

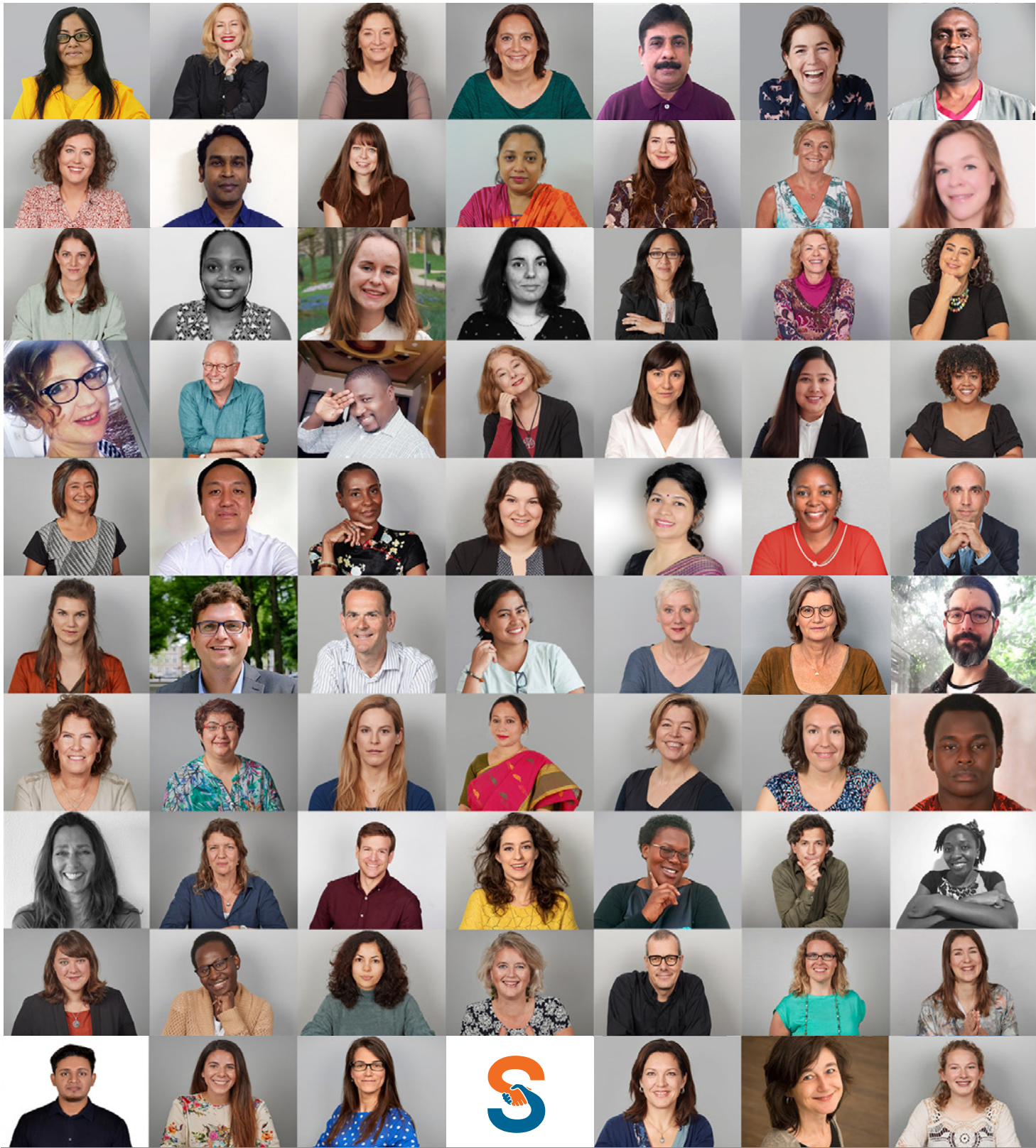
IMPACT

REPORT

MOVERS &
SHAKERS
**GLADYS
KURIA:**
'I don't
give up'



Simavi Powerful women, healthy societies.



COVER

On the cover you see Gladys Kuria, a community health volunteer in Kiambu County, Kenya. Her photo was taken as part of the Movers and Shakers project that showcased changemakers and their resilience in times of COVID-19.

The project is part of the WASH First programme that is implemented by the WASH SDG Consortium that is led by Simavi, and comprises of the WASH Alliance International, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and Plan International Netherlands. See: <https://movers-and-shakers.org>.



Image credits: Dutch creative agency BRANDOUTLOUD in collaboration with filmmaker Ignacio Hennigs in Nairobi, Kenya.

CHANGE

This is the third year that Simavi has published an Impact Report. As the world we live in continues to change, we continue to learn and adapt. This year, we made the process even more inclusive and involved our colleagues in six countries in the writing of this year's report.

GLOSSARY

- CSOs** Civil Society Organisations
- GBV** Gender Based Violence
- HRWS** Human Rights to Water and Sanitation
- NGO** Non-governmental organisation
- SDG** Sustainable Development Goal
- SRHR** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- WASH** Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CREDITS

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With special thanks to: Derek Middleton and all partners of Simavi.
SIMAVI, APRIL 2022

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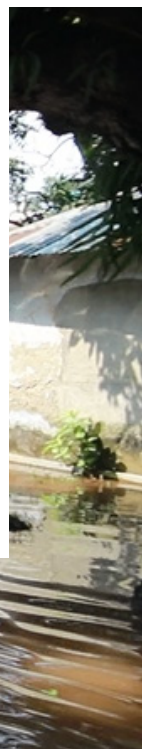
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2021 Highlights



Simavi @ the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow

Climate change has a huge effect on access to water. Sadly, the people most affected contribute the least to the problem and are excluded from decision-making. During the UN Climate Change Conference Simavi, Day of Adaptation and KEWASNET organised a side event on the link between climate change and water. We interviewed female grassroots leaders from Kenya and Bangladesh about their views on climate change and how to tackle it. The resulting video that featured solutions for water harvesting, flood-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene and awareness raising on the risks coming from natural hazards, were showcased at the Water Pavilion.



TOP 10 Collaborative Innovation Award

In the summer of 2021 our collaboration with Day of Adaptation, KEWASNET and Proportion Global was shortlisted for a Partos' Collaborative Innovation Award. We are delighted by this recognition. Using human-centred design methodologies, we are currently working closely with civil society organisations and communities in Kenya to co-adapt and fully contextualise Minions of Disruptions, a climate board game developed by Day of Adaptation. Our goal is to create a powerful communication tool to facilitate stakeholder and community dialogue on climate action. Through gaming experiences we can rewrite the narrative on climate from gloom and doom to one that is engaging, activating and inclusive. Climate justice requires collaborative innovation – let's leave no-one behind in climate conversations.

53,859 pieces of personal protection equipment provided

In 2021, HEWASA, Jese and WASEU in Uganda and the WASH Alliance Kenya, KEWASNET, NIA and KWAHO in Kenya provided 8,806 people at risk of COVID-19 infections with personal protection equipment. This was part of the WASH First programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Impact Challenge Award 2021

The Impact Challenge Award was established to encourage Dutch NGOs to invest in impact-oriented working. In 2021 Simavi won the award with the sustainability study on the Ritu programme that aimed to improve menstrual health in Bangladesh. Our advice to colleagues from the sector is to go back to measure the sustainability of your programmes one or two years after they end and share your results, including those that are not so positive. With the Award, Simavi won technical support from a team of experts at ABN AMRO (a Dutch/international bank).

608,291 people reached through awareness raising activities

Creating awareness is a key strategy in programmes. Our partner civil society organisations use different strategies to bring people together and share information. In 2021 we reached over half a million people through direct interaction with civil society organisation staff under the WASH SDG, WASH First, Perfect Fit and Mulanje programmes.

Collaborating on menstrual health

Menstrual health is a topic that Simavi has trained many of our partner civil society organisations in and that we have integrated in most of our programmes together with those partners. In 2021, many of our partners actively celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day or organised other activities on menstrual health throughout the year. For example, the Uganda WASH Alliance joined forces with the SRHR Alliance Uganda, and other partners to organise two webinars on the topic. Our colleagues Mahbuba Kumkum (Bangladesh) and Angelina Mustafa (Indonesia) were invited to be part of the panel during a webinar organised by the Uganda SRHR Alliance. E-MAC organised a poem competition in Tanzania as part of the Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrations. Winner was Mary William Mathayo Ilkiding'a Secondary School with her poem 'a safe menstruation':

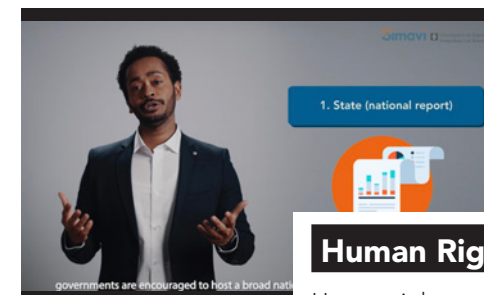
A safe menstruation

She saw a red stain inside her pants
And knew a mature woman she had become
Mummy gave her the hygiene lecture
Daddy bought her sanitary towels
He said they 'were for her monthly visitors'
Ah! So daddy knew about periods too
Always stay clean, respect the red stain, it's a life sign

That red stain didn't scare her at all
But instead made her feel the pride of being a woman
She knew the red stain carried life in it
Taking about periods shouldn't be a taboo
Ignore the past, embrace the present and the future
Make women proud of the red stain!
Always stay clean, respect the red stain, it's a life sign

770 toilets built or improved

In 2021, under the WASH First, WASH & Learn and ASHA programmes our partner civil society organisations worked with women and girls, communities and governments to build 656 acceptable, accessible and affordable toilets.



Human Rights Lecture Series

Human Rights Lecture Series

Human rights are at the heart of Simavi's work. Understanding them and knowing how to claim them are essential conditions for ensuring the respect, protection and fulfilment of these rights for women and girls. To spread this understanding Simavi has collaborated with the University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam Law School) to produce a lecture series on human rights. The lectures consist of a 7-step journey (each between 15 and 20 minutes) in understanding human rights and engaging with human rights mechanisms, specifically the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) initiated by the UN Human Rights Council.

Powerful women, healthy societies.



Cecilia Achieng Ayot - a politician who fights against genderbased violence related to water fetching - Kibera, Kenya

When will I see you again?

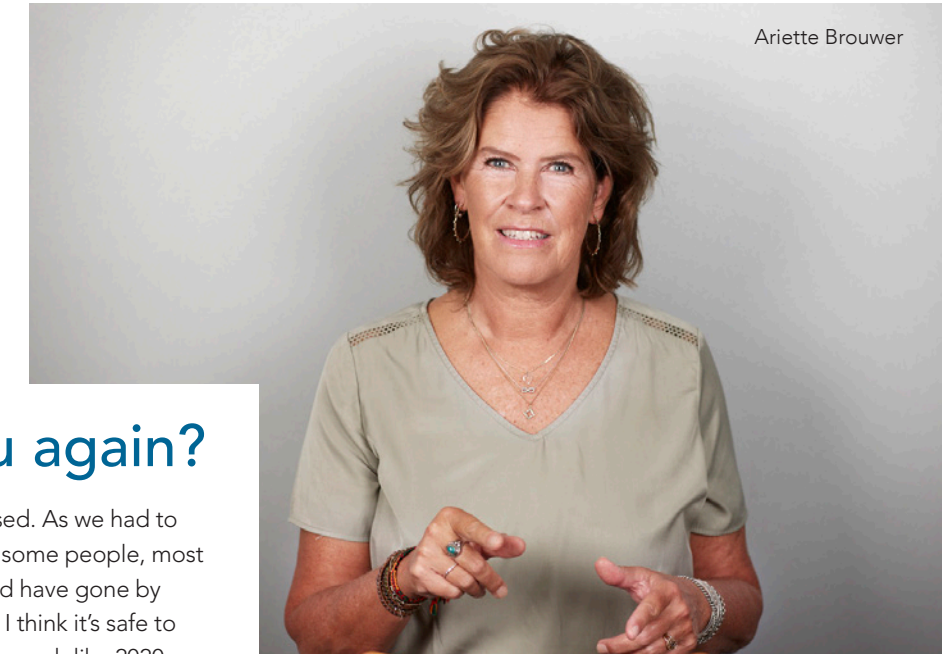
I can't believe another year has passed. As we had to spend some of it stuck at home (for some people, most of it), you would think the time would have gone by slowly – but it didn't; it flew by! And I think it's safe to say that we didn't expect 2021 to be much like 2020. Unfortunately, it was. Therefore, let me share with you the following:

It takes a certain kind of soul to bridge the gap between the possible and the impossible: those among us who inspire, persevere and see the silver linings, those with the courage to understand suffering but face it head-on, who work vigorously to make the world a better place.

We use this to describe the 'movers and shakers' we interviewed and followed for the WASH First programme. They stood up during this past year and made a difference for their communities, individuals and families. More about these movers and shakers later in the report, but I highlight this tribute as I'm sure we all have a mover and shaker in our midst. In fact, you might be one of these amazing people. During challenging times, we all need to step up, give a bit more and run just that little bit faster to make a change in someone's life, or in your own life.

At Simavi, we have taken the past year to reflect and understand where we can move and shake to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Because, yet again, the pandemic and the ever-growing concerns around climate change have shown us that women and girls are impacted harder and the consequences for them during times of crises are bigger than for men and boys.

At the same time, the growing movement in international development to Shift the Power reinforces the idea that individuals exposed to multiple vulnerabilities, those most at risk and affected – typically including women and girls – should be at the forefront of change and development. In reality,



Ariette Brouwer

women and girls are often excluded from decision-making platforms and their voices are not listened to or well represented. This is why we work towards a world where all women and girls can enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation, resulting in healthier and just societies.

It takes a certain kind of soul to bridge the gap between the possible and the impossible: those among us who inspire, persevere and see the silver linings

On a personal level, after nine years the time has come for me to move on. Those years were filled with lots of challenges, celebrations and achievements. But above all, I have met some amazing people. I'm leaving Simavi with a feeling of immense pride and confidence that the organisation is ready for the next level. There is a solid strategy in place and exciting coalitions that will bring change and the determination to Shift the Power to local ownership. I thank all our staff, our partners, our donors and our supervisory board for their commitment to our work. I look forward to seeing many of you again soon and I will continue to follow Simavi, albeit from the passenger seat.

Ariette Brouwer
Managing Director

1 Who?

We do not work alone: we team up with our in-country civil society partners who are rooted in and understand the local and national contexts we work in, and with other international organisations with complementary expertise and experience.

2 Where?

Together with our partners, we work in ten focus countries: Ghana, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Nepal and Bangladesh. Most of the areas where we work are heavily affected by climate change.

3 Why not men?

Women and girls are especially affected by inadequate access to water and sanitation, and also by climate change, but they are often excluded from decision-making processes. As a result, women and girls' needs and priorities, as rights holders, are often ignored or addressed in ways that are not effective. Simavi believes that participation by women and girls in decision-making is essential to realise human rights to water and sanitation and create more gender equal societies. We do engage and work with men, and want them to benefit from change, but we start from women's needs and perspectives.

5 Healthier?

We subscribe to the WHO definition: 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.' Health is a fundamental human right inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status.

4 Their rights?

Having access to safe drinking water and sanitation is central to living a life in dignity and upholding human rights. The human rights to water and sanitation requires that drinking water, water for personal and domestic use, and sanitation and hygiene facilities are available, sufficient, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all without discrimination.

6 Just?

All people should be treated equally and enjoy equal rights and opportunities. To achieve social justice it is essential that the most affected people and groups, including women and girls, become a meaningful part of decision-making structures and systems.

Our vision:

Simavi¹ strives for a world² in which all women and girls³ enjoy their human rights⁴ to water and sanitation, resulting in healthier⁵ and just⁶ societies.



Simavi works in Africa and Asia

We work in close collaboration with civil society organisations in 10 countries and provide technical support to partner programmes in other countries (not included on the world map).

Making the Most of What We Know (MMWWK)

Location India | Bangladesh | Pakistan | Malawi | Mali | Niger | Uganda | Ethiopia | Nepal (together with partners)
Timeline Aug 2019 – Sept 2021
Goal To provide the More Than Brides Alliance with a learning focus on the linkages between adolescent sexuality and child marriage by using innovative tools, including youth led research, learning exchanges, practitioner surveys and international learning events.
Donor Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Consortium partners Save the Children Netherlands (lead) | Oxfam Novib | Population Council

WASH & Learn & Learn 3.0

Location Uganda | Tanzania
Timeline 2020 – 2023
Goal Increased access to water supply and sanitation and increased hygienic behaviour in schools and the surrounding communities to structurally improve basic health and school attendance.
Donor Walking for Water (private donations) | Dutch foundations
In-country partners Uganda: HEWASA | Jese | Tanzania: E-MAC | CEMDO

WASH First

Location Kenya | Uganda (Ethiopia, Indonesia, Rwanda and Mozambique through partners)
Timeline Sept 2020 – Nov 2021
Goal Promotion of health-related hygiene practices to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in at-risk countries through awareness-raising and improved access to WASH services.
Donor Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Consortium partners WASH Alliance International (WAI) partners Simavi and AMREF | SNV | Plan International Netherlands
In-country partners WASH Alliance Kenya (WAK) | KEWASNET | KWAHO | NIA | WASEU | Caritas Fort Portal - HEWASA | Jese | IRC Uganda

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene for All (ASHA)

Location Nepal
Timeline 2020 – 2022
Goal To increase access to good quality drinking water, improve sanitation status and hygiene behaviour, local governance and the maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and empower local women and socially excluded groups.
Donor Doppler
In-country partner SEBAC

Her WASH

Location Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Pakistan
Timeline 2019 – 2023
Goal Improved comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a focus on women and adolescent girls, through menstrual health interventions in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Pakistan.
Donor Global Affairs Canada
Consortium partners WaterAid Canada (lead) | Canada World Youth
In-country partners WaterAid country offices in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Pakistan | MOPADA | PHIL

Gender & WASH Research

Location Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda
Timeline 2020 – 2022
Goal This research aims to explore the connection between the availability and accessibility of water, sanitation and hygiene and gender-based violence in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda.
Donor Simavi
In-country partners: Bangladesh WASH Alliance | Nepal WASH Alliance | Uganda WASH Alliance

Give Wings to our Girls (Mulanje)

Location Malawi
Timeline Sept 2018 – Aug 2021
Goal Reduce school dropout rates among girls aged 10 to 16 in Mulanje district through the adoption of menstrual hygiene practices, utilisation of SRHR information and services, and improved water and sanitation facilities in schools and surrounding communities.
Donor Diorapthe, Dutch Foundations, Simavi's reserves
In-country partners HVP | GENET

WOP Kenya

Location Kenya
Timeline Three years (Oct 2021 – Oct 2024)
Goal Realising the human right to water, sanitation and hygiene services for approximately 250,000 people living in Kenya's low-income areas within the five water companies service areas.
Donor EU through UN Habitat
Consortium partners Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Ltd (KIWASCO) | Water Services Providers Association (WASPA)
In-country partners KACU-WASCO | KWCL | MOWASCO | OLWASCO | Amatsi Water and Sewerage Co. Ltd.

