



**Gazelle Foundation
Impact Report 2020**

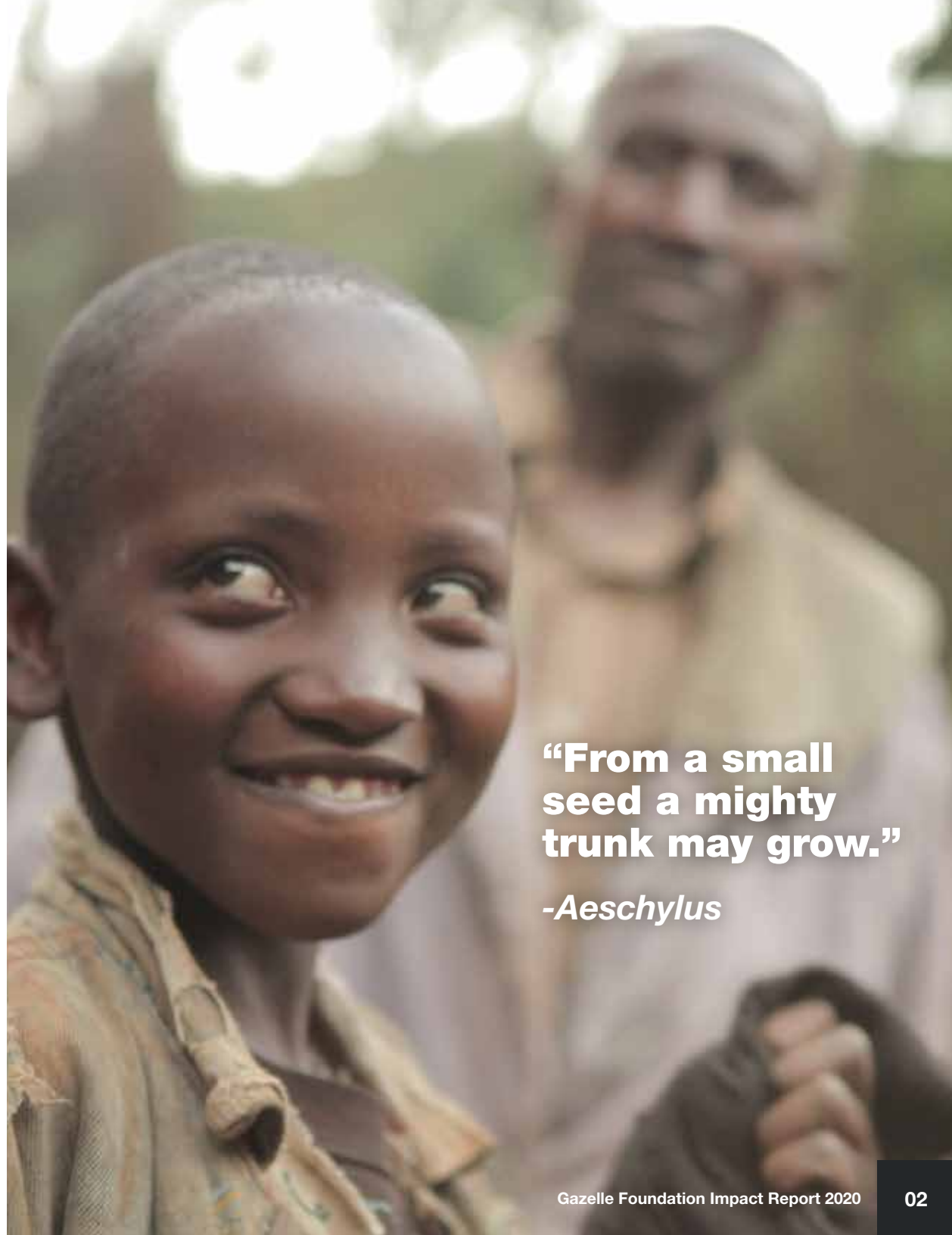


Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty

Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty

Unforeseeable challenges faced us down in this year of great uncertainty, but despite the odds our progress continued. In fact, it was more vital than ever. The basic preventative measures that are keeping families healthy and safe every day and during the pandemic start with access to clean water and good hygiene. Because of our unique structure and in-country partners, we remained in constant contact with construction crews in Burundi, and work continued.

We pivoted with our programming and created community without being together. We walked, biked, ran, and Zoomed - alone but together. And in the end, our thousands of supporters came together to dramatically improve the everyday lives of people in Burundi.



“From a small seed a mighty trunk may grow.”

-Aeschylus

Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the people in Burundi Africa by providing access to clean water.

Our Vision

Our vision is for every man, woman and child in Burundi to have clean water, the highest quality of life, and hope within reach.



