

Programme updates

2024

In 2024 Simavi spent €6.158 thousand on its objectives. €2.972 thousand was directly spent on the Simavi programmes, €1.710 thousand was transferred to our partners, €1.339 thousand was used for awareness raising and €137 thousand was spent on advocacy. Our largest programmes in terms of expenditure were WASH SDG (€1.019 thousand), the Water Justice Fund (€326 thousand), WASH, Learn & Share (€286 thousand) and Sarwacha (€109 thousand).



A Self Help Group in Changunarayan, Nepal, is testing the water quality (Sarwacha programme).

WASH SDG

Location	Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda (and Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania, and Zambia through partners)
Period	Six years (2017–2022) + 15-month extension until March 2024
Description	The WASH SDG programme aligns with the Dutch commitment to contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). Its aim is to improve the WASH situation for all by sustainably enhancing access to and use of safe drinking water for at least 450,000 people, sanitation for at least 2 million people, and improved hygiene behaviours for 1.6 million people before the end of 2022 (extended until March 2024).
Goal	To improve sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for all by empowering local civil society organisations and communities to advocate for the realisation of their right to water and sanitation. Simavi and its partners have also worked with duty bearers and service providers to enhance the quality of service provision and strengthen sector governance.
Donor	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Consortium partners	SNV, Plan International Netherlands, WASH Alliance International (WAI) partners: Simavi (consortium lead), Amref, Akvo, RAIN (Aidenvironment), WASTE (via Nedworc-STIP), IRC, Wetlands International, PRACTICA Foundation, RUAF (Hivos)
In-country partners	All partners from the Bangladesh WASH Alliance, Nepal WASH Alliance, and Uganda WASH Alliance

Progress 2024

In March 2024, Simavi, together with its WASH Alliance International partners and the WASH SDG consortium partners, concluded the Netherlands WASH SDG Programme. During the first quarter of 2024, the focus was on responsible phasing out, as well as documentation and dissemination. The sub-programmes shared reports from the final monitoring and evaluation cycle with WASH actors, including WASH civil society organisations, private sector actors, and local governments. Together, they developed a prioritised list of recommendations for follow-up, with a focus on sustaining progress made.

As part of the consolidation, documentation, and dissemination phase, all sub-programmes organised several in-country learning and closure events. This strong emphasis on consolidating progress, sharing findings, and documenting lessons learned culminated in the publication of the WASH SDG e-magazine and the insights gained during both the internal (20 March 2024) and external (21 March 2024) events in the Netherlands.

WASH, Learn & Share

Location	Uganda
Period	Three years (2024–2026)
Description	<p>With the WASH, Learn & Share project, we are working to ensure sustainable access to clean water, safe sanitation, and hygiene education in 18 schools and 36 surrounding villages in Uganda. By implementing innovative solutions, encouraging community involvement, and empowering local entrepreneurs, we aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to safe water and sanitation (SDG 6) and gender equality (SDG 5).</p> <p>We focus on creating lasting impact by addressing the root causes of water scarcity and poor sanitation, contributing to improved health, education, and well-being for all. The programme has the following three objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish WASH Model Schools, resulting in a healthy environment for girls and boys.2. Improve WASH conditions at the community level by linking them with school initiatives.3. Provide sustainable WASH products and services at schools and in communities through collaboration between local government (public) and the private sector.
Goal	Women and girls are socially and economically empowered and enjoy their right to water and sanitation in Uganda.
Donors	Made Blue Foundation, Wandelen voor Water, and several Dutch foundations
Country partners	Caritas Fort Portal – HEWASA, Uganda, JESE (Joint Effort to Save the Environment), Uganda, WASEU (Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association), Uganda

