

# IMPACT

REPORT

2024

STOP SEX  
FOR WATER

Special  
Rapporteur  
on water  
promises  
full support

PAGE 24

JANE NYAMWAMU

'I see the  
beginning of  
a powerful  
movement'

PAGE 26

WATER AND TOILETS

Schools as a  
starting point  
for WASH

PAGE 18

WATER JUSTICE

Addressing  
inequalities  
for a water  
safe future



12  
Together with  
women and girls  
we worked on  
water, toilets,  
equality and  
climate justice.



22  
Campaigning  
against sextortion:  
from music festivals  
to the global stage  
of Miss Universe.



28  
Bringing communities,  
the government and  
the private sector  
together for safe  
water in Nepal.



**On the cover:**  
Nampaso Mekure from  
the Naishorua women's  
group in Kajiado County in  
Kenya. Read her story on  
the backcover.  
PHOTO: JEROEN VAN LOON

## CREDITS

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**SIMAVI, MAY 2025**

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## GLOSSARY

<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HRWS</b>	Human Rights to Water and Sanitation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>LLA</b>	Locally Led Adaptation
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

# Making impact

Storms, wildfires, droughts, floods and unrelenting heatwaves battered the globe in 2024, the result of record-breaking temperatures. Politically, it has also been a rough year, threatening progress when it comes to climate justice.

On World Environment Day, June 5, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, spoke on climate justice: 'We cannot accept a future where the rich are protected in air-conditioned bubbles while the rest of humanity is lashed by lethal weather in unliveable lands.' He called it a disgrace that most vulnerable nations are being left stranded with the impacts of a climate crisis they did nothing to create.

As the climate crisis is foremost a water crisis, and as women and girls are among the most affected, it is essential to put women and girls at the centre and provide them with the means to tackle the water crisis. This is Simavi's unique focus and approach and what we continued to work on in 2024.

Locally led climate adaptation principles remain fundamental to our programmes, such as the Water Justice Fund, for which we were rewarded with an extra 1.45 million euro from the Dutch Postcode Lottery. We use innovative shared governance and participatory grant making mechanisms to shift power and decision making to the women and girls who are living in remote, under-served and oppressive environments, and are most likely to experience water vulnerability.

Together with our partners we make ourselves heard around the world, at major events such as COP29, the World Water Forum and directly to the United Nations. We continue to fight for climate adaptation finance directly benefitting women and girls in marginalised communities.

We use our campaigns in the Netherlands to strengthen our message and gather support for our programmes. Through our Stop Sex for Water campaign, we collected 61,000 signatures and presented these to the UN Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation in Geneva to raise awareness. We organised a multi-day sponsored hiking event on the mudflats in the Netherlands for the Water Justice Fund, and with the online HER Film Festival we drew attention to women's rights.

In the first quarter of 2024 we organised a successful closing event for the WASH SDG programme.

## 'Simavi successfully sharpened its programme focus'

The closure of two major programmes made it necessary for Simavi to enter a period of transition. We took advantage of this situation by bringing more focus to our organisation, concentrating on three overarching programmes: the Water Justice Fund, the new WASH, Learn & Share programme and Sarwacha as a project under the Sustainable and Inclusive WASH programme. Over the last year, Simavi successfully sharpened its programme focus and managed to adapt to its financial situation by intensifying fundraising, adjusting the organisational structure and by working more efficiently. We are ready to proudly celebrate our 100-year anniversary in 2025 with you and continue to look for ways to increase our impact.

**Dienneke van der Wijk**  
Director



PHOTO: SANDER STOEPPER



# Simavi's 2024

in review


2024 was an eventful year with many successes and highlights, in our programmes and beyond. A big thank you to everyone who supported Simavi this year!



**MARCH**  
8-17  
Together with our film partner Cinetree, we organised the fourth edition of the annual HER Film festival. To celebrate and connect, we invited 200 powerful women to an inspiring dinner in De Duif in Amsterdam.

**JUNE**  
10

Meike van Ginneken, the Dutch water envoy, signed our petition to stop sex for water.





**JULY**  
3-7  
We organised two challenging 3-day mudflat hikes across the Wadden Sea. Participants hiked straight through the water, raising more than 60.000 euros for Simavi's programmes.



**NOVEMBER**  
11-22  
Simavi was present as an NGO delegate at the COP29 climate negotiations in Baku to advocate and network for more and better funding for climate adaptation.

**NOVEMBER**  
12

Together with other NGO's, we went to the Hague to talk with Dutch members of parliament about the importance of Dutch international development cooperation, in light of proposed budget cuts.



## 2024


**MARCH**  
21  
After 7 years, the successful WASH SDG programme closed. In all countries, including the Netherlands, events were organised, with communities and partners showcasing and handing over the work to the government.



**MARCH**  
22  
Together with EARTH Water, we launched 100% Sex Free Water and kicked off our campaign Stop Sex for Water.

**MAY**  
18-25

We were present at the World Water Forum in Bali to advocate for water justice and hearing the unheard.





**JULY**  
5-7  
During the finals of Miss Beauty of the Netherlands and Miss Universe of the Netherlands was announced that contestants raised 21.000 euro for Simavi.



**OCTOBER**  
13-17  
Simavi was present at Africa Water Week in Cairo together with our partner ANEW to discuss pressing water issues and their solutions on the African continent.

**DECEMBER**  
22  
We visited Geneva to hand 61.000 signatures over to the UN special rapporteur on water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, to raise awareness around water related sextortion.

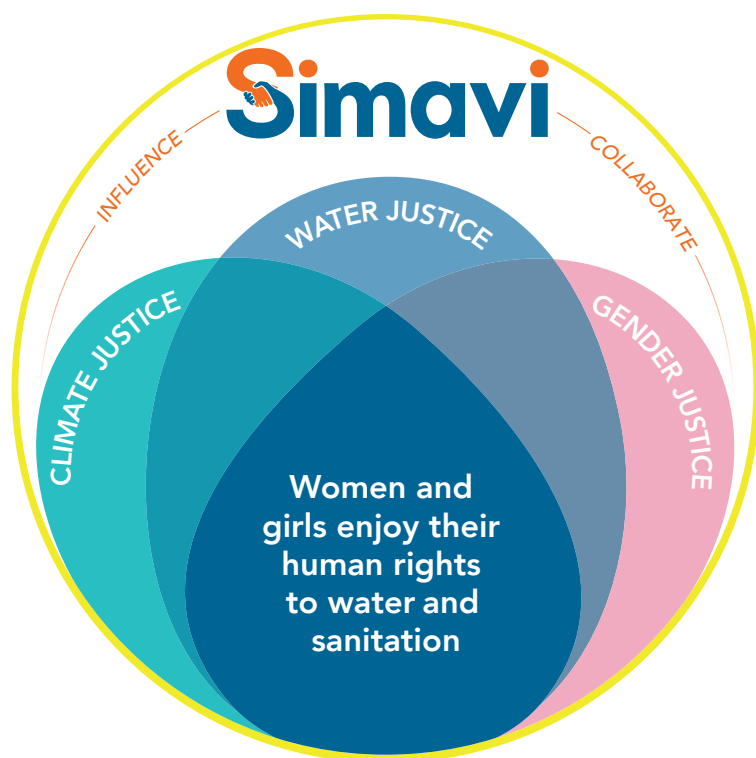




## Simavi's Theory of Change

# Water, climate and gender justice

Simavi has a vision that is simple yet very ambitious: a world in which all women and girls can enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation. Our Theory of Change (ToC) provides a roadmap for all our activities.



At Simavi, we fight for water justice, climate justice and gender justice. Simavi's Theory of Change guides us towards making a meaningful impact. We focus on women and girls because they are hit the hardest by climate change and inadequate access to water and sanitation. At the same time, women are often excluded from participating in decision-making processes. That's why empowering communities and specifically women and girls to take ownership of the process of adapting to the impacts of climate change is crucial.

### What role do we want to play?

We believe that states are ultimately responsible to realise the human rights to water and sanitation. At the same time, we see it as the role of civil society to hold states accountable to the people and communities they serve. We believe civil society, women and girls, and their communities understand best what is needed in their country or community. We want all stakeholders – civil society, private sector and governmental organisations – to work together towards system change so long-term sustainability is guaranteed.

That is why Simavi does not see it as its end-goal to provide communities with water and sanitation services directly. We see it as our role to support

Simavi's end-goal is not to provide communities with water and sanitation, it is to support civil society, women and girls, and their communities to claim their rights.



Sareen Malik from ANEW (right) advocates for women to be at the heart of WASH.

### COLLABORATING:

#### A strategic partnership with ANEW

In 2024 Simavi supported ANEW, the African civil society network on water, with a small grant. ANEW is an autonomous Africa-wide platform for African civil society organisations (CSOs) actively involved in the field of sustainable water management, water supply and sanitation. It aims to ensure that the diverse voices of African civil society organisations on water and sanitation are represented and heard in the development and implementation of Water and Sanitation plans and policies. The grant from Simavi helped ANEW to push for a revised Africa WASH policy on gender which will be finalised in 2025. Sareen Malik, executive secretary of ANEW: 'This new policy will be guiding for all African countries. The support of Simavi made it possible to attend the Africa Water Week in Cairo and speak with ministers and other officials about the importance of a women-centred approach in WASH. This advocacy work has been successful. Women will now be at the heart of the new Africa WASH policy.' In 2024 Sareen Malik also travelled to Bali for the World Water Forum to lead a session about the central role of gender and social inclusion in fostering equitable and inclusive access to water and sanitation.

civil society, women and girls, and their communities to claim their rights. For example, by supporting influencing activities or in gathering evidence to support the claims of women and girls and community-based organisations. We work to overcome gender inequality, amongst others by ensuring women and girls take part in decision-making on water and sanitation and by ensuring their needs are being considered.

Simavi's work is based on human rights and on the locally led adaptation principles. Communities have valuable knowledge, resources, and expertise that are critical to achieving sustainable development. We understand the importance of building partnerships and trust between communities, governments, and other stakeholders, and of being flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.

### How do we apply our ToC?

Simavi's Theory of Change helps us to ensure focus and describes how our key strategies contribute to our goal. Two mutually reinforcing strategies form the core of our work.

The first strategy is **collaboration**. We collaborate with civil society organisations and community groups in the countries where we work to strengthen their efficiency and leadership. We do this through funding and supporting these organisations, networks, movements and feminist groups. We want to enable them to work and advocate more effectively, strengthening knowledge, skills, data collection and collaboration. Together we shift the power towards women and girls. The second strategy is **influencing**. With like-minded organisations we influence local officials, policymakers,





>

funders, civil society actors and private actors to take responsibility for women and girls' rights to water and sanitation. We want them to own their roles and responsibilities. We want to challenge existing power imbalances. And we want to make sure that access to water is not merely seen as a technical problem but as a human rights issue that is related to other global problems, such as climate change and gender inequality.

To achieve structural impact Simavi applies different tools. One of them is the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) tool. Another one is the approach which helps us to address financial, institutional, environmental, technological and social sustainability (FIETS) aspects in our water programmes.

### How do we measure our progress?

All our activities should contribute to achieving our goal. That's why we design our activities such as our advocacy work and the programmes we work on with partner organisations in Africa and Asia, in line with our Theory of Change.

To measure and showcase how programmes contribute to our goal, we developed indicators that are aligned with our ToC. For example, when evaluating sanitation services, we follow the Human Rights' AAAQ framework which stands for availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of services. Evidence is collected from our activities and programmes, through surveys, mobile tools, and interviews. We have discussions, exchange feedback and track the change in lives jointly with community and stakeholders through community meetings, advocacy discussions and outcome harvesting. In our Impact Report, we bring this information together, using both quantitative data to measure progress and case studies to illustrate the actual impact on individuals.

