



Lietuvos pasauliečių pranciškonų ordinas; reg. No. 192084542; Vilniaus g. 2A, LT-97125 Kretinga, Lithuania;
IBAN: LT363500010003370135; Paysera LT UAB; SWIFT: EVIULT2VXXX;
www.well4africa.eu; well4africa@gmail.com

WELL4AFRICA NEWS AND ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear brothers and sisters, peace and good to all of you!

With the help of God, we continue the social initiative “Well4Africa” which was born in 2018 as a fruit of the 3rd European OFS-YouFra Congress. As you all know, the aim of “Well4Africa” is to ensure human right to water and to drill boreholes in poor African areas where the Franciscan Family is present.

Thanks to joint effort of the whole Secular Franciscan Order and all our benefactors, up to now, the social initiative “Well4Africa” has fully implemented 11 water projects:

- 1) Namane water project in Malawi (2018),
- 2) Kihani water project in Uganda (2018-2019),
- 3) St. Lawrence water project in Malawi (2019-2020),
- 4) Sibi water project in Ghana (2020),
- 5) St. Peter’s well in Zimbabwe (2020),
- 6) Shisong water project in Cameroon (2020),
- 7) Kongo water project in Ghana (2020-2021),
- 8) Mutemwa water project in Zimbabwe (2021),
- 9) Afua water project in Cameroon (2021),
- 10) Mbohtong water project in Cameroon (2022),
- 11) Kanafa water project in Ethiopia (2022).

All year round “Well4Africa” is ready to accept applications from English, French and Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. Project application criteria and guidelines are available [here](#).

We hereby provide the final report on “Well4Africa” water projects implemented in 2022.

Mbohtong water project in Cameroon



Mbohtong village is a small mission station of Shisong parish in the North-West region of Cameroon where “Well4Africa” has already implemented one water project. St. Anthony’s community of Mbohtong is a part of the Sacred Heart local OFS fraternity in Shisong. It is the second permanent residence of lay consecrated women’s group recognized by the local Church and assisted by the Capuchin Friars.

Mbohtong was a very small village until the Capuchin Friars founded St. Anthony of Padua Comprehensive College 10 years ago to meet the needs of less privileged children of that locality. Afterwards, the population of this area has gradually increased. The current socio-political crisis which has led to a difficult war in Cameroon has resulted in displacement of many people within and beyond the national territory. This has further aggravated the already difficult water situation in this part of the country. Recently, due to the war, many more people have left town areas seeking refuge in villages. Some of them have run away from daily shootings and many have lost their homes which have burned down during armed conflicts. This led to an increase in the population of Mbohtong from 50 to 400 people.

As the population of Mbohtong has drastically changed, the water supply which used to serve 50 people was no longer enough for several hundred. The villagers have found two good water sources, both of which had good water supply and the main issue was how to channel water from these two sources and provide tanks for people living down the hill.

Mbohtong water project consisted of two phases related with two water sources (the first one on the way to Shisong and the second one on the way to Mbuluf and Kingomen). Both working phases included excavation, building a channel and installing non-pressure pipes, building two collection chambers of 1 m³ each and two water tanks of 2 m³ each, installing two taps on each tank. Since two water sources have been identified on two major axes of the Mbohtong hill where the villagers are mostly settled, now water is piped down the cliff to the collection chambers, then flows down the hill to the stone water tanks where it can be accessed and used by people. Beneficiaries of the water project are not only the villagers of Mbohtong, but also people living in Kingomen and Mbuluf, two villages down the hill.

Mbohtong water project was a special one, because all the work was done by the local villagers themselves rather than a hired company. Capuchin Friars, who greatly assisted in technical implementation, say that the water project could have been implemented even within a shorter time limit, but the villagers, mostly being farmers, many a time had to take care of their farms.

Mbohtong water project's maintenance remains under the supervision of the local OFS fraternity. The plan is to constitute a committee that will collect a symbolic contribution for the maintenance and repair of water supply such as replacing broken pipes, taps, etc.

The works were implemented by villagers of Mbohtong from February to July 2022. The amount donated to the project was **EUR 7,260**. A video about Mbohtong water project in Cameroon is available [here](#).

Kanafa water project in Ethiopia

Kanafa St. Francis parish is located in the southwest part of Sodo town, which is 385 km away from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

Even though the OFS and YouFra are not established on a national level in Ethiopia, local OFS fraternity of Kanafa is strongly organized and dedicated to follow the Franciscan charism with a spiritual assistance of the Capuchin Province. Secular Franciscans and Franciscan Youth are actively involved in various pastoral activities such as teaching religious education classes for children, visiting the sick and the elderly, counselling for HIV/AIDS and volunteering at hospitals.