WASH SDG

Location Bangladesh | Nepal | Uganda (Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania and Zambia through partners)
Timeline 2017 – 2022
Goal Sustainably improve the water, sanitation and hygiene situation for all by ensuring local civil society organisations, communities and citizens have the capacity to advocate for the realisation of their right to water and sanitation, and work with the duty bearers and service providers to improve the quality of service provision and the governance of the sector.
Donor Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Consortium partners Simavi (consortium lead) for WASH Alliance International (WAI) | SNV | Plan International Netherlands | Amref | Akvo | RAIN (AidEnvironment) | WASTE | IRC WASH | Wetlands International | PRACTICA | RUAF (Hivos)
In-country partners All partners from the Bangladesh WASH Alliance, Nepal WASH Alliance and the Uganda WASH Alliance

MHM ++: Bringing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights to life in Menstrual Health Trainings in Uganda

Location Uganda
Timeline June 2021 – March 2023
Goal A mixed group of maximum 28 participants will receive training and coaching during the programme. They will be involved in developing curricula and implementing training in menstrual health, combined with sexual and reproductive health and rights and teaching and didactic skills.
Donor Nuffic
Consortium partners SHE Collaborates | Maastricht University (lead)
In-country partners of the SRHR Alliance Uganda and the WASH Alliance Uganda

Resilience through Information on SRHR & Empowerment (RISE)

Location Bangladesh
Timeline 2021 – 2022
Goal Strengthen the capacity of FPAB and ISDE, two organisations which provide education and services in sexual and reproductive health and rights to communities in the Chittagong coastal belt and improve the scale and quality of their services to these marginalised groups.
Donor Nuffic
Consortium partners KIT Royal Tropical Institute | RedOrange
In-country partners FPAB | ISDE

Kapilvastu

Location Nepal
Timeline 2018 – 2022
Goal Our pilot programme that combines water, sanitation and hygiene with sexual and reproductive health and rights and works on the inclusion of disadvantaged people will lead to women practising healthy and hygienic behaviour during pregnancy, delivery and after birth, thereby reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.
Donor Simavi's own funds and Hike for Health
In-country partners KIDS | SOLID

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures

Location Bangladesh
Timeline 2019 – 2023
Goal Local civil society organisations have the capacity to effectively respond to the sexual and reproductive health needs of young indigenous women and girls from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, to empower indigenous women and girls to make informed decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to help them to transition into adult womanhood with dignity and safety.
Donor European Union
Consortium partners BNPS
In-country partners Progressive | Hill Flower | Taungya | Weave | Ananya | Gram Unnayan Sa | Tahzingong | Zabarang | Khagrapur Mahila Kalyan Samity | Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha

GroupCare_1000 (Check2Gether)

Location Ghana
Timeline 2020 – 2023
Goal To research the implementation and integration of group care for pregnant mothers during the antenatal and postnatal period, with particular attention to the needs of women living in vulnerable situations.
Donor EU (Horizon 2020)
Consortium partners TNO (lead) | LUMC | Free University of Brussels | Group Care Global | City, University of London | University of Cape Town | Action for Mothers and Children Kosovo | Perisur, Suriname | PHS Ghana

Perfect Fit

Location Indonesia
Timeline 2020 – 2023
Goal Women and girls in Indonesia have a better period experience through enhanced knowledge of menstrual health management and the provision of alternative, affordable and eco-friendly menstrual products. Also, women and girls are socially and economically empowered in the community through the Perfect Fit sustainable business model.
Donor Flexiplan | Schmallhausen | De Johanna Donk Grote Stichting | various foundations
In-country partners PT Putri Fajar Inspirasi

Propopi

Location Indonesia
Timeline 2018 – 2021
Goal Improve water supply in Bandung with a focus on increasing access to safe water for the poor population and providing drinking water to currently unconnected communities.
Donor Fonds Duurzaam Water
Consortium partners PERUMDAM Kota Bandung | VEI | TU Delft

A new focus and a new strategy

For Simavi, 2021 was a year of transformation, organisational reflection, learning and planning. Working with our staff, partner civil society organisations and external experts, we revised our strategy and our Theory of Change. In this chapter, we present the main changes in our strategy and focus, our new theory of change, we elaborate on our new thematic focus areas and present case studies to illustrate these.



Felister Tima - fetching water from the hand pump in her region - Kajiado County, Kenya

The evolution of Simavi since its beginnings in 1925 demonstrates our ability to adapt. Last year's strategy revision was driven by the climate crisis, growing inequality around the world and the Shift the Power movement in the international development aid sector. Adjusting our strategy ensures that Simavi remains relevant; letting go of what no longer serves us and creating space to move forward. At the end of the year our new strategic direction and a foundation for transformation were in place. Now, in 2022, the transition begins in earnest.

Our transition

A key change is our focus on water, sanitation and hygiene. We decided to phase out from our work on sexual and reproductive health and rights. We will continue to prioritise women and girls in our work and strengthen our human rights based approach. As part of this transformation process, we also reflected on our specific added value as a Dutch NGO compared to other international development stakeholders, and specifically to the civil society organisations we work with in Africa and Asia.

Going forward, Simavi will shape and guide the outlooks and actions of individuals and groups who play a role in women and girls' lives regarding human rights to water and sanitation. To do that, Simavi will focus mainly on the social and political issues that prevent women and girls from enjoying these human rights. These include issues related to gender inequality, unequal power dynamics and the negative impacts of climate change.

To realise this, we identified two mutually reinforcing intervention strategies – *influence* and *collaboration*. We will use our power and networks to influence those who hold power to support the realisation of women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation. At the same time we will shift power to those who are currently excluded to ensure their voices are heard and they can take part in decision-making that concerns their human rights to water and sanitation. Alongside this influencing work, we will collaborate with civil society actors and support their leadership in realising human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls. Our

"To me it's strange that it depends on where you live whether or not you have access to safe water and a toilet."

Selma Hilgersom, programme manager and online innovator at Simavi

funding of civil society organisations, networks, movements and feminist groups will enable them to show leadership in decision-making and agenda-setting. The aim of all of this is to increase their reach and accountability to women and girls.

Selma Hilgersom, programme manager and online innovator at Simavi: "Everyone has the right to water, sanitation and hygiene services that meet their needs. To me it's strange that it depends on where you live whether or not you have access to safe water and a toilet. Just imagine if the inhabitants of my hometown Amsterdam had to get all their water from the Amstel river. That would be unacceptable. I cannot comprehend why people anywhere in the world should have to live under such conditions."

Our journey

2021 – the strategy development process in key moments for Simavi

MARCH TO APRIL

Fourdeep dive trajectories to lay the groundwork for the strategy with Simavi staff and representatives from our partner civil society organisations.

JUNE TO JULY

Simavi staff developed a new Theory of Change based on the new strategy.

OCTOBER

The Human Resource Circle developed an Inclusion and Diversity policy.

NOVEMBER

The circle leads developed a Shift the Power vision document.

DECEMBER

The supervisory board approved Simavi's new partner policy and a €1.5 million investment in developing flagship programmes.

Water, women and ...

We will build our programmes, communication and advocacy around three main themes that reflect the three key elements of our new strategy: (gender) equality, shift the power and climate justice.

Theme 1: Water, women and equality

Women are the primary users of water, which means they are the ones most affected by the water crisis. At the same time they are key to the solution. It is therefore crucial that women and girls take part in decision-making on water and sanitation. We also know that female leadership and active participation by women in water and sanitation solutions will increase women and girls' safety, create opportunities for income

generation, and expand women's agency and leadership roles in society.

We work with women and girls and with civil society organisations to address barriers that prevent women from taking part in decision-making, such as deeply entrenched gender norms and roles. We jointly advocate for gender-responsive water, sanitation and hygiene services, laws and policies that respect women and girls' safety and privacy.



Case study

Programme: **Perfect Fit**
Country: **Indonesia**
Partners: **Simavi, Kopernik and PT Putri Fajar Inspirasi**

WOMEN SUPPORT WOMEN

Perfect Fit is a programme and social enterprise that provides support to women and girls to ensure they can feel dignified and healthy during their menstruation. Together with Kopernik and PT Putri Fajar Inspirasi, Oma Bekt, the Perfect Fit adviser for tailors, found ten women to manufacture the reusable sanitary pads. Through her network other women were contacted to become resellers. The tailors and resellers are a diverse group of women who form the Perfect Fit family: they are housewives, domestic violence survivors and women living with disabilities. Oma Bekt also has an advisory and supporting role to the Perfect Fit family so that they gain confidence: "There is something I find from my heart to always help women and girls in Labuan Bajo. I want to grow old meaningfully and play a role in the lives of others, especially women and mother earth. Perfect Fit is a tool for me to sharpen my commitment to support women and girls."

"I want to grow old meaningfully and play a role in the lives of others."

Oma Bekt provides a safe space for women and girls to discuss and share their feelings on a daily basis. Women and girls come to her to discuss the importance of being an independent woman in Indonesia. In her opinion, they need this independence to be able to decide what is best for their life and not depend on their family or

husbands. "I believe that to create a better generation, we need to empower women first, and women need to be financially and socially independent. That's the idea behind feminist leadership in my opinion; women support women," she says.



Case study

Programme: **WASH SDG**
Country: **Bangladesh**
Partner: **Uttaran**

LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND

Hasina Parvin, programme coordinator for Uttaran in Bangladesh, is working on the WASH SDG programme with Simavi. In 2020, she received training on gender and social inclusion and learned a lot about the perspectives of socially excluded groups. "This training opened eyes to how our organisation should work with people with diverse needs. We work not only with women and girls in general, but specifically with women and girls in marginalised situations. We also work with people living with a disability and with groups of transgender people. In Bangladesh we ignored these marginalised groups for an exceptionally long time."

This gender equality and social inclusion perspective allows Hasina to get a real feel for other people's situations, to learn how they live and understand what it is like to be discriminated against by the system. "It was really heart-breaking when a transgender person asked us why there was no toilet built for them. In the past, we worked to build toilets for everyone, but we forgot to think about these specific needs and that they have equal rights. It was also a challenge because of Bangladesh's patriarchal culture and conservative beliefs," says Hasina.



Hasina Parvin



Oma Bekt

Theme 2: Water, women and power

The global Shift the Power movement calls for a redistribution of power and resources to those whose human rights are violated. It is an urgent wake-up call about power dynamics and systemic racism within the entire aid system. These power dynamics also shape and influence the water sector, in which organisations based in the global North dominate power and resources in the global water governance system. That is why Simavi advocates that good water governance involves adhering to human rights principles, including non-discrimination, accountability and transparency. Water is a public good. We must make sure that communities, civil society organisations and women's groups hold public and private actors to account on both human rights norms and principles. Simavi will not represent women and girls, but ensure that women and girls are part of the solutions to the global water, sanitation and hygiene crisis.

Simavi's agenda for a more equal and just society also requires critical self-reflection and consideration of how we work. Simavi will work towards more diversity in our supervisory board and our organisation, and be more equitable regarding our partnerships and interventions. We will work to ensure they are locally-led, including leadership by women and girls. At the same time, we seek to ensure our continued legitimacy and relevance as an impactful and viable organisation.

"It would be great if donor funds were to be handed entirely to locally-led NGOs."



Case study

Programme: **WASH & Learn**

Country: **Tanzania**

Partners: **Simavi and E-MAC**

COMMUNITIES IN THE DRIVING SEAT

Christina Kaaya works as a principal technician for the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Arusha District, Tanzania, where the WASH & Learn programme is being implemented. The WASH & Learn programme develops smarter and more effective governance strategies to improve water, sanitation and hygiene in communities.

Christina recalls how difficult it was working with the water committee: "[the water committee] did not report on time, and when they reported, it was usually a verbal report. Rarely did they submit their financial report. It was tough to monitor their financial management and there were high risks of embezzlement and corruption."

Before the programme, at most schools students had to walk long distances to fetch water. The toilet hygiene situation was so bad that it caused girls to miss their classes during their menstruation. Since the WASH & Learn programme with Simavi and E-MAC, the leadership in the new committee has taken responsibility. E-MAC ensured that government guidelines were followed by committees, which ensured the inclusion of people from the local community. E-MAC also developed reporting procedures and defined roles and responsibilities for accountability purposes. Christina says this helps her feel more responsible and accountable in her role as principal technician than before. "If the water committee does well, I am also doing well."

In her opinion, collaboration with international NGOs and donors is important, but it is now time for the community to sit in the driving seat of the programme: "Somehow it would be great if donor funds were to be handed entirely to locally-led NGOs. Locally-led NGOs and district councils could then design, budget and implement relevant and timely programmes."



Student of the Shree Nera Madhyamik Bidhyalaya school drinking water - Bajiniath, Nepal



Case study

Programme: **WASH SDG**

Country: **Nepal**

Partners: **Simavi and NFCC**

SHARING POWER

NFCC, based in Kathmandu, Nepal, is one of Simavi's strategic partners and is currently working on the WASH SDG programme. Pema Lhaki, executive director of NFCC, explains that as a long-time advocate for putting women and girls at the heart of all development work, they believe that a shift in the current power balance is strategic and beneficial to their work. "I believe that for Simavi and NFCC to be good collaborators and be effective in the work we do, we must share power, because without power on both sides it may become difficult to demand accountability," says Pema.

NFCC has transitioned from an organisation with only a few female staff members when Pema joined in 2008 to a female majority organisation today. It was a big success for her. Her parents' background made it particularly challenging for her, as her colleagues and the communities she worked for underestimated her. She always tries to be conscientious and pushes her female colleagues to the forefront, because, she says, "they need nudging."

"To be effective in the work we do we must share power"

At the moment she is pushing for a change in the NFCC board, which still has a male majority. The transition to women managing organisations such as NFCC and leading implementation will provide a platform for communities to change the way they work. In the end, they will achieve equity.



Pema Lhaki

Theme 3: Water, women and climate

Everyone is affected by climate change, but it is undeniable that those in poverty and marginalised situations, especially women and girls, are disproportionately affected. Women and girls face greater health and safety risks when water and sanitation systems become compromised, and they take on increased domestic and care work as resources dwindle. Simavi believes that we need to harness women's knowledge, skills and leadership in water and climate action to build a sustainable future and climate resilience in communities. Given their knowledge about (the use of) natural resources, women can be powerful agents in sustainable and climate-resilient water management. Simavi will invest in the leadership of women to strengthen their capacity to act and adapt. In this way they can leverage efficient and sustainable water-related climate solutions, and simultaneously address environmental justice issues.



Anjani Tripura



Case study

Programme: **Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures**

Country: **Bangladesh**

Partner: **Simavi and BNPS**

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

People in Bororaitosa village in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh are suffering from an increasing shortage of water. Anjani Tripura, a member of a girls club, explains how this impacts her life: "It is a big problem for me to maintain daily activities like school time and reading time and take care of my hygiene and menstruation because of the shortage of water and bound time. So, sometimes I feel frustrated about this big problem."

The people in her village believed that water shortages were just a phenomenon of the dry season, because in the past water was not a big problem for them. But over the past few years they have come to realise that the amount of water available to them is lessening day-by-day. The lack of financial resources has prevented them from installing a borewell to tap into underground water reserves and they depend on the water resource in a cove.

Through the Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures programme BNPS and Simavi support 10 women-led civil society organisations that engage with schoolgirls to motivate the community and become change agents to solve water and sanitation problems in a climate resilient way. Anjani is a member of one of the 30 girls clubs in which 1,200 schoolgirls are informed about menstrual health and trained on how to make informed decisions about their rights. Many girls like Anjani are now encouraging community leaders to provide borewells and improved latrines so that they can take care of their menstruation and hygiene in safety and dignity.

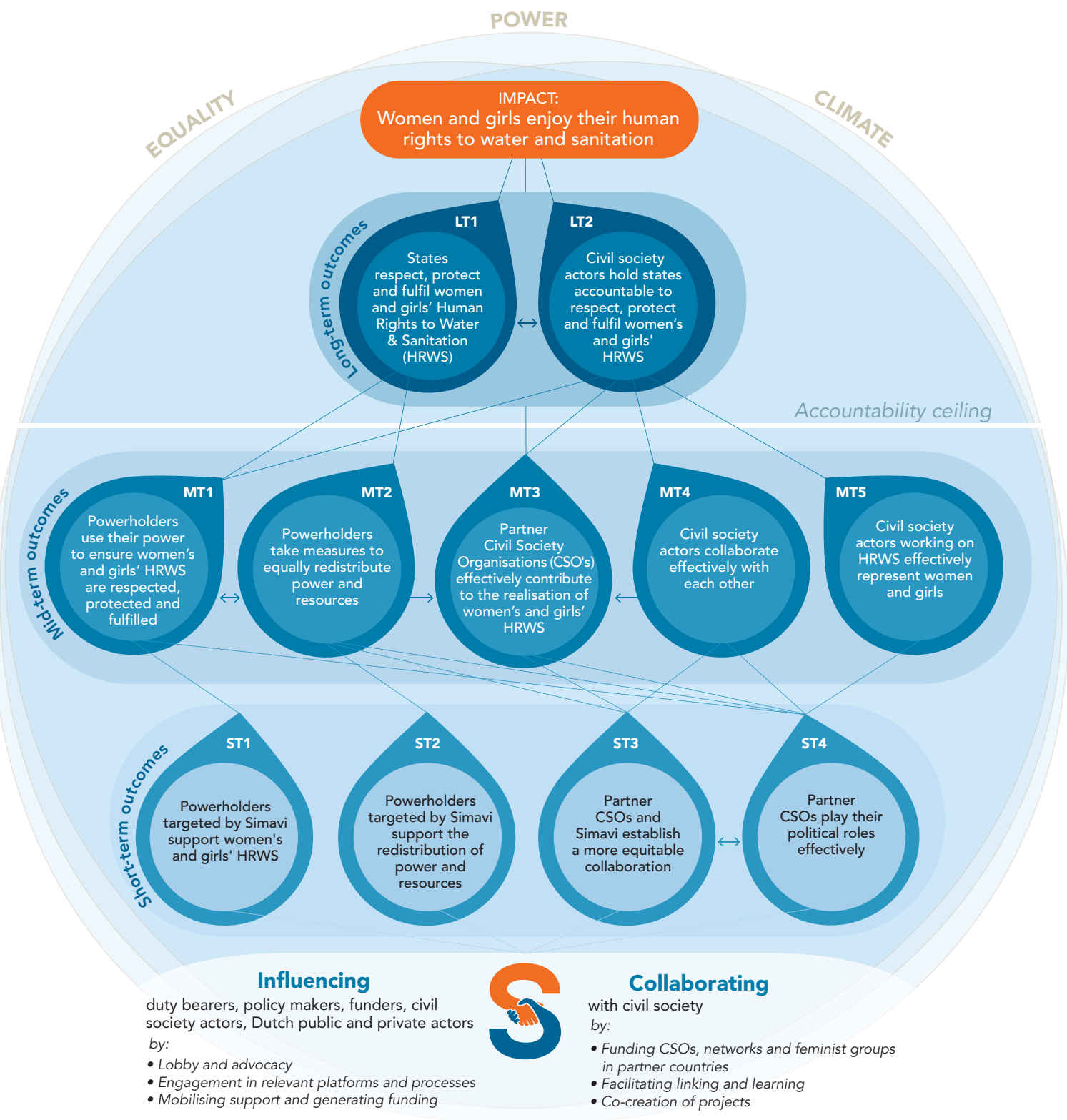


Afroja Khatun (left) and Sumia Akter Priya (right) - waterlogging, due to climate change, makes it harder to fetch water - Boddipur Koloni - Sathkira - Bangladesh

Women and girls face greater health and safety risks when water and sanitation systems become compromised, and they take on increased domestic and care work as resources dwindle.

