

Programme updates

2023

In 2023 Simavi spent EUR 15,111k on its objectives. 4,838k was directly spent on the Simavi programmes, 8,832k was transferred to our partners, 1,244k was used for awareness raising and 197k was spent on advocacy. Our largest programmes in terms of expenditure were WASH SDG (2,701k) and Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures (800k).

Sarwacha

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| Location | Nepal |
| Period | Three years (2023-2026) |
| Description | Simavi and Dopper are working with local partners, ENPHO and Biruwa, to ensure a sustainable water supply in Changunarayan in Nepal. Families in this fast-growing municipality lack safe drinking water. To ensure the water quality is sufficient, the water supply systems need to be efficiently operated and managed. This requires a holistic approach with the involvement of all responsible stakeholders: local governments, the private sector and the communities themselves. We empower the local community, particularly women and marginalised groups, to actively participate in decision-making processes and income-generating activities related to water and sanitation. |
| Goal | To support the Changunarayan municipality in building resilient, inclusive and sustainable water safe communities by increasing community awareness on the need for safe water, improving operation and management systems and integrating innovative financing mechanisms. Focusing especially on women, girls and socially excluded groups, the project will promote open and constructive dialogue between community, private and public stakeholders to work towards the common goal of water safe communities. |
| Donor | Dopper |
| In-country partners | ENPHO; Biruwa |

Progress 2023 The Sarwacha programme is off to a great start: the Changunarayan municipality has already committed to allocating at least 20% of its WASH budget towards supporting the activities of the Sarwacha programme. In September, the new programme officially started with an inception workshop with numerous stakeholders attending. Since then, work has been done on preparing a training manual on water safe communities and collecting and testing of water samples from municipal water supply schemes. An assessment of eight health posts, two urban health clinics and one hospital was completed. The next step will be a baseline assessment, including household surveys, key informant interviews with key stakeholders and assessment of health care facilities. In addition, in cooperation with the municipal government, 20 water supply schemes and water user supply committees (WUSCs) will be identified for financial support.

Perfect Fit

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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Indonesia |
| Period | Five years (2019–2023) |
| Description | Perfect Fit has broken the silence on menstrual health and SRHR by providing education and knowledge in Indonesia. It has enabled women and girls to understand their natural menstruation process, empowered them in daily activities and improved equality. In 2019, Perfect Fit started a new production hub in Labuan Bajo by engaging with 10 female local tailors to manufacture reusable pads and local agents to promote menstrual health knowledge to women and girls. In mid-2021 we transferred to the third phase: market expansion and impact strengthening (MEIS) to ensure that women and girls in other locations, including urban areas, are reached out to and have access to menstrual products and education. |
| Goal | To ensure 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. Women and girls are socially and economically empowered in the community through the sustainable business model developed as part of the programme. |
| Donor | Stichting Merk Biologisch Plus; Stichting Vallei; Schmallhausen; De Johanna Donk-Grote Foundation; Anna Muntz St; Stichting Familiefonds Jan Waal Gz; St. Majoh; St. Boaz; St. Vierhout; St. Dando Felix; St. Voor uit- en inwendige zending; Flexiplan; St. Main; Rooms Katholiek Weeshuis Bergen op Zoom; Steunfonds Fajans |
| In-country partners | Kopernik; PT Putri Fajar Inspirasi (Perfect Fit Indonesia) |

Progress 2023 2023 has been the final year of Simavi's support to Perfect Fit. During 2023, the focus was on supporting Perfect Fit to become financially independent and on the sustainability of their social enterprise. An exit strategy was developed and implemented. During 2023, impact advisory services were provided to Perfect Fit aiming to have a strong business plan, a good financial projection and increased capacity to approach future donors and investors. Additional funding was provided to Perfect Fit to do fundraising activities by, for example, participating in demo days of FemTech Lab in London and network meetings in Jakarta. By the end of Simavi's support at the end of September 2023, Perfect Fit secured US 80,000 (EUR 73,125) in investment and expanded their network to include 50 investors across Southeast Asia. Also, at the time Perfect Fit was in discussion with three impact investment firms to meet their fundraising goal of US 120,000 (EUR 109,698), which would enable them to scale up their efforts and deepen the community impact.

Perfect Fit

| | | Indonesia | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| Level | Indicator description | Baseline | Results 2020 - 2023 | Target |
| Outcome | % of women that have a high level of MH knowledge | 17% | 63% | 47% |
| | # of (Perfect Fit) pads distributed | 0 | 39,377 | 33,000 |
| Output | # of people reached with education campaign | 0 | 112,776 | 133,000 |
| | # of pad distributors trained | 0 | 287 | 141 |