For many rural families of Kanafa village, access to safe potable water services was limited and most households were forced to obtain water from an unprotected river and ponds. Inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene made the population, especially children under five, extremely vulnerable to diseases (diarrhoea, typhoid, intestinal parasites, etc). During the dry period when seasonal rivers and ponds dry-up, people of Kanafa had to travel long distances (10–15 km) to fetch water, often of poor quality. This distance considerably reduced the amount of water that could be transported and consumed at a household (4–6 litres per day per person for all uses). For women, the time spent to fetch water was estimated between 20 to 30 days per year. The main goal of Kanafa water project was to provide access to safe potable water for daily consumption (including hand and body washing, laundry) and improve sanitation and health for 1,000 people (200 households).

Kanafa water project included the drilling of a 65-meter deep well, construction of a standard hand pump and fencing of the water point for hygienic reasons (protecting from animals, etc.). Local community actively participated in fencing the site (each household provided trees and nails) and making a road to the water point, which was completely inaccessible for vehicles before. At the initiative of the local community, the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) committee was established, the functions



of which include actively promoting hygiene and sanitation, mobilization of community for the construction and protection of water supply and establishing rules for appropriate use of water, particularly when water is scarce.

More than a thousand people are now benefiting from Kanafa water project, and thanks to the availability of pure drinking water, improvements are already seen in the villagers' living conditions who are no longer forced to walk long distances to fetch contaminated and undrinkable water. The maintenance of the borehole is under the responsibility of Capuchin Province of Mary Kidane Mihrate, Kanafa OFS local fraternity and Kanafa St. Francis parish.

The works were implemented by Ashenafi Fikire General Contractor from July to August 2022. The amount donated to the project was **EUR 19,098.63**. Although due to higher costs of raw materials in Ethiopia the project's budget exceeded ordinary prices of other boreholes, "Well4Africa" was able to make a gift of this indispensable element for life to the inhabitants of Kanafa thanks to generous donors. A video about Kanafa water project is available [here](#).

Organisational structure

As is known, in 2018 the CIOFS Presidency decided that "Well4Africa" social initiative was to become a permanent project of the whole OFS, entrusting its management to the National Council of Lithuania. The annex (organisation scheme) to our annual report clarifies the organisational structure of "Well4Africa" social initiative and explains the working process.

Fundraising challenges

The analysis of annual income, expenses and balance of "Well4Africa" budget is provided below. As seen from this table, even though "Well4Africa" has been receiving much smaller amounts of donations in recent years, it continues responding to the needs of our Franciscan Family in Africa.

Year	Balance at the beginning of the year (EUR)	INCOME (EUR)	EXPENSES (EUR)	Balance at the end of the year (EUR)
2018	0	38,803.60	19,616.52	19,187.08
2019	19,187.08	48,440.36	41,358.57	26,268.87
2020	26,268.87	34,573.67	26,909.54	33,933.00
2021	33,933.00	22,743.17	24,383.95	32,292.22
2022	32,292.22	9,853.00	26,377.33	15,767.89

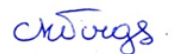
It is a good sign that the social initiative "Well4Africa" has a few donors who make small, but regular donations. We would like to emphasize that your monthly gift to "Well4Africa" can make a real impact on the life of our Franciscan Family in Africa and further express a concrete solidarity with this mission. How many bottles of pure water each of us would be ready to offer for our brothers and sisters in Africa: one per year, two per month, three per week? We encourage you to convert those "bottles" into a regular donation which will enable "Well4Africa" to proceed drilling boreholes and providing fresh water sources in poor African areas. Every donation helps, and we appreciate your continued support to "Well4Africa" social initiative. For possible ways of donation, please refer to <https://well4africa.eu/index.php/donate>.

We greatly appreciate the support and input of all OFS national fraternities which regularly transfer their donations. You deserve our immeasurable thanks! We extend our gratitude to all national councils who have assigned their "Well4Africa" contact persons. ["Well4Africa" contact persons by countries](#) are like ambassadors of this Franciscan social initiative in their countries and we deeply appreciate their concern for continuous fundraising. On behalf of "Well4Africa" coordination team, we fraternally ask each national council to consider and delegate such a contact person (please inform us on your decision by email: well4africa@gmail.com). You are very welcome to join our team! Our appreciation goes to all national fraternities which, according to our request, have placed the ["Well4Africa" logo](#) on their homepages with a link to the official website of the social initiative. Your readiness to promote "Well4Africa" shows that you feel a part of this mission!

Finally, we urge you to support “Well4Africa” by following, liking and sharing our social media: Instagram profile [@well4africa.eu](https://www.instagram.com/well4africa.eu) and Facebook page [@well4africa.eu](https://www.facebook.com/well4africa.eu). Follow all news of the social initiative on [well4africa.eu](https://www.well4africa.eu) website which is available in 8 languages: English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, German, Hungarian and Lithuanian.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us conclude with the words our beloved Pope Benedict XVI said during his inaugural homily in April 2005: *“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.”* Let us open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so He may daily transform, refresh and fill our hearts with the rivers of the Living Water. Let all our deserts and wilderness flourish!