Theory of Change

A new strategy means a new Theory of Change. Our Theory of Change guides the work we do to achieve the overall impact we want to make: women and girls enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation.



What we strive for

We want every woman and girl to enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation (our impact). To get there, we work towards a situation in which states and civil society actors take responsibility and are accountable to the people and the communities they serve. States should implement laws and policies that respect, protect and fulfil women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation from a holistic perspective (long-term outcome 1). At the same time, we want to encourage an active civil society that addresses injustices and holds duty bearers to account (long-term outcome 2). What is required is a legitimate civil society that is inclusive, transparent, representative and aware of human rights treaties and mechanisms. We envision a system change that incorporates both these long-term outcomes.

How we work

We have identified two mutually reinforcing intervention strategies that fit our role, position and expertise in the international development sector. These two strategies work together. An essential part of our strategy is creating an enabling environment in which crucial voices, opinions and demands are recognised, heard and followed by concrete action.

1. We influence duty bearers, policymakers, funders, civil society actors and private actors to take responsibility for women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation.

A broad range of actors are involved in women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation and related issues of inequality and injustice. Simavi influences these actors to own their roles and responsibilities (mid-term outcome 1). To do this, we challenge existing power imbalances (mid-term outcome 2) and broaden the 'access to water' narrative from a mere technical problem to a human rights problem that interrelates with other global issues.

2. We collaborate with civil society actors to strengthen their efficiency and leadership in achieving human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls.

We collaborate with civil society actors through funding and supporting civil society organisations, networks, movements and feminist groups. Our approach enables them to work more effectively (mid-term outcome 3) and lead the national advocacy agenda. An essential part of this is supporting linking and learning to strengthen knowledge, skills, data collection and collaboration (mid-term outcome 4). Simavi works with civil society actors to Shift the Power towards women and girls. In collaboration with civil society actors, we amplify the voices of women and girls (mid-term outcome 5) affected by a lack of human rights to water and sanitation.

Civil society refers to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations [NGOs], labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations (World Bank).

Levels of change

In our new theory of change we identify four levels of change: impact, long-term outcomes, mid-term outcomes and short-term outcomes. Below we shortly explain the levels of change that these outcomes relate to.

- **Impact** is the ultimate goal of our work and the combined result of the long-term outcomes that represent a broader change in the system. Through the programmes we implement with partner civil society organisations, our impact is also achieved directly in the lives of individuals.
- **Long-term outcomes** are the result of combined mid-term outcomes. In our Theory of Change, the long-term outcomes are above the accountability ceiling which implies that we are one out of many players that contribute to these outcomes.
- **Mid-term outcomes** are the expected changes as the result of one or more short-term outcomes. The expected changes in for example behaviour, power dynamics or policies will take longer to establish then short-term outcomes.
- **Short-term outcomes** are changes that result directly from our work. Compared to mid-term and long-term outcomes, these changes take less time to achieve and can also be more directly linked to a specific strategy or set of activities.

chapter two

Impact and outcomes of our work

Through the programmes that we work on with our partners and with our lobby and advocacy activities, we contribute towards the impact and the different outcomes in our new theory of change. In this chapter we present data and case studies that illustrate the progress we made against our theory of change in 2021.



Girls follow a training on the production of reusable pads - Bandarban, Bangladesh

Reporting against our new Theory of Change

In this Impact Report, we report against our new Theory of Change. Similar to previous years, we do this through data and case studies from programmes. During the previous years, we laid the ground work for our new strategy within the programmes that we implement together with our partners. As a result, most of our programmes respond to key elements of our new strategy. This made it possible to select case studies and data that corresponds to our new Theory of Change for this Impact Report.

With our new Theory of Change, we have also developed a new indicator framework. We have taken the opportunity to improve on the alignment of our indicators with the SDG framework. Going forward, we will align indicator frameworks of new programmes with the Simavi indicators. For this annual report however, we had to work with the data that is collected in our current programmes and activities. This means that when there wasn't an exact match, we have linked Simavi programme indicators to the relevant SDG goals and targets, instead of using the specific SDG indicator.

Like each year, we have impact and outcome data from a selection of our programmes, as evaluations are not administered on a yearly basis. This, combined with the new indicator framework and the participatory set-up of the writing process of this year's Impact Report made it more difficult to find data that matched the case studies that were collected. We therefore combine case studies and data from different programmes to showcase progress against the impact, the long-term and the mid-term outcomes of our Theory of Change in this chapter. We left the short-term out of this report as those are mostly captured by the higher level results of the mid-term outcomes.

Measuring impact and outcomes

As part of the development of the Theory of Change and our new indicator framework, we also reviewed our approach to impact and outcome measurement. Our new impact statement focuses on women and girls enjoying their human rights to water and sanitation. We purposely included the word enjoy in this statement, as we are striving for a sustainable change in the lives of women and girls that goes beyond just having access to water and sanitation facilities. We want women and girls to enjoy the benefits of this, and be healthier, more confident, in control, safer, and feel supported and connected. Which aligns with the five dimensions of well-being that we used to measure impact against our previous Theory of Change.

In the process of putting together our new indicator framework, we aimed to align this as much as possible with indicators from the SDG framework. With that, we looked at SDG indicators that were in line with our five dimensions of well-being. In addition to indicators from SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), we therefore also included indicators from SDG3 (health and well-being) and SDG5 (gender equality) to monitor our impact. On the different outcome levels, we also included indicators from other SDGs as well as indicators from other sources.

Our approaches to evaluating the impact and outcomes will be largely the same. We do intend to make more use of external sources of data to inform our programmes and progress, limit the amount of data that we collect and make monitoring and evaluation process more inclusive. This is in line with our increased focus on Shifting the Power.

Progress on our impact

Simavi sees impact as a lasting change in the lives of women and girls. Ultimately, we want all women and girls to enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation.

We contribute to this impact through the programmes and lobby and advocacy that we implement and undertake with our partners. To maximise our impact, we invest in research and continuously explore ways to improve the quality of our programmes. In this chapter, we present two examples of how we do this. After that, we present a case study, external data and data from programmes to illustrate progress against our impact.

IMPACT:
Women and girls enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation

A lasting change

A lasting change in the life of a woman or a girl is an ambitious goal, but for Simavi it is the only way. We want our work to be holistic and sustainable because we do not believe

in short-term or isolated problem solving. Impact is usually perceived as positive, but we acknowledge that some changes may sometimes be unintended or negative. To ensure we do no harm we take any reports of negative impact seriously, and take a participatory approach to actively mitigating any negative impact.

We continually work to improve our impact. How do we do this?

- We invest in continual learning about how our programmes can bring about lasting impact. We do this during the programme cycle and through our evaluations.
- We make use of a variety of evidence to inform our programmes and our lobby and advocacy work. Where possible, we draw on research to fill evidence gaps.
- We aim to ensure that no-one is left behind, and we continue to improve our strategies to reach those in marginalised positions.

One of the schools in Netrokona District participating in the Ritu programma

Maximising our impact

To maximise the impact of our work, Simavi increasingly invests in programme and campaign design, monitoring, evaluation and learning. Through documenting and understanding the impact of our work, our aim is to increase the potential impact of future interventions. Using an evidence-informed and impact-oriented approach helps us to use our limited resources wisely and maximise the impact we make on the lives of women and girls. We use a variety of evidence in our work, from academic evidence to input and information collected from women and girls. We first check the available evidence, and when that is not enough we seek ways to collect evidence ourselves to fill the gaps. The following two case studies are examples of research that we undertook to maximise the impact of our work.

“The fact that Simavi went back to study the sustainability of a programme is an exception in the world of charities”



Case study

Programme: **Ritu Sustainability Study**

Country: **Bangladesh**

Partners: **Simavi, BNPS, DORP, Dhaka University**

IMPACT IN PRACTICE: DO WE DELIVER WHAT WE PROMISE?

The Impact Challenge is an initiative by the Dutch charitable sector to stimulate evaluation and learning. It confronts charities with questions like Do you deliver what you promise? How do you know if what you are doing is working? Is this the best you can do?

In 2021 Simavi won the Challenge in the large charities category with the sustainability study on the Ritu programme that aimed to improve menstrual health in Bangladesh (2016–2020). Better toilets were installed in schools and teachers were trained in how to discuss menstrual health in class. The evaluation (a randomised controlled trial) showed that the programme had a significant positive effect on girls' well-being during menstruation. Lidwien Sol (PhD candidate, Maastricht University) calculated that for every thousand euros that was spent, the programme added 18 months of education.

A year after the programme ended the University of Dhaka carried out a sustainability study that indicated that progress appeared to have stalled. Toilets were no longer being maintained and teachers were no longer providing information on menstruation to their students. This was not just down to COVID; teachers felt less confident talking about menstruation and many of the materials were misplaced. We now want to look at how the programme can be continued in a more sustainable way.

“The fact that Simavi went back to study the sustainability of a programme is an exception in the world of charities,” says Professor Smeets of Maastricht University. Often there is no money available to re-examine whether something has worked. Donors can do something about this by giving organisations the opportunity to learn from their failures, rather than being disappointed by a failure and withdrawing their support. Making an impact is not something you do in a few months. It takes years.

Hilda Alberda, Simavi's director of monitoring, evaluation & learning: “Sharing less than positive results is often a taboo – just like talking about menstruation is a taboo. But we decided to do this. Measure sustainability and share your results, that's our tip.”





Case study

Programme: **Gender & WASH** (linked to the WASH SDG programme)

Countries: **Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda**

Partners: **Simavi, Bangladesh WASH Alliance, Nepal WASH Alliance and Uganda WASH Alliance**

GENDER & WASH RESEARCH

The Gender & WASH study was the second prototype initiative after the Kapilvastu programme (on the nexus between maternal health and water, sanitation and hygiene). Sandra van Soelen, programme manager at Simavi, explains how in 2017 Simavi started developing prototype programmes to create evidence for impact evaluations.

Gender-related psychosocial and physical issues associated with water and sanitation include the health risks of open defecation, the physical burden of fetching water, sexual violence and harassment, privacy and security during menstruation and pregnancy, and mobility constraints. "This topic is gaining increasing attention in academic research, but there appears to be little evidence on specific interventions that are particularly effective in reducing women's psychosocial stress, violence or insecurity in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene," says Sandra. Based on an initial Theory of Change and literature review, we designed and conducted a multi-country research programme in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda.

Sandra explains how the prototype programme took a long time to get started due to staff changes, lack of time and limited funds, adding: "We spent more time on providing support on using participatory research methods and gender transformative methodologies than we anticipated. Due to COVID-19, we could not provide face-to-face training and had to resort to online solutions."

Despite the challenges, Simavi did get the research done. In Uganda, it was concluded that poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene, while not the root cause of violence, can exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to violence. The study in Bangladesh found no prevalence of (s)extortion, but physical violence and verbal abuse was reported in Bangladesh while collection of water and using toilets.

The initial findings have been used to frame our Global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, and were shared during an international learning exchange between Simavi partners and other actors in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene.

Reporting on our impact

In our new Theory of Change there are two pathways to our overall impact. The main pathway runs through the long-term outcomes resulting from the effects of our lobby and advocacy work (all mid-term outcomes). To illustrate progress on this pathway in this report we make use of data from external sources that showcase progress on the global, regional and national levels. With that we acknowledge that we are one of many players that influence the impact and long-term outcomes as formulated in our Theory of Change. This is illustrated by the accountability ceiling in the visual of the Theory of Change.

The second pathway goes directly to our impact from medium-term outcome 3 (Partner Civil Society Organisations effectively contribute to the realisation of women's and girls' human rights to water and sanitation). This is because partner civil society organisations directly contribute to the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation of the women and girls' that are involved in the programmes that they implement with Simavi. To showcase progress at this level, we present a cases study and data from our programme monitoring and evaluations.

"Due to COVID-19, we could not provide face-to-face training and had to resort to online solutions."

Sandra van Soelen



How do we live up to our commitment to leave no-one behind

Simavi aims to make a lasting impact, especially for those most at risk of being left behind. They face the biggest barriers preventing them from claiming and enjoying their human rights to water and sanitation. Evidence from our programmes also shows that creating a positive and lasting change in their lives is more complex and difficult than for other groups in society. Progress tends to be slower than for other groups and more difficult to sustain.

Simavi responds to these challenges through programmes like Kapilvastu (see case study) which addresses the human rights of underprivileged women and girls in southern Nepal. We call Kapilvastu 'the learning programme' as we designed it so we could learn more on how to effectively reach those left behind.

Sangita: "I'll never stop teaching what I know"



Case study

Programme: **Kapilvastu**

Country: **Nepal**

Partner: **Simavi, KIDS, and SOLID**

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

The Kapilvastu programme aims to improve informed decision-making around the use of water, sanitation and hygiene services through capacity building. Key strategies of the programme are to set up women's groups and to ensure that women are well represented and listened to in community meetings and decision-making processes.

Sangita Kori, a 35 year old Nepali woman, lives in Shivraj Municipality along with her five children and four other family members. She belongs to the Tarai caste, who face multiple vulnerabilities as illiteracy, poverty and poor health. In addition to that, customary traditional beliefs and restrictive gender and cultural norms are key barriers to bringing about change in her life.

Sangita attended monthly meetings organised under the programme, where she learned about women's health, care for children, and sanitation and hygiene. She used information from the sessions to convince her husband and mother-in-law to rent a plot of land near their home on which to build a toilet. Sangita also talked to her neighbours about the importance of good health and hygiene. "Some neighbours agree and follow the good things, some do not... I'll never stop teaching what I know," she says.

The evaluation found that when women engaged in groups their voices were heard and they felt supported by their family members. However, the evaluators found no notable contributions by underrepresented women in official community or public meetings.

An analysis of the findings by social group showed that progress varied between groups. For example, healthy practices during pregnancy improved mainly in groups that were initially most deprived. And while participation of women increased overall, this was more pronounced in already privileged groups; those with lower participation scores at the start of the programme showed least progress.

Leaving no one behind in our impact measurements

Similar to the Kapilvastu programme, the WASH SDG programme aims to leave no one behind. This ambition is also mainstreamed in the monitoring and evaluation plan of the programme. On these pages, we present data that shows the progress that the WASH Alliance International (as part of the wider WASH SDG consortium) made in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda with regards to access to sanitation. In addition to that, we also show our findings with regards to the process when disaggregated per wealth quantile. To showcase how the progress within the programmes relates to the progress on country and global level, we present official data from the WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme.



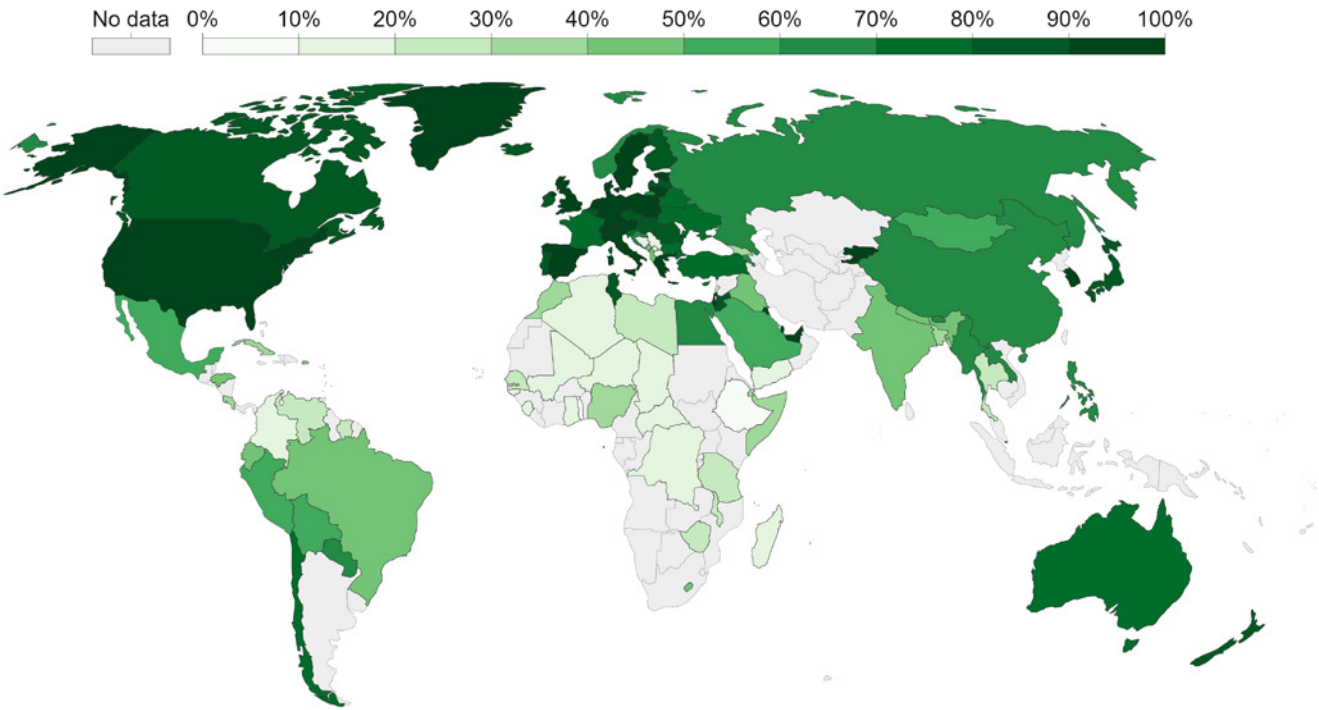
Data
SDG indicator 6.2.1:
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

Source: <https://washdata.org/how-we-work/sdg-monitoring> (2020)
Data: progress against SDG 6.2.1 on global level

This map shows the percentage of people using safely managed sanitation services per country. This is the highest step in the sanitation ladder. For the WASH SDG countries that we present data on in these pages, these percentages for safely managed sanitation are: Bangladesh (38.67%), Nepal (48.64%) and Uganda (19.79%). Note that the data from the WASH SDG programme represent the specific areas that we work in in those countries.

Share of population using safely managed sanitation facilities, 2020

Safely managed sanitation is improved facilities which are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed in situ or transported and treated off-site.

