Frequently Asked Questions

What programs are implemented by WFSS?

- **Well Drilling**—more than 600 wells have been drilled in remote South Sudanese villages since 2005, providing water to more than 500,000 people. Annual goal: 40 new wells.
- **Well Rehabilitation**—over time, the cement platform of older wells can break down, causing damage to the area surrounding the well. WFSS has rehabbed more than 400 wells since **2017**. The organization also responds to requests to repair wells drilled by other organizations—this could entail repairs to the cement, replacement of broken hand pump parts, or digging deeper into the earth to reach the refillable aquifer—to bring the well back to working order. Annual goal: 50 wells rehabilitated
- **Hygiene Education Training**—in each village where a new or rehabbed well project is conducted, four men and four women receive basic hygiene training. This training includes the topics of personal hygiene, water safety, safe disposal of human waste, and disease prevention. Additionally, we train women on basic menstrual hygiene. More than 800 hygiene training programs have been completed since **2014**. Annual goal: 110 hygiene training programs
- **Sanitation (toilet facilities/latrines)**—in **2018**, we completed the Zogolona Primary School latrine project, which today provides more than 800 students with a sustainable toilet facility (latrine). The second school latrine project was constructed in 2022 and serves 520 students.
- **Water Storage and Distribution**—completed in **2021**, WFSS's first county-wide solar-powered well, storage, and distribution project serves 10,000+ people daily in Pinydit, South Sudan. A second project was completed in May 2022, serving 2,000 people (333 households) in Wau.

Where does WFSS drill?
WFSS currently drills mainly rural villages in the Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan.

How much does it cost to drill a well?
The total to drill a well is $20,000. For more information, check out our sponsorship page here: waterforsouthsudan.org/sponsorship-opportunities.

Where does the well water come from?
There are natural refillable aquifers (up to 300 feet) below the earth in South Sudan. The cycle of evaporation and annual rains make the aquifer renewable.

How does the drilling team determine where to drill a well?
Once WFSS determines the area of the country where work will be implemented, consultations with the Government of South Sudan, county governments, and community leaders are necessary to decide on the placement of wells. Village elders and chiefs are tasked with determining the specific location of the well to serve residents. Once drilled, wells become the

property of the village, so it is vital that community leaders are involved in well placement decisions.

If students ask about the following:

- The number of children that attend school now as a result of our work.
- The number of schools in South Sudan because of our work.
- How many towns have we helped in South Sudan to date?

Note that this data might not be available from the South Sudan team at this time. Refer to the number of wells as a baseline when answering question 3 since it is undetermined if there are two wells that have been drilled in the same town.

How much water can a well produce?
The India Mark II (the most commonly used hand pump in the world) pumps can produce 15 liters (4 gallons) per minute. Calculate 12 hours of use per day (rather than 24 hours since this isn't how long the well is used) to determine the amount pumped per day. 900 liters (240 gallons) /hour x 12 hours = 10,800 liters (2,880 gallons) per day.

Do community members help with the drilling process?
Residents are involved at each step of the process:

- help decide where wells will be placed,
- prepare the ground by clearing brush and small trees to make room for our vehicles,
- show our teams where to get the water needed to begin drilling,
- dig two mud pits to hold the water used for drilling,
- carry bricks and heavy bags of cement, and scoop gravel,
- build a fence around the well to keep animals away from the water source,
- provides a volunteer to support the team cook, and
- identify two residents to participate in basic well maintenance and repair.

How do you maintain the wells?
Two community members are selected to receive training on how to maintain and repair the well; this supports the long-term sustainability of the water source.

When can you drill wells in South Sudan?
WFSS operates during the dry season—approximately December through May. During the rainy season, dirt roads in South Sudan turn to mud, and our heavy equipment cannot travel. Additionally, it's more challenging to locate the true water source in the aquifer with heavy rains.

Do you test the water in the wells?
Yes, we test the water quality using Watersafe and Aquagenx test kits to ensure it is safe for human consumption. We test for e coli along with other contaminants.

What kind of drilling rig do you use?
We are currently using our new "Iron Giraffe" - PAT 501 rig. PAT stands for Promotion of Appropriate Technology, and its rigs are widely used in the developing world. We continue to use our original big rig, a Deep Rock DR 150. We also have a smaller PAT 431 T. We also have a compressor that enables us to drill in rocky areas.

What kind of pump is on the wells?
We use the India Mark II, the most widely used hand pump in the world.

Will your organization expand to other countries in Africa? / Other continents?
At this time, we do not plan to expand outside of South Sudan. However, we hope to expand to other countries in Africa in the future.

What are your organization's goals?
US goals: raise funds to support the work being implemented by the local South Sudan team through individual and foundational support and share the work being implemented by the South Sudan team with supporters via email, web, and social media.

South Sudan goals: implement solutions for sustainable access to clean water (new well drilling, well rehabilitation, solar-powered wells and water storage/distribution, latrine construction and repair, hygiene awareness, train local community members to manage their own water supply, empower communities to sustain their water source for years to come, grow local employment opportunities.

What strategies do you use to help your charity realize its goals?
One of the most important strategies is working with local people in South Sudan. WFSS employees are all South Sudanese, speak the languages of the people they serve, and understand the culture of their communities. This helps shape the projects implemented in rural communities: new wells, rehabbed wells, water storage and distribution, and hygiene education.

A Long Walk to Water has been a major reason so many people know about Salva and Water for South Sudan. Teachers, students, and family members read the book and want to help. This has expanded awareness to a global level (likely the reason you contacted WFSS) and has made this important work possible because of the generosity of people worldwide. We do not receive support from the US or South Sudan government. Individuals, schools, faith-based organizations, and foundations support our work—we can only do our work with the support of people like you!

How do you fund Water for South Sudan?
WFSS is supported by donors from all 50 states and 60 countries: individuals, schools, faith-based groups, family foundations, and civic organizations. WFSS does not receive funding from the US or South Sudan governments.

How much money have you raised in total to build the wells in South Sudan?
Since 2003, supporters have contributed $20 million to support clean water projects in South Sudan.

What is the percentage of funding that goes to overhead costs?
Overhead costs for fiscal year 2022 was 17.8%.

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Water for South Sudan, Inc. is proud to be evaluated by and a member of the following organizations. Click the blue organization name below to view our profile.

Click on the site name below to view our profile

Charity Navigator | Candid.(formerly GuideStar) | GlobalGiving | BBB | InterAction