WASH SDG

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda (and Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania and Zambia through partners) |
| Period | Six years (2017–2022) + 15 months extension until March 2024 |
| Description | The WASH SDG programme responds to the Dutch commitment to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). Its aim is an improved WASH situation for all by sustainably improving access to, and use of, safe drinking water for at least 450,000 people and sanitation for at least 2 million people and improving the hygiene behaviours of 1.6 million people before the end of 2022. |
| Goal | To improve sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all by ensuring local civil society organisations and communities are empowered to advocate for the realisation of their right to water and sanitation. Simavi and its partners also worked with 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 | SNV; Plan International Netherlands and WASH Alliance International (WAI) partners: Simavi (consortium lead), Amref, Akvo, RAIN (Aidenvironment), WASTE (via Nedworc-STIP), IRC, Wetlands International, PRACTICA Foundation and RUAF (Hivos) |
| In-country partners | All partners from the Bangladesh WASH Alliance, Nepal WASH Alliance and the Uganda WASH Alliance |

Progress 2023 In 2023 Simavi, together with its WAI Alliance International partners and the WASH SDG consortium partners, received a costed extension until March 2024. During the first nine months of 2023, the focus was directed at the endline assessments in all 14 sub-programmes, the end-term review (ETR) and the second round of sustainability checks (SCs). The ETR clearly revealed that the WASH SDG programme had been successful in achieving its stated objectives. It has delivered on the programme commitments it made to (sub-)national governments and the donor. Despite the tight timetable and extraordinary circumstances (the COVID-19 pandemic), substantial progress has been made in moving households up the five levels of service on the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) ladder for sanitation and water, from no service (surface water or open defecation) to safely managed, which is the global indicator for SDG target 6. For hand hygiene, there has also been important progress from no service to basic levels. This signals that behavioural change is occurring and that households and institutions are making incremental shifts towards improved levels of services.

| WASH service | Target | Endline result |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Improved water supply | 450,000 people | 454,500 people |
| Improved sanitation | 2,000,000 people | 2,240,100 people |
| Basic hand hygiene | 1,600,000 people | 4,076,000 people |

The sustainability check (SC) exercises undertaken as part of the programme showed a clear strengthening of the systems indicators at endline. These indicators were designed to measure the likely sustainability of the services. The overall impact of the consortium's activities to sustainability factors measured by the SC exercises at midline and endline show that, in general, reasonable progress has been made across the majority of sustainability indicators in all countries. This is a testament to the ability of the programmes to respond to midline SC and mid-term review (MTR) findings which identified key challenges.

During the second half of 2023, the focus has been on the following themes:

- phasing out in a responsible manner
- sustainability and sustaining progress made
- consolidation, documentation and dissemination.

With final events in the seven countries and with a final event in the Netherlands in 2024, Simavi and its partners aim to share the lessons learned of the programme with the wider WASH sector.

In **Bangladesh**, the primary focus of WAI Bangladesh (BD) in the first half of 2023 was conducting the endline evaluation in its 27 working areas and ensuring the sustainability of the results would be achieved. During this period, programme officials reviewed the memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for the sustainability check. In addition, local government institute (LGI) officials re-enforced their commitments to sustaining the programme results. Results from the WAI BD programme related to practices such as the system-change matrix, which links microfinance and banks for repayable finance, the WASH desk and rainwater harvesting were presented during the international conference All Systems Connect in May 2023 in the Hague, the Netherlands.

The second half of 2023 included recognition of a key result, namely the WASH desk. This has been declared a best practice in the national guidelines of operation and maintenance published by the local government division of the Bangladeshi government. During this time, the dissemination of endline results was organised in three working districts of WAI BD. With the support of IRC, the consortium in Bangladesh prepared and handed over monitoring data books for WASH services to the LGIs. The data of this book has been collected through social mapping, which is one of the key results of this programme. Simavi led the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process reviewing the government's commitment and action towards realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation. Through this work, Simavi highlighted the urgent need to improve water quality and adequate sanitation for all, especially focusing on women, girls and ethnic minorities. This was also done at the United Nations UPR pre-sessions lobby with relevant UN member states. 2023 ended with an outcome harvesting (OH) workshop with the partners, where overall outcomes of the programmes were discussed and documented.

In **Nepal**, the WAI strategic partnership started the year with strategic consultations with key stakeholders in order to ensure that the programme would phase out in a sustainable and responsible manner. These consultations, along with the results of the endline assessment, were used to develop a workplan focused on institutional strengthening for the final year of the programme. The implementation of the strategies required a multifaceted approach that included the development of legal frameworks and policies, capacity building and the establishment of collaborative agreements, as well as lobbying, advocacy and coordination among organisations working in the WASH sector. At the end of 2023, district-level closing events were organised in Banke and Surkhet (the two districts where the programme took place) and these events were facilitated with a high level of collaboration and involvement from the targeted municipalities and government officials. Representatives from water system user committees, entrepreneurs, WASH institutions and other stakeholders were active participants. At the event in Surkhet, the mayor of Bheriganga municipality, Yagya Prasad Dhakal, said in his speech: 'With the closure of the WASH SDG programme, the responsibility now falls on us. Our WASH plan stands as our most valuable resource'.

In **Uganda**, the year started with a focus on the endline assessment and sustainability check report data collection. These reports have provided the sub-programme with an overview of the results achieved while it also included a description of where the gaps and challenges are. With some delay, the costed extension started in August in order to focus on a sustainable handover and closing of the programme. This resulted in a busy second half of the year with handover meetings, refresher trainings and documentation of results. The sub-programme was also able to share results of the programme at national level events such as the Uganda Water and Environment Week and the National WASH CSO forum, and internationally at AfricaSan7 and COP28. By the end of 2023, all implementation activities had been finalised and in the first quarter of 2024, the sub-programme will officially close.