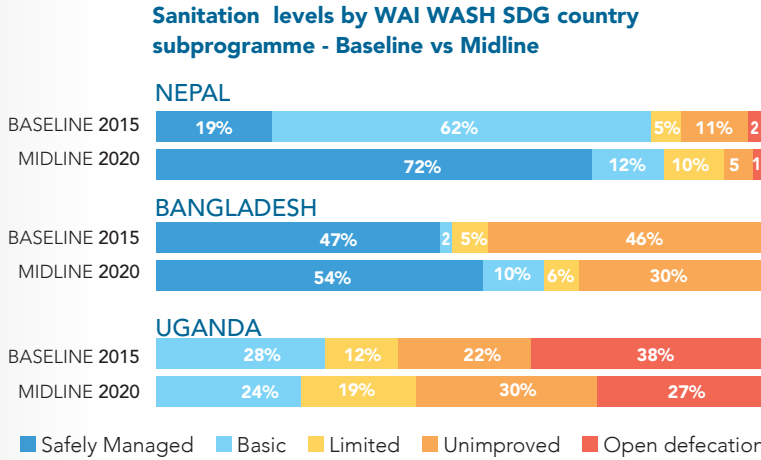


Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) OurWorldInData.org/sanitation • CC BY

Data
SDG indicator 6.2.1:
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

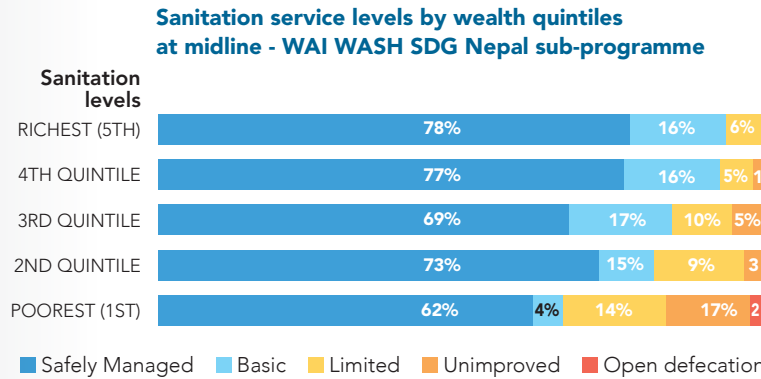
Source: WASH SDG baseline (2018) and mid-term review (2021)
Data: progress against SDG 6.2.1 in WASH SDG programme

The specific approaches vary per country in the WASH SDG programme, but common strategies to realise access to water and sanitation are increasing demand for services by communities, increasing participation of women and other socially excluded groups in decision making, and engaging with the private sector and government. Progress is reported in line with sanitation ladder of the Joint Monitoring Programme, distinguishing between safely managed, basic, limited, unimproved sanitation and open defecation. Although there are differences between countries, we see a positive overall improvement of access to sanitation.



Girl making use of the facility installed during the WASH SDG programme in Baijnath, Kohalpur, Nepal.

Monitoring to ensure no-one is left behind
The data from the evaluation of the WASH SDG programme is disaggregated on five wealth quintiles to be able to better understand differences between groups. The midterm review of the WASH SDG Nepal programme shows how the lowest quintile (the poorest 20%) have the least access to safely managed sanitation services. Those who are left behind are often found in the lower quintiles and adequately ensuring their human rights to water and sanitation remains a persistent challenge.



Note: some data does not add up due to rounding-up of the decimals.

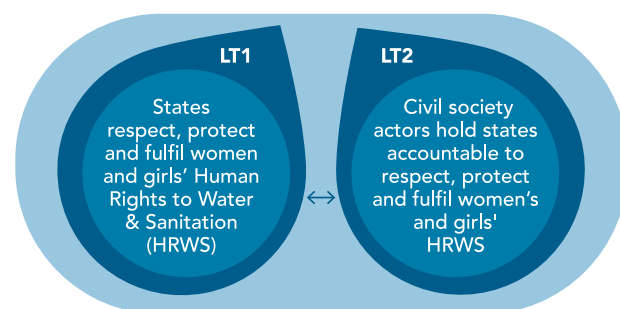
Data
SDG indicator 6.2.1:
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Source: WASH SDG baseline (2018) and mid-term review (2021)
Data: progress against SDG 6.2.1 in WASH SDG programme per wealth quantile

Progress on our long-term outcomes

The long term outcomes and impact are above our accountability level, meaning that we acknowledge that we are one player amongst many other influential actors and factors. Hence, we cannot fully claim progress on this level and we will thus monitor the long term outcomes using external data.

In this chapter, we share two case studies that illustrate progress we made with our partners towards these long term outcomes. We also present data from two external sources on the extend to which women are included in national policies related to water and sanitation, and on the state of civic space in the countries that we work for.



Realising system change

Ultimately, we want all women and girls to enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation (our impact). To achieve the impact, the main pathway in our Theory of Changes goes through the two long term outcomes (>10 years) that set the preconditions for ensuring women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation. The realisation of both long term outcomes, that are in constant interaction with each other, represent the system change that we are looking for.

How do we work towards these outcomes?

- We lobby and advocate with other stakeholders to persuade governments to prioritise women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation (medium-term outcome 1).
- We use our power to influence governments to include women and girls in decision-making processes at national and local level (medium-term outcome 2).
- We facilitate and support civil society organisations to ensure they collaborate effectively (medium-term outcome 4).

Long-term outcome 1



The responsibility of states

When states respect, protect and fulfil women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation, this would mean that states ensure that these rights are not infringed by any (non-state) actor. At the same time, respecting, protecting and fulfilling women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation implies that states are accountable to women and girls, and the (civil society) actors that represent them. When civil society actors hold states accountable to the human rights to water and sanitation, we see the interaction between LT1 and LT2.



Case study

Programme: **Lobby and advocacy activities in Kenya**

Country: **Kenya**

Partner: **Simavi and KEWASNET**

COMMITMENTS TO REALISING SDG6

In Kenya, the human rights to water and sanitation are founded not only on international obligations, but also on the Kenyan Constitution. The adoption of the SDGs brought an additional commitment, with targets 6.1 and 6.2 focusing on clean drinking water and sanitation. The Constitution and SDGs reinforce each other and need to be realised at the national level.

A two day consultative forum was convened by Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET), a partner of Simavi, in collaboration with the Kenyan government.* Relevant stakeholders, including development partners, civil society organisations, private sector actors and research organisations, participated in the forum. Simavi's representative in Kenya was also invited to take part in this consultation, together with other organisations that Simavi works with in the WASH Alliance Kenya. Kenya's Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation used the outcomes of the consultation exercise to develop five official commitments for the progressive realisation of SDG6 targets 6.1 and 6.2.

Five official commitments for the realisation of SDG6 were made by Kenya's Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation

Commitments 2021–2022

- Strengthen sector coordination for improved governance by December 2021.
- Support countrywide scale-up of water, sanitation and hygiene services, without leaving anyone behind, by December 2022.
- Develop national policies and strategies that support the realisation of SDG 6.1 and 6.2 targets by June 2022.
- Strengthen the sector monitoring and reporting framework for increased accountability, by June 2022.
- Develop a water, sanitation and hygiene financing strategy to support investment plans, by December 2021.

*The consultation was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation.

Asiimwe Brenda participating in a training on Covid-19 prevention and WASH through the WASH First Programme - Bundibugyo, Uganda

Long-term outcome 2

Civil society actors hold states accountable to respect, protect and fulfil women's and girls' HRWS

A strong civil society

With long term outcome 2 we refer to an essential part of an effectively functioning human rights framework; an active civil society that can hold states to account. This implies that civil society has legitimacy, is well-organised, inclusive, transparent, representative and aware of human rights treaties and mechanisms. It also implies that civic space is guaranteed so that interaction between civil society, including citizens, and states can effectively take place. Accountability can effectively take place if administrative, political and judicial mechanisms for accountability are installed, including around transparency and meaningful participation.

"It was relevant to maintain and keep international standards"

Hasin Jahan



Case study

Programme **WASH SDG**

Country **Bangladesh**

Partners: **Simavi and WaterAid Bangladesh**

COLLABORATION BETWEEN STATES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

One of the partners Simavi collaborates with under the WASH SDG programme in Bangladesh is WaterAid Bangladesh. WaterAid plays an important role in calling for the government of Bangladesh to respond to its obligation to protect, respect and fulfil the human right to water and sanitation.

Hasin Jahan, country director at WaterAid Bangladesh, illustrates this by highlighting WaterAid's role in facilitating the adoption of the National Water and Sanitation Strategy 2021. This strategy serves as a guiding framework for sector stakeholders to achieve safe and sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene services for all. The policy gives particular attention to the people living below the poverty line and to the most marginalised. The revision process brought together various actors to provide input to this strategy. WaterAid assumed the role of member secretary of the National Committee responsible for revising the national strategy. Simavi provided funding and its staff in Bangladesh were actively involved in the process.

As part of the strategy revision, WaterAid lobbied for the contextualisation of international frameworks such as the SDGs and the human rights to water and sanitation to enable the government of Bangladesh to monitor progress against international indicators. Hasin says: "WaterAid Bangladesh saw that it was relevant to maintain and keep international standards, yet help the stakeholders reflect them nationally, considering the local context." With a strengthened framework in place, the next steps for the partners will be to monitor the implementation of this strategy, like the others that are in place, and lobby for its full implementation by local government institutions.

Using external data

Where possible, we make use of external data to inform our work and our progress. The data presented below informs progress against our long-term outcomes. External data allows us to compare progress on our mid-term outcomes - that is achieved through our work and that of our partners - against programme on national or international level.



Data

SDG goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

To realise access to water and sanitation for women and girls, it is crucial that countries have policies and allocations in place that promote gender equality. Simavi supports partner civil society organisations in their lobby to realise this. GLAAS provides policy- and decision-makers at all levels with reliable, easily accessible, comprehensive data on water, sanitation and hygiene systems, including on governance, monitoring, human resources and finance. GLAAS monitors elements of water, sanitation and hygiene systems that are required to sustain and extend water, sanitation and hygiene services and systems to all, and especially to population groups living in the most marginalised situations.

Specific indicator: National policies and plans include specific measures to extend sanitation services to women

Source: <https://glaas.who.int/glaas/visualizations> (2018)

Data: All countries that Simavi works in have some specific measures included to extend sanitation services to women (no data on India).

For example, GLAAS reports that in Bangladesh Water and Sanitation Committees at Upazilla, Union and Ward level are required to consist of at least 30% of women and people living with a disability.



Data

SDG goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

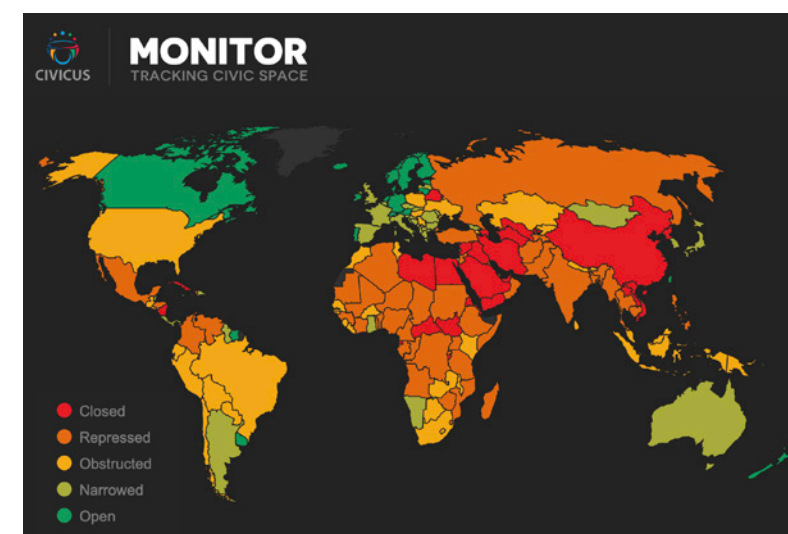
Through our collaboration, Simavi supports civil society organisations to contribute to opening civil space in their country, for example by participating in human rights evaluations.

The CIVICUS Monitor is a research tool that provides close to real-time data on the state of civil society and civic freedoms in 196 countries. The data is generated through a collaboration with more than 20 civil society research partners, and input from a number of independent human rights evaluations.

The data inform a country's civic space rating as closed, repressed, obstructed, narrowed or open.

Source: <https://www.civics.org/index.php/what-we-do/innovate/civics-monitor>

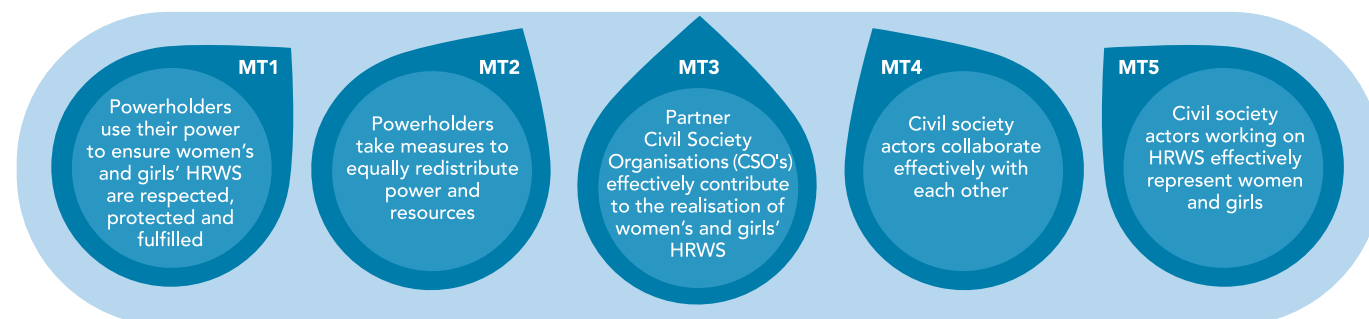
Data: Kenya (2021): obstructed, Bangladesh (2022): repressed, Ethiopia (2022): repressed, Ghana (2021): narrowed, India (2022): repressed, Indonesia (2022): obstructed, Kenya (2021): obstructed, Malawi (2021): obstructed, Nepal (2022): obstructed, Tanzania (2021): repressed, Uganda (2021): repressed



Progress on our medium-term outcomes

The mid-term outcomes are the highest level in our Theory of Change that we influence with our programmes and activities.

As the short-term outcomes are in line with the mid-term outcomes, we focus on the mid-term level in this report. In this chapter, we use data and case studies from our programmes and activities to report on our progress against the mid-term outcomes.



Mid-term outcome 1



Using power to realise human rights

To ensure that all women and girls can enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation, we work towards situations in which states and civil society actors take responsibility for their specific roles in ensuring human rights to water and sanitation (LT1 and LT2). States must implement laws and policies to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of women and girls. For that to happen, a wide variety of powerholders and civil society actors have a duty to change harmful power dynamics and strengthen accountability towards women and girls. Where our partner civil society organisations lead this process in their countries, Simavi takes a lead role to lobby with powerholders in the Netherlands and globally to use their power to realise the human rights to water and sanitation.

How do we do this?

- We advocate for increased investment in gender equality and in mitigating the disproportional impact of climate change on women and girls' access to water and sanitation.
- We lobby for leadership roles for women and girls and the organisations that represent them, as they need to be part of decision-making on water and sanitation.
- We mobilise support from the Dutch public and beyond, and generate funding to maximise our influence.



The Bloody Important Message campaign travelled around the Netherlands in this van.

Case study

A BLOODY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Simavi launched the Bloody Important Message campaign on 28 May, World Menstrual Hygiene Day. As part of the campaign, we asked the Dutch public to sign a petition to put the needs of all people who menstruate during their menstruation on the Dutch political agenda. We spread the message through our website, newsletter and through different social media platforms. We also distributed 'bloody important boxes', beautifully designed by illustrator/speaker Sioejeng Tsao, containing a set of menstrual products.

Just as menstruation is not a one-time thing, our campaign was not over in a day. In the summer, the Tamponnerie on Tour (see picture of the bus) travelled around the country to share the message and talk to people. Again we asked people to sign our petition. The end result was an amazing total of 14,200 signatures in support of increased political attention to menstrual health on the Dutch international agenda.

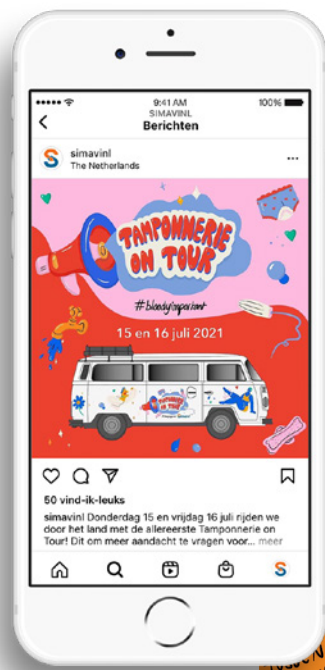
The last stop of our campaign was the Dutch parliament. We took our beautifully designed boxes and all 14,200 signatures and presented them to the members of the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation committee. We explained to them the importance of investing in good menstrual health, and how that would positively impact gender equality and the empowerment of people who menstruate.

A few weeks later parliament passed a resolution asking the Dutch Government to report on the menstrual health activities in the international water, sanitation and hygiene and Health development agenda. Simavi is currently following this up with other Dutch NGOs working on menstrual health.

The combination of our experience with menstrual health in our programmes, raising awareness among the Dutch public and conversations with members of parliament was a truly integrated campaign to create accountability on all levels.

Just as menstruation is not a one-time thing, our campaign was not over in a day





Images from the campaign, also designed by illustrator/speaker Sioejeng Tsao



Wendy Klaasse

WENDY KLAASSE, DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

"As member of Simavi's communication team I was proud to be part of the Bloody Important Message Campaign and help raise awareness of period poverty in the Netherlands and worldwide. In my role as digital engagement specialist, I had a front row seat and could see how the online community reacted. It was heart-warming that so many people were involved in period poverty and shared the Bloody Important Message across their social media channels on Menstrual Hygiene Day. However, reactions on these same social media channels also made it clear that menstruation is still a taboo for some people. Not everybody understood the problem, appreciated the message or agreed with the way we addressed people who menstruate. But, after all, that is why we started this campaign. And it was intriguing to experience how people tried to convince the sceptics of the need for greater awareness of period poverty and even give some tips.

"The Bloody Important Box containing menstrual products and information on period poverty was a striking offline element of the Bloody Important Campaign. For me, the icing on the cake of this campaign was taking the box into the real world. We took it to the Dutch parliament and tried to convince parliamentarians to take one with them, at the same time telling them our Bloody Important Message. I am sure this must have played at least a tiny part in putting menstrual health on the government's agenda."



Chris Stoffer

CHRIS STOFFER, MEMBER OF THE DUTCH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR SGP'

"Water and hygiene are crucial to life. Without drinking water people won't survive more than a few days. And without access to hygiene products and services, diseases spread more easily. Especially women and girls living below the poverty line are vulnerable to this. Even more because of the stigma's attached to menstrual health. It is important that the Dutch Government recognises this and explores ways to empower women and girls. This does require specific investments. I hope that this motion will contribute to that."

Menstrual health is one aspect where women and girls' rights are being suppressed. Under prevailing patriarchal societal norms, menstruation has long been seen as a taboo subject and used to suppress the position of women in society. Suppressive practices can take different forms depending on the cultural and societal context, but are apparent throughout the world. As a result, many people who menstruate face physical and social challenges during their menstruation.



Data

SDG goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

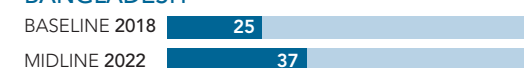
To make a sustainable impact through our programmes, civil society organisations lobby and advocate towards strong policies that ensure access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Simavi indicator: Level of strength of water, sanitation and hygiene sector policies and regulations

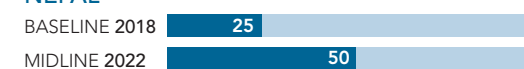
Source: WASH SDG Programme baseline (2018) and mid-term review (2021)

Data:

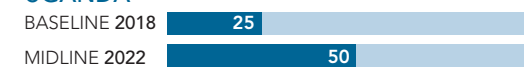
BANGLADESH



NEPAL



UGANDA



Data

SDG goal 6:

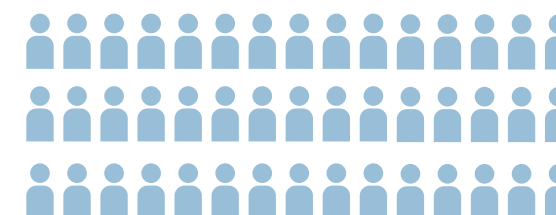
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Policies might be in place, but that does not guarantee these are implemented. As part of the programmes we work on, civil society organisations therefore lobby towards government stakeholders to implement policies. The focus within the Kapilvastu programme was on services at home and at health facilities, to contribute to healthy pregnancies.