### How do we increase our impact?

We continually work to improve our impact. We make use of a variety of evidence, from our monitoring systems, evaluations and consultations with key stakeholders, to inform programmes and our lobby and advocacy work. And we invest in learning during the programme cycle. We are open to feedback on our goals and ways of working. Shifting the power is at the core of our strategy: shifting leadership to our partners and the women and girls themselves. Always with our ultimate goal in mind: making sure that all women and girls enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation. •



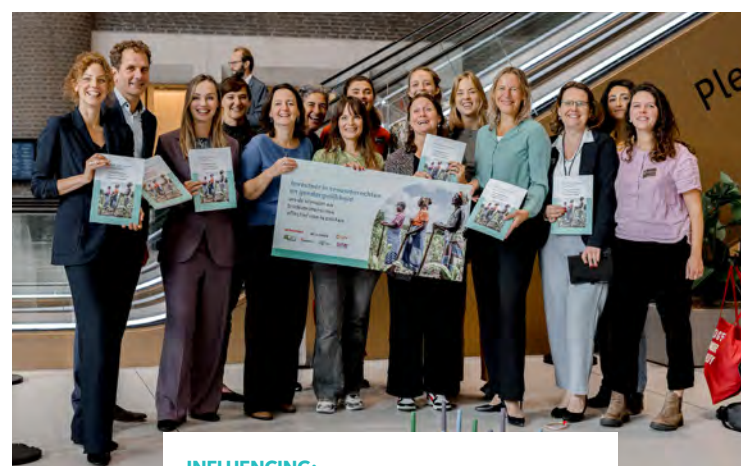
Left: The women of the Mehenatisheel Women's Group. Below: The women of the Mehenatisheel Women's Group shared their experiences with other groups



#### LEARNING:

##### Water Justice Fund in Nepal

In Dang and Kailali Districts in Nepal, women groups have been tackling water issues with the help of grants from the Water Justice Fund. In December 2024, local CBO's brought them together for two peer learning sessions to share experiences and exchange ideas. Although most participants had no experience participating in such community events, they were eager to share their stories with the women of other groups. Many of the challenges they had to overcome, including patriarchal structures, environmental problems and economical challenges were familiar for all women. The groups shared how they had overcome these challenges. For example, the Mehenatisheel Women Group discussed their efforts to build bio-embankments next to the river to protect their land from floods. While they advised others to do the same, they were also honest about the challenges and how they should be avoided, for example by starting the process later in the year when the water-level is lower. But beyond sharing technical information, the women were able to inspire each other, offer support and encourage each other to tackle their own problems. This event highlights the power of knowledge sharing and bringing women together to teach and support each other.



Dutch MP's receive our paper on gender and climate.

#### INFLUENCING:

##### Lobby towards Dutch parliament on gender and climate together with WO=MEN and others

Investing in gender equality is an integral element of climate justice, and climate policy needs to be gender-responsive. A coalition of organisations including Simavi conveyed this message in a joint paper in which we provided concrete recommendations to the Dutch government. On the 21 September, we joined our colleagues from WO=MEN, ActionAid, BothEnds, MilieuDefensie, WECF and Care Nederland at the Dutch Parliament in the Hague to present our paper to Members of Parliament, and discussed with them how they can ensure that Dutch climate action takes into account the position of women and girls.



Face-to-face mentorship in the WOP programme

#### LOCALLY LED:

##### WOP Kenya

The WOP programme, funded by the EU, is about partnerships between water companies to improve water and sanitation access to underserved areas. Out of the current 22 Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs) the one in Kenya stands out since it is a South-to-South partnership. WOP Kenya is led by the Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company (KIWASCO). The goal is to mentor five water and sanitation companies in Kenya to improve access to water and sanitation services for 250.000 underserved people in low-income areas. Simavi is involved as a partner, taking the lead on capacity building around Gender and Inclusion and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.

Patrick Mwanzia, Simavi's regional representative for Africa: 'Simavi provided training to the staff of the five mentees on the human rights to water and sanitation and what is needed to fulfill these. We unpacked the AAAAQ normative criteria focusing on accessibility, acceptability, affordability, availability and quality of services, and the principles underlying engagement with communities, such as non-discrimination, accountability and meaningful participation. In 2024, we have seen the implementation of these criteria and principles in various pro-poor policies, strategies and plans, resulting in positive and sustainable change.'

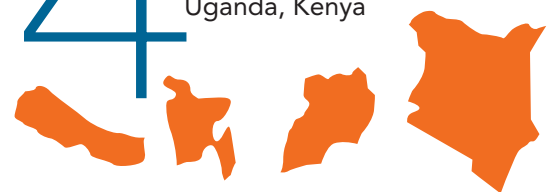


# 2024

We are proud of our numbers

5 PROGRAMMES  
IN 4 COUNTRIES

Nepal, Bangladesh,  
Uganda, Kenya



28,569  
SUPPORTERS

of Simavi made a financial contribution to our work

14,100  
PEOPLE

got access to safe drinking water



We worked together with 17 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

119 local government officials received a training.



12,214  
MOVIES

about powerful women were watched during HER Film Festival,



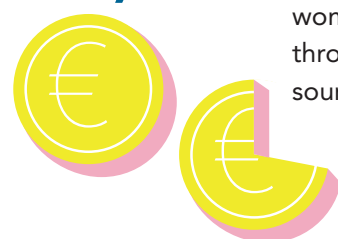
317  
PARTICIPANTS

decided to become a structural donor of Simavi

For every euro invested through the Water Justice Fund, an

ADDITIONAL  
0,72 EURO

was secured by women's groups through local sources of funding



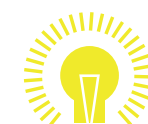
Water by Women in Nepal reached

1,545  
PEOPLE

with awareness sessions and

393,270  
PEOPLE

through awareness campaigns



In Uganda, WASH, Learn & Share constructed rain-water harvesting tanks, a latrine block for girls and handwashing facilities in

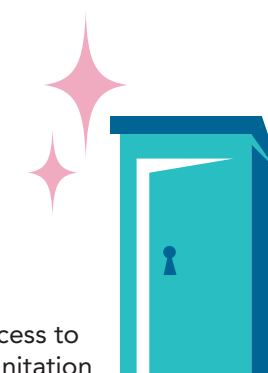
5  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

REACHING  
3,254  
PUPILS



2,518  
PEOPLE

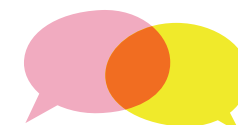
got access to safe sanitation



2,147

meetings and coaching conversations were organised as part of the Water Justice Fund programme, capacitating

37,445  
PEOPLE



209,465  
PEOPLE

(107,280  
WOMEN)

benefited from



climate change adaptation initiatives

29

WASH Committees and WASH Clubs were formed through the Sarwacha programme, and

7,421  
PEOPLE

attended awareness sessions



61,000  
SIGNATURES

STOP SEKS  
VOOR WATER

were collected for our Stop Sex for Water petition addressed to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

2,703 PEOPLE

did a training on WASH, climate or menstrual health

AMONG THEM

1,860  
WOMEN



# What programmes did we work on in 2024?

Simavi works together with women and girls in Africa and Asia on equality and climate justice. On clean drinking water and safe toilets for all. We work in close collaboration with civil society organisations and provide technical support to partners. In our programmes we focus on local solutions to tackle the climate and water crisis.

## Water by Women

**Location** Nepal  
**Period** Three years (2022-2025)  
**Donor** Made Blue  
**Consortium partner** SEBAC Nepal  
**Goal** To ensure access to inclusive, sustainable and resilient WASH facilities and services.

## WASH, Learn & Share

**Location** Uganda  
**Period** Three years (2024 - 2026)  
**Donor** Made Blue Foundation, Wandelen voor Water. several Dutch Foundations  
**Country partners** Caritas Fort Portal - HEWASA, JESE (Joint Effort to Save the Environment), WASEU (Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association Uganda)  
**Goal** 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 SDGs related to safe water and sanitation (SDG 6) and gender equality (SDG 5). Create lasting impact by addressing the root causes of water scarcity and poor sanitation, contributing to better health, education and well-being for all.



Violet Kasembo (front right) is a pupil of the Kyamatanga Primary School in Uganda.

**Children's parliament** Enhancing citizen participation is an important aspect of the WASH, Learn & Share programme. School pupils are given the chance to be part of a so-called 'children's parliament', a programme where they are invited to speak in front of the local council about the WASH issues they face at school and at home. Through schools' WASH-clubs, children

are selected to speak to local officials. Violet Kasembo (12) is a pupil at the Kyamatanga Primary School in Uganda. Her school is getting its own WASH Club soon, and she cannot wait to join. She thinks it would help her advocate for her rights and needs but also help with her confidence as she would have a place to practice public speaking and learn how to become a real changemaker.

## Children are taught how to test water for contamination

### Sarwacha

**Location** Nepal  
**Period** Three years (2023-2026)  
**Donor** Dopper  
**In-country partners** ENPHO, Biruwa  
**Goal** Ensure that all people living in Changunarayan municipality have sustainable and equitable access to safe water supply and sanitation services. This will lead to an improvement in overall health and well-being, specifically for women and other underrepresented groups.



PHOTO: PRAMIN MANANDHAR

### Water monitoring training in schools

Many of the water supply systems in Changunarayan have a high risk of contamination with E. coli bacteria. Because water supplies are often interrupted and inadequate, families are drinking contaminated water, often without being aware of the poor quality

of the water and the associated risks. The Sarwacha programme facilitated trainings on testing water quality, including in schools. At the Shree Bagehni School in Changunarayan, Children are taught how to test water for contamination and are given the opportunity to voice their needs and concerns to water-user committees.



PHOTO: SHIRISH BAIRACHARGA

It takes Kesari BK an hour to fetch water at the water source down the hill.

### Water Justice Fund

**Location** Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal  
**Period** Eight years (2022-2030)  
**Donor** Dutch Postcode Lottery and other donors  
**Strategic Partner** Women Win  
**In-country partners** NIA (Kenya), Uttaran (Bangladesh), Sahakarmi Samaj (Nepal)  
**Goal** Women drive water justice by locally-led adaptation actions, strengthening climate-resilience, and realising their right to water and sanitation.

### Water access on top of the hill

In Banglachel, Nepal, nine households atop a hill lacked access to a new water system due to high water pump costs. With support from the Water Justice Fund, the Ujjwal community group partnered with local CBO Samaj Bikas Sanjal to expand the system. A €3,000 grant helped extend the pipeline, but additional funds were needed for a water pump

and tank. Receiving the funds encouraged them not to give up on their efforts to build the water tank on top of the hill and they decided to extend their lobby for financing. The local CBO helped to arrange meetings with local government officials, and they agreed to contribute financially. The community contributed labour, and now a water tank and pumps provide running water to each household, transforming access for all.



## WASH SDG

**Location** Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda (Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania and Zambia through partners)  
**Period** Six years (2017–2022) + 15 months extension until March 2024  
**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.  
**Goal** Sustainably improve the water, sanitation and hygiene situation for all by ensuring local civil society organisations and communities can 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.

### Endterm review

After 7 years, the WASH SDG programme came to an end in March 2024. We are proud to have been in the lead of this important programme. In the Endterm Review it was concluded that the WASH SDG programme has been successful in achieving its stated objectives and delivered on all its commitments. The WASH SDG programme's goal to sustainably improve access to, and use of, safe drinking water for at least 450,000 people, sanitation for at least 2 million people and improve the hygiene behaviours of 1.6 million people has been more than accomplished.



The Suryamukhi community group from Nepal meets to discuss their water issues.



## Lessons learned

# Making locally led adaptation truly locally led

Simavi is committed to making the principles of locally led adaptation the red thread in its work. A complex process filled with challenges, surprises and pitfalls.