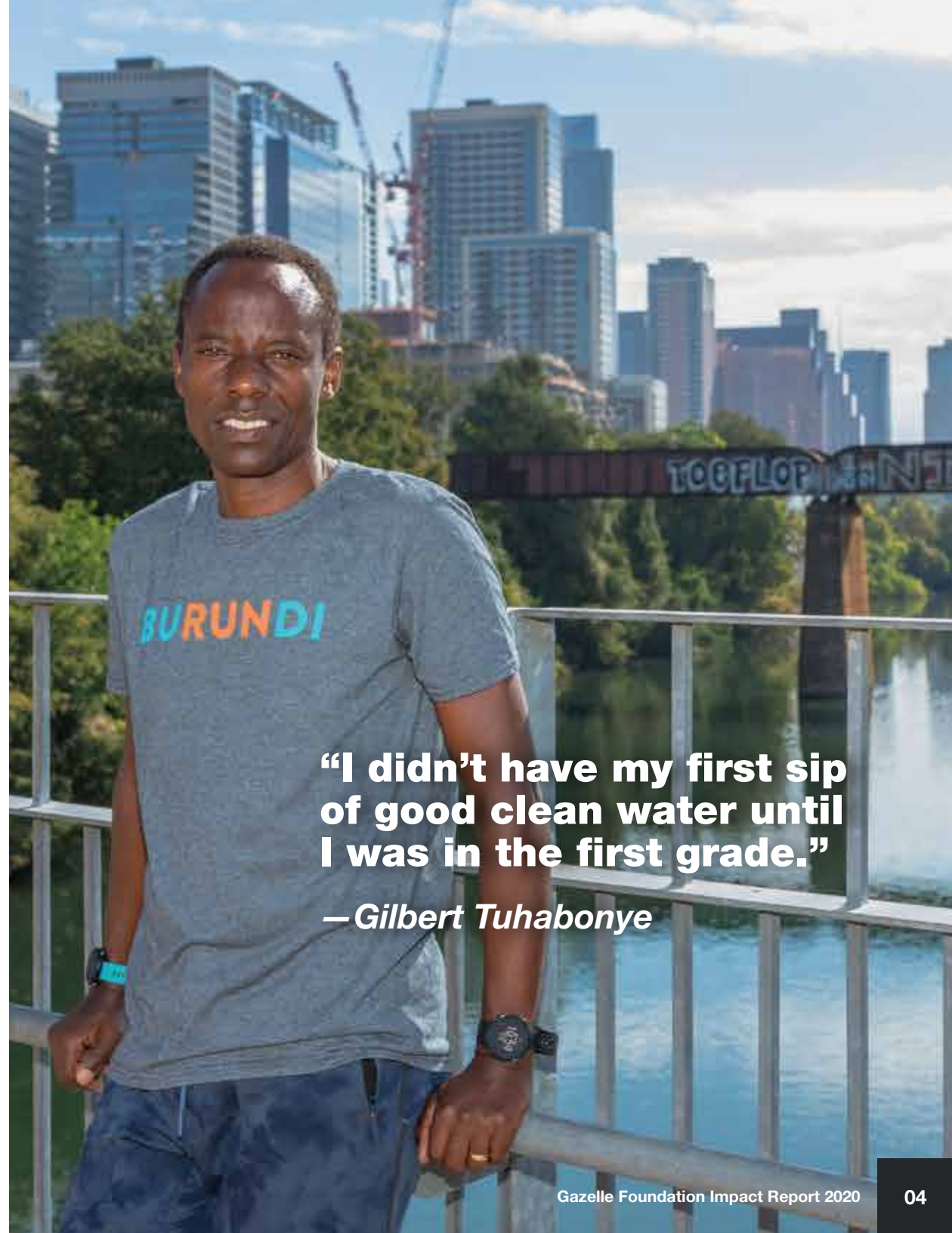
About the Foundation

Since 2006, the Gazelle Foundation has brought clean water and transformative change to Burundi, one village at a time. We built our purpose in our founder's footsteps: Gilbert Tuhabonye has embraced a life of joy and forgiveness. For Gilbert, the burn scars on his body remain a daily reminder of surviving the horrific Rwanda/Burundi genocide in 1993. For the people who know him, Gilbert embodies the power of optimism and perseverance.

We believe that regardless of circumstances or obstacles, anyone can make the world a better, more compassionate place. Due to our unique structure and in-country partners, our cost to build water systems is lower than average, and working in a single, small country means it is easy to track the long-term impact. To date, over 110,000 people have daily access to clean water because of the Gazelle Foundation.

Gilbert, our dynamic board of directors, and hundreds of volunteers work tirelessly to bring awareness to the needs of the Burundian people while educating our local community about the importance of the global water crisis and the need for humanitarian aid in Burundi.

The Gazelle Foundation is a certified 501(c)3.