WASH SDG

| Indicator description | Uganda | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Baseline 2018 | Result 2018 - 2023 | Target |
| Number of people who reached safely managed service level of drinking water on the SDG-ladder. | 708 | 4,855 | 86,400 |
| Number of people who reached basic service level of drinking water on the SDG-ladder. | 68,575 | 128,422 | |
| Number of people who reached safely managed service levels of sanitation on the SDG-ladder. | 355 | 1598 | 8,400 |
| Number of people who reached basic service level of hygiene on the SDG-ladder. | 14,709 | 50,233 | |
| Number of people who reached basic service level of sanitation of the SDG-ladder. | 29,701 | 22,598 | 60,500 |
| % of local agencies that have implemented effective demand-creation strategies within their areas/jurisdiction/programme (scale 0-100) | 25 | 75 | 75 |
| % of households that has invested in WASH facilities in their household or contributing user fees to WASH services during the last year (scale 0-100) | 67 | 82 | 90 |
| Level of participation of women and girls in decision making about WASH activities in the communities (scale 0-100) | 5 | 75 | 70 |
| Level of participation of socially excluded groups in decision making about WASH activities in the communities (scale 0-100) | 10 | 75 | 55 |
| Outreach and suitability of WASH products and services for consumers at the bottom of the pyramid (scale 0-100) | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| % of WASH businesses in the intervention area that indicate that their sales went up significantly; | - | 47 | 25 |
| % and # of women WASH entrepreneurs | 11 | 54 | 25 |
| Level of strength of WASH sector policies and regulations (scale 0-100) | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| Local government budget for WASH | EUR 78,000 | EUR: 160,219 | 25% increase |
| Uptake of loans | - | 2 WASH loan products | 2 WASH loan products |

| Indicator description | Nepal | | | Bangladesh | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Baseline 2018 | Result 2018-2023 | Target | Baseline 2018 | Result 2018 - 2023 | Target |
| Number of people who reached safely managed service level of drinking water on the SDG-ladder. | 76,869 | 131,190 | 30,157 | 46,508 | 260,114 | 149,900 |
| | 112,924 | 73,132 | | 689,811 | 758,663 | |
| Number of people who reached safely managed service levels of sanitation on the SDG-ladder. | 36,961 | 49,683 | 54,042 | 420,490 | 203,570 | 252,100 |
| | 134,916 | 131,582 | | 14,578 | 811,765 | |
| Number of people who reached basic service level of sanitation of the SDG-ladder. | 127,540 | 190,018 | 44,561 | 82,152 | 918,485 | 94,700 |
| % of local agencies that have implemented effective demand-creation strategies within their areas/jurisdiction/programme (scale 0-100) | 25 | 75 | 75 | 15 | 71 | 75 |
| % of households that has invested in WASH facilities in their household or contributing user fees to WASH services during the last year (scale 0-100) | 61 | 81 | 80 | 48 | 95 | 65 |
| Level of participation of women and girls in decision making about WASH activities in the communities (scale 0-100) | 25 | 80 | 70 | 40 | 83 | 70 |
| Level of participation of socially excluded groups in decision making about WASH activities in the communities (scale 0-100) | 55 | 62 | 70 | 0 | 74 | 55 |
| Outreach and suitability of WASH products and services for consumers at the bottom of the pyramid (scale 0-100) | 25 | 55 | 50 | 25 | 80 | 75 |
| % of WASH businesses in the intervention area that indicate that their sales went up significantly; | 0 | 30 | 20 | 0 | 81 | - |
| % and # of women WASH entrepreneurs | 0 | 40 | 25 | 1 | 34 | 20 |
| Level of strength of WASH sector policies and regulations (scale 0-100) | 25 | 60 | 75 | 25 | 67 | 75 |
| Local government budget for WASH | 477.000 EUR | 904,050 EUR | Increase by 5% every year | 736,127 EUR | 81% increase | 25% increase |
| Uptake of loans | 0 WASH loan products | NRS 6,521,000 | 4 WASH loan products | Value is BDT 22,305,000 | 36% value increased | 30% value increase |

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures

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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Bangladesh |
| Period | Five years (2019–2023) |
| Description | The forgotten conflict in the isolated Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) area of Bangladesh gravely affects the lives of the indigenous Jummas (11 ethno-linguistically and religiously diverse indigenous peoples). Traditional patriarchal social structures disadvantage women and girls and restrict their bodily and sexual autonomy. Together with the prolonged conflict, this increases their vulnerability. Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures is a holistic programme designed to support and empower indigenous women and girls to live their lives with dignity and without violence. |
| Goal | Enable and support young women and adolescent girls from indigenous groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh to transition into adulthood with dignity and bodily and sexual autonomy, without violence, coercion and/or discrimination. |
| Donor | European Union |
| Consortium partners | Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) |
| In-country partners | Ananya Kallan Songothon (AKS); Gram Unnayan Sangathon (GRAUS); Hill Flower; Khagrampur Mahila Kalyan Samity (KMKKS); Tahzindong, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS); Taungya; Progressive; Women's Educations for Advancement and Empowerment (WEAVE); Zabarang |

Progress 2023 2023 was the final year of the Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures programme. We can proudly look back at a successful year and an impactful programme.