Access to water and sanitation is highly impacted by climate change. Local communities, and especially women and girls, find themselves at the forefront of the climate crisis. However, currently less than 1% of climate financing reaches the marginalised communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change. Women, who are key players in adaptation, still have a very limited role in decision-making processes around climate adaptation. In 2024, we further explored how we can make locally led adaptation work for them.

### Empowering those left behind

The 8 Principles for locally led adaptation (LLA) were announced at the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit in the Netherlands. Since then, they have been endorsed by more than 130 organisations, including Simavi and the

Dutch government. The LLA principles are an elaboration of the broader locally led development paradigm, and directly relevant to Simavi's programmes. The principles outline what is required to address the imbalance of power, inadequate access to finance and inequitable distribution of funding for climate adaptation. Locally led adaptation means that local actors have decision-making power in planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation, and can play an essential role in achieving successful and sustainable adaptation. Simavi aims to identify the communities that are systemically left behind, and not only provide them with adequate financial means, but also empower them to realize their own solutions for climate-adaptation. 'When we talk about locally led, we talk about the importance of allowing communities to take charge of their own development. This means that instead of outsiders coming in and telling them what to do, people should be empowered to make decisions and take action based on their own knowledge and experience', explains Simavi-director Dienneke van der Wijk.

### Simavi's Water Justice Fund

In 2024, the LLA principles were most prominently implemented in Simavi's Water Justice Fund. This programme aims to empower women and communities to become climate resilient. By providing direct and easily accessible climate-funding to local women groups they are able to realise their own climate solutions. One of the LLA principles is to devolve decision-making to the lowest level. That is why the ideas and the initiative for proposals for funding would ideally come directly from women's groups most affected by the climate and water crisis. This can be challenging, as not every programme area has an existing community framework, such as women's groups, through which the proposal can be facilitated. Therefore, our approach had to be tailored to the local context. In Kenya for example, where the practice of forming women's groups to tackle local challenges is widespread,

our partner NIA (Neighbours Initiative Alliance) sent out a call for proposals at the county-level and community-centred via public spaces such as churches and community centres. Existing women groups were able to reply to the call for proposals to receive support. In Nepal and Bangladesh, our partners started out by visiting communities to discuss and identify the problems that they were facing. Based on these discussions, our partners encouraged the women to mobilize by forming a women's group. These women's groups could then collaboratively decide on suitable action. In Bangladesh, for example, one of the women's groups decided to start a mass petition towards their government action for rainwater tanks (read more on page 20).

### Traditional methods

In all countries, it proved crucial to work with partners that are local to the areas and understand the local dialect and culture. Not only were calls for proposals announced and accepted in the local dialect, but they could also be made verbally, so that language and illiteracy were not obstacles to participation. While this was a new way of working, also for some of our partners, it enabled us to break down barriers and make the whole process more locally led.

'We received a lot of support from NIA about how to apply for a grant. They even discussed different strategies to tackle our water problems with us. In the end, we decided to use the money we received to build an earth pan, a traditional method of collecting excess rainwater which the community could use all year round', says Lilian Kiriash, member of the Miton women's group in Kalioki, Kenya.

### Necessary for climate justice

The adoption of locally led adaptation principles by the entire international development sector won't happen overnight. Simavi wants to show that it's crucial and possible to make climate financing inclusive and locally led. By empowering communities to realise their own solutions, they will be able to become the driving force for positive change and improve access to water and sanitation for their own and other communities. Simavi will continue to support women and girls on the forefront of climate action, and build a powerful movement to make safe water, toilets, and equal chances available for all. •



1. Call for locally led solutions from women-led groups
2. Co-designing support aligning with local level planning
3. Review of applications led by community peer panels

4. Technical Support for communities
5. Discussion with local governments
6. Grant Disbursement and Implementation
7. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing





▲ Photographer and visual storyteller Sacha de Boer spoke to the room about her travels for Simavi and the special women she has photographed. She shared the message to invest in female leadership, because often they already know the solutions to the water crisis.

## HER Film Festival 2024

# Connecting women through stories

On March 8, International Women's Day, two hundred inspiring women were invited for a special dinner in De Duif in Amsterdam. It was the official opening of the fourth edition of HER Film Festival, the online film festival organised by Simavi and film partner Cinetree. An evening filled with moving speakers and inspiring meetings.



▲ Nearly 200 women (and a few men) came together in De Duif for an evening filled with inspiring speakers, music and many lasting encounters.



◀ This year, HER Film Festival celebrated the power of stories and how they can connect and empower women, a message demonstrated on stage by Cinetree founder Hanna Verboom and Simavi's Sabine Brusse – who opened the film festival together.



▲ Simavi's Sabiha Siddique had travelled from Bangladesh to attend the dinner. She moved the room with a story about the life of a woman in Bangladesh, who battles daily with the impact that climate change and the water crisis have on her life.



▲ Throughout the evening, the programme of HER Film Festival 2024 was announced, and short impressions of the films were shown.  
◀ Special guest of honor, Princess Laurentien van Oranje (standing to the left of Hanna Verboom) closed the evening with a message about resilience and hope. She is active in empowering women in difficult circumstances in the Netherlands.

PHOTO: CHLOE LEENHEER





## WASH, Learn & Share

# School as a starting point for better water and sanitation services

Empowering students to advocate for their own WASH needs and make a real impact on their schools and communities, that is the aim of Simavi's WASH, Learn & Share programme. 'Hopefully it will give me more time to study harder.'

Only two bathrooms for hundreds of pupils and no drinking water at school. It is the reality for more than 50% of school-going children in Uganda. That's why from 2016 until 2023, Simavi worked in schools across Uganda to provide them with safe water and accessible toilets under the WASH & Learn programme. In 2024, we continued these efforts with the WASH, Learn and Share

programme. The programme takes schools as a starting point for health and well-being for whole communities. By listening to the needs of students and helping them advocate for their rights to water and sanitation, they can become changemakers.

### Children's Parliament

'There is only one block of toilets for all the girls in the school, so we all must line up and wait a long time to use the bathroom. It does not have doors so there is no privacy at all. This is especially hard when I have my period.' Cecilia Kebirungi is 12 years old and struggles a lot because of the lack of toilets at school. She attends Kinyankende Primary School, one of the many schools that lack water and sanitation services. This has negative effects on the school performances of students, especially the girls.

'Sometimes, the school needs to close because the toilets are broken', her classmate Evelyn Kabalodi (12) explains. Other times, she misses school because there is no water, and she is thirsty. 'I want to become a nurse when I grow up, but I cannot always attend class, and I have missed my exams. I worry my grades are not good enough.'

The WASH, Learn & Share programme aims to use sustainable and locally led solutions to tackle the water and sanitation problems at schools. An important element of the programme is enhancing citizen participation. 'School pupils are given the chance to be part of a so-called 'children's parliament', a programme where they are invited to speak in front of the local council about the WASH issues they face at school and

**'I fear for the safety of my daughter and myself'**



Cecilia Kebirungi and her mother Veronica Katusabe.



Evelyn Kabalodi sometimes misses school because there is no water.

### IMPACT FACT

**In 2024 WASH, Learn & Share facilitated the rehabilitation of 6 community water sources, reaching over 3,596 people**

at home. Students do not only learn skills such as public speaking and leadership through this programme, but it also boosts their confidence to be listened to and taken seriously by people in local government', programme officer Diana Kazooba explains.

### Involving parents and communities

The programme does not stop at the schools: parents are encouraged to get involved with the programme. They are invited to the schools to discuss and learn about WASH solutions. At the Kinyankende Primary School, parents discussed how to improve the water gravity flow scheme in their village. They also received training about how they can best advocate for their needs to the local government.

Cecilia's mother Veronica Katusabe is on the local council for the Mugusu Sub County. While she advocates for other people's needs, she does not have access to some basic services herself. 'We have a toilet outside, but at night it is dangerous. I fear for the safety of my daughter and myself, so we go in a bucket at night.'

On the community level, the WASH, Learn & Share programme also works together with local entrepreneurs. During a hackathon, teams of entrepreneurs brainstormed together on solutions for water problems. Many of these solutions start in schools but can also scale up to communities. For example, one entrepreneur started a fecal sludge management cost-recovery scheme together with local pit emptiers. They work together to keep school latrines clean for a small contribution, something that did not happen before.

### WASH clubs

Cecilia has joined the WASH club at her school. Evelyn hopes to be able to join soon. This club gives the girls the ability to learn not only practical knowledge about WASH, but also about their rights and health. Some members of the WASH club also got to be part of the children's parliament. Soon, their school will get new toilet blocks. Cecilia is looking forward to spending less time waiting for the toilets. 'Hopefully, I will have more time to study harder but also do things I enjoy, like sports and drama.'

Her mother Veronica also continues to work hard on a better life for her daughter. 'We have set up a tap water scheme with an umbrella organisation in the community. The few households that can afford water from the tap distribute it to the other households for a bit of money. That way we don't have to walk to the river.'





Women from the Water Lily women's group fetching water.

PHOTO: OSCAR SEIJENS

## Water Justice Fund in Bangladesh

# Finding strength in solidarity

Together they are strong, the women of Balli Union have discovered. With a mass petition for rainwater tanks, they gained access to water and confidence in their collective power. It showcases the impact of the Water Justice Fund in Bangladesh.

Nazmun Nahar is the leader of a small local women's organisation. She was asked by Simavi's Water Justice Fund to invite women in the Sathkira region to submit proposals to collectively address their water problems. Bringing these women together was the first step.

As a local resident Nahar (40) is all too familiar with the effects of climate change in southern Bangladesh. Her dream is a future where not only her own family but the whole community has access to safe water, toilets and a better life. 'I believe cooperation is the key to tackling problems', she says.

### Impact of climate change

In Balli Union she began by identifying the women who bear the brunt of climate change. The community is plagued by a lack of drinking water, decent toilets and by constant floods. But when Nahar brought the most affected women together, they didn't have too much faith. They had heard empty promises before. But Nahar was determined. The goal of the Water Justice Fund

is not only to provide grants for locally led adaptation. But also, to elevate women to positions where they can actively influence policy and take decisive action, fostering their leadership and agency.

After several visits to Balli Union, Nahar managed to win the confidence of thirty women. The start of the Water Lily Women's Group (Shapla Mohila Dol) - as they decided to call themselves - was a reality. Just as three other women groups in the area supported by Nahar's organisation.

### Guidance and information

Nahar: 'Each women's group elected a steering committee consisting of a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer. The group meets every week to talk to each other about the challenges they face. There is always someone from our team to provide guidance and information on topics like climate change, and government resources available to them.'

For example, the women did not know that they are entitled to

a small financial contribution from the government during their pregnancy. Nahar proudly notes: 'One of the women recently managed to apply for this benefit.'

### Mass petition for rainwater tanks

The women's biggest victory came when they decided to draft a petition to claim a government scheme for subsidised rainwater tanks. A scheme they had never heard of before. In practice the money ended up mostly with wealthier households and with people with the right connections.

With a 90 per cent subsidy, households like those in Balli Union can obtain such a water tank. By collecting and storing rainwater, an entire family is assured of clean drinking water and women do not have to make long trips to the river or other water sources. Additionally, having access to clean water significantly reduces the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, and skin diseases for their children.

Most of the women in the Water Lily Women's Group had never been to a government office before. To make their voices heard, they decided to write an official application together and collect signatures. Armed with these documents, they visited not only

the union office, but also the upazila (district) office and met with representatives of the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE).

This was new for many government officials too. They had never experienced anything like this before. But the visits were successful. The women were assured that they were eligible for the water tanks. And tenacious as they were, the women kept making visits until everyone in the group got a rainwater tank.

### Gaining strength together

Ruma Parvin (35) is a member of the women's group. 'We were always unaware of our rights. But now we have gained strength together. A single branch may break quickly, but a whole bunch is very strong. How quickly we managed to solve this problem gives a lot of hope for other problems we have.'

Nahar tells how proud everyone feels. 'These women never imagined they would have the opportunity to speak with powerful people from the government, let alone have these people listen to them and help them. This was only possible because they worked together.'