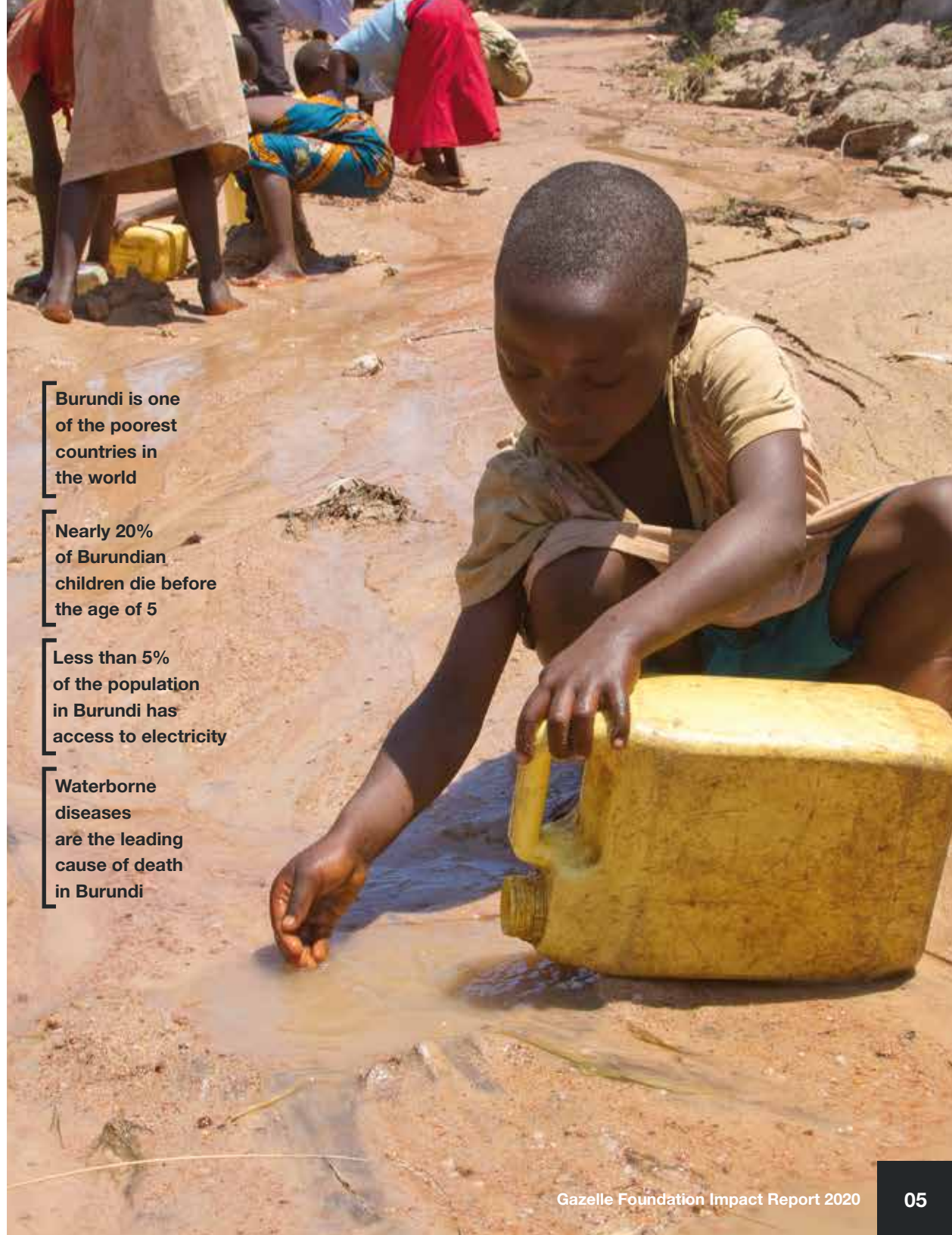
“I didn’t have my first sip of good clean water until I was in the first grade.”

— Gilbert Tuhabonye

Burundi's Water Crisis

Most people in Burundi live in rural, mountainous regions where access to clean water is extremely limited. Waterborne illnesses are the leading cause of death, and Burundi has the 12th highest child mortality rate in the world. Over 3 million Burundians will require humanitarian aid this year, and by many measures, Burundi is among the poorest countries in the world. Due to certain governmental regulations, Burundi is a difficult country for charities and NGOs to work in, meaning that many needs go unmet.

The Gazelle Foundation's unique connection to Burundi through our founder, Gilbert Tuhabonye, and our strong relationships with on-the-ground partners, mean that we can effect change in a place where many others cannot. Our focus on Burundi means that it is easier to track the long-term impact of our water systems, developing not only a record of success but a reputation locally as a committed partner.



Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world

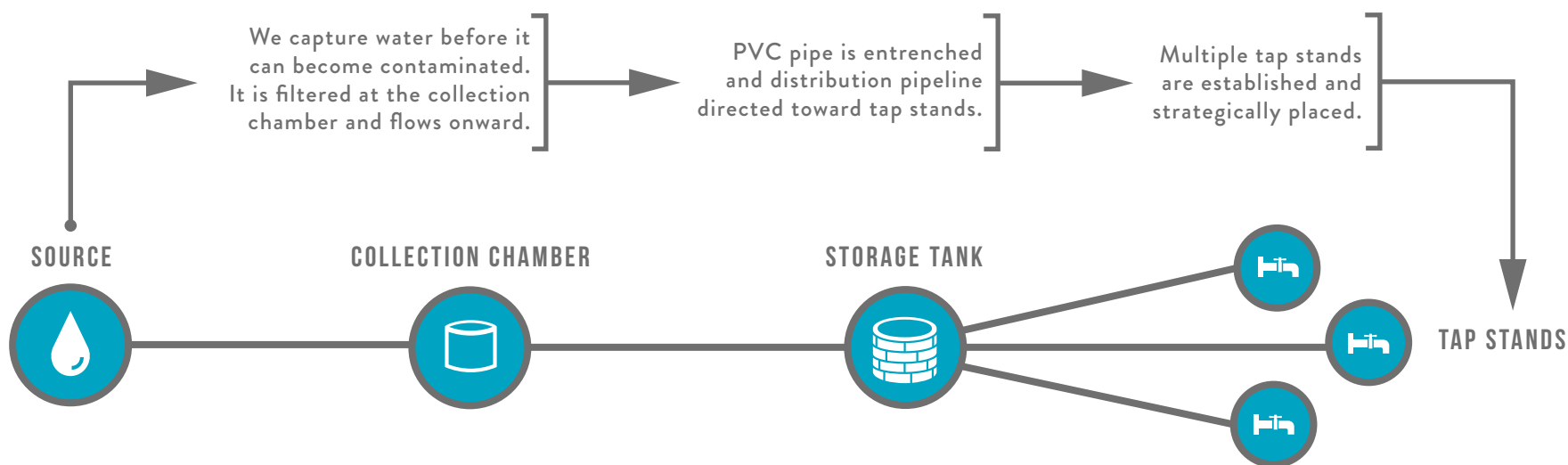
Nearly 20% of Burundian children die before the age of 5

Less than 5% of the population in Burundi has access to electricity

Waterborne diseases are the leading cause of death in Burundi

Our Water Systems

Clean water is foundational to community health and reversing the cycle of poverty. But the systems must work long-term to provide lasting change. Our systems employ a low-tech, sustainable approach to construction that is simple but effective. The systems are built by community members, ensuring that local know-how is in place for ensuring systems remain in good working order. Keeping employment, materials, and knowledge local ensures system success in the short term and in the long run.



We build efficient, effective water systems. Our streamlined approach maximizes efforts and resources to provide tangible, long-term results that directly affect the people of Burundi. Each water system we build:

- Reduces or eliminates deadly waterborne diseases
- Increases educational access, allowing children to attend school on a more regular basis
- Creates shorter, safer walking distances to water
- Provides jobs and stimulate local economies in a country with one of the highest unemployment rates, globally
- Equitably provides clean water to all, healing divisions, and building common ground
- Gives hope to a country mostly forgotten by the world

Key Outcomes

Improved Health

The vast majority of Burundians live in rural areas with mountainous terrain. 100% of people living in these areas are affected by waterborne pathogens which lead to typhoid, hepatitis A, schistosomiasis, bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, and death. However, in areas where we have installed clean water systems, local health centers report a dramatic decrease in diseases and a significant improvement in overall health.

In one community, a clinic doctor reported the prevalence of waterborne illnesses decreased from 76% down to 11% with the creation of a Gazelle Foundation water project. The same doctor estimates that the availability of clean water saves the lives of three children per month in his clinic alone.

The care offered at local health clinics has improved dramatically due to the availability of clean water. Improved hygiene is cited as a reason for a decrease in bacterial infections as well. At the completion of a water system, the benefiting population is taught how to wash their hands before and after meals as well as after using the latrine.



Shorter, Safer Walking Distances

Our clean water systems dramatically reduce the distance traveled to access water, from approximately 4 miles to one quarter of a mile, due to the strategic placement of public-access tap stands. This means substantially less time is required to fetch and carry water, a job traditionally done by women and children. It allows children to spend more time in school, and provides women with the time to develop trades or care for home and family. In addition, the shorter distance eliminates the dangers found in treacherous mountainous terrain or near dangerous, untreated water sources three to four hours away.

Better Educational Opportunities

When access to clean water helps eliminate waterborne illnesses, children are sick less, which allows them to attend school on a more regular basis. With shortened walking distances, they spend less time gathering and carrying water to their homes. Better educational opportunities improves their life-long earning potential. According to the World Bank, returns on education investment are the largest in Africa over any other continent, and each additional year of schooling raises earnings by 11% for boys and 14% for girls.