In April, we carried out our third and last organisation capacity assessment with 10 local partners. CSOs picked the indicators they wanted to improve throughout the remainder of the year and beyond. This marked the beginning of rounding up our capacity strengthening efforts of five years. Simavi has provided two trainings on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), one training on monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and one training on fundraising to partners in 2023, besides continuous field visits and online coaching.

In 2023, girls continued to learn and exchange stories about topics related to SRHR and gender-based violence (GBV) during club sessions in 300 girls' clubs. About 8,800 young women and girls regularly attended these girls club sessions, facilitated by trained girl mentors.

In addition, 7,578 girls presented creative projects on priority topics to their parents and community leaders in 2023, and girls in 67 girls' clubs performed their creative projects to local government officials during various events. As a result of these presentations, stakeholders made commitments to support selected priorities of girls, such as stopping child marriage, changing restrictive norms and practices around menstrual health, supporting gender equality and standing up against gender-based violence. Currently 680 of these commitments are being carried out by stakeholders.

In 2023, we provided training sessions on menstrual health to teachers in 150 schools. One of the topics discussed was how to support girls during their menstruation in schools. We have raised awareness on what teachers can do to establish and maintain menstrual hygiene management (MHM)-friendly toilet facilities. We have also worked with school management committees to lobby government authorities for budgets to build MHM friendly toilets. As a result, the Khagrachari Hill district council has allocated budget to build toilets in eight schools which were lacking appropriate facilities. Our endline survey results indicate an increase in MHM-friendly toilets at schools from 46.6% at baseline to 61.2% at endline.

As a consequence of training sessions given to girls on how to make reusable sanitary pads, an increase from 3% at baseline to 23.6% at endline was noted in girls using reusable sanitary pads at the end of the programme.

As a ripple effect of the programme, a total of 349 girls in Chittagong Hill Tracts that were not part of the Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures programme received training from CSOs and mentors on how to make reusable sanitary pads as well, with the support of local government and other development organisations. In 2023, we have also trained 305 health service providers and gender focal points on how to provide adolescent-friendly health services and support victims of GBV. We worked on activating adolescent-friendly health service operation and management committees, so that adolescent-friendly health corners can be established throughout the region. Eleven union and six upazila committees have been activated, with 22 girl representatives present at the table as members of these committees. Three adolescent-friendly health corners were established by the local government through Simavi's influence.

As the programme's end was approaching, we supported our partners to develop sustainability plans so that the results and benefits of the five-year-long Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures implementation will be sustained. One of the results was that 119 girls' clubs out of the 300 have arranged to continue functioning after the end of the programme.

In September 2023, approximately 350 participants (government officials, national and international development professionals, policy influencers, activists, academics, adolescent girls and mentors from the Chittagong Hill Tracts) attended the closing conference of the programme in Dhaka, Bangladesh to discuss and share with each other learnings and recommendations. 80 girls were participating in the conference, showcasing drama, art, poetry and other creative projects about issues that are close to their heart to a varied audience.

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures

| Level | Indicator description | |
|---|---|---|
| Impact | Percentage of women who were married or in a union before age 18 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. | |
| | Percentage of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. | |
| | Public awareness regarding SRHR and GBV prevention and influence in the public agenda | |
| | Existence of a local network of CSOs and partners for the protection assistance and promotion of adolescent girls and young women's rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. | |
| Outcome | 1 General level of improvement of the beneficiary organisations' Organisational Capacity Index. | |
| | % of girls' clubs where girls and women recognise that CSOs activities have significantly contributed to their value, position, and well-being in their community. | |
| | % of local CSOs that take actions to apply impact-oriented, women-centered approaches and quality management practices in new and existing projects | |
| | % of girls that report using MHM-friendly toilets. | |
| | % of girls that report using re-usable sanitary pads | |
| | % of girls that experience improved support from their environment (reduced isolation, greater social and human capital, and reduced stigma) | |
| | % of girls that experience improved safety & security. | |
| | # of actions taken by mothers/men/boys/community leaders to respond to the advocacy priorities from the girls' clubs | |
| | # of reported incidents of GBV | |
| | % of women and girls that report having used SRHR services in the past 6 months | |
| | # of Organisational Capacity Assessments conducted | |
| | # of action points from Organisational Action Plans completed, disaggregated by organisation | |
| | # of community members (leaders) /school staff sensitized on menstrual health and women's safety. | |
| | # of MHM-friendly and safe toilets realised | |
| | Output | # of advocacy and stakeholder meetings organised by local partners |
| | | # of local CSOs trained on impact-oriented and women-centred programming. |
| | | # of local CSOs trained on SRHR, GBV and MH (WASH) thematic areas |
| | | # of female mentors trained |
| | | # of girls' clubs established |
| | | % of young women and girls that are regularly involved in girls clubs |
| # of women that participated in sessions | | |
| # of men and boys that participated in sessions | | |
| # community, traditional and religious leaders participated in sessions | | |
| # of women and girls whom have received guidance and GBV clinical and psychosocial response | | |