Fraternally,



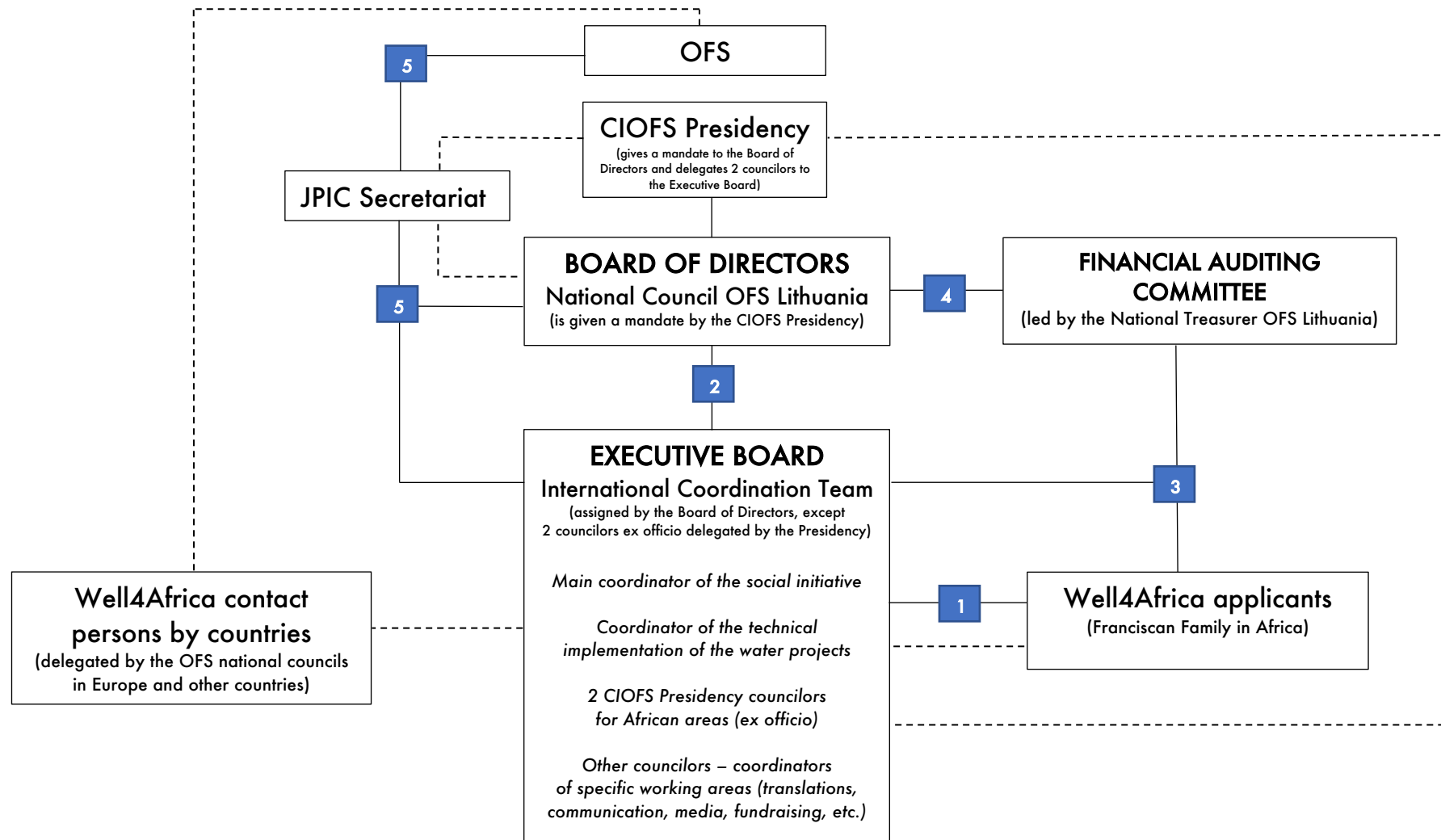
Virginija Mickute OFS
National minister and international councilor of the OFS Lithuania
Main coordinator of the social initiative “Well4Africa”



Ana María Raffo Laos OFS
CIOFS Presidency Councilor, responsible for the JPIC Secretariat

Lithuania, 15 January, 2023

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WELL4AFRICA SOCIAL INITIATIVE



- 1 – Grant applicants present all necessary documents for the project’s application and the final evaluation to the Executive Board.
 - 2 – The Executive Board presents water projects to the Board of Directors for its decision on the approval of grant and the final report.
 - 3 – Project’s financial report is presented to the Financial Auditing Committee for revision.
 - 4 – The Financial Auditing Committee presents its report to the Board of Directors.
 - 5 – Official Well4Africa annual report (signed by the chairpersons of both Boards and JPIC Secretariat) is sent to the whole Order via CIOFS Secretariat.
- [- -] Administrative correspondence during all phases of water projects.