Progress 2024	<p>The current WASH, Learn & Share project builds on eight years of successful WASH & Learn insights. One key success of the previous programmes is the implementation of the Cost Recovery Planning Tool and the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Tools, which help schools assess, manage, and sustain their WASH facilities. These tools have enhanced operational efficiency and strengthened long-term maintenance strategies, ensuring that schools are equipped to provide safe and sustainable WASH services.</p> <p>In 2024, a comprehensive baseline survey was conducted to understand the situation in the schools and surrounding communities. This data will form the foundation for measuring our impact when we conduct the endline assessment at the conclusion of the project.</p> <p>In Year 1, we worked in six primary schools and 12 surrounding communities. In the schools, we constructed five rainwater harvesting tanks, five latrine blocks for girls (each with four stances per block), and handwashing facilities. However, infrastructure alone is not enough. We are also working on developing future leaders by engaging School Health Clubs both in and outside the schools. Additionally, we have collaborated with school management to develop a Cost Recovery Plan, empowering schools to plan for the operation and maintenance costs of their WASH facilities. In the surrounding communities, six water sources have been rehabilitated, benefiting 3,596 people. Furthermore, awareness-raising campaigns have been organised around water, sanitation, and hygiene, encouraging community members to take action to improve their own situations. We also worked with 40 entrepreneurs in a three-day hackathon to develop innovative solutions for the WASH challenges within the intervention areas.</p>
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Regarding learning and knowledge development, we started the year with a learning week to brainstorm on programme implementation with our partners. Our participation in the 2nd African WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange (ILE) in Zanzibar reinforced the critical role of Cost Recovery Planning and Risk Assessment in enabling schools to independently manage and sustain their WASH facilities. At the 14th Annual WASH CSOs Forum in Uganda, we demonstrated how effective WASH planning directly improves school functionality, reducing disruptions to learning by ensuring access to clean water, proper sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

Key Highlights

- A comprehensive baseline survey was conducted in 18 schools and 36 surrounding communities.
- Constructed rainwater harvesting tanks, a latrine block for girls, and handwashing facilities in five primary schools, reaching over 3,254 pupils.
- Rehabilitated six community water sources, reaching over 3,596 people.
- Presented the WASH, Learn & Share project at three international events: the 2nd Africa International Learning Exchange on WASH in Schools, the 10th World Water Forum, and the 43rd WEDC International Conference.

Data

WASH, Learn & Share

Level	Output indicators	Results 2024
Output	# of trainings provided on water, sanitation, hygiene, climate and menstrual health related topics	42
	# of people trained	2,133
	# of student WASH clubs formed	6
	# of rainwater harvesting tanks constructed - School	5
	# of pupils benefiting from the rainwater harvesting tanks - School	3,254
	# of latrine stances constructed – School	20
	# of washrooms constructed - School	5
	# of pupils benefiting from the washrooms and toilet stances- School	649
	# of handwashing facilities constructed - School	33
	# of pupils benefiting from the handwashing facilities - School	4,526
	# of water infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated - Community	6
	# of people benefiting from the water infrastructure - Community	3,596
	# of learning session held on WASH, climate and MHM	24

Water Justice Fund

Location	Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal
Period	Seven years (2023–2030)
Description	Millions of women and girls are disproportionately affected by the water and sanitation crises exacerbated by climate change. The Water Justice Fund (WJF) supports local women’s groups in Kenya, Nepal, and Bangladesh, accompanying them on their journey to develop locally led and women-owned solutions to water and climate challenges.
Goal	Women drive water justice by leading locally led adaptation actions, strengthening climate resilience, and realising their right to water and sanitation.
Donors	Legacy of Peter Dicke; National Postcode Lottery; Vallei Stichting; Stichting NBB; Simavi; and several other donors
Strategic partne	Women Win
In-country partners	NIA (Kenya), Uttaran (Bangladesh), Sahakarmi Samaj (Nepal)

Progress 2024	<p>The year 2024 officially marked the scale-up phase for the Water Justice Fund, supported by additional funding from the Netherlands Postcode Lottery. In 2024, the Water Justice Fund received €1.45 million to support its expansion ambitions. The Fund provided Locally Led Adaptation Grants to 41 women-led groups in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Kenya. Additionally, a scoping study was initiated in Indonesia with the intention of scaling up in 2025.</p> <p>The initiatives led by women’s groups included solarisation of boreholes, water source protection, pipeline extensions, bio-embankments and rainwater harvesting. These initiatives empowered women to take the lead in implementing their own adaptation solutions. At the country level, peer learning and experience sharing are integral to the Water Justice Fund. This was facilitated through peer learning sessions, where both new and existing grantee groups came together to discuss challenges, ideas, and successes. These exchanges enabled some groups to modify their approaches after learning from others. Additionally, peer learning was supported digitally through joint WhatsApp groups, where women shared pictures and videos showcasing their work and progress.</p> <p>The Water Justice Fund was represented at key forums, including World Water Week in Bali en Stocholm Water Week (SIWI).</p> <p>Furthermore, the Water Justice Fund Advisory Board was established as part of the Fund’s shared governance model. The Advisory Board consists of seven experienced female leaders with expertise in Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), climate change, movement building, and the water-gender nexus. They will provide strategic advice on the direction, vision, and mission of the Water Justice Fund.</p>
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Key Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41 women-led groups supported in 2024 with Locally Led Adaptation Grants• Establishment of the Water Justice Fund Advisory Board• Scoping study initiated in Indonesia• 41 adaptation grants totalling €105,000 were directly distributed to women-led groups in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Kenya to support locally led solutions to water and climate challenges• For every €1 invested through the Water Justice Fund, an additional €0.72 was secured by women’s groups through local sources of funding
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Data WJF Programme has 2 types of data- 1) Grants related and 2) implementation related.