Community Investment

On average, we employ 100-110 local workers to help with the water system construction. The workers are residents of the community. Local economies have seen an increase in overall stimulation due to the labor income in addition to some materials being sourced locally. Workers employed in water system construction report using their earnings on clothing, food, shoes, and sending their children to school.

Additionally, people have more time for consistent work and trade development when they aren't caring for sick family members. This alone can begin to reverse the cycle of poverty endemic to these regions of rural Burundi.



Equitable Access

Access to water at each tap stand is available to all people at no cost, regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or religion. Of the three main tribes in Burundi – Hutu, Tutsi, and Batwa – the Batwa are the most marginalized, making up just 1% of the total population. They are the poorest of the poor, lacking access to not just water but education, food sources, and health care. The Batwa are often forgotten in terms of their human rights and needs.

The Gazelle Foundation chose to build our first water project to serve the Batwa people, as a signal to the country that we would be serving all Burundians, regardless of tribe, and that we aim to foster long-term peace and stability within the country.





The entire world has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis, and the Gazelle Foundation is no exception. We had to pivot, change plans, and pivot again. Our commitment to providing clean water to those that need it most has never wavered, and while our programming looked different, our objectives have remained the same.

Together we can and do make a difference, bringing health, prosperity, and hope to people we will likely never meet. This year, our selfless giving community reached out a hand to help provide access to water in Burundi, changing lives across the globe.



2020 Programs

Come Together For The Water

With our usual spring gala on hold due to coronavirus, we pivoted to Come Together For The Water, our first virtual event, which took place May 14, 2020. Members of our Board of Directors, Advisory Committee and staff hosted nearly 80 participants from around the world at five virtual tables. Attendees learned about the foundation and our mission, and watched a virtual program with footage from Burundi including beneficiaries. We were able to meet our goal of fully funding two water systems, keeping local project workers employed, and supplying two additional communities with clean water. Prior to, and at the event, supporters opened their hearts to meet the goal by contributing and/or becoming monthly donors.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of this event, and to our event committee, board, and virtual speakers.



Global Run For The Water

The Gazelle Foundation's annual Run For The Water is not only our signature road race and fall fundraiser, it is also one of the most popular races in Austin.

Therefore it was with a heavy heart that, in consultation with City of Austin officials and out of desire for the health and safety of all participants, we cancelled our in-person event. But our resilient spirits rose to the occasion, doubling down on our Global Run For The Water, a virtual race that could be run, walked, or biked from anywhere on the globe.

One of the aspects the race participants were most concerned to miss was the wonderful sense of community that comes from training and racing together for a cause. In its place, we built a virtual community that featured:

- weekly giveaways to incentivize participation
- race, nutrition, and training tips for registrants to keep them motivated throughout the training cycle
- a 10-week training plan, free to all participants, designed by Gilbert
- a STRAVA club for racers with regular posts and encouragement
- Instagram takeovers by Ambassadors and key partners, like The Loop Running Supply Co.
- a Global Run Community page that will continue to serve as a hub for Run For The Water community information in the coming year

GAZELLE FOUNDATION
GLOBAL
RUN FOR THE **WATER**

1656 participants from **30** states and **13** countries

are helping to provide daily access to clean water for

760
Burundians*



**and counting*

MURAKOZE

Thank You

Global Run For The Water Ambassadors

This year an amazing team of people helped others learn about the race and our mission by becoming Run For The Water Ambassadors. They made a direct impact by recruiting more runners and sponsors for the race, and most of all, by creating awareness for the urgent need of clean water in Burundi. We thank this year's Ambassadors for their dedication.



Patrico Favila



Laura Bustos



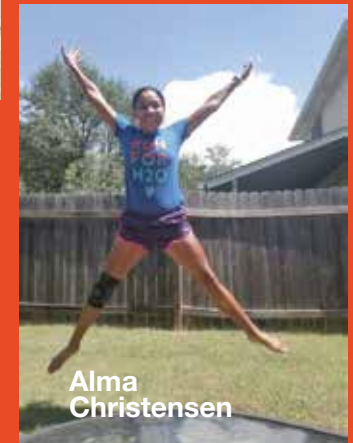
Adriana Prado



Maribel Ledesma



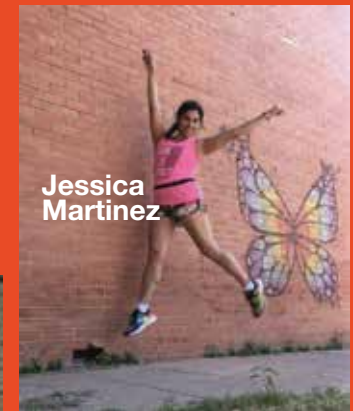
Jama Pantel



Alma Christensen



LaRae Humes



Jessica Martinez



Mariana Hernandez



Austin Brown



Catalina Berry

UT Professors and Students Run For The Water

For nearly a decade, two University of Texas at Austin professors - Brent Iverson and Sean Theriault - have actively promoted Run For The Water and the Gazelle Foundation mission in their classrooms.

