEGY 2025 TO 2030



PROVIDING GROUNDWATER EXPERTISE TO THE HUMANITARIAN AND
DEVELOPMENT SECTORS



GROUNDWATER RELIEF

OUR MISSION

Groundwater Relief's mission is to alleviate poverty and suffering through working with others to provide safe and affordable water supplies.

HOW WE WORK

We undertake this mission through a core team of staff, and a global membership of over 550 groundwater experts. We engage our expertise with organisations and government authorities whose remit is to provide safe, affordable and sustainable water supplies to vulnerable populations. We resource this work through: charging consultation fees to International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs) and United Nations (UN) organisations who engage our services; applying for grants with partner organisations; the generous voluntary provision of support from our membership and fundraising.

CORE VALUES

Integrity - We will not compromise on our independence and impartiality as we provide technical support.

Professionalism - We deliver practical, high quality, technical expertise within the context and constraints of disaster response and low-income economies.

Collaboration - We always seek to work as a collective, engaging the highest level of expertise, sharing data and information.

Respect - We respect those that work for us, those we work alongside and those we serve.



GWR successfully supported MSF-OCP with the drilling of a production borehole for Paolo Hospital, CAR

CONTEXT

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Groundwater constitutes 99% of the world's liquid fresh water and provides the source for 49% of global domestic water and 43% of irrigation water. Groundwater resources are, however, poorly understood as they are inheritably difficult to see, quantify and manage. Significant investment in groundwater infrastructure is being squandered due to a lack of expertise.

Groundwater resources are coming under increasing pressure due to over-extraction, leading to declines in groundwater levels, saline intrusion and decreases in surface water flow; and through pollution from industry, agriculture and poor waste management.

WATER SUPPLY

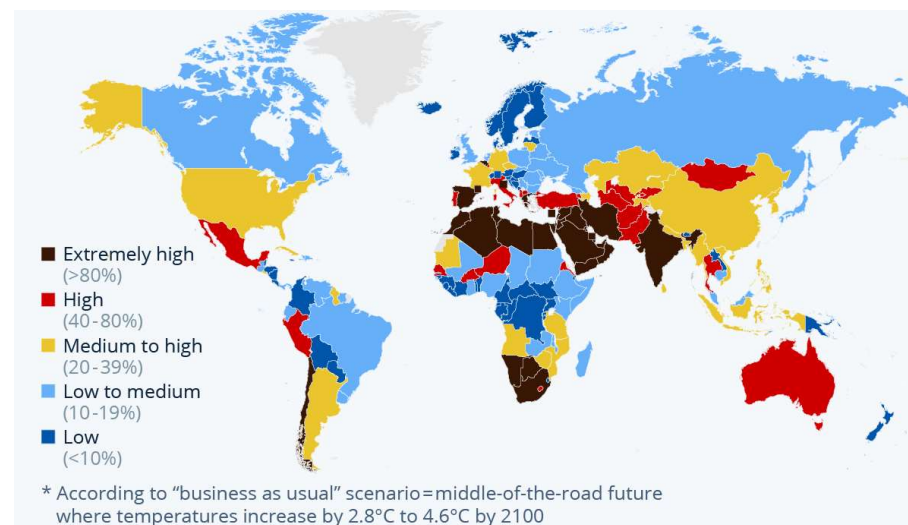
Over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate. This is due to economic challenges resulting in inadequate investment and development of water supply infrastructure; and limited physical availability of fresh water.

In a changing global climate and with increasing demand for water, projected to grow by 1% per year, groundwater is an even more critical water resource.

GROUNDWATER RELIEF

Groundwater Relief (GWR) was set up in 2016 to fill the recognised skill gap within the humanitarian and development sectors. Through our global membership of groundwater experts, GWR provides organisations with specialist support to conceptualise, assess, develop and manage groundwater resources. We work with local water users, water providers, government and academia to build capacity, promote data sharing and equip local staff to deliver water to those most in need.

GROUND WATER RELIEF



Projected ratio of human water demand to water availability (water stress level) in 2050 (Source: Water Resource Institute
<https://www.statista.com/chart/26140/water-stress-projections-global/>)

2020 TO 2025 MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH

Over the past 5 years Groundwater Relief (GWR) has doubled the size of its team from 3 to 6 staff and from 300 to now over 550 members.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

GWR has developed global Framework Agreements with: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Solidarités International (SI), Oxfam and Medair as well as maintaining an existing Framework Agreement with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). In addition, GWR has developed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) in Yemen and the National Water Resource Management Agency (NWRMA) in Sierra Leone.

TECHNICAL WORK

GWR has undertaken over 50 projects in the last five years. Examples of some notable projects are described below:

Bangladesh - In collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Oxfam and Dhaka University, GWR mapped and modelled the aquifers within Teknaf Upazila, Cox's Bazar and then sited and successfully drilled 2 production boreholes. Each were able to produce over 100m³/h to provide a target 2.7 megalitres of water per day for a Teknaf Municipality water supply project.