Simavi indicator: # government stakeholders who made a concrete step towards better access and quality of services at home and at health facilities

Source: Kapilvastu programme evaluation (2021)

Data: 45 government stakeholders



Mid-term outcome 2

Powerholders take measures to equally redistribute power and resources

Redistribute power and resources

Power imbalances and inequalities are everywhere, in formal as well as informal relationships, between countries, between civil society actors, between private sector actors and communities, and between groups and people who have resources and those who do not – and also between Simavi and our grantee partners, and between Simavi and our funders. Reducing power inequalities is not just a goal we want to achieve; we are placing it at the heart of what we do. In our work, we aim to analyse and address the power dynamics that occur when women's human rights to water and sanitation are violated. Who are the powerholders in the system and how can they be moved to redistribute their power and resources equally?

How do we do this?

- We reflect on our own positions of power so that we can challenge and break existing power imbalances and work towards more equal and inclusive collaboration with our partners.
- We offer funding, tools and coaching to our civil society organisations partners to support evidence-based advocacy targeting relevant state and non-state actors in positions of power. When local civil society organisations can play their political roles more effectively, they will lead the agenda for change and equality in their country.
- We engage in long-term and collaborative advocacy efforts to build knowledge, change attitudes and influence decision-making that leads to a redistribution of power and resources – be it at the household, local, national or international level.

Powerholders are the people and groups who hold formal or informal decision-making power over other people and groups. Power is situational: someone may be a powerholder in one situation but not in others.



Case study

Programme: **The Learning Spark Fund, part of the More Than Brides Alliance learning programme Making the Most of What We Know**

Country: **Grants to organisations in nine countries**

Partners: **21 organisations**

LEARNING SPARKS NEW INSIGHTS

The Learning Spark Fund aimed to facilitate learning exchanges on child marriage. Community members, researchers, activists and practitioners in the field of child marriage met to reflect on the subject in a series of conversations. Simavi created the space, arranged for the coaching sessions and provided small grants to civil society organisations to bring communities together. The participants, the methods and how these learning exchanges were run were up to the partner organisations.

This approach resulted in a more equitable way of collaborating between partners, with key decisions being made by local civil society organisations. In turn, the participatory and non-extractive learning approaches led to new insights for some of the partners. As one of the organisations participating in the Spark Fund stated: "We always say we have to make room for young people, but often it's like a discourse without us really feeling it, without us really seeing the importance, without us being very convinced. And there [after the programme], we are convinced."

Susan Wilkinson, programme manager at Simavi, reported that key lessons were learned to take forward in our future partnerships. "We thoroughly enjoyed walking next to all 21 partners and using periodic 'check in meetings' to 'think along' around how to create learning exchanges as facilitation of conversations and listening to communities, rather than transferring information and advising on what



Susan Wilkinson

to do, or not do – which for many was more familiar. The significant experience here is that an organisation has to be prepared to put in a lot of effort to play this role, but can also expect to receive much more grant holder appreciation and see considerable impact on how they work with communities."



Case study

Programmes: **Ritu, Watershed, WASH SDG**

Country: **Bangladesh**

Partner: **WaterAid Bangladesh, Simavi, MHM Platform, FANSA, SWA, DORP, UNICEF**

LOBBY FOR AFFORDABLE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

In 2017 WaterAid launched a joint lobby and advocacy effort to improve access to menstrual health products for women and girls in Bangladesh. Working with Bangladeshi civil society organisations networks and the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Platform we carried out a concerted lobby of policy-makers and the National Board of Revenue, backed by an elaborate media campaign. Our earlier research indicated that the duties and taxes on raw imported materials used in the local production of sanitary napkins amounted to a total tax incidence of up to a staggering 127%. Adding in the tax on production and sales taxes for consumers meant that the price of menstrual products remained out of reach for most. The No VAT on Pads campaign eventually led to a 2018 order that exempted value added tax (VAT) on imported raw materials. But our work had only just begun.

The 2019 value added tax and supplementary duty on the import of raw materials for sanitary napkins did not, or only marginally, reduce the consumer price of menstrual products in the shops. This means that it mostly benefitted the producers and distributors, who increased their margins. We continued our advocacy, but now targeting policymakers at the General Economic Division to reduce value added tax and supplementary duty on the production and sale of locally made menstrual pads. In June 2021 the 2021–22 National Budget was approved with a provision exempting locally made sanitary napkins from all taxes. Five years after starting this collaborative journey we have achieved a tangible policy result. It is a step that bolsters our collective hope of removing the key barriers to making menstrual products accessible to all women and girls.

Alok Kumar Majumder, country coordinator, WASH Alliance International for Bangladesh, has been involved throughout the process. "Collaborative advocacy does not end when our programmes end. Initiatives like the MHM Platform, which was set up by Simavi, allow civil society organisations to organise across sectors and speak as a strong united voice. Achieving tangible policy results takes time and is a long-term commitment."



Alok Kumar Majumder



Data

SDG target 10.2

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Ensuring women and girls have access to and control over resources is a key strategy to realise gender equality and reduce inequalities. As part of the WASH & Learn programme our partner civil society organisations train and support women to set-up or strengthen businesses that sell products related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Simavi indicator: # of women-led water, sanitation and hygiene businesses formed/strengthened

Source: WASH & Learn programme monitoring data (2021)

Data: 210 women-led water, sanitation and hygiene businesses



Data

The Mulanje programme focuses on improving menstrual health of girls in Malawi. One key strategy is to train and support women to sell reusable menstrual pads. With that, the programme creates access to menstrual products and a sustainable income for the women involved.

Simavi indicator: average profit made from production and sale of washable sanitary napkins

Source: Mulanje programme end-evaluation (2021)

Data: 440,000 Malawi Kwacha (489 Euro) on average per female entrepreneur in 2021

$$\boxed{\text{K } 440,000} = \boxed{\text{€ } 489}$$

Mid-term outcome 3



Making an effective contribution

Simavi believes that in our programmes and lobby and advocacy activities it is local civil society that should take the lead in bringing about change in their countries and their localities. It is our ambition to develop partnerships with civil society organisations that emphasise the principles of mutuality and respect in decision-making and resource allocation and which facilitate locally-led response and development. By investing in equitable collaboration with partner civil society organisations and in their capacity to play their political roles effectively, we work to empower local civil society to lead the agenda of change in their countries.

How do we do this?

- We ensure that partners are equally involved in the creation of new programmes. We ensure we build on each other's strengths in this process.
- Together with our partners we explore innovative and participatory approaches to identify where human rights to water and sanitation are not being fulfilled and which solutions women and their communities have developed.
- We facilitate learning among the civil society organisations we work with to ensure they have the capacity to implement programmes effectively.



Case study

Programme: **WASH & Learn 3.0**
Country: **Uganda**
Partners: **Simavi and Jese**

INNOVATIVE SUCCESS FORMULA

The WASH & Learn programme is being implemented in Uganda and Tanzania and provides girls, women, schools and communities with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed decisions about issues related to water, sanitation and hygiene. These activities were made difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic. Uganda even had the world's longest school lockdown.

During the programme, the partners identified malnutrition as a key problem to be tackled. Simavi facilitated sessions with the partners on adaptive planning and during one of these sessions kitchen gardening was proposed as a way to make effective use of wastewater. This solution is particularly appropriate as it addresses not only water issues, but also climate resilience and income generation (selling vegetables that are not consumed).

Jese engaged communities through a learning-by-doing approach developed in the programme which included all the households in the communities. The approach was a success. Mrs Birungi Kabooko, a farmer and mother of seven children from Karugaya: "I received knowledge and skills during the training in kitchen gardening and now I grow my own vegetables and I have more money to spend. WASH & Learn has not only transformed my knowledge, attitudes and practices, but also those of the children and the men in the community."

So far the programme has supported kitchen gardens in four villages, reaching more than 2,000 people. The success formula is now being picked up by communities elsewhere.

"I grow my own vegetables and I have more money to spend"



Case study

Programme: **WASH SDG**
Country: **Nepal**
Partners: **Simavi and ENPHO**

GATEWAY TO INCREASED DIGNITY

In the WASH SDG programme ENPHO has facilitated dialogues on addressing community water and sanitation needs. Simavi strongly promotes a community-led approach that provides concrete guidance on how to gain access to appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Tilak Bista (34) lives in Surkhet, Nepal with his wife and two children. They did not have a toilet of their own, which meant they either had to go to their neighbour's house or resort to open defecation. Not having a toilet was affecting the health and well-being of his family. "When guests came to visit my house and I had to send them to someone else's house to use the toilet, I felt very embarrassed." The WASH SDG programme reignited Tilak's

"When I had to send guests to someone else's house to use the toilet, I felt very embarrassed."

dream of having a toilet in his home. ENPHO staff supported Tilak by helping him to design a toilet, providing access to the necessary materials and developing a solid financial plan. Now the family has their own safe sanitation facility, their social status has improved.

The local government was inspired by Tilak's case to support more community members, scaling up the impact beyond the scope of the programme itself. Anil Maharjan of ENPHO says: "The story of Tilak shows that if you provide the right support, everyone can realise their human rights to water and sanitation. There are many households that still do not have a toilet, but I am confident that the local government is able to follow Simavi and ENPHO's approach and make this happen for everyone."



Case study

Programme: **Give Wings to our Girls (Mulanje)**
Country: **Malawi**
Partner: **Hygiene Village Project (HVP)**

RUSHING TO THE GIRLS' CHANGE ROOM

As part of the Mulanje programme, HPV worked with six schools and their surrounding communities to improve menstrual health of girls. At the beginning of the programme the toilets at the schools did not meet any basic requirements, let alone the needs of the students, and there were way too few toilets for girls. Moreover, the available toilets did not have washrooms with facilities for handwashing and did not provide sufficient privacy.

Femiya Magalasi, 13 years old and in standard 8 class of Pasani Primary School, explains how the programme impacted her: "I will never forget the hard times we girls experienced at this school. There were no girls' latrines with facilities to change and dispose of our menstrual materials. I never came to school when I had my period. I missed lessons as I was absent for three to four days a month, which negatively affected my school performance. Now we have sanitation facilities, during my periods I just rush to the girl's change room. Within few minutes I am back in my class feeling comfortable. My school performance has improved and my teacher and parents are proud of me and happy."



Data

SDG indicator 6.2.1:

proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

Simavi indicator: % households with functional and improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities
Source: Kapilvastu programme end-evaluation (2021)
Data: baseline: 31%
end-line: 61%

Simavi indicator: % of girls that use school toilets for changing pads during their menstruation
Source: Mulanje programme end-evaluation (2021)
Data: baseline: 0%
end-line: 83%

Mid-term outcome 4



Effective collaboration

We assume that when partner civil society organisations play their political roles more effectively, they will also be more effective in collaborating with other civil society actors – such as formal and informal organisations, social movements, women, girls and marginalised groups at local, national and international level – to push the human rights to water and sanitation agenda.

How do we work on this?

- We bring civil society actors together in programmes and platforms.
- We increase the capacity of civil society organisations through linking and learning.
- We collaborate with civil society actors on lobby and advocacy.

"The Network for Adolescent Rights plays a vital role in creating more impact and benefits for the women and girls in the Chittagong Hill Tracts"



Case study

Programme: **Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures**
Country: **Bangladesh**
Partner: **BNPS**

MAKING IMPACT TOGETHER

Simavi and BNPS provide financial and technical support to ten local women-led and indigenous-led civil society organisations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This allows them to respond to the needs around sexual and reproductive health and rights of young women and adolescent girls and foster their rights to live free from violence, coercion and discrimination. Civil society organisations are key actors in defending, voicing and promoting women and girls' rights. Simavi and BNPS have provided civil society organisations the space for collaboration, based on the assumption that coordinated action can create greater impact. For example, Simavi and BNPS engage the ten civil society organisations in joint training, joint coaching and support sessions in the areas such as financial management, gender mainstreaming and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Since 2020, at the initiative of the civil society organisations, BNPS has supported the establishment of the Network for Adolescent Rights (NARI), which brings together the ten civil society organisations in the programme and other relevant actors to foster collective efforts on the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights for young women and adolescent girls in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. According to NARI's constitution, "NARI is a platform for solidarity and collective action for establishing a society with dignity and without violence, and will carry out advocacy activities on gender-based violence, breaking silence on Menstrual Health and sexual and reproductive health and rights." According to Dayananda, programme coordinator at ZKS, one of the civil society organisations, "To create a huge impact all over the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, NARI is important for working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, menstrual hygiene management and gender-based violence in the area. After a certain period, NARI will be able to play a vital role in creating more impact and benefits for the women and girls in the Chittagong Hill Tracts." Additionally, as part of the initiative by the local civil society organisations, consultations with the young women engaged as mentors in the programme are being held to inform NARI's propositions. We have learned that collaboration cannot be imposed. The key is to provide the space for organisations themselves to identify where the gaps are and where collaboration can be of value for them.



Case study

Consortium: **WASH Alliance International**
Countries: **Uganda, Bangladesh, Nepal, (Ethiopia)**
Partners: **Nine Dutch partners and 15 civil society organisations in Uganda, Bangladesh and Nepal**

SYNERGY THROUGH COLLABORATION

In December 2009 a group of Netherlands-based water, sanitation and hygiene NGOs decided to join forces to improve the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in Africa and Asia. A joint water, sanitation and hygiene programme was developed and financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented from 2011 to 2016 by the WASH Alliance International, a multinational consortium of over 100 partners.

In 2017 the Alliance entered into partnership with SNV and Plan International Netherlands and formed the WASH SDG Consortium. The WASH Alliance International is implementing sub-programmes in five countries through the WASH SDG Consortium.

Saskia Geling, programme manager at Simavi: "I have been involved in the WASH Alliance since we started in 2009. Each Netherlands-based organisation has its own expertise and network within the water, sanitation and hygiene sector and each has a pool of partner civil society organisations in the countries where we work. This pool of partners collaborate at country level and form local water, sanitation and hygiene alliances who have the specific knowledge and expertise needed to ensure sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene improvement for all in their respective countries. I think that as we all have our own expertise and recognise that, we are constantly learning from each other. We form a strong group. Not only are we making a real impact on the lives of those who need it, but we have also joint voices to lobby the governments of the countries we work in for improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. I'm especially proud of the conclusion of the external evaluation after the first programme in 2015 that 'the WASH Alliance, by bringing local NGOs together into a country alliance, is making a contribution that is far more impactful than the sum of all the individual NGOs working separately.'"



Data

SDG target 17.17:

Encourage effective partnerships

For the Our lives, our health, our future programme in Bangladesh Simavi and BNPS work together with 10 women-led civil society organisations. One of the goals of the programme is to strengthen the collaboration between those organisations.

Simavi indicator: level of coordination and support between local organisations, umbrella organisations, and local stakeholders (specified by # of collaboration in new programme proposals; # of coordination meetings attended outside programme)

Source: Our lives, our health, our futures programme monitoring (2021)

Data:

of collaboration in new programme proposals: 6
of coordination meetings attended outside programme: 89



Data

SDG target 17.17:

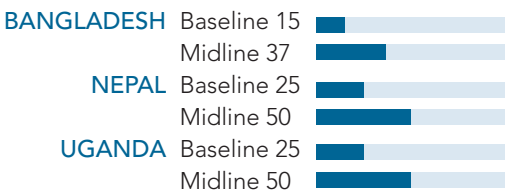
Encourage effective partnerships

Demand-creating strategies can be an effective way to present specific needs from communities to local government stakeholders and to encourage them to take action. For this indicator, we asked stakeholders to score how effective they found demand creating strategies.

Simavi indicator: level of effective demand-creation strategies by local agencies within their areas/ jurisdiction/ programme

Source: WASH SDG baseline (2018) and mid-term review (2021)

Data:



Scores 0 - 100 based on key informant interviews.

Mid-term outcome 5

Civil society actors working on HRWS effectively represent women and girls

Amplifying women and girls' voices

Medium-term outcome 5: Civil society actors working on human rights to water and sanitation effectively represent women and girls.

Women and girls from low resource and climate affected countries and regions are most likely to lack their human rights to water and sanitation. To put this right they need to be better represented and their voices amplified. Civil society actors, including women's networks, have a part to play in this as they are often involved in lobby and advocacy in their countries.

How do we work on this?

- We facilitate linking and learning to make sure that partner civil society organisations can effectively play their political roles.
- We support and work with partner civil society organisations to ensure women and girls become part of decision-making structures.
- We work with civil society organisations to ensure that women and girls are better represented within the broader civil society, influencing other actors to represent women and girls better.



Simon Peter Sekuma



Case study

Programme: **WASH SDG**
Country: **Uganda**
Partner: **NETWAS**

COMMUNITY SCORECARDS

Network for Water and Sanitation (NETWAS) provides water, sanitation and hygiene services and has been a partner of Simavi since 2013. NETWAS uses various tools and approaches to advocate human rights to water and sanitation for women, children and people with disabilities. One of these is the community scorecard method in which communities rate the availability of water, sanitation and hygiene services. Communities can then use this information when approaching local governments for support and advocating the development of action plans.

Simon Peter Sekuma, knowledge management & learning officer at NETWAS, was asked how their collaboration with Simavi enables their work on human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls. "With support from Simavi, we have become fluent in these approaches. For instance, NETWAS worked with the communities and their sub-county leaders in Patongo Sub-county to rank the services they receive from government and other water, sanitation and hygiene service providers on community scorecards. This enabled them to assess and prioritise their needs, which included the low representation of women on water user committees. Action plans were prepared and followed up by NETWAS to ensure their effective implementation, which has led to positive results."

As a result of the work of NETWAS, the number of women in leadership positions on water committees increased from 3% in November 2020 to 60% in 2021. Women have taken on the positions of treasurer, secretary and chair for sub-county water boards and water user committees (WUCs). Their involvement has led to a rise in monthly water user fee collections to 95%. This inspired the sub-county government to follow up with other WUCs that do not yet have women in key positions.

"As a result the number of women in leadership positions on water committees increased from 3% to 60%"



Case study

Programme: **WASH SDG**
Country: **Uganda**
Partner: **NETWAS**

BECOMING A MENTOR

Awilly Sidonia, Lapere North village in Uganda, now has a two-stance latrine in her homestead; one for her son who has a disability and the other for her and other household members. She began to appreciate the importance of using latrine facilities and the benefits during sensitisation sessions on open defecation by local civil society organisations. "Before the interventions in 2020 we were defecating everywhere around our homes," she says. "We kept bushes to hide in and used to get diarrhoea now and then. Our homes were smelly, but now we feel the fresh air and can confidently receive visitors. We are much healthier because we have latrines."