| Bangladesh | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Baseline * | Results 2019-2022 | Results 2023 | Target 2019-2023 |
| 19% married before 18 | 13.3% married before 18 | 6.8% married before 18 | 14% married before 18 |
| 17% | Sexual relations: 63.6% Contraceptive use: 89.7% Where to give birth: 79.5% | Sexual relations: 95.8% Contraceptive use: 94.7% Where to give birth: 85.3% | An increase in the number of women who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care in the Chittagong Hill Tracts |
| Reasonable (3 on a scale of 4) | Significant (4 on a scale of 4) | | Significant (4 on a scale of 4) |
| Limited (2 on a scale of 4) | Reasonable (3 on a scale of 4) | | Local CSOs network that responds to young women's and adolescent girls needs and priorities |
| 26 out of 40 | - | 31 out of 40 | 30 out of 40 |
| NA | - | 100% | 80% |
| 0% | - | 7 out of 10 CSOs | 7 out of 10 CSOs |
| 47% | 37.5% | 61.2% | 57% |
| 3% | 31.5% | 23.6% | 50% |
| 12% | 46.8% | 49.9% | 60% |
| 3% | 53.7% | 48.9% | 50% |
| 0 | NA | 680 | 150 |
| 681 | 877 | 873 | 50% increase compared to baseline |
| 33% | 34% | 40.2% | 38% increase |
| 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 0 | 5 | 32 | 50 |
| 0 | 73 | 93 | 585 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 150 |
| 0 | 28 | 14 | 15 |
| 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 0 | 300 | 296 | 300 |
| 0 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| 0 | 80% | 76% | 70% |
| 0 | 16,937 | 4,048 | 11,963 |
| 0 | 37,534 | 5,169 | 22,076 |
| 0 | 666 | 743 | 445 |
| 0 | 264 | 0 | 360 |

* Baseline values from 2019-2020.

Check2gether (GC_1000)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Ghana |
| Period | 4.5 years (2020–2024) |
| Description | GC_1000 strategies integrate group care into antenatal and postnatal health systems for the first 1,000 days. Strategies and tools are built from lessons learned in demonstration sites in seven countries. Simavi integrated Check2Gether (C2G) with group antenatal care by training midwives in Ghana to implement the C2G mobile diagnostic kit. This kit aims to give women in rural remote areas access to quality antenatal care services. It contains a testing kit to ensure early diagnosis of high-risk pregnancies. |
| Goal | Co-create and disseminate evidence-based implementation strategies and tools to support successful implementation and scale-up of group care in the first 1,000 days in health systems throughout the world, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable populations. |
| Donor | EU (Horizon 2020) ¹ and a private donor |
| Consortium partners | Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) (lead); Academic Hospital Leiden (LUMC); Free University Brussel (Belgium); Group Care Global (US); City University of London (UK); University of Cape Town (South Africa); Action for Mothers and Children (Kosovo); Perisur (Surinam); Presbyterian Church of Ghana Health Service (PHS/PCG, Ghana) |

Progress 2023

Key highlights

- 2023 was the year of the evaluation of the GC_1000 programme together with all the consortium members.
- C2G kit intellectual property right was handed over to TNO.
- The C2G application received upgrades in May 2023 based on user experiences in 2022.
- Between 2022 and 2023, C2G served 517 women with 1,247 antenatal care (ANC) visits. Among them, in 406 ANC visits the C2G kit was applied and basic medical assessments were conducted such as haemoglobin, blood pressure and urine tests for pregnant women. This resulted in the early diagnosis of pregnancy-related risks and complications identified among 125 clients.
- The women also reported that C2G improves access to recommended basic ANC tests and saves time and money because women do not have to travel to urban centres for tests. In addition, it helps them get timely advice regarding their pregnancies.
- A local referral framework was instituted among four private hospitals, the district assembly, the district director of health services, five sub-district leaders and five midwives following the Ministry of Health (MoH) referral policy to aid communication, transport and feedback during referral in the Binduri district.
- Midwives and community health nurses reported that C2G supports them in making timely decisions, saves their time, improves the quality of their care and is convenient for outreach services.
- The women also highlighted that getting access to the necessary healthcare onsite helped them save time and money.