'Even their husbands - who initially thought all those meetings were a waste of time - are now enthusiastic and proud of their wives', says Nahar. The women have also decided to start saving together, putting in a small amount every month.

Meanwhile, the Water Lily Women's Group already has new plans. The women have prepared a new mass petition asking for government support to build better toilets. The sixteen other women's groups in Bangladesh supported by the Water Justice Fund have also done so. The latrines that many households currently have are regularly flooded and often have neither walls nor doors. But because there is limited budget for sanitation in Bangladesh, this is a more difficult task.

Nevertheless, the first success has been achieved. The local government has submitted a budget request for sanitation facilities to the district, something that has not happened before. And the women of Balli Union are determined to continue their advocacy and remain consistent in their efforts to tackle their challenges head on. •

'These women never imagined powerful people, listen to them and help them. This was only possible because they worked together.'

Nazmun Nahar



Nazmun Nahar



Ruma Parvin

### IMPACT FACT

In 2024 the Water Justice Fund facilitated 2.147 meetings and coaching sessions with women's groups.



# Stop Sex for Water

## Campaigning in the Netherlands and beyond

From music festivals to the global stage of Miss Universe: in 2024, the Stop Sex for Water campaign travelled from the Netherlands to Mexico and Tanzania thanks to new partnerships.



Tessa Le Conge en Sabine Brusse at the launch of the Stop Sex for Water campaign.

In 2024 Simavi started a collaboration with EARTH Water, Miss Universe of the Netherlands and Miss Beauty of the Netherlands. These new partnerships allowed Simavi to spread the call for water justice for women and girls wider and louder than ever before. By involving the girls who participate in the elections, we reach a young audience with whom we would otherwise not come into contact. The candidates play an active role in this. They organise fundraising campaigns, share their stories on social media and participate in events that draw attention to the water problem.

### 100% sex free water

Our longterm partner EARTH Water supported Simavi with this campaign. EARTH Water is a social enterprise that donates all its profits to projects that provide sustainable water solutions in water-scarce areas. In 2024 Simavi and EARTH Water collaborated on a special product: 100% Sex Free Water. 'With this collaboration, we wanted to trigger people. Our 100% Sex Free Water drink cartons that we distributed on music festivals, are a conversation starter. Hopefully, people will start thinking about what sex-free water actually is and why that is not always a given', says Henk Witteveen, the founder of EARTH Water. 'We want to create awareness that many women and girls do not yet have access to safe drinking water and in the worst case even pay with their physical integrity.'

### Water on music festivals

Throughout the summer, the brightly colored drink cartons could be found at several musical festivals in the Netherlands, including The Crave in The Hague and Boothstock in Rotterdam. Here, 100% Sex Free Water was served at all festival bars, as a reminder for visitors that sex-free water is not a given everywhere. To further engage festivalgoers with our campaign, and to collect signatures for our petition, Simavi enlisted the help of the 'Washmen'. These young men or women approached visitors to ask if they could wash their hands. During this intimate, funny, sometimes confrontational experience, festivalgoers were made aware about sextortion for water and how this impacts women and girls.

### Simavi on the Miss Universe stage

In 2024 we also received support from the candidates of Miss Universe and Miss Beauty of the Netherlands. For the first time, Simavi was the official charity supported by the organisation of Miss Beauty of the Netherlands. This collaboration with an organisation that values female leadership and encourages young women to get involved with charity, helped us reach a new, younger audience. The contestants play an active role in this. They each organised fundraising campaigns and participated in events to raise awareness for the water crisis. Not only did these young women raise 21.000 euros for Simavi's water projects, but they also used their voices and platforms to contribute to a future where everyone has access to water.

Tessa Le Conge is the director of Miss Beauty of the Netherlands. 'We are first and foremost an organisation for and by women. We give girls throughout the Netherlands the tools to bring out their own power and develop themselves optimally. Of course, Simavi stands for women's empowerment and fights for the health, safety and wellbeing for women worldwide. I think that is a perfect fit.'

### An international stage

The message of the Stop Sex for Water campaign was not only shared on the Dutch stage of Miss Beauty, but the Dutch finalist for the international Miss Universe pageant took our story to the grand finale, in Mexico. This honor went to the 27-year-old Faith Landman, who was crowned Miss Universe of the Netherlands. As Miss Universe of the Netherlands, Faith wanted to continue to campaign for Simavi on and off the stage. The story of Simavi resonated with Faith personally. Her grandmother is from Tanzania, a country where many people struggle with access to water. In the

'Many women and girls do not have access to safe drinking water and in the worst case even pay with their physical integrity.'

Henk Witteveen, founder of EARTH Water



summer, she travelled there at her own expense to meet women and girls, as well as some of Simavi's local partners and visit water projects. For Faith it was an inspiring visit: 'When I visited my grandmother's village, I was confronted by the inequalities and obstacles women and girls face. But I also saw how access to water can give them equal opportunities. It was inspiring to meet young girls and see their resilience to face their future with a positive attitude.'

### Continuing collaborations

With her determination, commitment and extraordinary story, Faith Landman symbolises a new generation of Miss Universe contestants: women who not only shine on stage but also fight for a better future for others. In 2025, the finalists of Miss Universe and Miss Beauty of the Netherlands will once again commit themselves to Simavi and the Stop Sex for Water campaign. •



## Special Rapporteur willing to help 61.000 signatures to stop sex for water

Being extorted to have sex in exchange for drinking water. It happens, and it is unacceptable! On 11 December, Simavi delivered this message to Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation, in Geneva.

In 2024 Simavi asked the Dutch public to sign its petition Stop Sex for Water to make an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo. And many answered the call: more than 61.000 signatures were collected.

As a result of increasing water scarcity and a lack of water supplies, women are being pressured to have sex in exchange for water. Simavi wants to draw attention to this terrible human rights violation. As a Special Rapporteur Pedro Arrojo-Agudo is able to hold governments accountable for human rights violations. International



Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

recognition of this problem is also important for local partners and women's organisations wanting to raise this subject - which is often very sensitive or flatly denied. On 11 December Simavi's lobby & advocacy officer Esin Erdoğan travelled to Geneva to speak not only with the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, but also with staff members of the Special Rapporteur against violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on climate change. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo welcomed Simavi's efforts. 'I give full support to you as an organisation and to your work on this topic. Just the fact that women and girls must walk long distances or wait in long lines for water is already breaking the human right to water and sanitation. And we know that women and girls especially are faced with the risks and the assaults.'

Arrojo-Agudo was moved by the filmed testimonies by women and girls in Kenya. 'It is hard to imagine that women and girls have sex in exchange for drinking water, but it is happening, and it is terrible.' 'Not having water and not having a toilet at your home, exposes women and girls to risks. We know that. We know that fetching water over long distances is a risk. We know that it is not easy and safe for women to find a place outside their house to go to the toilet. It is something that I denounce, and I thank everybody who signed the petition and support the demand to stop sex for water.' 'What I can do as a Special Rapporteur is making this problem more visible, enabling conversations, and when we have documentation on specific cases address these with the national government with an allegation letter. You are the engine that is pushing this. I have the possibility of helping.'

The same offer was extended by the Special Rapporteurs against violence against women and on climate change, providing new opportunities to fight sextortion in the years to come. •



Sandra van Soelen presents at the World Water Forum

## Defending civic space

# Amplifying voices of those left behind

In 2024, Simavi attended the 10th World Water Forum in Bali with a specific goal in mind: amplifying the voices of those systematically left behind by the water sector. An important mission in a time when civic space is under attack.

The World Water Forum is the largest international water sector gathering in the world. Thousands of politicians, experts, scholars, and entrepreneurs participate in sharing knowledge, experiences, and practices regarding a wide range of topics related to water. But painfully, marginalised and disadvantaged groups – who are most affected by the lack of water and sanitation – are still often uninvited during these conferences, despite having a wealth of knowledge about how best to address their own issues. That's why during the World Water Forum, projects lead Sandra van Soelen and MEAL-advisor Sabiha Siddique presented four sessions to share experiences and learnings from our programmes in working with vulnerable communities and advocated for their inclusion in future conferences.

### Stifling counter-voice

While the conference went on inside, unrest erupted at the People's Water Forum, hosted close by. The People's Water Forum is a counter forum, open to those who had not been invited to the

World Water Forum, including many water activists and civil society organisations. This countermovement has existed for twenty years and is usually able to operate without much trouble. However, in Bali, they were thwarted and intimidated even before the start of the Forum. Venues didn't want to cooperate with them, attendees were held hostage in their hotel for days without food. And when the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, wanted to speak with them, he too was stopped.

### A key role for Simavi

Simavi was present at the World Water Forum while the events at the nearby People's Water Forum took a turn for the worse. Sandra van Soelen ended up playing a key role when she managed to put the special rapporteur in contact with the Dutch delegation, including Dutch Water Envoy Meike van Ginneken. 'Meike van Ginneken spoke with the Indonesian authorities and raised the issue during the sessions in which she was a speaker. The Spanish and French

delegations also contacted the Indonesian government. The next day, the people who had been held hostage were released. If the Indonesian authorities wanted to stifle critical voices, they achieved the opposite,' concludes Van Soelen.

**'If the authorities wanted to stifle critical voices, they achieved the opposite'**

### Leaving no one behind

The developments at the People's Water Forum underscore the importance of Simavi's efforts to amplify the voices of those left unheard. While we were able to successfully convey that message inside at the World Water Forum, the events outside show that it remains crucial to safeguard the civic space for everyone to express themselves and listen to those often unheard. •



# Jane Nyamwamu, project manager at NIA: 'Participatory peer learning empowers women groups to fight for water justice'

She is witnessing the beginning of a powerful movement. Jane Nyamwamu is project manager at NIA, Simavi's partner for the Water Justice Fund in Kenya. 'Participatory peer learning is paving the way for broader coalitions advocating for water justice.'

Jane Nyamwamu works as a project manager at Neighbours Initiatives Alliance (NIA). NIA is a development organisation based in Kajiado County working with pastoral communities. NIA was established in 1996 and is specialized in facilitating community empowerment, mainly through capacity strengthening and knowledge transfer, influencing and brokering useful linkages. NIA is a longstanding partner of Simavi and co-developer of the Water Justice Fund.

So far 23 women groups in Kajiado County have received a grant through the Water Justice Fund. Nyamwamu knows all about the difficult water and climate situation in the area. 'Fetching water from a borehole often takes up most of the day for women and girls because they have to walk all the way, wait till the men have watered the livestock, then wait in line with all the other women before they can return with their heavy load. Especially when in periods of drought boreholes dry up, women need to walk even further to the remaining waterpoints.'

## Mutual learning and engagement

The Water Justice Fund supports women groups to realise locally led solutions to water and climate challenges through participatory grant making. But there is more to the programme. Creating spaces for ongoing mutual learning and engagement creates an opportunity for women groups to play a role in defining what success looks like. And it makes women part of the participatory monitoring and learning. In Kajiado County women groups visit each other's projects, share ideas and results through WhatsApp and mentor other groups.

'Sharing experiences and solutions is something that is an integral part of the Water Justice Fund', tells Nyamwamu. 'We support participatory peer learning because it empowers women's groups to actively engage in addressing water justice issues.' One way of supporting participatory peer learning is by organizing training sessions, where different women groups come together to discuss their challenges, ideas and successes. Nyamwamu recalls a session organised by the Naishorua Self Help Group and attended by nine other women groups. The session focused on how they could advocate for environmental conservation and the importance of protecting water catchments, as well as raising community awareness about the Sand Conservation and Quarrying Bill of 2024. 'This is necessary in this area due to massive sand harvesting that is destroying water catchment, leading to drying of rivers and lack of retention of water in the rivers.'