Awilly is so pleased with the benefits for her household, she now gives advice to other households on why latrines should be built and how to use them effectively. People now turn to her for any water, sanitation and hygiene related issues in her own village and in the surrounding villages. One example is when local organisations noticed that a substantial number of children still practised open defecation. Awilly explains: "In Lapere North village, children under the age of five don't use the latrine. They defecate openly in the compound and their faeces are picked up by the parents and disposed of in the latrine. When parents, or the designated caretakers, do not properly monitor the children and clean up after them the places they use become open defecation spots. But now children over six receive instruction and are trained in how to use latrines properly."



Awilly Sidonia



Data

SDG target 5.5:

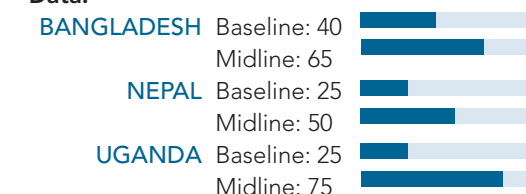
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Although women and girls are the main users of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, they are often not involved in decision-making about these services. The WASH SDG programme works with women and girls and WASH committees to ensure their active participation in decision-making.

Simavi indicator: level of participation of women and girls in decision-making about water, sanitation and hygiene activities in the communities

Source: WASH SDG baseline (2018) and mid-term review (2021)

Data:



Data

SDG target 5.5:

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. When they are part of a meeting this does not necessarily mean that women and girls feel respected or can take part in decision-making. For the WASH SDG programme, we asked women if they experienced respect when attending meetings.

Simavi indicator: level of respect that women experience when attending public/ community meetings

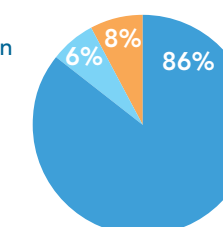
Source: WASH SDG baseline (2018) and mid-term review Bangladesh (2021)

Data:

"Did you feel respected when attending this meeting?"

- yes
- sometimes
- no

Total of 486 respondents



Reflections on our work

What we have learned about the key ingredients for impact

Simavi ended four major programmes in 2020: Get Up Speak Out, Golden Line, Marriage: No Child's Play from the More Than Brides Alliance, and Watershed. Closing programmes is always bittersweet: we step back to see the impact of our work, but it also means the end of partnerships and teams we have invested in for a number of years.

3 cross-cutting lessons learned

1. Understanding and reiterating our added value in larger consortia. Simavi is not always the largest organisation in the consortia it takes part in. If we work with larger and/or international organisations our work can be overshadowed. It helps to clearly position ourselves in consortia like these, to define what our strengths are and how we can better communicate that to our partners and the world at large.
2. Redoubling our efforts on working with a women-centred approach. Through our women-centred approach we have the ambition to involve women in every aspect of the programme. As a result, we see that when women are empowered to make a change this has a large impact on the community as a whole. This is something that we not only believe in, but we have seen this approach work in various programmes and contexts.
3. Bringing in locally-led civil society organisations from the start. The learnings from the different programmes have led us to conclude that locally-led civil society partners need to be brought in earlier. They need to be part of programme development and build relationships with the donors – and not just be implementers. We need to stop being intermediaries between donors and the local organisations.



Lesson learned

Programme: **Marriage: No Child's Play (MNCP)**
Countries: **Malawi, India (Pakistan, Niger and Mali)**
Partners: **Save the Children Netherlands, Oxfam Novib, Population Council, GENET, YONECO, VHAI, NEEDS, CINI, BVHA**

PUTTING WOMEN IN THE CENTRE

Marriage: No Child's Play focused on ensuring that young people are able to decide if and when to marry, and to pursue their sexual and reproductive health and rights in an environment that is supportive of girls' choices, initiative and empowerment.

The learnings from this programme informed our decision to redouble our efforts to work with a women-centred approach. Putting girls at the centre of the programme – by empowering them, giving them a platform from which to speak out and putting them in the driving seat when decisions are made that affect their lives – made a visible difference.

The programme was designed around girls. Simavi and partners trained 29,535 girls on topics around sexual and reproductive health and rights, child marriage, communication and leadership skills. Girls' groups were formed to create safe spaces to learn, share and practise their newly acquired skills. The girls were provided with a platform where they could voice their needs and priorities. They let their voices be heard by submitting a charter of demands to government officials and through campaigns, rallies and creative programmes. They were actively involved in different social structures, such as school management committees, village health committees, child protection committees and student governments, and as such were often themselves the drivers of change in the social processes in their lives.

Sanji Marandi, peer educator, Jharkhand, India: "I can now talk in a room of a hundred people, if needed. I could never have imagined that before."

Learn more about the programme and all of its results at: <https://morethanbrides.org/>

Jenipher Somanje – who went through a very painful abortion has turned her negative experience into something positive as a sexual and reproductive health worker – Malawi



Lesson learned

Programme: **Get Up, Speak Out**
Countries: **Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Indonesia (Pakistan, Ethiopia, Malawi)**
Partners: **Rutgers, IPPF, Choice, Aidsfonds, Dance4Life, IHAP, KMET, CSA, ADS, TICH, NORSAC, HFFG, CAVWOC, PHIP, YONECO, SRHR Alliance Uganda**

A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH

Get Up, Speak Out was a large sexual health and reproductive rights programme that focused on youth rights. The results overall were mixed, but positive, and the consortium walked away with valuable lessons learned. Some learnings from this programme are that a multi-component approach is more effective than just focusing on service delivery or education alone. You need to be able to take a holistic approach in a community and address needs, services and education around a topic. It is not sufficient to just tell people about condoms; you have to make sure that they can also find them and use them if they want to.

Changing gender norms is hard and requires time

We see that changing gender norms is hard and requires time. Deep rooted cultural beliefs and myths tell young people what they should and should not be (i.e. women bear children and run a household, while men work). These are pervasive and ingrained stereotypes that are not easily changed or replaced. Despite being the main focus of this programme, we saw little real change in this area.

Finally, context matters. As in all the programmes Simavi is a part of, there is no one-size-fits-all solution that works everywhere. What works in Kenya will not always work in Uganda or Pakistan. We need to make sure that even with the same goals we take each community we are working in independently. We need to understand the community and tailor the work we do to the people we are trying to serve.

Learn more about the findings and activities in each country: www.getupspeakout.org/

Lesson learned

Programme: **Golden Line**
 Countries: **Ghana and Tanzania**
 Partners: **Simavi, Solidaridad, Healthy Entrepreneurs, HFFG, WPC, UMATI, and PRS&D**

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Golden Line focused on the social and economic empowerment of women living in artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities in Ghana and Tanzania. The programme established Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and business skills training to help build social and economic support for the women in these communities. At the same time it supported community-driven gender discussions to get men involved in financial planning and address gender inequalities and sexual and gender-based violence.

Overall, this was a strong partnership and programme. Despite major challenges in persuading governments to pass appropriate legislation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was flexible, innovative and persistent. In the future, we want to find more ways to bring youth into these types of programmes and provide people with information and savings mechanisms earlier on. As in other programmes, we saw that it takes time for people to change their behaviour. Their level of understanding increased considerably during the course of the programme, but they were much slower to actually change their behaviour or take action. Knowing is only half the battle.

Helena Orbi-Yeboah: "Besides more insight into the importance of education, the introduction of VSLAs by the Golden Line helped a lot. Some women lack the know-how to save money.



Golden Line, Fatima, Ghana



Golden Line, Felista, Tanzania

"It's time for women to fight for their rights"

Savings, whatever the amount, can help women to start up a business, even if just for selling oranges. When talking about the benefits of the Golden Line programme, I cannot ignore human rights and men playing an active role in everything. Men have been cheating us for so long; it's time for women to fight for their rights. Still, most women in my community have not yet joined a VSLA group. I therefore ask you to give us more materials so we can engage more women."

Learn more about the programme and all of its results: www.thegoldenline.org

Lesson learned

Programme: **Watershed: Empowering Citizens**
 Countries: **Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Bangladesh, Netherlands, International (Mali and India)**
 Partners: **IRC WASH, Simavi, Wetlands International, Akvo, HFFG, KEWASNET, KWAHO, NIA, Caritas Fort Portal – HEWASA, ANEW, DORP, WaterAid Bangladesh, GWA**

AMPLIFYING VOICES

The Watershed programme aimed to support civil society organisations in the use of advocacy-based approaches to deliver changes in policy and practice in water, sanitation and hygiene and water resource management. Although this innovative five-year programme ended in 2020, the remarkable network of international and local civil society organisations that benefitted from it continued working together and in the first quarter of 2021 joined forces in a global campaign called Voices for Water (<https://voicesforwater.watershed.nl/en/>).

Here is how Mercy Amokwandoh from HFFG looked back on her involvement in the Watershed programme during this campaign:

"My name is Mercy. I love working for women and children and giving support to communities in developing their own plans and implementing them. I work with an NGO in Ghana. I see people struggling with basic health issues. I try to help them. When I look back at how we started, it feels good. The steps we took in confronting local government yielded something great. The most impressive moment was when people realised 'the assembly is there for us.' We now know how to approach them and get our issues solved. My wish for the future? To see a lot of young people and community members talking about water themselves. A society where getting clean water and sanitation is based on human rights, not on policies. Where everybody can get up and say, 'I am okay with the water I have.'"

The learnings and knowledge products developed by Watershed programme can be found on the website: www.watershed.nl



Mercy Amokwandoh

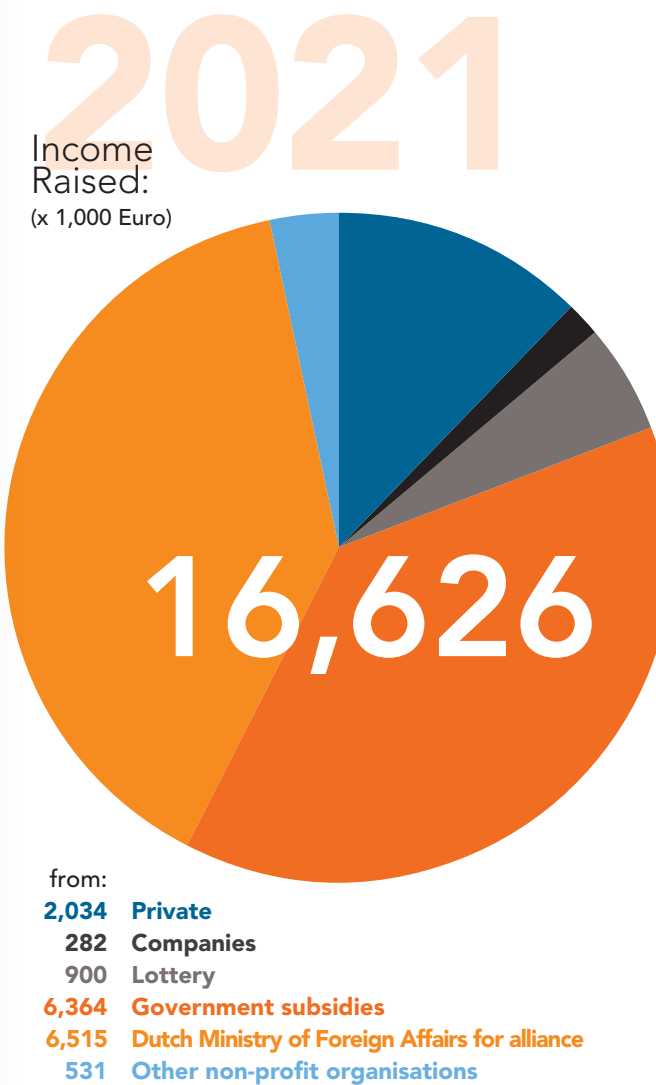
chapter three

Our organisation

To successfully implement programmes and other activities, our organisation needs to run smoothly. In this chapter we present the status and changes in terms of our finances, fundraising, people, leadership and integrity.



Ggirls are relaxing before or after participating in the girls club that aims to empower girls on the topic of sexual and reproductive health and rights - Khagrachori, Nepal.



INCOME FROM: (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Private individuals	2,034	1,337	2,565
Companies	282	350	367
Lottery organisation	900	900	900
Government subsidies	6,364	7,728	9,297
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	6,515	9,847	14,067
Other non-profit organisations	531	655	354
Total Income raised	16,626	20,817	27,550

For further details about Simavi's income, please refer to the Annual Accounts (Chapter six, to be found at simavi.nl/AR2021)

Where does our money come from?

We are proud of every euro invested in our work. In 2021 Simavi generated an income of €16.6 million. Income from private individuals amounted to €2.0 million, some €0.7 million more than budgeted. This additional amount consists mainly of revenues from legacies and bequests, which was not budgeted due to the uncertainty of such income. Revenue from lotteries, companies and non-profit organisations amounted to €1.7 million, €0.2 million under budget, which is mainly due to lower income than expected from events because of the ongoing pandemic. Government subsidies made up €12.9 million of our income, €4.7 million less than budgeted, due mainly to the lower level of activities (again related to the pandemic) and the timing difference between receipts and transfers of funds for alliance partners.

Government subsidies include grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governments. Of the total amount of €12.9 million, €6.5 million was received by Simavi as the lead agent of several alliances. This amount was paid out directly to the consortium partners.

Fundraising in 2021

Raising funds to help us realise our impact is a continuous and ever-changing task and we are always on the look-out for new opportunities and ways to diversify our funding.

Our four main fundraising priorities in 2021 were to:

- Increase our visibility with potential donors.
- Diversify our donor base and explore new types of partnerships.
- Increase revenue from our Dutch constituency by intensifying our relationships with individual donors, the Dutch private sector and Dutch foundations.
- Explore new ways to raise funds.

Fundraising activities

The Covid pandemic limited our ability to meet new donors and present the great work we are doing. Nevertheless, we still managed to obtain €1.5 million, from new partners as well as from our longstanding partners like the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

Foundations and corporate partners

Our business partners Made Blue and Doppler continued their long-term commitment to giving women and girls in Nepal access to safe drinking water. We were also able to create new partnerships, such as our successful collaboration with Henkel which gave Simavi a high visibility platform in Hoogvliet supermarkets. In addition, we worked on developing new flagship programmes that will support our fundraising initiatives for the coming years. HER film festival also brought our partners together after such a long time and we could finally meet each other again in person. It was wonderful to feel the passion for Simavi's work and the support for our message.

Unrestricted funds

In 2021 we received financial support from more than 42,500 private donors. Gross turnover from private donors has been almost stable at around €1.7 million.

Individual donors are of great importance to Simavi. The financial support given by more than 40,000 people in the Netherlands funds a big part of our daily work. But their engagement means more than just that; they also strengthen our visibility and are a powerful voice in spreading the message.



Fernando van der Brug



FERNANDO VAN DER BRUG, director of private fundraising:

"Unfortunately, the year 2021 was again dominated by many challenges around the COVID-19 measures, which have put a lot of pressure on shaping personal relationships with our supporters. The outbreak of the pandemic meant that for many of our loyal supporters face-to-face meeting were out of the question. We hope that from 2022 we can again meet our many Simavi supporters and reconnect in person."

Zelda van Laar



Growth through decline

In 2021 we saw a decline in our income from direct mail as a result of a shift in our fundraising strategy. We reduced our direct mail programme by half so that we could invest in more solid long-term relationships with our supporters. Reducing our financial asks throughout the year opened up opportunities to ask people to contribute in other ways, like joining our campaigns and our film festival. We invested more in attracting a new and younger audience and increasing our supporter base through appealing public campaigns and other engaging activities.

Zelda van Laar, Fundraiser: "We are convinced that we must build a strong Simavi movement – people who, like us, feel the need to give financial support to combat the water crisis, but also want to raise a strong voice towards governments and companies to demand their accountability. A strong and dynamic movement is a powerful tool to push for more impact on all levels. To achieve this, we will be more activist and focus on campaigns in the coming years."

In 2021 we welcomed more structural donors to our supporter base, and we will continue to invest in persuading people to move from a pledge to making a long-term financial commitment. Our strategic shift should result in growth in our financial and supporter base within the next couple of years, resulting in a healthier and committed relationship with the people that support our mission with their money, their voices and their time.

Powerful stage

We have shifted our focus towards an engagement programme in which our public campaigns are geared to engaging our loyal and new supporters over the longer term. In our two main campaigns in 2021 – A Bloody Important Message and HER Film Festival – we engaged with more than 30,000 new Simavi fans, resulting in more than 600 people becoming financial supporters.

Hanna Verboom, director of Cinetree: "What I love about Simavi is that they are willing to think out of the box and create themes that are important to them in an accessible way. With HER film festival we could really look at a form in which we connect women worldwide, on the one hand by telling their stories and on the other hand by creating a stage where they can learn from each other."

Through our HER film festival we want to show that the power of a stage can start other forms of collaboration. Films like Adam (about unplanned pregnancy) and Vlekkeloos (about menstruation) are a starting point for meaningful discussions about the position of women and initiate a ripple effect, influencing people to take action for change. We want to make this stage even bigger, not only in the Netherlands but also abroad.



Hanna Verboom

A legacy for future generations

More than a quarter of our income from private donors comes from legacies. We are very grateful that so many people add Simavi to their will, and it is an honour to work in their spirit. In 2021 we received €528K from legacies. This income will be allocated to invest in impact programmes, resulting in a healthier future for thousands of women and girls in Africa and Asia.

Children are our future

One of our core pillars for engaging with a broader audience – especially with children – is our Walking for Water event. For over twenty years, Walking for Water has been a leading event that involves primary school children in an educative programme in which they learn about water. The COVID-19 measures presented many schools with a considerable challenge last year, which reduced participation from levels in previous years.