Water Justice Fund Grants Related Results in 2024

Total No. of Grants	41 Grants
Total Grant Amount	EUR 105,000
Grant Range	700 – 7,000 Euro
Co-financing from communities and local government	EUR 25,998
Direct Impact of the grants	18,681 individuals (till date)
Indirect Impact	37,804 individuals

Water Justice Fund Programme Implementation Results from Nepal, Kenya & Bangladesh-2024

Level	Output indicators	Results 2024
Output	# of training	42
	# of people trained	423
	# of advocacy meetings / sessions	251
	# of times advocacy initiatives resulted in positive outcomes	151
	# of learning & cross learning sessions	26
	# of participants in cross/joint learning sessions	154
	# people benefited from other climate change adaptation initiative (apart from drinking water and sanitation)	209,465
	# women benefited from other climate change adaptation initiative (apart from drinking water and sanitation)	107,280

Sarwacha

Location	Nepal
Period	Three years (2023–2026)
Description	<p>Simavi and Dopper, in collaboration with local partners ENPHO and Biruwa, are working to ensure a sustainable water supply in Changunarayan, Nepal. Families in this rapidly growing municipality lack access to safe drinking water. To ensure sufficient water quality, the water supply systems must be efficiently operated and managed.</p> <p>Achieving this requires a holistic approach, involving all responsible stakeholders—local governments, the private sector, and local communities. We empower the local community, particularly women and marginalised groups, to actively participate in decision-making processes and engage in income-generating activities related to water and sanitation.</p>
Goal	To support Changunarayan Municipality in building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable water-safe communities by increasing community awareness of the need for safe water, improving the operation and management of water systems and integrating innovative financing mechanisms. With a special focus on women, girls, and socially excluded groups, the project promotes open and constructive dialogue between community, private, and public stakeholders, working towards the shared goal of water-safe communities.
Donor	Dopper
In-country partners	ENPHO, Biruwa
Progress 2024	<p>In 2024, the project made significant progress across all outcomes.</p> <p>For <i>Outcome 1: Strengthened Municipal and Community Capacities</i>, the project developed and endorsed localised water quality monitoring guidelines, formed a dedicated municipal-level monitoring team, and established a mini-lab for water quality testing. A green exhibition on World Environment Day attracted over 1,000 visitors, raising awareness about water purification and hygiene.</p> <p>For <i>Outcome 2: Efficient and Sustainable Operation of Water Supply Schemes</i>, a comprehensive business plan for the mini-lab was created, recommending pricing strategies for sustainable operation. The project collaborated with 20 water user committees to develop and implement water safety plans, identifying risks and necessary interventions. Water systems for 1,545 households were improved by installing filters and dosing pumps, and a bottle refill station was set up. Additionally, a WASH complaint mechanism was implemented, enabling community members to report issues via a QR code and a planned toll-free number.</p> <p>For <i>Outcome 3: Improved Sustainability and Governance of Water Resources</i>, the project collected data and integrated it into the NWASH system to guide WASH investments. Policies and guidelines for drinking water management were developed, and potential water user committees for bundling were identified. Training was provided to 13 committee members on resource bundling.</p>

For *Outcome 4: Enhanced Governance of Water Supply Services in Public Institutions and Communities*, the project involved training teachers from 19 public schools on WASH practices, engaging students in risk mapping and water quality testing, and installing bio-sand filters and drinking water stations in schools. WASH assessments were also conducted in health institutions.

For *Outcome 5: Improved Engagement and Cooperation*, a detailed assessment was conducted to understand the municipality's needs, involving interviews with key stakeholders and field visits. A policy framework was developed for community and private sector involvement, facilitating cooperation between stakeholders. Biruwa supported WSUCs in achieving financial stability by analysing and recommending new tariff rates. The project also promoted inclusion through a gender and social inclusion assessment, presenting key findings to the municipality.

For *Outcome 6: Active Participation and Leadership of Women and Socially Excluded Groups*, the Sarwacha team formed nine self-help groups for 263 women, providing WASH training. The project revitalised indigenous water sources, benefiting 300 households, and supported 20 WUCs in amending their frameworks to ensure participation and safe water rights for marginalised groups.