## Proposal writing

Another way that women groups learn from each other is by becoming each other's mentors, explains Nyamwamu. Experienced groups provide guidance to newer ones, creating a supportive environment. 'For example, Naishorua Self Help Group, along with Engape and Miton Women Group, assisted other groups in proposal writing for the Water Justice Fund. This mentorship enables newer groups to understand the Water Justice Fund and put forward relevant fundable proposals.' Even if they do not get funded by the Fund, it can still serve as an eye opener on how they can navigate challenges more effectively, is her experience.

Peer learning does not only happen at meetings but is also facilitated by digital platforms. WhatsApp groups have proven to be an effective method of keeping in touch with each other. Women share pictures and videos of what they are doing. Nyamwamu: 'Groups use them to motivate themselves. If other women groups are doing well, it inspires them.' The WhatsApp groups also prove to be useful to ask questions to other group members. 'Women learn from each other about proposal writing.'



'Fetching water takes up most of the day for women and girls.'

Jane Nyamwamu

Experiences with peer learning have been encouraging, says Nyamwamu. 'Women's groups have reported significant improvements in their confidence and skills.' An example is the Miton Naasisho Women Group. 'Before they submitted their proposal for support, they visited Naishorua to learn on how the tokenized water system functions. This visit gave them the courage to reach out to the Water Justice Fund themselves and undertake their project on constructing an earth pan.'

## More impact through peer learning

She is convinced that peer learning significantly contributes to the success of women's groups. 'By enhancing their knowledge and skills, by fostering a sense of solidarity, and by stimulating innovation. By learning from one another, these groups can implement more effective projects and strategies, making their efforts more impactful.'

The Water Justice Fund cultivates a culture of teamwork and mutual support, enabling those directly affected by water challenges to develop effective strategies and advocate for their rights, says Nyamwamu. 'Women's groups have successfully lobbied for policy changes in water conservation, and the connections established through peer learning have paved the way for broader coalitions advocating for water justice. This collaborative effort marks the beginning of a powerful movement among these women's groups.'

## IMPACT FACT

In 2024 the Water Justice Fund facilitated 26 learning sessions with women's groups



Jane Nyamwamu meets women at a waterpoint in Kajiado county.



## The Sarwacha programme

# Bringing communities, the government and the private sector together in Nepal

Families in the fast-growing municipality Changuarayan in Nepal lack safe drinking water. The goal of the Sarwacha programme, supported by Simavi's long-term partner Dopper, is equal and sustainable access to safe drinking water for all 60,000 residents. And becoming a blueprint for strengthening water systems.

Sarwacha means 'the highest' in Nepali. Because that is the goal of the programme: to achieve the highest possible when it comes to water-safe municipalities. What makes it special is that it brings together local governments, the private sector and the community. It is about empowering the local community, particularly women and marginalised groups, to actively participate in decision-making processes and income-generating activities related to water and sanitation. The private sector is seen as a valuable partner, providing financing mechanisms, technical expertise, and support in infrastructure development.

The official kick-off of the Sarwacha programme with the municipality of Changuarayan and our partners ENPHO and Biruwa took place on 15 September 2023. One of the first successes was the municipality's commitment to contribute 20 per cent of the total project budget. In the months after the kick-off, baseline surveys were conducted at over 600 households, 20 water user committees, 18 elementary schools and 16 secondary schools. In total, 9 thousand residents will directly benefit from the programme.

### IMPACT FACT

In 2024 in the Sarwacha programme area 6.600 people got access to safe drinking water

### Water quality monitoring

Merina Maharjan, programme officer at ENPHO and Bivor Maharjan, young expert programmes at Simavi and programme officer at ENPHO, both work with the community and the municipality. They tell that over the last year many training sessions were provided to municipal focal persons and water user committees on water quality monitoring and promoting safe water practices.

'We also collaborated with the municipality on drafting WASH regulations. Equally important was our work with communities, schools and health professionals because reaching our goal is impossible without their cooperation, knowledge and ownership. A good example are the activities in schools. Children are testing the water quality in their schools to identify contamination. They use this information to advocate to water user committees and even present their issues to the municipality.'

### Inclusion of marginalised groups

At the community level, ENPHO is setting up Self Help Groups for women, open to everyone, including marginalised groups such as the Dalit and the Sukumbasi. The women's groups that the Sarwacha programme is working with, are given the opportunity to test the water quality and have proven very eager to use this information to pressure water user committees into addressing their issues. Merina Merhajan: 'We aim to register these groups with the municipality so they can apply for funds, and we are exploring ways to provide them with opportunities to generate some income from their activities.'

At the municipal level, the goal is to ensure the monitoring mechanisms specified in the national WASH Act are implemented by the local government. Bivor Maharjan: 'That's why we are developing monitoring guidelines and advocating for a monitoring body in the municipality, supported by a mini lab for water testing. A mechanism for systematically handling complaints will strengthen the governance of water user committees and empower water users. Finally, involving the private sector can help to offer better services to the communities and to match public funds for water and sanitation.' •

The women's groups test the water quality and use this information to pressure water user committees into addressing their issues.



### The story of the Sukumbasi: no registration, no water

Sita Tamang has a problem. She is considered a 'Sukumbasi'. It's a word that is used in Nepal for landless migrants and means something like squatters. The word is often used as a swear word and many Sukumbasi face discrimination and exclusion. Sita Tamang is one of them. Sita is a 44-years old single mother and has two daughters and a son. She works as a day labourer in the fields during sowing time and harvest time. As there is not always work, it is often difficult to make ends meet.

Even though Sita has lived all her life in a house on the outskirts of Changuarayan, she was not officially registered with the municipality. Because of that she has always had few rights as an 'illegal' resident without land rights in the municipality. An application for a water connection years ago was unsuccessful. But recently she managed to obtain a citizenship card.

For Sita Tamang, a water connection is a

dream, just like registration papers for her children: 'We are happy to live here, but access to water is very important.' To get water, Sita collects rainwater during the monsoon. On other days, she depends on a spring near the river. Walking back and forth takes her an hour. 'It is difficult, especially in the rainy season when it is slippery on the hills. As a result, I am late for work. Sometimes I don't have enough time to fetch water, and we are thirsty in the evening. Sometimes we buy bottled water then, but it costs 50 rupees [35 cents; ed].' With water in the house, Sita would choose to start working in the fields as early as 6am so that she can rest during the hottest hours of the day, and then continue working. Sita hopes that through the Sarwacha programme her issue will be raised with the municipality. 'It is important that they know about our situation and hopefully they will listen to us.'



PHOTOS: PRAMIN MANANDHAR

Sometimes I don't have enough time to fetch water, and we are thirsty in the evening.

Sita Tamang





Merlijn Ooms from the Postcode Lottery during a visit to Simavi's Water Justice Fund programme in Kajiado, Kenya.

#### IMPACT FACT

Through the Water Justice Fund in 2024 41 adaptation grants for a total of 105,000 euros were distributed directly to women led groups to support locally led solutions to water and climate challenges

Jonne Arnoldussen (NPL):

# 'Simavi's strength lies in community empowerment'



It was great news for Simavi in 2024. The Water Justice Fund received almost 1.5 million euro from the Dutch Postcode Lottery. On top of that the Lottery continued to support Simavi with 1 million euro of unrestricted funding. Jonne Arnoldussen is Managing Director at the Dutch Postcode Lottery: 'It's about trust and empowerment.'

**The Dutch Postcode Lottery supports organisations with flexible, unrestricted long-term funding. Can you explain the philosophy behind this?**

Jonne Arnoldussen: 'Absolutely. The philosophy is about trust and empowerment. We believe that organisations like Simavi know best how to allocate resources to achieve their goals. By providing flexible, long-term funding, we enable them to plan ahead, innovate, and respond to both ongoing and acute challenges as they arise. Thanks to the lottery players we are able to give our partners the freedom to do what they do best without being bogged down by restrictive funding conditions.'

**You have worked for the Dutch Postcode Lottery for almost seven years. What motivates you the most?**

'I believe in the strength of civil society. A thriving civil society is indispensable in functioning democracies. We as a lottery are there to support all kinds of local and private initiatives that are trying to make the world a better place. I chose to work in this sector because I wanted to make a tangible difference in the world, but also because I like to work in a business minded environment.'

'From the organisations I've worked with, I've learned the importance of resilience, adaptability, and the incredible impact that dedicated people can have. Personally, I hope to contribute by fostering these relationships and ensuring that we continue to support innovative and impactful initiatives.'

**The Dutch Postcode Lottery supports many organisations in the Netherlands. What is your view of Simavi and the programmes we work on?**

'I have a lot of admiration for Simavi, and the work being done. What really stands out to me is your holistic approach to health and well-being, particularly in how you integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene with gender equality and community empowerment. It's inspiring to see how these programmes are not just about providing resources, but about creating sustainable change by involving and empowering local communities.'

**What do you see as Simavi's strengths and weaknesses?**

'One of Simavi's strengths is definitely this integrated, community-focused approach. As for areas of improvement, like any organisation, there's always room for improvement when it comes to capturing and communicating impact. The impact Simavi is making is significant, especially in improving health outcomes and empowering women and girls, which has a ripple effect on entire communities.'

**In 2024 Simavi received a generous amount of extra funding for the Water Justice Fund. Can you explain why you honoured Simavi's application?**

'The decision to fund the Water Justice Fund was driven by Simavi's strong track record and the compelling vision that was presented for addressing water inequities. We were impressed by the innovative approach and the potential for significant, sustainable impact.'

**What are your expectations for this programme?**

'Our expectations are high; we believe it can drive meaningful change in water access and management, particularly for marginalised communities. What excites me most is the potential for this fund to not only improve water access but also empower women and their communities to advocate for their rights and drive systemic change.'

**In the current political climate, the role of the Dutch Postcode Lottery seems more important than ever for the development sector. How do you see this?**

'The Dutch Postcode Lottery definitely plays its part in the development sector by providing flexible funding that allows organisations to innovate and respond to emerging challenges. In the current political climate, where funding can be uncertain and priorities can shift rapidly, our role becomes even more important.'

'We aim to be a stable and reliable partner for organisations working on the front lines of development, but unfortunately, this has also become increasingly difficult. For example, we see that the Dutch government has chosen to significantly increase the tax on charity lotteries, and it has become increasingly difficult to advertise our lottery which makes it more challenging to generate revenue for charity. With these challenges we really depend on the network-support of our charity partners as well.'



## Simavi at the UN Climate Summit

# Influencing and collaborating for climate justice

It is hard to measure the impact on international climate negotiations of advocating for climate justice, water justice and gender justice. But the stakes are high, and the role of civil society should not be underestimated. 'Imagine the outcome if we wouldn't be present.'

NGOs, including Simavi, play a vital role during the UN Climate Summits by drawing attention to the most vulnerable groups, such as women and girls and local communities in the Global South. Historically, these groups and communities have contributed the least to climate change but are the hardest hit by its effects. To influence decision-makers, showcase how locally led climate adaptation works and find new partnerships, it is important for Simavi to be close to the action. Esin Erdoğan, lobby and advocacy officer at Simavi and in

2024 for the second time one of the two Dutch NGO delegates, coordinated the preparations for COP29 by the International Climate Coalition (ICC), a group of Dutch development and climate NGO's. 'We started immediately after COP28 ended.' Several important decisions had to be made in November 2024 in Baku. One of the top priorities was setting a new long-term goal for international climate finance, the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). The previous goal was to mobilise \$100 billion annually for climate action in developing countries from 2020 onwards, a figure that was only met once in those five years and has proven far from sufficient.

### Fair finance target

'It felt like a bad omen that at COP28 states were making pledges towards the Loss & Damage Fund that was agreed on, but in the end didn't put their money where their mouth was. For the new climate finance goal, parties started dragging their feet in setting a realistic and therefore ambitious new target even before the COP29 started', Erdoğan says.