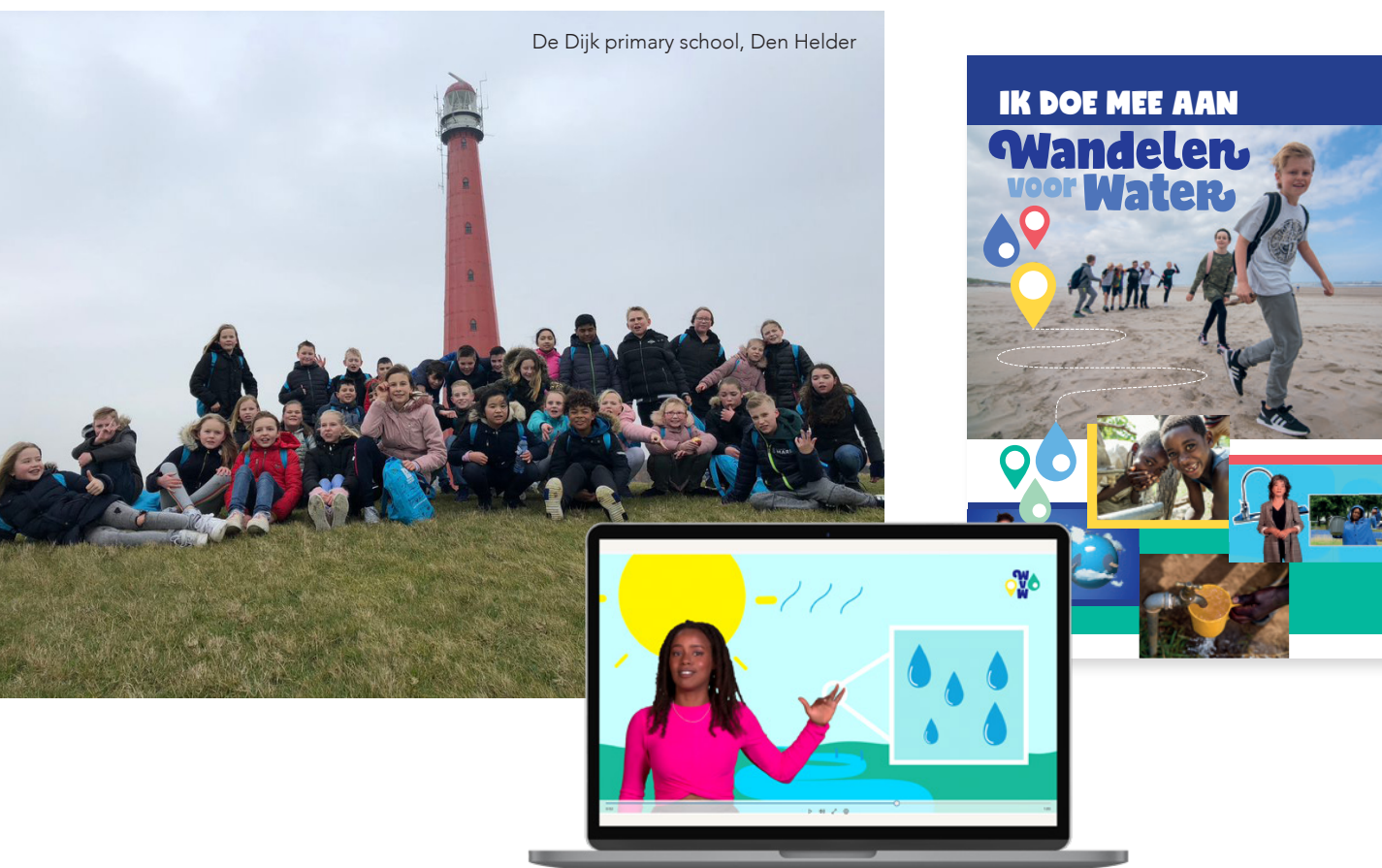
Simavi took this opportunity to redesign the school programme and digitise most of the elements, providing teachers with a more future-proof programme for them and the children. We will continue to invest in this programme because we strongly believe engaging children at primary school age is crucial to raising awareness of water issues among future generations.

Even though COVID-19 has negatively impacted the commitment from schools, we received over €170K from fundraising activities in 2021, in which about 10,000 children took part. This was much less than the €400K we budgeted for, but with the effects of the pandemic in mind we are more than pleased with the outcome.

Martijn Brand, group-7 teacher, De Dijk primary school, Den Helder: "Walking for Water is instructive, clear and well organised. The guest lessons are fun and educational. The programme ensures that children are more aware of their own water use, and they are also committed to raising funds for children in Uganda and Tanzania who normally cannot get clean drinking water at school."

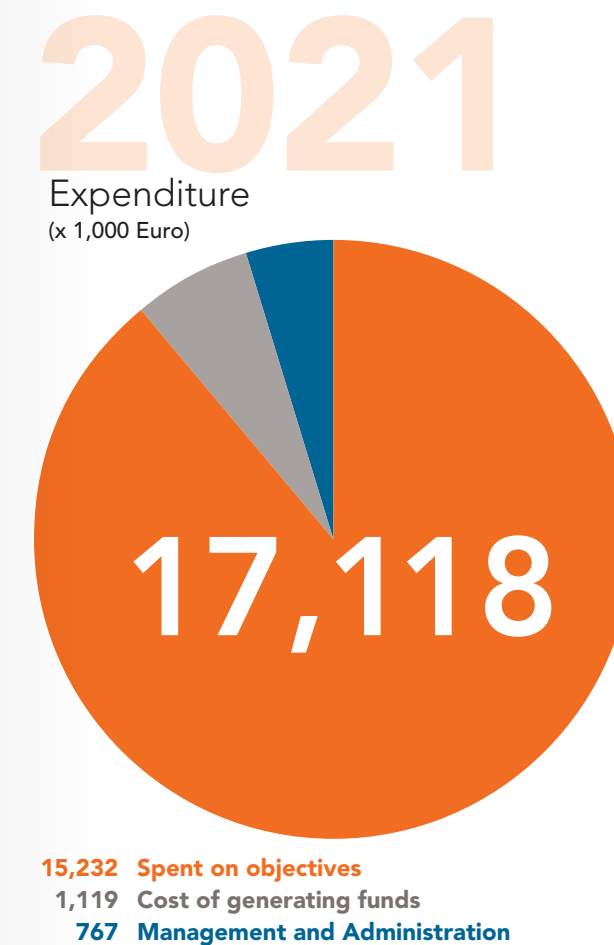
Gratitude

Ariette Brouwer: "The personal and professional relationships we have with our donors are deep and warm. We see them as true partnerships in which we work together to achieve our mutual objective: empowerment of women and girls to safeguard their access to water and sanitation. While the major grants allow us to design and implement big programmes, the unrestricted funds are just as vital for running our organisation, investing in programme quality and fundraising campaigns, and for the opportunity to initiate important learning programmes."



How do we spend our money?

Simavi's result for the 2021 financial year was €522K negative (2020: €559K positive). Our budgeted result was a negative amount of €1,596K. The favourable difference mainly stems from the income from legacies and bequests, which were not budgeted given the uncertainty of such income.



EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Total spent on objectives	15,232	20,285	25,213
Total cost of generating funds	1,119	1,382	1,049
Total Management & Administration costs	767	721	729
Total Expenditure	17,118	22,388	26,991

Spent on objectives

In 2021 Simavi spent a total of €15.2 million (2020: €25.2 million) on our objectives, €5.1 million lower than budgeted. This was mainly due to the reduced number of activities as a consequence of the ongoing pandemic and the timing difference between receipts and transfers of payments for alliance partners.

In 2021, the ratio of Simavi's total expenditure on objectives to its total income was 91.6% (2020: 91.5%). We strive to spend at least 90% of our income on our objectives.

EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTIVES (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Total Income	16,626	20,817	27,550
Total Expenditure	17,118	22,388	26,991
Total spent on objectives	15,232	20,285	25,213
% total spent on objective/total income	91.6%	97.4%	91.5%

Non-objective expenditure

Simavi needs to invest to generate funds and incurs management and administration costs to ensure its continuity and proper operation. We are committed to strict control of these costs. Simavi uses two cost indicators to monitor its non-objective expenditure:

- the cost of generating funds, expressed as a percentage of the total income raised;
- management and administration costs, expressed as a percentage of total expenditure.

The percentage cost of generating funds has increased to 6.7% (2020: 3.8%). This increase is a result of the lower level of income realised. In monetary terms the costs are almost stable. Our total management and administration costs were 4.5% of our total expenditure (2020: 2.7%). This increase is also attributable to the lower total expenditure in 2021.

NON-OBJECTIVE EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Cost of generating funds	1,119	1,382	1,049
Total Income raised	16,626	20,817	27,550
% of generating funds	6.7%	6.6%	3.8%
Total Management & administration cost	767	721	729
Total Expenditure	27,118	22,388	26,991
% total M&A costs /total expenditure	4.5%	3.2%	2.7%

Accountability

Simavi's accounts for the financial year 2021, which form an integral part of this Impact Report, have been prepared in accordance with the Dutch Accounting Standard for Fundraising Institutions (RJ 650). They were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V., who expressed an unqualified audit opinion on Simavi's financial statements. PricewaterhouseCoopers performs no non-auditing tasks for Simavi. Audit reports are discussed by the supervisory board's audit committee in a meeting with the auditors, which is also attended by Simavi's managing director and its director of finance and operations. The supervisory board has approved Simavi's annual report and accounts for 2021.



Women discussing community scorecard results, WASH SDG programme Bangladesh

"Our risk management guidelines help us to scrutinise risks, optimise our decision-making and safeguard our operations"

Safeguarding our operations

As an organisation that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship and that depends on subsidies, donations and partnerships, Simavi encounters risks.

It is safe to say that the ongoing pandemic can impact any organisation in unforeseeable ways, which underlines the need to safeguard our operations. We are committed to managing risks as an integral part of our operations, focusing on strategies that shield Simavi's mission and objectives from harm. Our risk management framework and guidelines help us to systematically scrutinise risks, optimise our decision-making and safeguard our operations.

Programmatic risks

Programme implementation is Simavi's core activity. This entails several aspects of risk that might jeopardise the execution of programmes or the outcomes to be achieved, such as integrity issues, fraudulent partners, substandard partner performance and security, activities that are not rolled out according to plan or that do not adhere to our quality standards, and safety or health incidents. A clear example of this is the pandemic we are still experiencing, but its effects on implementation have been considerably mitigated by flexibility in programme execution and creative solutions.

In doing our work we cannot avoid taking risks. This is acceptable, provided we are aware of these risks and can manage them without jeopardising our continuity and goal. Overall, Simavi's risk tolerance is moderate. We have put several preventive controls in place to reduce the likelihood of a risk occurring and to mitigate the consequences if it does. Clear internal policies on integrity, compliance and sanctions, the systematic screening of existing and new partners, and a safety and security policy are examples of these controls. Furthermore, we continue to work with partners to ensure their effectiveness, high performance and good governance.

Organisational risks

Simavi is highly dependent on its employees and systems to achieve its goals and objectives. Inherent organisational risks are associated with data security, the availability of qualified staff and maintaining well-functioning information systems. Simavi's organisational risk tolerance is low.

HUMAN RESOURCES

We are committed to responsible human resources management and have enacted policies to safeguard

our employees' health and safety. Our ISO-certified quality management system is an important means of ensuring the controlled and reliable execution of Simavi's operations and mitigating the associated risks.

DATA SECURITY

Data security, both from a cybercrime and privacy point of view, is critical to our operations. Simavi uses the Windows 365 cloud platform which provides flexibility and security. Simavi continuously stresses the importance of data security to its staff, as their alertness and caution is critical.

Financial risks

Fluctuations in income are Simavi's main financial risk. Our financial risk tolerance is low: drastic changes could not only significantly affect individual programme continuity, but also the organisation as a whole.

FUNDING

Simavi continues to diversify its fundraising strategies in order to spread income sources and thus financial risk. To secure funding we make significant efforts to maintain good relationships with the private sector, institutional partners and governments. Funds from these donors constitute a large part of our income, but are mostly earmarked for programmes.

CURRENCY

Simavi's international operations entail some currency risks. To mitigate these risks Simavi strives to contract and commit only in euros. However, this shifts the risk of exchange rate losses onto our partners. Programme staff work with our implementing partners to ensure potential losses are taken into account in biannual budget updates. Some contracts, however, are denominated in US dollars. The resulting risk is sufficiently hedged by keeping liquidity in US dollars that matches the US dollar obligations we have under these contracts.

INSURANCE

Simavi mitigates the financial risks arising from fire, burglary, accidents and liabilities through insurance. Simavi maintains a very strict treasury policy. Excess funds may only be placed in interest-bearing savings and deposit accounts with Dutch banks. The funds are spread over several banks to further minimise our exposure to credit risk.

Reputational risks

For an organisation like Simavi, a good reputation is essential, but at the same time it is fragile. Any incident may pose a real threat to Simavi's reputation and thus affect its ability to achieve its goals and objectives, and even its continuity.

Many factors can damage Simavi's reputation: inconsistent, incomplete, incorrect, low quality or uncontrolled communication (online and offline); lack of transparency; involvement in controversial issues or debates; bad press; ethics and integrity issues; incidents in the fundraising or civil society sector; and environmental incidents. Our reputational risk tolerance is low, as these risks may affect people's trust in Simavi, our partners and the people we work with, and eventually reduce the donations and funding we need to achieve our goals.

To mitigate reputational risk, Simavi endeavours to communicate openly and with a positive tone. We seek not to be provocative, but focus on constructive, transparent and positive messaging.

Our financial health

Simavi's financial position is sound and sufficient to ensure continuity. Although sufficient funding is contracted for all our budgeted programmes, donor commitments are not irrevocable. For this reason, Simavi maintains a continuity reserve. We have estimated the need to cover six to nine months of operational expenditure, which will enable us to either regain sufficient funding or properly shut down or restructure our active programmes. Our continuity reserve meets this criterion and amounted to €2,336K at year-end 2021.

On 31 December 2021 our total cash balance was €7,490K. This balance consists mainly of the amounts we have received in advance to be spent on programmes in the coming year. It also covers our continuity reserve and our earmarked funds and reserves.

Please refer to the explanatory notes to the Annual Accounts for more information on our financial status. (Chapter six, to be found at [simavi.nl /AR2021-A2](https://simavi.nl/AR2021-A2))

Our people

Our colleagues work from all over the world. 45 (40.87 full time employees) of them are based in the Netherlands and we have 17 colleagues in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and Tanzania.

How do our employees feel?

We conduct an employee satisfaction survey each year. The April 2021 survey showed a slight fall in general satisfaction ratings, which we can partly attribute to the COVID-19 lockdown measures. On a scale of 1 to 10, the overall average score for all questions was 7.3. This average is 0.2 lower than in 2020 and 2019, but considering the need to work from home due to the pandemic, this was a very good result. In general, the enforced working from home is detrimental to the well-being of our employees.

In 2021, we introduced online coffee breaks during the organisation-wide weekly catch-ups to optimise personal contact and colleagueship. Other initiatives to promote employee engagement and colleagueship include yoga, workouts, get-togethers with drinks, outings and lunch/coffee breaks. To monitor employee well-being, we continued the six-weekly Happy & Healthy Survey introduced in 2020.

15

new employees started work at our offices:

11 in Amsterdam,
2 in Uganda,
1 in Bangladesh,
and **1** in Tanzania

We continued our

Happy & Healthy

survey, which is held every six weeks to keep in contact, even after lockdowns

We start every week with a global online meeting called the **walky talky**, including online coffee breakouts, to stay in touch with all employees around the globe

The average sickness absence rate at our office in Amsterdam was

5.6%

Simavi's employee representative body (ERB) consists of four elected employees. The ERB flags and discusses issues that are important to Simavi and its employees and advises the management on the employees' behalf. The ERB met four times in 2021. Among other things, the ERB was consulted on dealing with the effects of the pandemic and on the hybrid working policy. The ERB also raised the issue of the position of Simavi's colleagues abroad and how to include them more closely within the team and our work policies, as far as that is possible under the options available to Simavi.

Agile organisation

Simavi uses a circles-based, agile organisation model. Each employee is typically a member of one circle, but can join several circles and take up different roles that match their talents and expertise with the needs of the organisation. The ambition is to have decision-making at the lowest possible level in the organisation. This organisational model empowers our staff and allows for more flexibility and rapid response.

The organisation is grouped into eight functional circles, each with a specific purpose. In 2021 the circles were grouped into three clusters and a separate circle consisting of the executive board. This was done to better reflect the size of the organisation with a smaller management team, but it did create an additional level in the organisational structure.

CLUSTER 1: FUNDRAISING AND ENGAGEMENT

Partnership Development builds strategic partnerships and develops impactful programmes which are ready for implementation, in line with Simavi's mission and Theory of Change. These programmes are backed by committed donors and business and other partners. Lobby and advocacy ensure political will and financial support for Simavi's programmes and priorities.

Private Fundraising engages the Dutch public financially and emotionally with Simavi's work. The main focus is on direct marketing and events.

Marketing & Communication shows our audiences that Simavi's work changes the lives of women and girls in order to gain further support for our work, financial or otherwise.

CLUSTER 2: PROGRAMMES

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning led the development and roll out of Simavi's new Theory of Change in 2021. This circle makes sure programmes are impact-oriented and contribute to the impact as formulated in the Theory of Change and the programme objectives, leads on monitoring and evaluation, and ensures that the lessons learned are incorporated into all our current and future work.

Programme Implementation executes ongoing and

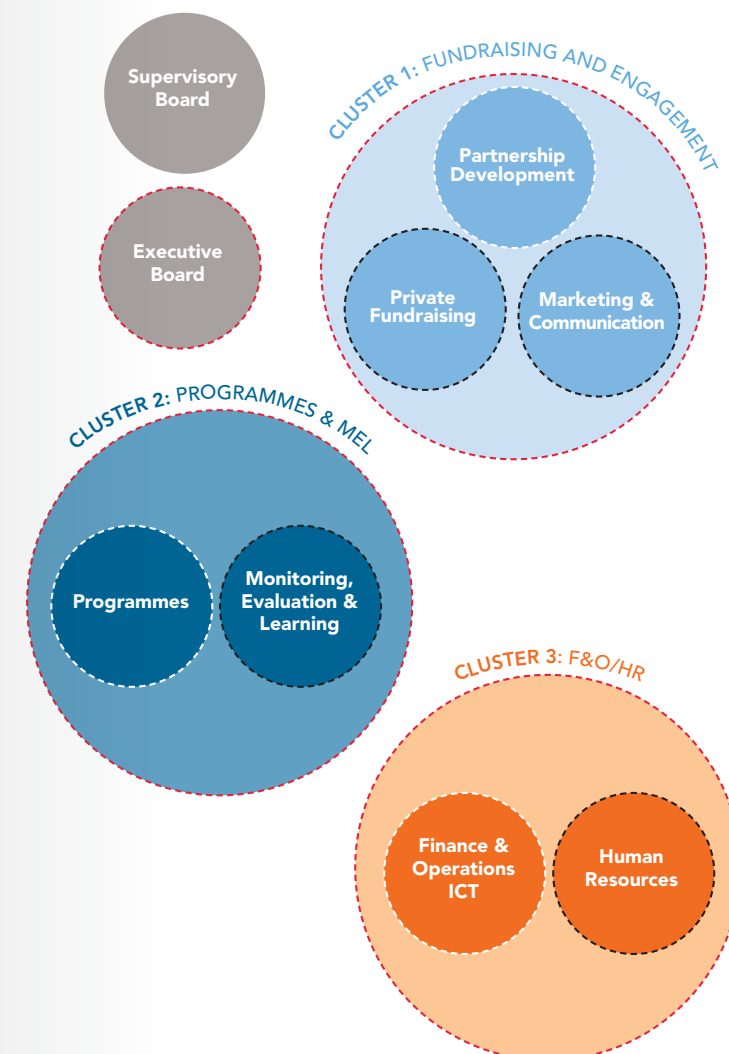
new programmes in such a way that each of them leads to maximum impact in order for women to pursue their right to water and sanitation in line with Simavi's vision, mission and Theory of Change.

CLUSTER 3: F&O/HR

Human Resources ensures that sufficient, qualified and motivated personnel (national and international staff, volunteers and interns) are available to run professional and sustainable operations.

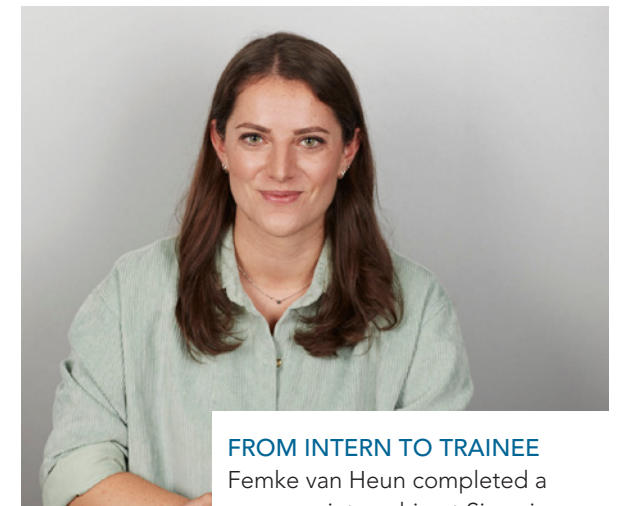
Finance & Operations creates a professional and sustainable work environment for Simavi staff, ensures that financial planning and control activities are executed accurately and in a timely fashion to ensure adequate operation of the organisation, and ensures the availability and smooth running of all ICT systems and the required quality of working methods and processes.