Data

Sarwacha

Level	Output indicators	Results 2024
Output	Number of training	4
	Number of people trained	57
	Number of coaching/ meetings	2
	Number of people capacitated through coaching/ meeting	54
	Number of WASH clubs/committees formed	29
	Number of direct awareness campaign/session conducted on WASH, climate & MHM to public	5
	Number of people attended the awareness sessions (incl. socially excluded, marginalised, elderly, PWDs)	7,421
	Number of studies/mappings done	48
	Number of demo facilities constructed at institutions	2
	Number of demo facilities constructed at other public places	4

Water by Women

Location	Nepal
Period	Three years (2022–2025)
Description	The project will ensure access to affordable and good-quality WASH facilities for women in Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk.
Goal	To improve the health and wellbeing of women by ensuring access to safe and sustainable water sources and by encouraging improved sanitation and hygiene behaviour. The project is rebuilding and constructing water schemes in eight communities, increasing access to safe drinking water for 2,640 people, and raising awareness among 22,500 people— including school children, women's networks, and mothers' groups—about healthy sanitation and hygiene practices through a participatory approach.
Donors	Made Blue; Artist
Consortium Partner	SEBAC Nepal

Progress 2024 During this reporting period, under *Outcome 1: Improved and Sustainable Water Schemes for People*, the project completed the construction of Jyamire Kholsi, Keureni Manedada, and Chisapani Majhigau decentralised water supply systems (DWSS) in Sindhupalchowk and the rehabilitation of Kagate Mulpani and Aakhlegairo Patle DWSS in Dolakha. Despite severe floods and landslides, the project areas remained safe, and work on DWSS continued. Feasibility studies for Jayako Dhara and Mulpani Simbari Patle DWSS were completed. Water quality tests showed the presence of coliform bacteria, prompting the project team to inform the community and provide training on water safety.

Two Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) were formed. The project facilitated insurance coverage for DWSS against damage to intake structures, reservoir tanks, and pipelines, paying the first premium, while WUSCs will cover future premiums through monthly tariffs. An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Fund was set up for all five DWSS, with equal contributions from community households and the project. The project linked the O&M Fund with microfinance institutions and cooperatives to ensure savings for future maintenance and to support income-generating activities. To promote transparency and accountability, public audits were conducted for all DWSS, involving community beneficiaries, Users' Committees, government representatives, and stakeholders.

Under *Outcome 2: Improved Hygiene Behaviour and Practices at School and Community*, the project also made significant progress in improving hygiene conditions in schools and communities. Five radio episodes on water and sanitation were aired, featuring local officials and community members. Six awareness campaigns and WASH Day celebrations were held, engaging 264 participants. Additionally, six orientation programmes for mothers' groups were organised, involving 139 women and 8 men, while two school WASH programmes reached 940 students. These activities promoted safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices, encouraging positive behaviour change and raising awareness about infectious diseases and proper handwashing techniques.

The project is set to conclude in May 2025.

Data

Water by Women

Level	Output indicator	M/F	Achievement till Dec 2024
Output	1.1 Number of DWSS Constructed		8
	2.1 Number of get access to clean and safe drinking	Male	992
		Female	958
		Total	1,950
	2.1 Number of direct awareness raising activities for the general public (on WASH) (number of meetings)		54
	2.2 Number of people present during via direct awareness raising activities:	Male	895
		Female	1,305
		Total	2,200
	2.3 Number of indirect awareness raising activities (number of times content is made public)		31
	2.2 Number of people present during via indirec direct awareness raising activities:	Male	210,526
		Female	259,900
		Total	470,426

Water Operators Partnership (WOP) Kenya Project

Pro-poor WASH Access in Kenya: Leveraging Opportunities - Reducing Inequalities through Partnerships

Location	Kenya
Period	Three years (2022–2025)
Description & Goal	The WOP Kenya programme aims to improve access to water and sanitation services for approximately 250,000 people living in low-income areas (LIAs) served by five mentee water companies in Kenya.
Donor	EU (via UN-HABITAT)
Consortium partners	Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (lead mentor partner), Water Service Providers Association (WASPA) (co-mentor), Simavi (external partner)

