

# WATER SECURITY

Water is essential for a secure future, and investing in sustainable, resilient water resources is key to addressing increasing climate vulnerability and inequalities.

We're improving water efficiency across our [operations](#) and collaborating with others to reduce water risk in our supply chain. We remain the only UK supermarket with an own-brand charity water, providing crucial funding that is changing lives.

We are signed up to WRAP's UK Food & Drink Pact which has an overarching industry target to source 50% of the UK's fresh food from areas with sustainable water management by 2030.

This year, we focused on delivering our Water Security Strategy by mapping water risk in our supply chain and increasing access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).



<sup>1</sup> In Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Tunisia and others).

<sup>2</sup> Colleagues who link with member owners in their local community.



## £2.4m deployed

**The One Foundation:** £2.4m deployed to water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in 2025 through 3p per litre sold of our own-brand bottled water. Estimated to bring safe, clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene to over 89,000 people.



## £707,000 in funding

**Water Unite:** £707,000 of Co-op funding deployed to water, sanitation and hygiene programmes<sup>1</sup> in 2025, reaching 8,762 beneficiaries.

## ADDRESSING WATER RISK IN OUR VALUE CHAINS

Water is a shared resource and tackling water risk in food production requires collective action. In 2025, we continued working with WRAP, WWF and other retailers via the Retailer Leadership Commitment for Water. We are also founding supporters of WRAP's Water Roadmap which commits us to:

- Monitoring water use in our operations and improving efficiency: further work has been undertaken by our property team to accurately assess our water usage and develop robust water efficiency targets.
- Mapping water risk in our supply chain: a key focus during 2025, working with key fresh food suppliers to develop a framework to gather water risk data, giving us a clearer picture of hotspots in our fresh food supply chain.

- Supporting collective action in shared high-risk sourcing areas: we continue to support all ten of WRAP's collective action projects as part of our Retailer Leadership Commitment (see case study).
- Engaging suppliers in water stewardship: we continue to engage with key suppliers on water risk and will be further developing our approach with them in 2026.
- Advocating for better water governance: we continue to work with WRAP to support through the Retailer Leadership Commitment.

We also maintain our longstanding commitment to working with our suppliers to reduce pesticide use through our Crop Protection work (read more [here](#)).



### OWNED BY YOU

During World Water Week in August, we encouraged our Member Activators<sup>2</sup> to host events on water - raising awareness about our charity water partnerships, and actions to conserve water at home. 36 events were organised, engaging over 2,800 members. Nearly 3,000 members also took part in an online quiz which raised awareness of water conservation.



Reduce our environmental impact and protect & restore nature

CASE  
STUDY



**WRAP Water Roadmap collective action projects**

We now provide core funding towards ten WRAP Water Roadmap collective action projects in key sourcing areas across the UK, Kenya, South Africa, Spain and Peru. These projects enable us to play our part in helping to improve the health of key catchments, identified as being at risk from agriculture & food production. They bring together supermarkets, suppliers, farmers, local stakeholders and technical experts to deliver action plans and secure additional funding for specific interventions such as nature-based solutions.

One project is based in South Africa's Western Cape, a key water-supply region and major producer of crops<sup>1</sup> for local markets and exports such as fresh fruit for Co-op. The project tackles drought and flood risks by removing invasive vegetation and restoring indigenous species. This work helps rehabilitate vulnerable catchments, strengthens climate resilience for farmers, and supports local livelihoods through job creation, improved water and food security, and skills development.

**WATER SECURITY AND PROGRAMME FUNDING**

Alongside our work on water risk in the supply chain, we continued to support our charity water partners The One Foundation and Water Unite vital WASH programmes through donations on bottled water.

We celebrated reaching over £25m<sup>2</sup>, thanks to our Co-op member owners and customers donating 3p per litre to The One Foundation through every purchase of our own-brand bottled water and ice; and donating 1p per litre to Water Unite on any other branded bottled water<sup>3</sup> purchase with our branded water suppliers. We remain the only retailer raising funds for vital clean water, sanitation, hygiene and circular economy projects via our bottled water sales.

Through our partnership with The One Foundation, we have continued to fund vital WASH projects in Kenya, Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda. 50% of funding is ringfenced for Fairtrade producer communities within our supply chains and 40% of funding is provided for The One Foundation's priority programmes in areas of significant need such as urban informal settlements in Nairobi.

10% of our donations to The One Foundation are reserved for emergency relief, which in 2025 provided £230,000 of funding for critical WASH interventions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

We are also helping to connect The One Foundation and WRAP, to help integrate WASH partners into the WRAP collective action project in Naivasha, Kenya.



**247,603**  
PEOPLE BENEFITTING  
IN 2025<sup>4</sup>



**IMPACT:  
TRANSFORM,  
IMPROVE & CONNECT**

<sup>1</sup> Including apples, pears, stone fruit, berries, citrus and wine grapes.  
<sup>2</sup> Since 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Flavoured water and mixers (including tonic and soda water) are excluded.  
<sup>4</sup> From our work with The One Foundation.

## WITNESSING OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT FIRST-HAND

In October, Co-op colleagues visited The One Foundation in Kenya, where donations are helping to increase household access to clean water, improve toilet facilities and safely manage sewage in densely populated areas of Nairobi and Lake Naivasha.

We also visited Water Unite Impact investments, including Mr Green Africa, Sanivation and Jibu, all supported through micro-donations from branded water sold in our stores. We saw first-hand how selling bottled water in our stores leads to innovation on the ground to address pollution, the sanitation challenge and deforestation. Last year Water Unite Impact was selected as a winner of the [UpLink Nature Returns Challenge](#), run by the World Economic Forum in partnership with Mercuria, Sylvania and the Centre for Nature and Climate.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

A key priority for 2026 is refining our water risk mapping and reporting, and working more closely with suppliers on our approach to managing water risk in our fresh food supply chain. We will continue to work with WRAP to encourage co-ordination of a harmonised retailer approach to managing water risk, including alignment on data collection, agricultural standards and enhanced due diligence in high-risk sourcing areas.

We will continue to raise awareness of our water charity partners The One Foundation and Water Unite and the importance of improving water security.

## CASE STUDY



### Building supply chain resilience and expanding household access to clean water

Through our partnership with The One Foundation, Co-op is helping to build supply chain resilience and expand household access to clean water in Naivasha, Kenya - an important Fairtrade flower-sourcing area for Co-op. As well as helping communities connect with water services, the programme is strengthening small-scale water providers, to ensure they are regulated and able to provide safe and affordable

water for the long term. In addition, our funding is supporting five sanitation enterprises, delivering hygiene and behaviour change campaigns.

“It’s made my life much easier. I can go to work without stress, knowing I’ll have water when I come home.”

Lydia - flower farm worker, Kenya