Each fall, the professors invite Gilbert to speak with their classes, providing their students with a real-world perspective on global issues beyond the classroom. After Gilbert's inspiring talk, they then work with students to incentivize participating in Run For The Water as way to give back, either as runners or as volunteers. Every year, hundreds of their students participate - and it doesn't hurt that both Dr. Iverson and Dr. Theriault are beloved teachers as well as crazy fast runners.

Though there were no in-person classes for Gilbert to attend this fall, we arranged for him to speak to the classes via Zoom. And the students stepped up, with 341 participating in this year's virtual Global Run For The Water. We are so grateful for our continued partnership with these dedicated educators.



Brent Iverson, Ph.D.



Sean Theriault, Ph.D.

"I love teaching students inside a classroom. I love it even more when I can teach them outside the classroom. Gilbert and his Run For The Water give me the perfect venue in which I can get the students to care about what happens outside the classroom and campus. Furthermore, it gives me a great opportunity to reinforce good habits or plant seeds to form new good habits. And, there's no better teacher of what happens in the world and taking care of your body and living and giving with joy than Gilbert!"

— Sean Theriault

Gilbert's Anniversary Walk

October 21, 1993, Gilbert escaped something that none of us could ever fathom: genocide.

It's rather easy for us to walk into and out of each day without ever thinking how much of a gift and a privilege and a blessing it is to live this life. Each morning is blanketed with hope and joy that is unmatched, unfound in anything else. Gilbert finds that each morning and he exemplifies that.

In previous years, Gilbert has organized a walk, from Austin's Lady Bird Lake to the Texas State Capitol carrying 30-50 pound water jugs in a profound remembrance of the tragic events of 1993, and to celebrate the strength in resilience, forgiveness, and gratitude.

And while this year's walk looked a little different, Gilbert still made the same journey with a small, socially distanced, group of friends and supporters. The day holds far too much meaning to go without observance.

Gilbert's message isn't one of sorrow or anger; it's one of joy, faith and forgiveness. Driven by a desire to unleash the potential of anyone who seeks it – in running and in life – Gilbert's indomitable spirit moves everyone he meets. He inspires others to believe that they can achieve anything, regardless of the circumstances or obstacles. He is a living reminder that humanity is greater than the sum of all the world's injustices. And he is proof that the work of a few – or even just one – can make this world, our world, a better place.



Gilbert's Walk, 2019

Thousands of supporters have dramatically improved the everyday lives of people in Burundi. Here are a few highlights from 2020, showcasing the passion and creativity of individuals making an outsized difference reaching out a hand to help the people who need it most.



Homegrown Fundraising Efforts

Gazelles Running Group Fundraising

The members of Gilbert's Gazelles running group have always been strong Gazelle Foundation supporters. This fall, Lululemon gifted the group a \$500 gift card, and Gilbert had the idea to turn \$500 into \$4,000 for the Gazelle Foundation as part of the Global Run For The Water. He did this by using the gift card to purchase six Lululemon shirts, screen printed with the group's logo. Each member who donated more than \$100 to the Gazelle Foundation was entered into a raffle to win a shirt. Ultimately more than 35 group members participated, smashing through the fundraising goal to donate over \$7,500.



Sharing the Birthday Love

Instead of thinking of herself on her special day, Christy Barnett used her birthday this year as an opportunity to ask for water for those in need. She wanted to help provide support in the down time between our marquee fundraising events and used Facebook to encourage friends and family to donate to the Gazelle Foundation in honor of her birthday. Christy has been a strong supporter for many years, sharing her commitment to giving back with her young daughter. We love Christy's example-setting use of a personal milestone to give future generations a better quality of life built on the lasting gift of clean water.



Their MANTRA of Doing Good

Our partners at MANTRA Labs not only make great things, they also do great things. In this tough year, they stepped up to the plate to help support our work. CEO Paul and his wife have always believed in building a legacy. After committing to donate a percentage of sales this fall to the Gazelle Foundation, MANTRA Labs went a step further and served as a sponsor of this year's Global Run For The Water. Their generosity helps us continue our mission to give families in Burundi clean water and hope for the future.



Cookies for Clean Water

For the past several years, Beth Baldwin has supported the Gazelle Foundation in many amazing ways, but one of her “sweetest” ideas has been using her incredible baking skills to host a cookie decorating class as a Gazelle Foundation fundraiser. Since people were unable to gather in groups this year, Beth personalized cookie decoration kits and sent them to supporters who helped her meet her fundraising goal.