A fair finance target, according to scientists and activists alike, requires at least \$1.3 trillion annually to support developing countries in their transition to sustainable energy and climate adaptation. And the emphasis must be on grants over loans to prevent countries from falling further into debt.

In the course of 2024 Erdoğan and her colleagues from the ICC spoke to as many decision makers on climate from the Netherlands and from the European Union as they could. 'We organised talks, did presentations, wrote a joint position paper, sent letters to ministers, spoke with the Dutch minister, and talked to journalists about it.'



Members of the International Climate Coalition meet the Dutch minister of Climate, Sophie Hermans (center). To her right Esin Erdoğan from Simavi.



As the closing ceremony is delayed while delegates revise the new text, members of civil society demonstrate in the corridors.

'We organised talks, did presentations, wrote a joint position paper, sent letters to ministers, spoke with the Dutch minister, and talked to journalists'

### Gender equality

At the Climate Conference in Bonn in June Erdoğan lobbied to ensure that addressing gender equality was not neglected but incorporated in the text on climate adaptation. In October Simavi was part of a small group of NGOs invited to inform Dutch Members of Parliament on climate justice prior to a political debate on the EU COP29 position.

During COP29, which was held in Baku, Erdoğan closely followed the negotiations in her role of observer, advocate and advisor to the negotiators. 'What you do is that you spend all day listening to the negotiations and analysing with other observers what exactly is happening. We advise negotiators based on our expertise and give feedback on how their progress – or lack of it – is received. It motivates them when they know pressure is mounting.'

Unfortunately, the outcome of COP29 was hugely disappointing. The parties agreed to a mere 300 billion dollars per year in climate financing by 2035. 'Taking inflation into account, an amount of 300 billion dollars is no improvement on the amount agreed in 2015. While the climate problems have become much more serious in the meantime. Moreover, a large part of it consists of loans. While many developing countries are already drowning in debt.'

### The lobby continues

That's why the lobby continued after COP29. During the debate with the climate minister a motion was passed asking the government to ensure that climate finance will not further increase the debt burden of low-income countries. 'The future of billions of people is at stake', says Erdoğan. 'If climate-vulnerable countries are not enabled to adapt to climate change, to repair damage and to take the step towards a sustainable future, the effects will be incalculable.' After the failure of Baku, hope is pinned on COP30, which will be organised in Belém in 2025. Brazil has a greener reputation than the 2024 host country 'oil is a gift from God' Azerbaijan and is determined to make it a historic climate summit. 'The preparations start now. Let us do everything we can to prevent a second Baku.'•



Our people

# Making maximum impact with an international team

Our diverse and international team works every day to maximise the impact of our programmes, together with partners in the countries we work in.

Our colleagues work across the world and are based in six countries. In 2024 nine consultants of our programmes team were located in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, and Uganda. They play a key role in the implementation and coordination of our programmes. Our office in the Netherlands is staffed by a dedicated

team of 24 people (December 2024). The staff based in the Netherlands consist of support staff (HR, finance, assistants), and the fundraising and engagement team alongside a small section of the programmes team. The leadership team, consisting of three cluster leads, is based in the Netherlands.

PHOTO: JEROEN VAN LOON

Veerle Ver Loren van Themaat (left) and Pragati Bajracharya (2nd to the left) listen to Lydia Lepapa (2nd to the right) from the Naisharua Women's group in Kenya.



Our staff turnover was 42.5% with 6 new employees (4 in the Amsterdam office and 2 in the country offices). The staff turnover can be partly explained by the closing of a number of programmes and a restructuring process in the Netherlands. 11 employees in the Netherlands left Simavi due to the restructuring process, and 11 employees abroad left due to the closure of programmes. The average sickness absence rate at our office in Amsterdam was 15.4%.

How do our employees feel?

To promote employee engagement and colleagueship we organise activities including weekly global catch up on Mondays, workouts, an annual yearly team-outing and lunch/coffee breaks, as well as end of year festivities. We also have a hybrid work policy. Employees can come into the office for two days (or more) and can work from home the rest of the week. This improves their work/life balance, according to the results of our Employee Satisfaction Survey.

Simavi's Employee Representative Body (ERB) consists of three elected employees, who are based in the Netherlands. The ERB flags and discusses issues that are important to Simavi and its employees and shares them with the management on the employees' behalf. The ERB met six times in 2024. The ERB raised the issue of how to better include Simavi's colleagues abroad with the team and our work policies, as much as possible under the options available to Simavi.

Networked organisation

Simavi uses a cluster-based structure in a networked model with strategic partnerships and the ambition to Shift the Power. This networked way of working

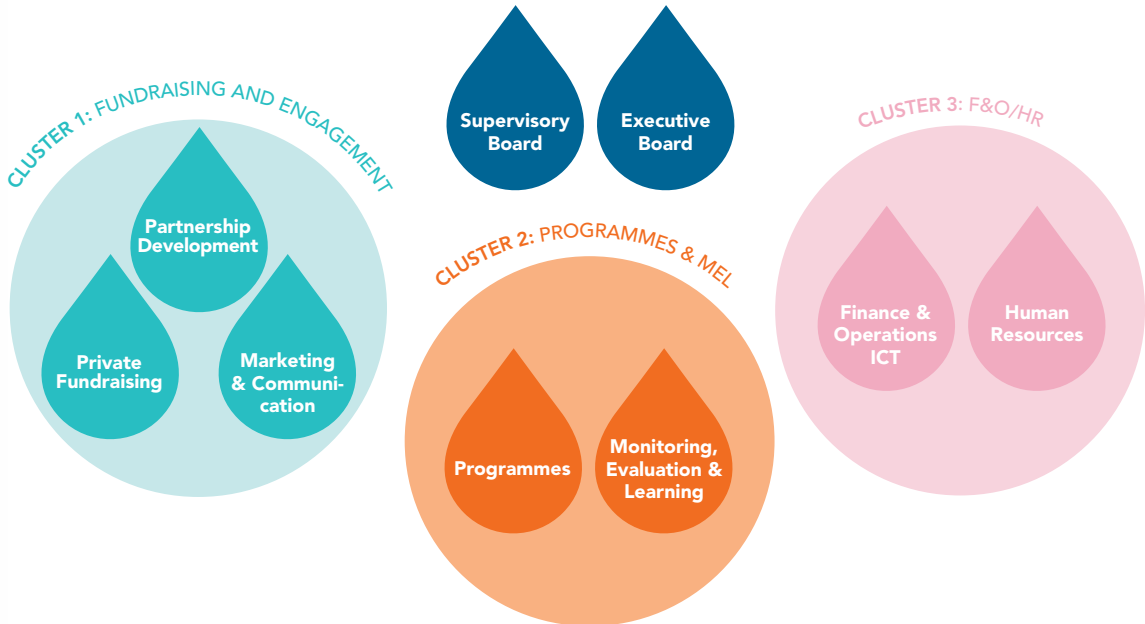
Our ambition is to have decision making across all levels of the organisation.

means that every employee is expected to work in collaboration with others on issues related to their role, matching their talents and expertise with the needs of the organisation. The ambition is to have decision making across all levels of the organisation. This organisational model empowers our staff and allows for more flexibility and rapid response. For Simavi, Shift the Power means shifting the leadership to women and girls themselves, and towards employees and partner organisations in the countries where we work.

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 other volunteers. Interns are given a chance to learn valuable skills for their future employment. For Simavi this is also a part of contributing to qualitative work being conducted in the development sector.

Both interns and volunteers are highly valued, and all our clusters greatly enjoy working with the volunteers and interns who support us. They help us achieve our ambitions and are an important part of the Simavi team. •





# Where does our money come from and how do we spend it?

How does Simavi generate the income to successfully implement programmes and other activities? And how much was spent on our objectives? What are our fundraising priorities? How do we build long-term relationships with our donors? And what were the challenges we faced in 2024? An overview.

In 2024 Simavi generated an income of €8.3 million. Income from individual donors amounted to €3.2 million. This income was generated through a diverse fundraising programme including revenues from legacies and bequests. Revenue from lotteries, companies and non-profit organisations amounted to €2.2 million, €0.8 million higher than expected. Government subsidies, which include grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU, made up €2.9 million of our income.

### 2024: Fundraising in a rapidly changing world

2024 was a year in which we achieved many successes related to our fundraising. We launched successful campaigns, engaged new supporters, and saw more people embrace our mission. We also doubled our online income. Despite these achievements, making impact is a continuous and ever-changing task, and we are always on the lookout for new opportunities.

In 2024, the Dutch government announced budget cuts for international development. This forced us to think outside the box to diversify our funding and look for new partnerships to achieve our mission. Luckily, our loyal supporters are committed to our mission and continued to generously support us in 2024. Because of this shift in funding, it became even more urgent to remain visible for other perspective donors and make sure we realise our mission to increase access to water and sanitation for women and girls. We do that through the following fundraising strategies.

### Our four main fundraising priorities in 2024 were to:

- diversify our donor base
- 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
- increase our income through online channels

### Continued partnership with Postcode Lottery

In 2024 we received €1.000.000 from the Postcode Lottery, an increase of the structural support with 100.000 euro, as a token of their support to our mission. The funds we receive from the Postcode Lottery each year make a vital contribution towards realising our mission and developing new programmes. Additionally, in February 2024, we received an extra €1.5 million for our Water Justice Fund. We are grateful for the Postcode Lottery's continued trust and support in us.

### Our business partners' continued commitment

In 2024, we received €741.000 from our corporate and business partners. We are grateful for the contributions and the trust they have placed in us to build on these collaborations in the coming year.

In collaboration with our strategic partners, we were able to continue our work to provide as many people as possible with safe drinking water. In 2024 we continued our partnership with Dopper, a key partner with whom we have worked on multiple projects since the founding of Dopper, 15 years ago. Together, we have provided thousands of people in Nepal with access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation. In June 2023, we launched Sarwacha, an initiative focused on creating water-safe communities in the Changunarayan Municipality. Over the past year, we have made considerable progress by identifying key stakeholders and engaging them in the project. This has helped establish practical pathways to ensure the initiative's sustainability even after it concludes in 2026. The dedication of Dopper's team, including their CEO Virginia Yanquilevich, during their visit to the project in November 2024 was inspiring and reinforced the strength of this partnership.

In 2024 we continued the multi-year collaboration between Made Blue and Simavi with the WASH, Learn & Share programme in Uganda. The programme started in 2024, and we have already supported 6 schools to improve their water and sanitation facilities as well as start WASH-clubs for pupils. We are proud to partner with Made Blue, a company that integrates social empowerment into its core values. Their commitment ensures that access to clean water remains a priority, helping us reach more communities and create lasting impact.

We also received €240.000 from the ASML Foundation for our continued support for women and girls. We want to thank them for this generous contribution which allows us to invest in high quality programmes.

### New partnerships

In 2024 we built on ongoing efforts to strengthen the role of companies in creating global water solutions. It has been inspiring to see the energy and commitment from our partners as they join us in this mission. We saw the beginning of a partnership with Miss Beauty of the Netherlands and Miss Universe Netherlands. Their teams and the contestants of Miss Beauty and Miss Universe brought much enthusiasm and dedication to our shared goal of ensuring clean water and safe sanitation for all. Their support is a testament to how businesses can drive meaningful change.

We also continued our partnership with Earth Water, a collaboration that combines creativity and shared purpose. Together, we are reaching new audiences through campaigning on festivals and spreading the message about the importance of access to clean and safe water.

In 2024 we organised two mudflat hikes for water. An edition for private individuals, as well as a *Business Mudflat Hike*, which brought together professionals from various sectors for a unique, three-day, 40-kilometer adventure. These hikes took participants from the top of the province of Groningen to the stunning Dutch island of Schiermonnikoog. This challenging yet rewarding journey not only raised awareness for Simavi's work but also fostered a deeper connection with nature and the importance of water in our lives.

These partnerships and events highlight the vital role companies play in advancing global water solutions. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue our work.