South Sudan - Geophysical surveys have been carried out across the country to support water supply projects, working with organisations such as International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), SI, MSF and the IOM. GWR also conducted a disaster risk reduction feasibility assessment on behalf of the IOM's Enhancing Communities Resilience Project, to support the populations of Fashoda, Pibor, Rubkona, Twic East and Duk Counties. GWR led a consortium of organisations to assess, map and model the impacts of flood and drought and develop of a list of flood and drought investment measures that were then, through a community consultation process, refined and shortlisted.

Yemen - Groundwater resource assessments have been undertaken on the west coast of Yemen with SI and in Marib with the IOM. GWR has also worked with the MoWE, hosting key officials in the UK and supported them with the development of a preliminary 5-year water resource monitoring strategy.



GWR supporting MSF with borehole siting in Sierra Leone

GROUNDWATER RELIEF STRATEGY 2025 TO 2030

Groundwater Relief's strategy can be categorised into four key objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Humanitarian Groundwater Services:** Provide a world class groundwater technical advice service for WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) actors working in the humanitarian sector.
- 2. Sustainable Groundwater Management:** In targeted countries, work with regulators to improve management of vulnerable aquifers.
- 3. Membership Engagement:** Expand and utilise effectively our global membership of groundwater experts to increase our capacity to meet our objectives.
- 4. Start-up to Stability:** Achieve organisational growth and stability to better deliver our services and meet our charity objectives.

To achieve these objectives, GWR needs to grow and employ more specialist staff so that our team can focus and spend time on their primary roles and enable the highest quality technical support to be delivered to our partners. To increase our size, we need to increase our income. This will be achieved through developing our grant and fundraising income, fostering relationships with our key partners and improving how we utilise our membership.



GWR drilling a production well in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh



GWR worked with Guma Valley water company to site water supply boreholes for Freetown, Sierra Leone

HUMANITARIAN GROUNDWATER SERVICES

Provide a world class groundwater technical advice service for WASH actors working in the humanitarian sector

HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

We will continue providing a specialist technical service to the humanitarian sector to support development and management of water supplies.

We will maintain and build on our existing partnerships as well as establish additional Framework Agreements with new partners to allow us to respond quickly and effectively to emergency requests.

We will continue to invest in both our staff and our equipment portfolio to enable us to provide high quality services.

We will continue to develop a specialist tier of experts within the membership who can be engaged to deploy quickly with a GWR staff member.

EXISTING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

- International Organization for Migration
- Medair
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Oxfam
- Solidarités International

**GROUND
WATER
RELIEF**



Water trucking in Marib, Yemen



Drilling into a water bearing fracture in Kenya



GWR assessed the water sources for Bentiu Protection of Civilians (POC) camp in South Sudan

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

In targeted countries, work with regulators to improve management of vulnerable aquifers.

HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

We will develop and foster relationships with in-country water authorities and develop and sign MoUs to formalise relationships.

We will work with water authorities to support improved water management through activities including: expansion of groundwater monitoring networks; data management systems; development of groundwater models; and capacity building.

We will collaborate with partner organisations and other stakeholders to undertake groundwater management activities in targeted countries.

We will advocate, lobby and raise funds with key donors to support our work with the water authorities.



Current Targeted Countries

- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen



GWR set up a groundwater monitoring scheme on the west coast of Yemen in collaboration with Solidarités International and the National Water Resource Agency

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Expand and utilise effectively our global membership of groundwater experts to increase our capacity to meet our objectives.

HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

We will find a funding solution to cover the annual costs of employing a Membership Manager who will work directly with the membership to improve engagement.

We will develop a tiered membership, enabling us to differentiate between more experienced and trusted members who can take on more responsibility.

We will provide members with benefits such as webinars, mentorship and training opportunities.



Current Membership (February 2025)

- 573 Groundwater Relief members
- 30 Groundwater Response Team members



Members and staff working with in-country water authorities

START-UP TO STABILITY

Achieve organisational growth and stability to better deliver our services and meet our charity objectives

HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

We will employ more specialist staff so that our team can focus and spend time on their primary roles. Roles we will create include the positions of Grant and Fundraising Manager, Technical Lead and Membership Manager.

We will nurture a healthy working environment with a flexible working arrangement, cohesive team spirit, an attractive benefits package including training, and career development opportunities. We will also continue to improve our governance to ensure oversight on key themes including human resources and health & safety.

We will diversify funding streams, with a strong focus on fundraising from grant providers to support GWR charity objectives.

We will promote our services through:

- The finalisation of a new website before the end of 2025.
- Demonstrating measurable impacts of our work.
- Publishing our work .
- Continued development of our social media footprint.

Some Key Facts (February 2025)

- 6 staff employed
- 5 trustees
- LinkedIn followers: 2,364
- Average annual income between 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 = £277,440

**GROUND
WATER
RELIEF**



In 2024 GWR partnered with Birmingham University to run a drilling supervision training course for humanitarian and hydrogeology MSc students



WWW.GROUNDWATER-RELIEF.ORG

CONTACT US

HELP@GROUNDWATER-RELIEF.ORG

+44 (0) 7969 039881

CHARITY No. 1167458