AMAZing Ashley

Ashley Pax Grabner loves kids. She loves them so much that she founded Ashley's Playhouse, a childcare center in Austin that provides a loving, safe environment for kids to learn through purposeful play. This year, Ashley joined our sustaining membership program, AMAZI for Burundi. As a small business owner, Ashley understands the peace of mind that comes from monthly memberships. Sustaining memberships can also be more budget-friendly, spreading out support over time. And Ashley also likes getting a monthly reminder that doing good always feels good.



Austin Gives Miles

The Gazelle Foundation was fortunate to participate in Austin Gives Miles, the philanthropic program of the Ascension Seton Austin Marathon presented by UnderArmour that connects race participants to local non-profit organizations.

We have participated in the program for three years, and are one of 25 Official Charity Partners in the program. Thanks to our incredible volunteers, and donors, the Gazelle Foundation successfully qualified for a \$10,000 grant from the Moody Foundation.

2020 marks the fifth year that the Moody Foundation has matched funds raised by the Official Charities of the Austin Gives Miles program. Their lifetime giving to Austin Gives Miles charities is \$1.2M and growing, \$30,000 has directly benefited the Gazelle Foundation. We are grateful to be participating in the program again in 2021.

Our partnership with the Austin Marathon and the Austin Gives Miles program has a clear and direct impact on our ability to provide clean, accessible water to people in Burundi. Prior to coronavirus related regulations banning social gatherings our volunteers gave clean water to thirsty runners at the race, which in turn allowed us to give clean water to over 330 of the people who need it most.





Not only is the Gazelle Foundation helping families and people in Burundi gain access to clean water, but in Central Texas, we are instilling the importance of volunteering and helping others.



Educating Future Leaders

Academy of Global Studies - Walk For The Water

The Global Studies Academy at Austin High School participates in the Gazelle Foundation Walk For The Water program as part of their curriculum. The program has been shepherded by Devon Steiner, freshman biology teacher, who has been to Africa and knows first-hand the challenges of water scarcity. She also knows the power the simulation has on her students in Austin who struggle carrying the jugs the three-mile distance on the crushed granite mostly-flat path.

Walk For The Water has achieved remarkable tangible results and continues to gain momentum. All of the money raised for the Gazelle Foundation through the program provides Burundians access to clean drinking water. Austin High School is part of the transformative effort to build these clean water systems in one of the world's poorest countries, bringing clean water to the people who need it most.

Since the partnership began in 2017, approximately 800 freshmen have participated, raising \$34,200, that equates to 1,140 people in Burundi who now have daily access to clean water. Most important, the next generation of leaders gains a better understanding of the challenges a lack of clean water creates, and a better understanding of their own role in helping to solve the problem. We were fortunate to have the Walk prior to coronavirus shut down.



Clean Water Curriculum

We've created two lesson plans designed to teach students about the importance of clean water and our work in Burundi Africa. We offer these tools so students can learn why water matters and to foster curiosity, and empower students about their role as global citizens. The lessons align with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. One lesson plan is designed both for younger elementary school students and the other is geared toward middle and high school students.

Lesson Plan for Grades 2-5

- Students will be able to understand different sources of water
- Be able to describe the uses of water and the impact of clean water
- Learn the geography and lack of clean water sources in Burundi
- Collect free-standing water and perform observational analysis and document their findings

Lesson Plan for Grades 6-12

Designed to explore elements of the global water crisis, water quality issues, and the importance of clean water to healthy lives. The lesson focuses on the need for clean water and handwashing, examples of daily life without adequate infrastructure for safe running water, and the engineering to make a simple handwashing system, using materials around their homes.

Educators can download the lesson plans for free from the Gazelle Foundation website.



Despite the challenges of this year, we were still able to fund and build three water projects that provide daily clean water to 4,720 more people in Burundi.