### INCOME (X 1,000 EURO)

FROM:	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023
Private individuals	3,201	2,350	1,731
Companies	741	495	388
Lottery organisation	1,208	900	900
Government subsidies	1,221	1,130	3,610
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	1,710		8,832
Other non-profit organisations	263		220
Income from delivery of products/services		26	
<b>Total Income raised</b>	<b>8,344</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>15,681</b>

### Contestants of Miss Beauty of the Netherlands and Miss Universe Netherlands protest against sextortion in Amsterdam







Meeting at the Teylers Museum for our most loyal donors

## > Engaging our supporters

In 2024 we engaged more than 94,000 supporters, of which 29,000 supporters made a financial contribution to our work. Gross turnover from private donors has slightly increased to approximately 1.8 million euros.

Individual donors are of immense importance to Simavi. The financial support given by our supporters in the Netherlands funds a large part of our daily work. We are proud and happy to rely on the support of the people that believe in our way of working. But their engagement means more than just that; they also strengthen our visibility and are a powerful voice in spreading the message.

We are pleased to see that our renewed approach to Direct Mail is delivering the desired results. In 2024, we achieved our target income of €700,000 through Direct Mail. Since 2021, we have deliberately reduced the volume of physical mailings to shift our focus toward online donations. Our strategy aims to increase response rates and receive higher donation amounts by sending out physical mailings more selectively while simultaneously strengthening our online communication with donors. This not only reduces costs but also minimizes our environmental footprint by lowering paper consumption. In the coming years, we will continue to invest in the further digitalization of our program to build on this positive development.

On November 13th, we held our annual meeting for our loyal donors. In the beautiful Teylers Museum in Haarlem, we welcomed over 80 guests. The day was filled with interesting talks on the Water Justice Fund and the future outlook of the programmes, and of course our accomplishments, which are realised thanks to our loyal donors. After an exciting quiz and story of a field visit, the day finished with a museum visit.

## Growing our structural donor base

In 2024 we welcomed more structural donors to our supporter base, and we will continue to invest in persuading people to make a long-term financial commitment. Our strategic shift should result in growth in our financial and supporter base within the next couple of years. As a result, we will build a healthier and more committed relationship with the people that support our mission with their money, their voices and their time. By the end of 2024, we reached almost 9,500 structural supporters.



Yasmine Essed joined the Mudflat-hiking event

PHOTO: UPNORTH

## Engaging new audiences

Throughout the year we provided opportunities for a broad audience to contribute to and engage in our work, by participating in our campaigns. We invest in attracting a new and younger audience and increasing our supporter base through appealing public campaigns and other engaging activities. Two specific examples are HER Film Festival, and our petition Stop Sex for Water. Both campaigns offer a strong call to action to new audiences: watch films about powerful women / sign the petition to advocate with us for safe drinking water. All participants were also asked to join our movement by making a financial contribution. This resulted in a little more than 1.000 new structural financial relations.

## Walking for Water

Simavi engages children with the urgency of the water crisis, as well as their parents and teachers, through the fundraising event Walking for Water. 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, followed by a sponsored walking event. In 2024, 2,949 children took part in different school activities for Walking for Water, resulting in Simavi receiving almost €108.000 for our WASH, Learn & Share programme.

## Walking with the Tide

In August, Simavi organised two editions of Wadlopen voor Water: a 3-day mudflat-hiking fundraising event in the Dutch Wadden Sea. Next to the regular edition for private individuals, we organised the first ever business edition of Wadlopen voor Water. 36 people participated in total, resulting in an amazing contribution of more than €56.000.

Despite the added challenge of extreme wind and rain, it was an unforgettable and amazing experience. All the participants were highly enthusiastic about this unique once in a lifetime experience.

## Our income through legacies

In 2024 we received €1,565,448 from legacies. We acknowledge the importance of legacies for long-term sustainability of the organisation and are putting in more efforts to raise awareness amongst donors of this crucial and impactful way of giving. Our thoughts go out to all who passed away in 2024 and contributed part of their legacy to fulfil our mission. As an organisation we want to honour every single person that has passed away leaving their legacy with Simavi, and we are grateful for everyone who has included Simavi in their will. Together with them we share the wish for a world where everyone has access to clean water and a toilet. A world where women do not have to spend several hours a day fetching water and where no girl misses school because she is menstruating. Through donating part of their legacy to Simavi, they pass on life, because water means life.

## Gratitude towards our donors

Dieneke van der Wijk: 'We like to thank our donors. Relationships we have with our donors are deep and warm and without their support Simavi would not have been able to make the impact we made. We work closely together with our donors and supporters to achieve our objective to empower women and girls to be able to enjoy their rights to water and sanitation. We also thank the Dutch Government, Dopper, MadeBlue, EARTH Water, Miss Beauty of the Netherlands and Miss Universe of the Netherlands, the ASML Foundation, The Vallei Stichting and the Postcode Lottery for supporting our programmes. Thanks to the support from our donors we can invest in high-quality programmes, build meaningful partnerships, grow our fundraising and advocate for water justice.'

## EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023
Total spent on objectives	6,158	4,619	15,196
Total cost of generating funds	1,233	1,279	978
Total management & administration costs	604	529	584
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>7,995</b>	<b>6,427</b>	<b>16,758</b>

## How did we spend the money

We are proud of every euro invested in our work. Simavi's result for the 2024 financial year was EUR 426 thousand positive (2023: EUR -1,035 thousand negative), a very positive outcome compared to the budgeted deficit of EUR -1,526 negative. An important reason for this positive result is the better-than-expected income from private individuals, as well as from companies and the lottery organisation NPL. In line with our strategy, we continued to invest in our programmes and in attracting more structural donors.

## Expenditure on our objectives

In 2024 Simavi spent a total of €6.2 million on our objectives, €1.5 million more than budgeted. This was largely due to payments for alliance partners; early 2024 they received delayed payments from 2023.

## Expenditure not spent on our objectives

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. In 2024 we spent €1.2 million on generating funds and €0.6 million on management and administration costs.

## Accountability

Simavi's accounts for the financial year 2024, 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 2024 •.





Women collect water at a waterpoint in Kajiado County, Kenya.

PHOTO: JEROEN VAN LOON

## Safeguarding our operations

# How does Simavi manage risks?

As an organisation that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship and depends on subsidies, donations, and partnerships, Simavi encounters risks. Managing these risks is an integral part of our operations.

Simavi employs multiple strategies to protect our mission and objectives from harm. Our risk management framework and guidelines help us systematically assess risks, optimise our decision-making, and safeguard our operations.

### Programmatic risks

Programme implementation is Simavi's core activity. This involves various risks that might jeopardise the execution of programmes or the achievement of outcomes, such as integrity issues, fraudulent partners, substandard partner performance, security threats, activities that are not rolled out according to plan, failure to meet our quality standards, or safety and health incidents.

In carrying out our work, we cannot avoid taking risks. However, this is acceptable as long as we are aware of these risks and can manage them without jeopardising our continuity and goals. Overall, Simavi's risk tolerance is moderate. We have implemented several preventive controls to reduce the likelihood of risks occurring and to mitigate their consequences if they do. Examples of these controls include clear internal policies on integrity, compliance, and sanctions, systematic screening of existing and new partners, and a safety and security policy. We continue to work closely with our partners to ensure effectiveness, high performance, and good governance.

### Reputational risks

For an organisation like Simavi, a strong reputation is essential, yet at the same time, it is fragile. Any incident may pose a real threat to Simavi's reputation, affecting our ability to achieve our goals and objectives, and even our continuity.

Traditionally, reputational risks were more related to incidents within programmes. However, as we intensify our fundraising efforts towards individual donors,

the likelihood of reputational risks in this area has increased, requiring extra attention. Simavi addresses this risk by ensuring a swift and satisfactory follow-up to any donor questions, comments, or reports.

### Financial risks

For a fundraising organisation like Simavi, fluctuations in income are the main financial risk, but they are also an inherent reality. Policy changes by governments or major institutional donors, as well as strong competition from other fundraising organisations, may result in less successful applications—although they also create opportunities for new successes.

Simavi mitigates these risks by diversifying its income sources and strengthening its individual donor base. In addition, we make significant efforts to maintain strong relationships with the private sector, institutional partners, and governments, while focusing on delivering high-quality results together with our partners.

### Organisational risks

Simavi is highly dependent on its employees and systems to achieve its goals and objectives. Inherent organisational risks include data security threats, challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified staff, and maintaining well-functioning information systems. Simavi's organisational risk tolerance is low.

### Our financial health

Simavi's financial position is strong enough to ensure continuity, thanks to prudent financial management in previous years and a keen focus on cost-effectiveness. At year-end 2024, Simavi's continuity reserve amounted to €2.106 thousand, exceeding the minimum level of six months' operational expenditure. In 2025, Simavi is projected to have a higher income than in 2024, reversing the trend of recent years and further strengthening its financial position. •



## A key ingredient for impact

# Integrity

Integrity is not just a handbook, a guideline, or a set of rules – it is also an ongoing debate about morals and ethics. The work we do is built on trust.

We use donors' money to carry out our mission, and we are committed to spending it in a fair and transparent way. At the same time, we work with marginalised groups. We must never betray trust or cause harm. 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 the procedures to be followed in the event of inappropriate behaviour and the proportionate sanctions to be applied in such cases. Simavi has adopted a child safeguarding policy, an anti-fraud, anti-bribery, and anti-corruption policy, a whistleblower policy, and a complaints policy (available on our website or upon request). New employees are introduced to 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 the reporting of suspected irregularities and is committed to taking action whenever its core principles are violated or threatened. Our duty is to protect victims, restore justice, and learn from incidents to prevent future violations. To ensure ongoing awareness, integrity issues are regularly discussed in meetings (e.g., within programmes, in cluster teams, and in financial meetings).

Women from the Surjomukhi women's group in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: OSCAR SEUKENS

## Simavi's code of conduct clearly defines appropriate and inappropriate behaviour

### Integrity and dilemmas

We regularly reflect on the challenges we encounter in our work, which often present serious dilemmas. Simavi operates in a variety of countries, including the Netherlands, where local laws and cultural norms may sometimes conflict with our mission, such as achieving gender equality. Patriarchal systems, for instance, often exclude women from certain decision-making processes. We actively discuss these challenges—not only to find solutions but also to equip

our staff with the necessary resources and tools to remain consistent in their day-to-day work.

In 2024, we received one complaint. In line with our complaints policy, the issue was promptly investigated and resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant.

### Corporate social responsibility

When selecting new partners and monitoring our work, it is essential that we share the same values and vision of creating a world that works for everyone. This includes upholding gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights, diversity and inclusion, cooperation among civil society organisations, sound financial management, and sustainability. Sustainability is a core component of our work, in accordance with our Theory of Change. At our office in the Netherlands, we are fully aware of our environmental

responsibilities. We offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our road and air travel through a compensation contract with Climate Neutral Group and monitor the number of flights we take each year. Our office lunches largely consist of organic and Fair Trade-certified products. We use biodegradable cleaning products, separate recyclable waste, purchase green electricity, and use FSC-certified paper for printing, copying, correspondence, and newsletters.

### Double check on accountability

The quality of Simavi's operations is safeguarded by an ISO-certified quality management system, which monitors and evaluates our internal processes. This system is embedded in internal manuals that outline the applicable policies, procedures, and processes.

More detailed information can be found in our Declaration of Accountability at [www.simavi.nl/en/governance](http://www.simavi.nl/en/governance). This document also describes Simavi's policy cycle. In October 2024, EIK Certificering BV conducted an external surveillance audit of our ISO 9001:2015 and Partos 9001:2018 certifications. Our certificates were renewed and are now valid until November 2027. The Central Bureau for Fundraising conducted its regular annual review and confirmed that we comply with its standards, extending our official recognition. In addition to external audits, we conducted several internal audits in 2024 to assess our processes and procedures and ensure the proper functioning of our system. The outcomes of these audits were discussed in the management review and addressed accordingly by the respective clusters. •



# Who leads Simavi?

Simavi has a two-tier board. The supervisory board oversees the good governance of the organisation. The managing director, Dienneke van der Wijk, is appraised by the supervisory board. In 2024, we welcomed a new member of the supervisory board, Jochem Schuurman.