¹This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 848147. This report only reflects Simavi's view; the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Check2gether (GC_1000)

| | | Ghana | | |
|--------|--|--|---|--------|
| Level | Indicator description | Baseline | Results 2023 | Target |
| Output | # (%) of ANC clients receiving HB, glucose and urine tests timely | All non-GC participants' ANC clients were previously referred for HB, glucose and urine test | 211 (32% of total ANC registrants) | - |
| | # (%) of ANC registrants reporting in the first trimester | ANC registrants (Bansi & Zawse): 449 (32%) | ANC registrants (Bansi & Zawse): 642 (70.70%) | - |
| | % of ANC clients making ANC eight visits | Average: 58.9% Zawse: 23.6% | | - |
| | # of pregnant women at risk identified and referred promptly | 71 specific risks reported in Bazua and Zawse | 169 specifically identified 66 local risk management and planned follow-up (Home visits) 38 ANC clients referred to the hospital Other actions: 14 clients | - |
| | # of pregnant women at risk adhering to referral | 0 | 18 high-risk ANC clients were referred with appropriate documentation and communication. Documented feedback received for 12 referrals (67%) | - |
| | Co-created framework for referral developed, implemented and monitored | 0 | A working framework between referring and receiving health facilities was agreed on and documented. District Health Directorate team orientated four private health facilities on referral policy. Referral booklets acquired for C2G settings. | - |
| | #(%) of feedbacks received by/from referring institutions | 0 | 12 out of 18 (67%) | - |

Water Justice Fund

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal |
| Period | 2022-2030 |
| Description | Millions of women and girls are hit hard by the water and sanitation problems caused by climate change. The Water Justice Fund (WJF) supports local women groups in Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh and journeys with them to realise locally-led and women-owned solutions to water and climate challenges. It is developed in close collaboration with partners in Nepal, Kenya and Bangladesh. Through local community consultations and global planning sessions, our partners steered the design of the WJF. We will continue to work together to test, learn and demonstrate our grant-making practices and impact. |
| Goal | Supporting local women's groups in Bangladesh, Kenya and Nepal to realise locally-led and women-owned solutions to water and climate challenges. The Water Justice Fund provides access to small grants for water-stressed communities. The fund supports locally led climate actions which tackle water vulnerability and invests in collaborative learning. |
| Donor | Legacy of Peter Dicke; Vallei stichting; stichting NBB; Simavi and several other donors |
| Strategic partners | Women Win |
| In-country partners | NIA (Kenya); Uttaran (Bangladesh); Sahakarmi Samaj (Nepal) |

Progress 2023 2023 marked the official launch of the Water Justice fund at the UN Water Conference in New York. The programme conducted 138 focused group discussions during its baseline survey to understand the intersections of water dynamics, gender roles and the impacts of climate change in Kenya, Bangladesh and Nepal. Using a shared governance and participatory grant-making mechanism, 25 women-led groups from Bangladesh, Kenya and Nepal received a total of EUR 120,000 in grants to accelerate their adaptation initiatives to water and climate change. The funds were disbursed in two tranches. The grants resulted in increased funding for climate adaptation from local governments, enhanced the community's climate resilience, and strengthened CSOs and collaboration capacity of women and girls. During the Stockholm World Water Week, the Water Justice Fund convened two sessions bringing together a diverse mix of representatives to highlight the barriers facing women and girls in accessing climate finance and to share their experiences. Similarly, the programme was part of the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) conference where we were able to take the voices of the community to the panel session for further discussion.

Water Justice Fund

| Level | Indicator description | Kenya | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | |
|--------|---|----------|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| | | Baseline | Result 2023 | Target | Baseline | Result 2023 | Target | Baseline | Result 2023 | Target |
| Output | Number of women groups supported with WJF's grants | 0 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 8 |
| | Number of group members supported through grants | 0 | 178 | 225 | 0 | 400 | 250 | 0 | 581 | 200 |
| | Number of indirect beneficiaries of the WJF programme (community members) | 0 | 3,309 | 855 | 0 | 2,000 | 1,050 | 0 | 2,058 | 880 |
| | Grant amounts provided per country (Euro) | 0 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 40,000 | 40,000 |

Water by Women

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Nepal |
| Period | Three years (2022-2025) |
| Description | The project will adopt a two-pronged approach where we ensure access to affordable good-quality WASH facilities and enable women and girls' economic empowerment to address the biggest challenges for women in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk. The project is empowering women to become entrepreneurs and earn money for family welfare. |
| Goal | To improve the health and wellbeing of women by ensuring access to safe and sustainable water sources and encouraging improved sanitation and hygiene behaviour. The project is rebuilding and building water schemes in eight communities, increasing 2,640 people's access to safe drinking water and raising awareness with 22,500 people (including school children, women's networks and mother's groups) on healthy sanitation and hygiene practices through a participatory approach. |
| Donors | Made Blue, Activist |
| Consortium partners | SEBAC Nepal |

Progress 2023 In 2023, SEBAC Nepal completed work on four water supply schemes in the Sindhupalchowk district. Working in close collaboration with local community members and the local government, the programme upgraded and refurbished existing water schemes to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of water supplies to 1,059 individuals, including members of disadvantaged castes and ethnic groups. Tapped water connections were developed for individual households, one school and one community health centre. Water user supply committees (WUSCs), comprised of women, men, and individuals from disadvantaged groups, have been established and trained for each of the improved schemes. Insurance policies, operation and maintenance funds have also been established for the schemes.

The project is also promoting improved hygiene behaviour and practices through a number of different initiatives. To date, three episodes of a radio programme were produced and aired from a local radio station, six WASH day events were celebrated with 356 people in attendance, and 472 women and schoolchildren participated in participatory awareness-raising sessions on sanitation and hygiene.