Executive Board provides strategic direction and makes sure all resources are available and sufficiently enabled to achieve Simavi's vision and mission.



Volunteers and interns

People who work at Simavi on a voluntary basis for at least four days per month are offered a volunteer contract that sets out their rights and obligations. We make verbal agreements with all our other volunteers. All our circles greatly enjoy working with the volunteers and interns who support our employees. Interns are given a chance to learn valuable skills for their future employment, which for Simavi is also a part of contributing to qualitative work being conducted in the development sector. Both interns and volunteers are highly valued; they help us achieve our ambitions and are an important part of the Simavi team.



FROM INTERN TO TRAINEE

Femke van Heun completed a one-year internship at Simavi and is now working at Simavi as a knowledge management and learning officer through the AMID Traineeship Programme of Radboud University. "The favourite part of my internship was getting to know a lot of different people at Simavi. I worked with programme managers and monitoring, evaluation and learning advisers in both the Netherlands and abroad. I've learned a lot from their different ways of working and expertise regarding menstrual health, gender and climate issues. Throughout my internship I've been involved in a lot of inspiring brainstorm sessions about menstrual health and international development in general! For me, this also demonstrated how the knowledge and motivation of Simavi colleagues contributes to the quality of Simavi's work towards empowering women and girls."

"My favourite part was getting to know a lot of different people at Simavi"

Leadership

Simavi has a two-tier board. The supervisory board oversees the good governance of the organisation. The managing director, Ariette Brouwer, is appraised by the supervisory board.

The supervisory board is the managing director's employer and supervisor and acts as her adviser. The managing director is ultimately responsible for Simavi's strategy and operations, the decisions made and the results achieved. The board itself has no managerial or operational tasks.

Our supervisory board

We are proud to have a strong group of people, with diverse backgrounds and talents, steering our organisation in the right direction.

Michiel de Wilde, chair, remuneration committee, strategy committee

Strategy and organisation, international development, corporate social responsibility, donor relationships
Director Eyes on the Prize BV – a consultancy in the area of CSO strategy and impact management

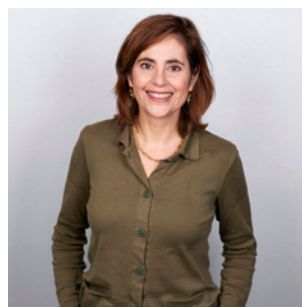
Other ancillary positions: Chairman of the board of Vrijzinnig-Christelijk Lyceum (The Hague)

Joyce Brown, vice-chair

Global health, maternal health, epidemiology
Assistant Professor, UMC Utrecht
Other ancillary positions: Founder/Organiser of Dutch Global Health Film Festival, Advisory Board member 'Expertise Centrum Kinderen en Adolescenten Nieuw in Nederland', Chair board 'Kennisconnectors global health' (April 2022 onwards)

Willem van de Put

International health development
Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp
Other ancillary positions: Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University (New York); Co-founder/Director of Culture-4Change Member 'Migratiebeleid', informal group in search for improved migration policies in NL; member Utrecht Africare, 4 healthcare institutions and 2 training courses building sustainable collaboration for circular migration of human resources for health as 'brain gain'. Coordinator Mental Health Working Group at Because-Health, Belgium



Vera Arnoldus (as from March 2021) audit committee

Legal, governance
Corporate Secretary, Atalmedial



Hans Valkenburg audit committee

Planning & Control, Theory of Change, international development, poverty alleviation, journalism
Self-employed consultant on finance, strategy and planning
Other ancillary positions: Non-executive member of the board of Tear; Member of the supervisory board of Holland Zorggroep



Jeroen Wels, remuneration committee, strategy committee

Human Resources Management
Executive Vice-President Human Resources, Unilever

How much does the managing director earn?

Our supervisory board has determined the managing director's compensation package in line with the guidelines for directors' salaries at charitable organisations issued by Goede Doelen Nederland. In 2021, the managing director's remuneration amounted to €107,706 (gross salary). In accordance with the standards set by Goede Doelen Nederland, Simavi does not pay bonuses to its managing director or any other employee.



CATCHING UP WITH...

VERA ARNOLDUS, Corporate Secretary at Atalmedial, member of Simavi's supervisory board.

You joined last year in March. How did you experience your first year as supervisory board member at Simavi?

It has been an exciting and interesting year. One of the reasons I was excited to join the supervisory board was that Simavi focuses not just on outcomes, but is keen to measure what impact our efforts have on the women and girls we work for.

When I joined the supervisory board, Simavi was in the middle of the process of Simavi 3.0. I really enjoyed how thoroughly the process was executed with a sector analysis, stakeholder involvement through surveys and making use of internal and external excellence. So-called 'deep dives' were carried out on various topics, which gave me the opportunity to learn more about the necessary paradigm shift in the development aid system.

What does the new strategy mean for Simavi?

The joint goal is clear: we want a world in which all women and girls enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation, resulting in healthier and just societies. We are also in agreement that the best way to get there is to collaborate with organisations worldwide and Shift the Power towards shared global leadership. The challenge, however, is how to get there and at what speed. This sometimes requires a different way of thinking and a flexible, open mindset. What used to work may not necessarily still be the best way forward. At the same time I think it is important that Simavi keeps building on its DNA.

Especially in shifting the power, it is important for the supervisory board to learn from the experiences at the local level. So staying well connected with the people within Simavi is more important than ever.

How difficult is it to raise money for human rights to water and sanitation? How could the supervisory board help Simavi with fundraising?

Raising funds is never easy, but having said that, as an international NGO Simavi is well positioned to support learning activities and international advocacy around the theme of human rights to water and sanitation. This could be our unique selling point compared to other organisations supporting grassroots grant-making.

Within Simavi there is a strong and dedicated fundraising team with a clear vision on how to move forward. Momentum is building in the context of Shift the Power and there is a strong commitment by many donors to gender equality and climate adaptation. These trends may benefit Simavi's fundraising efforts.

Within the supervisory board there is broad knowledge in the field of international development and global health. Different perspectives on opportunities for fundraising are shared and introductions are made. And apart from that we try to be a sounding board on this matter.

Every year the supervisory board reviews Simavi's performance. A highlight from the 2021 evaluation report:

In 2021, Simavi initiated a strategy review process to reconsider and redefine its key added value in international development cooperation. The outcome is a renewed strategic plan 2022-2025 that focuses on its core expertise area: women's and girls' human rights to water and sanitation (HRWS). We are confident that, with this new strategy and theory of change in place, the organisation is ready for the next level.

Please refer to the full report of the supervisory board (Chapter five, to be found at simavi.nl/AR2021)

A key ingredient for impact: Integrity

Integrity is not a science, a handbook, a guideline or a rule – it is an ongoing debate about morals and ethics. Like each year, we set-out a specific case that we dealt with in the past year.

The work we do is very much based on trust. We use donors' money to get our job done and we are committed to spending their money in a fair and transparent way. At the same time, we work with marginalised groups. We cannot betray trust or harm people. All our stakeholders and colleagues must be able to rely on proper conduct, transparency and accountability.

Simavi's integrity system

Simavi's code of conduct clearly defines appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Our integrity system sets out what procedures are to be followed in the event of inappropriate behaviour and which proportionate sanctions are to be taken in such cases. Simavi has adopted a child safeguarding policy, an anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy, a whistle-blower policy and a complaints policy (available on our website or on request).

- New employees are familiarised with Simavi's code of conduct and relevant policies and procedures. All employees are required to submit a certificate of good conduct (Verklaring Omtrent het Gedrag).
- Simavi strongly encourages the filing of complaints and reporting of suspected irregularities and is committed to act whenever its core principles are violated or threatened. Our duty is to protect the victims and restore justice, and to learn from and prevent any repetition of cases.
- To keep the conversation going we have regular discussion meetings about moral dilemmas.

Interesting integrity debates in 2021

We regularly discuss issues we encounter in our work. These can present serious dilemmas. For example, in the countries where we work we respect local laws and cultural norms, but these may go against what we want to achieve, such

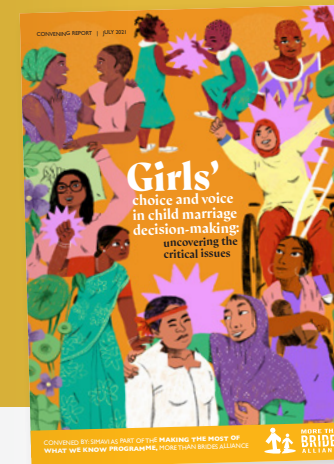
as gender equality. Local ways of working may exclude women from certain decision-making processes, for example. We discuss such challenges, not only to find a way out of the predicament, but also to equip our staff with the resources and the tools to remain consistent in their day to day work.

Even though we were not confronted with any concrete integrity issues or serious complaints in 2021, it was a year when the international development sector globally, including international NGOs like Simavi, realised that it was time to discuss and rethink our role in the development arena. As part of our Shift the Power strategy we want to promote equality in a broad sense in all we do, from the drawing up of our proposed development processes right through to making this Impact Report with Simavi colleagues from all departments and all countries. Over the past year each staff member has been involved in the discussions on how this can be done from within each circle, role and activity. And we will continue to do so.

Commitment to Shift the Power

Susan Wilkinson, programme manager at Simavi, was involved in the process of rethinking our role in the development sector. Her role was to guide the circle leads (managers) towards embracing the Shift the Power paradigm and support them in the development of a vision and plan for what this can look like at Simavi over the next two years. A valuable lesson Susan learned was that "shifting power has to be personal. Our staff has to own it. Everyone at Simavi has to find that one element of change that really speaks to them and which they are personally committed to make happen."

Shift the Power is the underlying principle that runs through Simavi's new Theory of Change. In terms of integrity, Susan sees two big challenges: "Firstly, being an honest broker, we must guard against being 'opportunistic' by ensuring that change legitimately seeks and advances equity and justice. Secondly, being trustworthy, we must demonstrate that we can be counted on to 'make good on our vision and commitment' by holding ourselves to account and being transparent about where we have made advances and where we are stuck."



Corporate social responsibility

When selecting new partners and monitoring our work, we feel it is imperative that we share the same values and vision on what makes a world that works for everyone, including gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights, diversity and inclusion, HIV and AIDS, cooperation among civil society organisations, financial management and sustainability. In accordance with our Theory of Change, sustainability is a core component of our work.

At our office in the Netherlands, we are fully aware of our responsibilities regarding the environment. We offset the CO2 emissions from our road and air travel through a compensation contract with Climate Neutral Group and monitor the number of flights we make per year. Our lunches largely consist of organic and Fair Trade certified products. We use biodegradable cleaning products, we separate out recyclables, we purchase green electricity and we use FSC-certified paper for printing and copying as well as for our correspondence and newsletters. We have not yet explored what we can do in our offices in other countries.

Double check on accountability

The quality of Simavi's operations is safeguarded by an ISO-certified quality management system.

This system monitors and evaluates our internal processes. It is embedded in internal manuals, which specify the applicable policies, procedures and processes. More detailed information is available in our Declaration of Accountability at www.simavi.org/declaration-of-accountability. This document also describes Simavi's policy cycle. In October, EIK Certificering BV conducted the external audit of our ISO 9001:2015 and Partos 9001:2018 certifications. In 2021 we successfully renewed our certification for the next three year period. Our certificates are valid until November 2024.

The Central Bureau for Fundraising conducted its regular annual review and concluded that we comply with their standards and extended our official recognition.

In addition to external audits, in 2021 we performed two internal audits on our processes and procedures to ensure proper functioning of our system. The outcomes of these internal audits were discussed in the management review and followed up accordingly by the respective employee circles.

For one of the publications of the MMWWK programme, Simavi worked together with Indian illustrator Kruttika Susarla. Inspired by the saying 'It takes a whole village to raise a child', Kruttika created this image to represent the interconnectedness between girls and their surroundings. The decisions that girls make in their lives are shaped by the people around them and the opportunities that are available to them.

chapter three

Looking forward 2022 and beyond

Simavi has been working to improve the health of disadvantaged people since 1925. In all that time we have remained versatile, constantly adapting our working methods to suit the changing landscape of development and the needs and rights of disadvantaged people. The last few years have been particularly disruptive. This has forced us to be flexible and innovative, and at the same time to critically reflect on our added value, system change, financial stance and our position in global debates.



Seretan Makoi - storing rain-water - Kajiado County, Kenya

Financial outlook for 2022

In 2021 we put a lot of effort into our ongoing programmes, the most prominent being Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures and WASH SDG, which run through 2022. To continue to make an impact we are determined to obtain new funding for the period 2022 to 2025.

In 2022 we anticipate spending €16.3 million on our objectives, about 98% of our total income of €16.6 million. This rather high percentage is due to the investment in programmes from our own reserves, amounting to €0.8 million. The cost of generating funds is budgeted at 7.7% of

total income. This percentage is higher than in previous years and reflects our increased fundraising efforts in 2022.

Our reserves and funding are sufficient to ensure continuation of the existing programmes in the coming years. For the future, we aim to realise a stable volume of funding in the range of €16–20 million per year. To achieve this, we need to prolong our existing sources of income and obtain new sources of funding, targeting both institutional and private donors in the Netherlands and abroad.

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the realisation of our programmes has in some cases been delayed or not fully achieved. This also has financial consequences. During the period when programmes are on hold, income is on hold as well, whereas salaries and other fixed costs still have to be paid. This affects both our partners and ourselves.

Fortunately, Simavi's financial situation is sound, which means we are able to continue our operations. We have the means to support our local partners in these difficult times by using our existing reserves for programmes. The possible financial impact on our own organisation can be absorbed by making use of our continuity reserve. Given the critical importance of our work, we are confident that we will be able to raise sufficient income to continue our endeavour to realise our mission.

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the realisation of our programmes has in some cases been delayed or not fully achieved.

INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2022 (X 1,000 EURO)	
INCOME	
Income from private individuals	1,565
Income from corporate fundraising	424
Income from lottery organisations	900
Income from government subsidies	5,226
Income Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	7,574
Income from other non-profit organisations	915
TOTAL INCOME	16,604
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2022	
SPENT ON OBJECTIVES	
Awareness raising	1,494
Programmes	
- Simavi projects	6,970
- Paid to alliance partners	7,574
Advocacy	238
TOTAL SPENT ON OBJECTIVES	16,276
OTHER EXPENDITURE	
Cost of generating funds	1,279
Management & administration costs	673
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,228
BALANCE OF FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	
Financial income	-25
RESULT	-1,649
APPROPRIATION OF RESULTS	
- Funded from earmarked reserve Projects	-809
- Funded from earmarked reserve Strategy	-824
- Funded from earmarked financing assets	-16
	-1,649



Looking beyond – our long-term vision

Ariette Brouwer, managing director of Simavi, about the future of Simavi.

What was the biggest lesson Simavi learned in 2021?

"That we should not take anything for granted in life. This may sound philosophical, but maybe it should be because this past year has shown us again that you don't know what's just around the corner. By missing out on important strategic partnerships, and thus funding, we learned the hard way that we need to be able to stand on our own two feet. On top of that, the continuing pandemic in 2021 forced us to reflect on, critique and revise our strategy to maintain our relevance for the future. This report outlines these reflections and adjustments, and I am confident that we are ready for whatever 2022 will throw at us. We are agile and resilient, and we are an organisation that is open to change and not afraid to make the necessary steps to enable growth and facilitate impact. This is reflected in our new vision and revised strategy for the next few years."

How do you see the development of Simavi over the next four years?

"Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the much needed Shift the Power movement in our sector, we will focus our work on our core expertise area: the human rights to water and sanitation of women and girls. Simavi has many years' experience in prioritising women and girls' needs and enhancing their access to water, sanitation and hygiene. We feel confident we can add value in this area and, together with like-minded organisations, can make a lasting change in the lives of women and girls."

"Furthermore, we will build on our existing DNA, which has defined us for many years. And with our new strategy in place we are very well positioned to play an important role in the transition of the development sector in the years to come."

Much has changed in the sector over the years. How does this impact Simavi?

"As mentioned before, the global movement to Shift the Power requires us to make urgent changes in the development sector to ensure that funding,

programmes and advocacy are locally driven, rooted and led. Changing the way we work also means stepping outside our comfort zone and acknowledging our position and own biases. In the future, Simavi will focus more on influencing, building equitable partnerships and championing women and girls as the ultimate stakeholders of our work. We will intensify our collaboration with global activists and networks to make sure women's voices are heard and human rights to water and sanitation are realised. We need to be bold in our lobby and advocacy, demand change and push for a new global economy where natural resources and human rights are valued over profit."

Will development aid still be needed in future?

"The new strategy will also have a significant impact on our business model. Shifting the power will entail a shift in Simavi's role in the Netherlands. The focus will be less on programme management and implementation because in-country actors and partners will take up these responsibilities. In the Netherlands, the focus will be mainly on partnership development and engagement. Lobby and advocacy and awareness-raising will also be important in the Netherlands and in international fora. At the same time, liaison with the in-country actors and our role in knowledge sharing, linking and learning will remain of great importance. As a result, you will see a transition in the sector in which the role of a head office will be reduced as responsibilities are taken over by in-country staff and partners."

What are your plans for the future? "After nine years, it is time for me to start a new chapter and move on. In June I will hand over to my successor, Dienneke van der Wijk. I'm leaving Simavi with a feeling of immense pride and confidence that the organisation is ready for the next level. What I am going to do is not yet set in stone, but it will definitely be a new adventure and a contribution to making the world a better place to live!"

SDGs: eight years to go

Simavi contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals: a set of global objectives formulated by the United Nations to focus our attention on the most pressing needs of our planet. Our work focuses explicitly on SDG6: clean water and sanitation.

In our work on water and sanitation, we also contribute to other SDGs, these include gender (SDG5) and climate (SDG13). These SDGs aim to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, achieve gender equality, empower all women and girls and take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by 2030.

SDG 6 – Clean water and safe sanitation

The United Nations states that access to safe water and sanitation is a human right and essential for human health and the environment and for a thriving economy. We share this vision and incorporate it into our activities. With COVID-19 and climate change emerging, focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene becomes even more eminent.

SDG 5 – Gender equality

Simavi strongly believes that societies will benefit if women and girls have equal opportunities. We contribute to this by focusing our work on our core expertise area: the human rights to water and sanitation (HRWS) of women and girls.

SDG 13 – Climate

Access for women and girls to sustainable water and sanitation services should be at the heart of the struggle for climate justice. Simavi firmly believes that water and sanitation should become a central part of climate adaptation funding and we will focus our advocacy activities towards this objective.

In our monitoring and evaluation of programmes and lobby and advocacy activities, we use indicators of SDG 6, as well as SDG 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 13 (climate action), 16 (strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships).

5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



Simavi

Powerful women, healthy societies.

