



Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Safe Water Initiative

By 2031, 5.2 million people in rural Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda will have safe drinking water

Everyone needs safe water to survive. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Safe Water Initiative focuses on supporting government and non-government stakeholders to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable water service delivery to key rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our work in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda—where nearly 150 million people combined live in rural areas—serves communities that are **high need, hard to reach, and underserved.**

OUR GOALS: BY 2031

5.2M

people have **safe water**

98,000

water points in rural communities meeting national reliability standards

\$83M

in new financing leveraged to sustain and scale safe water solutions



Agnes Mbambu (right), a maintenance employee, stands with Joash Bwambale (left), the CEO of Irrisol Engineering, as they check a pipe at a water station run by Irrisol near Katholilu (Kasese District) in Western Uganda."

Our Strategy

Infrastructure	Professional Operations	Financing
We fund the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure like boreholes and pumps.	We support water operators who manage and maintain water infrastructure.	We invest in partnerships to leverage additional financing needed to sustain rural safe water solutions.

We focus on two funding modalities that support safe water delivery.

Grants
Direct contributions that do not require repayment or equity
Program-Related Investments
Mission-driven loans provided at an interest rate below market value

Our Impact

Between 2021 and 2025, our safe water strategy focused on ongoing partnerships, long-term investments and flexible financing models for safe water delivery. The result was a locally led, replicable model with proven results:

Five-year Impact		
More than 2 million people in areas where our partners operate are receiving safe water through innovative service delivery models.	61 percent of healthcare facilities have basic water services.	Governments in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda are undertaking actions to professionalize and sustain safe water services.

Looking Ahead

Between 2026 and 2031, we plan to sustain safe water services for 2.8 million people, while providing safe water to 2.4 million new people.

Our strategy retains an even greater focus on professional water services, ensuring water quality is high, service is reliable, and infrastructure is maintained—changing the traditional cycle of “Build-Neglect-Rebuild.”

To Learn More:
hiltonfoundation.org/programs/safe-water
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Saha Global entrepreneur Asia Issahaku prepares to put water into the tank near the dugout, which is about a 15-minute walk from her home in the Vogyili Community, outside Tamale, Northern Ghana.