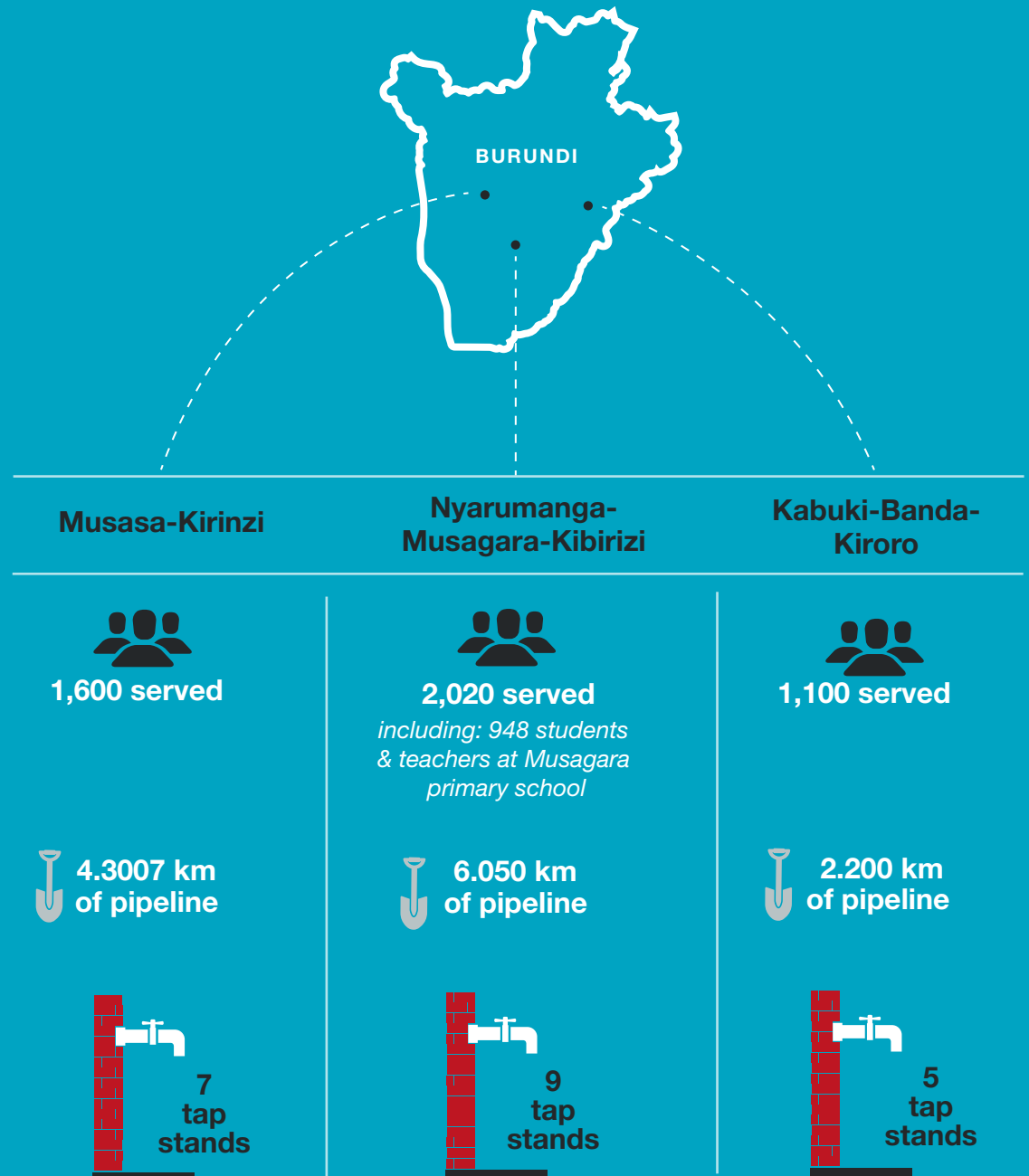
Impact By The Numbers

2020 Snapshot:

- 4,720 people have a lifetime of clean water
- 3 water systems completed
- 21 tap stands
- 9 tanks
- 150 jobs created
- 12.350 km of hand dug pipe installed

Water systems get their name from their geographic location. The name combines the point (or points) where water is collected—the source—and where the water is used by its beneficiaries.

Water Projects Completed in 2020



The numbers are important but they only tell a part of the story. They miss the vital, human story of individuals and families who are impacted in fundamental, life-changing ways. It is the ability to help these real people improve their lives through access to clean water that drives us forward.

“ Thank you very much for providing water to our community. We used to get sick a lot drinking dirty water. We are excited to have clean water close to our homes because we will be able to wash hands; it’s the best way to fight Coronavirus. ”

— Ndayikeza Gorath



“ We used to fetch water in Kiraraci River. The water was very far from home, a long huge hill away from where we live...and when we did get to the river for water, it would be full of worms that you could see. Water is too far away so there were times that we didn’t travel that far to get it. So we would collect condensation from surfaces and use that water... Now water is close to home. Kids aren’t late to school because they had to collect water. Kids can collect it easily themselves from the tap stand when they need it and they can keep themselves clean. ”

— Hilda Ninahewe

Cumulative Impact

Since the inception of the Gazelle Foundation, we have:

- Funded and built 56 water system projects
- Provided 110,830 people with daily access to clean water
- Invested \$2,244,107 in Burundi directly in building water projects
- Installed 163 km of hand-trenched pipeline
- Created 4,400 jobs
- Provided clean water to 43 schools and churches
- Made clean water available for free to all local people, regardless of tribe or religion

A successful year of fundraising provides a platform for building even more water systems the minute conditions allow for it. In January we already kicked off our first system of 2021.

We are absolutely blown away by our supporters' commitment and generosity. Especially in these challenging times, they have shown us the power of what we can achieve when we work together to lift up everyone in our global community. We can't say it enough: ***Thank you!***



GAZELLE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peter Rauch – *President*

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Minnie Hollyman – *Secretary*

Quincy Lee – *Treasurer*

Natalie Brown

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Michael Madison

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Chad Whited

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