Gender & WASH

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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda |
| Period | Three years (2020-2023) |
| Description | <p>This research aimed to explore the connection between availability and accessibility of WASH and violence against women and girls/gender-based violence in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda.</p> <p>Research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the decisions about access to and control over WASH resources made, in the community and at the household level? • Do women and girls experience violence/problems in the use of and access to WASH? • If yes, what kind of violence and how is it related to harmful social and cultural norms? <p>What are the consequences for women/girls of the violence they experience in relation to the availability and accessibility of WASH?</p> |
| Goal | This research was intended to build research and evidence to help understand the pressing issues of gender-based violence in relation to WASH and WASH services. The outcomes of this research will better inform our organisation and programmes on how to help tackle this complicated and sensitive issue while also sharing findings within the sector. |
| Donor | Simavi |
| In-country partners | Nepal, Uganda and Bangladesh WASH Alliances |
| Progress 2023 | In 2023 Simavi worked on a research report titled Water and Sanitation-Related Violence: The Experiences of Women and Girls in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda. The report sheds light on the violence women and girls often face in accessing safe water and sanitation facilities. The report is based on extensive qualitative research conducted in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Uganda, and it highlights the various forms of violence that women and girls face when accessing water and sanitation facilities. These include physical violence, sexual violence, verbal abuse and harassment. The report also examines how cultural and social norms contribute to the prevalence of water and sanitation-related violence against women and girls in these countries. The report provides a number of recommendations to address the issue of water and sanitation-related violence against women and girls, including improving access to safe water and sanitation facilities, addressing cultural and social norms that perpetuate violence, and strengthening legal and policy frameworks to protect women and girls. |

WASH & Learn 3.0

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|-------------------------|---|
| Location | Uganda, Tanzania |
| Period | Three years (2020-2023) |
| Description | <p>The WASH & Learn programme provides girls, women, schools and communities with knowledge and skills to be able to make informed decisions about their lives to better the wellbeing of girls and women. The focus of the programme is on WASH-related activities, however, advocacy and economic and social empowerment are also integrated into the programme approach. The programme actively works with women in communities to enhance their social and economic status through the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities and schools implement sustainability plans for improved WASH service provision and governance • women and girls make use of improved gender-equitable WASH and menstrual health facilities. |
| Goal | Girls and women have increased well-being and are socially and economically empowered through an effective learning environment that includes sustainable, quality and female-friendly WASH and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services in schools. |
| Donor | Made Blue, Wandelen voor Water and several Dutch foundations |
| Country partners | E-MAC (Empowerment of Marginalised Communities), Tanzania; CEMDO (Community Environmental Management and Development Organisation), Tanzania; HEWASA (Health Water & Sanitation); Caritas Fort Portal, Uganda; JESE (Joint Effort to Save the Environment), Uganda; WASEU (Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association), Uganda |
| Progress 2023 | The project entered its final year in 2023. In Tanzania, the focus was on finalising the activities in the eight schools and eight surrounding communities. In Uganda, the partners focused on four schools and eight surrounding communities as the target group for year three. In March 2023, a learning week was organised in Uganda that brought together the five implementing partners. This was a great opportunity to share learnings and visit the field together. After the learning week, Simavi visited the project in Tanzania as well to see the progress on the ground. The second half of the year was focused on conducting an endline assessment to define the results of the programme and closing the activities in the intervention areas. The programme was extended to the end of 2023 to allow for enough time for the endline assessment and closing. Lastly, Simavi worked with the partners on designing a new phase of the WASH & Learn programme to continue the programme in Uganda. |

Pro-poor WASH access in Kenya: Reducing inequalities through partnerships

(WOP Kenya Project)

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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Kenya |
| Period | Three years (2022-2025) |
| Description | The WOP Kenya programme aims to improve access to water and sanitation services for approximately 250,000 people living in low-income areas of the service areas of the targeted five mentee water companies in Kenya. |
| Goal | To support the Changunarayan municipality in building resilient, inclusive and sustainable water safe communities by increasing community awareness on the need for safe water, improving operation and management systems and integrating innovative financing mechanisms. Focusing especially on women, girls and socially excluded groups, the project will promote open and constructive dialogue between community, private and public stakeholders to work towards the common goal of water safe communities. |
| Donor | EU (via UN-HABITAT) |
| Consortium partners | Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (lead mentor partner); Water Service Providers Association (co-mentor); Simavi (external partner). |

Progress 2023 The WOP Kenya project implementation processes continued smoothly in 2023. Simavi shared experiences that were gained during an international global water operators partnership (GWOPA) webinar on 19 January 2023 in relation to GESI. The webinar title was Tools for diagnosing gender, diversity and inclusion in water and sanitation workplaces. Shared experiences focused on using Simavi's GESI organisational capacity assessment (OCA) tool used by all five mentee water companies in the WOP Kenya programme. About 20 WOP programmes globally funded by both DGIS and EU participated. This was a space to share skills and experiences at the global level beyond the project target partners in Kenya. The webinar was facilitated by the GWOPA team from Bonn, Germany.