Background	<p>The WOP Kenya project is a South-South peer-to-peer partnership programme that supports Kenyan Water Service Providers (WSPs) in improving WASH service provision, particularly in pro-poor LIAs. The programme fosters a mentor-mentee relationship, with Kisumu WSP leading as the mentor partner. Kisumu WSP is recognised as one of Kenya’s top 10 water utilities, with a strong focus on customer service and pro-poor initiatives, serving a population where 60% live in LIAs. The programme’s beneficiaries are five small WSPs from five counties, selected based on benchmark data from Kenya’s Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) and WASPA, which identified them as having the lowest pro-poor service provision performance. WOP Kenya accelerates progress on Kenya’s pro-poor WASH agenda, ensuring that mandated water service institutions integrate these practices while also sharing best practices and lessons learned within the national water sector.</p>
Strategic Added Value for Simavi	<p>For Simavi, WOP Kenya provides an opportunity to be recognised as a strategic partner in supporting the ‘shifting the power’ agenda. Simavi’s added value in WOP Kenya programme is mainly the skills and experiential strengths in addressing Gender and Social Inclusion agenda, Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (making the rights real), meaningful stakeholder participation processes in applying pro poor approach.</p>
Progress 2024	<p>In 2024, Simavi collaborated with KIWASCO and WASPA to advance the WOP Kenya project. The lead mentor, KIWASCO, took the lead in managing the project in alignment with the ‘shift the power’ approach embraced by Simavi. This included project consultative decisions, planning, mentee training, and reporting. Simavi provided necessary inputs as needed.</p> <p>Simavi continued to offer backstop support to all five mentee water companies, assisting them in reviewing and updating Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) improvement action plans. Additionally, Simavi prepared and facilitated a capacity-strengthening training for all five mentees, including lead and co-mentors. The training focused on public participation in decision-making and service provision, equipping mentees with an in-depth understanding of stakeholder engagement. The training reached 12 mentees and six lead and co-mentor staff. The knowledge and skills gained are now being applied to enhance inclusivity and stakeholder engagement in planning and service delivery.</p>

Together with KIWASCO, Simavi, and one mentee utility, a four-person team participated in the GWOPA Assembly in Cairo, Egypt, from 1–3 November 2024. This in-person meeting provided an opportunity to network and share Kenya’s experiences with other WOPs from different regions globally.

On 7 November 2024, the WOP Kenya team, including Simavi, took part in a partner-led side event at the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12). During this event, the team showcased the WOP Kenya project through a guided panel discussion and responses to plenary queries. The session, entitled “Stronger Together: Enhancing Water and Sanitation Access Through South-South Water Operators’ Partnerships”, focused on accelerating access to water and sanitation rights for all, with particular attention to marginalised and urban low-income settlements. The side event shared experiences and lessons from Kenya and Malaysia, highlighting how global South-South-led WOPs/SWOPs are contributing to the realisation of SDG 6.

Data

Water Operators Partnership (WOP) Kenya Project

Level	key performance indicators	Progression in 2024
	Non-Revenue Water reduction (i.e. minimizing water wastage)	A mix of strategies put in place by mentee WSPs reducing NRW to 60%.
	Water metering level	All the WSP have over 85% metering level with the balance being attributed to either some meters getting faulty or becoming static for purposes of servicing.
	Water and sanitation access in LIAs out of overall target of 250,000 people	176,860 people (70.7% of the target) been reached by all five mentee WSPs (i.e. Mombasa 103,770, Kakamega 61,675, Amatsi 2,430, Kiambu 5,505, Ololaiser 3,480).
	Establishment of pro-poor units in mentee utilities	All five mentees have pro-poor units established and operational. Most parameters under the pro poor establishment have been met as guided by the laid down regulator guidelines – rated at 98%.
	Pro-poor units' organogram positioning in the mentee utilities	All the mentee WSPs have their pro-poor units' organograms in place and properly embedded in the overall company organogram to show recognition and support of rights to water and sanitation of vulnerable people in LIAs.
	Budget allocation to fund LIA action plans to improve service delivery	Three out of five mentees have recognized the need for and importance of including LIA budgets in their overall company budgets ("ring fenced budgets").
	Training of mentee WSP staff to improve capacity to deliver services in LIAs	All the mentees have managed to undergo and successfully been represented in all scheduled training. 80% planned capacity strengthening been achieved. This include Simavi led capacity strengthening session on Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS), Public Participation Principles, GESI action planning and regular reviews.
	Pro-poor policies and strategies	All supported five mentee utilities have pro –poor policies, strategies and action plans developed which are used to influence for increased budget allocation for LIAs.
	Development of GESI action plans and regular reviews.	Simavi backstopped all five mentee utilities to develop GESI action plans to improve gender sensitivity and inclusivity. These are reviewed quarterly with Simavi support.