After introductory training on human rights frameworks to mentee water companies in late 2022, Simavi followed up with a more in-depth session on the same topic in early 2023. This session focused on unpacking the accessibility, availability, affordability and quality/safety (AAAQ) framework for the human rights to water and sanitation (HRWS) in the WOP Kenya project. 18 staff members from our partners in the WOP Kenya project, both consortium partners and mentee water company partners, participated in this session in the first quarter of 2023. This contributed towards enabling mentee water companies to realise water safety plans (WSPs) for all people living in underserved low-income areas as they are also entitled to enjoyment of their rights to water and sanitation without discrimination. These rights are anchored in the 2010 Kenya constitution, Article 43.

Simavi continued the TA mentorship/coaching support for WOP Kenya mentee partners. Using the five WSPs organisational GESI baselines drawn up in 2022, Simavi mentored all five WOP Kenya WSPs partners to produce GESI action plans for 2023 and 2024. These were completed between March and April 2023. Monitoring of the progress is carried out on a quarterly basis.

One mentee (Kakamega Water and Sanitation Company) managed to further develop gender mainstreaming and GBV policy. This is due for approval in 2024 in order to be ready for use. The gender policy captures issues of diversity, equity, inclusivity and protection against all forms of violence at all levels.

Another mentee (Mombasa Water and Sanitation Company Ltd) revised their HR manual to reflect gender/inclusion and workplace harassment elements to guide the organisation. This shows that GESI is starting to be increasingly included in the WSPs.

Pro-poor WASH access in Kenya: Reducing inequalities through partnerships

(WOP Kenya Project)

| | | Kenya | |
|---------|--|----------|--------------|
| Level | Indicator description | Baseline | Results 2023 |
| Outcome | Number of WOP partners in Kenya which have revised their HR manual to reflect gender/inclusion and workplace harassment elements to guide the organisation | 0 | 1 |
| | Number of WOP partners in Kenya which managed to develop gender mainstreaming and gender-based-violence policy | 0 | 1 |
| | Number of WOP partners in Kenya which produced GESI – Action Plans 2023 – 24. | 0 | 5 |
| Output | Number of WOP partners in Kenya trained to realise that all people living in underserved low-income areas are also entitled to enjoyment of their rights to water and sanitation without discrimination. | 0 | 18 |
| | Number of WOP partners in Kenya trained in gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) | 0 | 20 |

MHM++: Bringing sexual reproductive health and rights to life in menstrual health management training in Uganda

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Uganda |
| Period | Two years (2021-2023) |
| Description | With this project, the WASH Alliance Uganda and the SRHR Alliance Uganda wanted to achieve a comprehensive approach to menstrual health management (MHM) with the integration of SRHR issues within its current programmes. Existing structures will be used to cascade the knowledge, for example, by reaching out to women's groups, village health teams, health assistance and WASH entrepreneurs. The overall objective is to create an enabling environment for women and girls in schools and their surrounding communities so that menstrual health issues can be openly discussed and they can receive support from men and boys. This project concerns strengthening the capacity of master trainers of the Ugandan partners to better equip teachers with the didactic skills and knowledge to use the Ministry of Education and Sports-supported MHM curriculum as the entry point to deliver comprehensive SRHR education to school-aged boys and girls. |
| Goal | A mixed group of 28 participants received training and coaching during the project. The cohort was involved in developing and implementing training sessions on menstrual health management (MHM) with integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as well as on pedagogy and deductive skills. |
| Donor | Nuffic |
| Consortium partners | SHE Collaborates - Maastricht University (lead) |
| In-country partners | Partners of the SRHR Alliance Uganda and the Uganda WASH Alliance |
| Progress 2023 | In March 2023, the MHM++ project organised a final workshop to close down the project. In this workshop, there was time to reflect on the project's achievement, brainstorm on the way forward in relation to cascading the MHM++ manual after the project and to celebrate the master trainers that successfully participated in the project. Secondly, the project team worked on finalising the menstrual health manual for women and girls out of school and a flipbook with illustrations to be used in training sessions. The manual is now pending approval at the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sport. A final report has been submitted to Nuffic, which has been received positively. The programme has now been fully closed. Within the WASH SDG programme in Uganda and the WASH & Learn programme, partners that have been involved in the MHM++ project have been able to use the training materials in menstrual health training sessions, so cascading is ongoing. |

Her WASH

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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Pakistan |
| Period | Four years (2019-2023) |
| Description | The Her WASH programme was implemented in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Pakistan to provide equality, gender-responsive and age-appropriate menstrual health and hygiene education in vulnerable communities. With access to quality menstrual health and hygiene education and a reliable supply chain for menstrual products, women and girls can unleash their potential and change their lives for good. Simavi provided technical assistance to the teams in Burkina Faso, Liberia and Sierra Leone around the topic of menstrual health. |
| Goal | To improve comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) 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 |
| Progress 2023 | The involvement of Simavi in the Her WASH programme ended in March 2023. In the first quarter, Simavi was able to give technical assistance on the topic of menstrual health to the country teams of Burkina Faso, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Burkina Faso, a learning session on advocacy was organised. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, Simavi supported the refresher training sessions that were organised on the topic of menstrual health. A final report on the Simavi support has been submitted to WaterAid Canada, which marked the end of Simavi involvement in the project. |