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

We are proud to have a supervisory board composed of highly capable individuals, each bringing a unique background and set of talents. Their contributions help our organisation achieve its mission.

**JOYCE BROWNE**  
Vice-Chair (Until December 2024)  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
Global health, maternal health, epidemiology, planetary health, and climate justice  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Associate Professor, UMC Utrecht



**WILLEM VAN DE PUT**  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
International health development  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Research Fellow, Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA), Fordham University, Bronx, New York; Director, Culture4Change



**OLUTAYO BANKOLE-BOLAWOLE**  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
Organisational and institutional development and organisational growth, leadership development, transformational change in international development  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Global Director of People and Culture, Tearfund



**ANKJE VAN WERSCH-LENDERS**  
Chair  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
Strategy, international organisation and partnership building, corporate social responsibility  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Managing Director, MVO Nederland; Supervisory Board Member at Het Groene Brein



**VERA ARNOLDUS**  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
Legal, governance  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Company Secretary, PharmAccess Foundation



**JOCHEM SCHUURMAN**  
Audit Committee  
**AREA OF EXPERTISE**  
Financial management, financial reporting, risk assessment, due diligence, climate philanthropy  
**CURRENT POSITION**  
Finance Manager at Stichting Springpact / BlueCity / Rechtstreex

## How much does the managing director earn?

Our supervisory board determines the managing director's compensation package in line with the guidelines for directors' salaries at charitable organisations issued by Goede Doelen Nederland.

In 2024, managing director Dienneke van der Wijk received a gross salary of € 101.097. In accordance with the standards set by Goede Doelen Nederland, Simavi does not pay bonuses to its managing director or any other employee.

The managing director has one ancillary position (no remuneration): member of the Supervisory Board of DevPro in Sri Lanka.

Newest member of the supervisory board

**Jochem Schuurman:**

'It is always about impact'

## Why did you decide to join Simavi's supervisory board?

'I had arrived at a point in my life where I was looking for another role in which I could contribute to solving today's challenges. This opportunity at Simavi offered me the chance to apply my knowledge and experience from the past 18 years as a finance professional for a greater purpose. I believe that I can really contribute, especially by playing an advisory role and thinking along with the people who do the hard work.'

## What unique perspective do you bring to the supervisory board?

'Working for the IKEA Foundation, I collaborated with a wide range of mission driven organisations and teams and engaged with a variety of climate related programmes. At Simavi's Supervisory Board, my financial perspective complements the other backgrounds and talents in the Supervisory Board well. For example, other members have expertise in the field of development cooperation, monitoring, learning & evaluation, and legal matters. Together we form a complementary team.'

'In addition to my general role within the Supervisory Board, I am also a member of the Audit Committee. This includes discussing risk management, governance and the financial health of the organisation.'

## What are the most important lessons from 2024 for Simavi?

'Simavi has undergone a major change with the closure of multiple programmes followed by an organisational restructure. This shift was necessary due to broader developments in the sector, both in the Netherlands and internationally. It showed us that existing funding streams will not continue to exist indefinitely. Organisations like Simavi must therefore remain flexible and re-invent themselves to deliver impact in the long term. It is crucial to deal with financial resources consciously



and efficiently, and appreciate the impact on people's lives with each euro we receive from donors and partners.'

'Simavi distinguishes itself with its strong and clear focus on locally led solutions and participatory financing, at the intersection of water and gender equality. From the start, I have been impressed by how Simavi works in coalitions. It is never about Simavi, but always about impact. Through these core strengths, Simavi can position itself well within partnerships and the wider sector of development cooperation.'

## What are you looking forward to in 2025 for Simavi?

'Simavi has taken the first steps in an essential transition to becoming a smaller, more focused organisation. I am curious to see how the organisation will develop further. In my role within the Supervisory Board, I will continue to focus on further refining financial strategies and making deliberate choices to maximise the impact of each euro. 2025 will be a special year, because Simavi will be 100 years old. That is truly a milestone to celebrate! It is important to look back on the enormous impact that the organisation has achieved, but also to look ahead to the future.'



# The financial outlook for 2025

## Looking forward

Simavi was founded in 1925 by two Dutch doctors with the aim of bringing medicine to Indonesia. In almost a century, a lot has changed. As a development organisation working closely with partner organisations in Asia and Africa on water, climate, and gender justice, we have never been afraid to adjust and innovate. We are constantly adapting to suit the changing landscape of development and the needs and rights of women and girls.

### BUDGET 2025 (X 1,000 EURO)

#### INCOME

Income from private individuals	6,600
Income from corporate fundraising	545
Income from lottery organisations	1,285
income from non-profit organisations	250
Income from government grants	1,110
(of which allocated to Alliance partners)	710
Other income	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,790</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

##### SPENT ON OBJECTIVES

Awareness raising	1,709
Programmes	3,712
(of which paid to Alliance partners)	710
Advocacy	213
<b>TOTAL SPENT ON OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>5,634</b>

##### OTHER EXPENDITURE

Cost of generating funds	1,699
Management & administration costs	667
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,000</b>

financial income	25
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>1,815</b>

##### APPROPRIATION OF RESULTS

- Earmarked reserve for Projects	-240
- Earmarked reserve legacy	2,000
- Financing assets	-11
- Continuation reserve	67
	<b>1,815</b>

### Financial outlook for 2025

In 2024, we put a lot of effort into our ongoing programmes. At the end of March 2024, we closed the WASH SDG programme. Despite its very good results, this programme did not receive renewed funding, and the ensuing decrease in our income has started a period of transition for Simavi. In line with our strategy, we have brought more focus to our organisation by concentrating on three overarching programmes, including the Water Justice Fund, the WASH, Learn & Share programme, and Sarwacha as a project under the Sustainable and Inclusive WASH programme. By building more strategic partnerships, we shift power and leverage our impact.

Financially, 2025 will still be a year of transition. Looking at the great results of our programmes, we continue to invest in our fundraising capacity because we believe in the relevance and potential of our mission. We expect to be able to raise more funds from individual donors, companies, and foundations in the Netherlands. In 2024, we were

We will continue to join alliances and work in partnership with others to increase our impact and become more cost-effective.

Jane Tumuti from the Olepolos Women group, Kenya

PHOTO: JEROEN VAN LOON



informed that Simavi would receive a large legacy of several million euros. In line with our transition plan, Simavi will use these funds over a period of two to three years to strengthen our programmes and fundraising capacity.

We anticipate significantly lower income from government grants due to the changed political climate, not only in the Netherlands but worldwide. We will continue to look for opportunities to join alliances and work in partnership with others to help us increase our impact and become more cost-effective. In 2025, we anticipate spending EUR 5.6 million on our objectives. The costs of generating funds are budgeted at EUR 1.7 million. We anticipate that the transformative change that started in 2023 — with

adjustments to the organisational structure, making our programmes more locally led, lowering our costs, and growing our direct debit base — will remain well on schedule. We are determined to invest as much as we can into our programmes and to ensure that our fundraising capacity is sufficient to continue our programmes in the years to come.

Having trust in the strength of our message and our plan for the future, Simavi's Supervisory Board has approved the budget for 2025. Thanks to the progress made in implementing our transition plan, and in part due to the legacy, Simavi's funding, liquidity, and financial reserves are sufficient to ensure the continuation of our existing programmes and operations in the coming years. •



# Facts & Figures



Violet and Esther are pupils at the Kyamatanga primary school. Their school now has a WASH Club where students learn about water, sanitation and hygiene and think of smart ways to generate funds for their schools WASH facilities.

PHOTO: SHARIF HUSEIN

## Report of the supervisory board

# A year of resolve, transition and growth

The year 2024 was a challenging yet pivotal year. For Simavi, having to adjust the organisation to the consequences of the closure of two major programmes. And for water and climate justice, as newly elected administrations in various parts of the world, including the Netherlands, threatened progress.

It has only strengthened Simavi's resolve to bring the voice and experiences of the women and girls most affected by climate change to the tables where decisions are made. Putting women and girls at the centre and working on locally led solutions to tackle the water crisis for the most vulnerable communities is Simavi's unique way of working. A way of working that the supervisory board strongly supports and believes in.

### New member of the board

The supervisory board strengthened itself by welcoming Jochem Schuurman as the newest member of the board. Schuurman replaced Hans Valkenburg, who left in September 2023, and brings 18 years of experience in the financial sector with him. And valuable experience as grant operations manager at IKEA Foundation. At the end of 2024, the supervisory board had to say goodbye to Joyce Browne, who had been vice-chair and a valuable part of our team since 2020. Joyce brought a commitment to health and astute critical thinking and understanding of power dimensions in the development sector. As the youngest member to ever be appointed to the supervisory board; her knowledge, experience and perspective provided for a uniquely valuable contribution. Joyce, thank you so much, you will be missed! Apart from the personnel changes, 2024 was also a vital year for the transition of Simavi as an organisation. As a supervisory board we supported the organisation in bringing focus and increasing impact by concentrating on three overarching programmes and by exploring new partnerships and collaborations. Financially 2024 was also a year of transition. Income from government grants was significantly less than previous years, so the supervisory board encouraged investments in raising more funds from individual donors, companies and foundations in the Netherlands.

### Women as key drivers of change

The supervisory board believes that access to water for women is not only a right, but also a necessity when we want to move towards a more equitable and sustainable society. We need to acknowledge the powerful role of women and girls as key drivers of change and ensure they can take up this role. Women and girls need to participate actively, freely and meaningfully, be equally included in decision making, and be heard and respected at all levels of WASH governance. Shifting the Power - a call to redistribute power and resources to the people who are deprived of their human rights - is and will remain an important part of Simavi's way of working and organisational choices are made accordingly. Simavi will further invest in local leadership and support local initiatives and local actors. The focus of Simavi's programmes will be even more on supporting community engagement through partners who work with grassroots women and girl-led initiatives. This approach is key to authentic and lasting social change and transformation.

### Influencing and collaborating

Simavi will continue to focus on low resource countries and regions in Africa and Asia where the human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls are most at risk. The supervisory board supports the two mutually reinforcing intervention strategies that Simavi employs: influencing and collaborating. These strategies fit Simavi's role, position and expertise in the international development sector and help to create an enabling environment in which crucial voices, opinions and demands are heard.



In 2024 Simavi managed to deliver on its programmes and ensured learning and impact was captured. The WASH SDG sub-programmes led by Simavi exceeded all their targets and contributed towards real system change. The Water Justice Fund has already funded more than 70 women-led grassroots initiatives to implement local climate adaptation actions and the WASH, Learn & Share programme has started working in 18 schools and 36 surrounding villages in Uganda. In Nepal Simavi continued its successful collaboration with Dopper on the Sarwacha programme, aiming for a blueprint for WASH system strengthening. Simavi's campaigns in the Netherlands were used to strengthen our message and gather support for programmes. Through the Stop Sex for Water campaign more than 61,000 signatures were collected and presented to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. Two extreme multi-day sponsored hiking events on the mudflats in the Netherlands were organised for the Water Justice Fund. And with the HER Film Festival, attention was drawn to women's rights. In designing current and future programmes, the principles of the Simavi strategy are clearly reflected. Shifting the Power is increasingly embedded in Simavi's programmes, influencing work, partnerships, in how Simavi is organised and in Simavi's identity. In 2025 Simavi

will celebrate its 100 years anniversary, a remarkable feat of resilience and adaptation to new realities. The supervisory board is convinced that the Simavi approach has strong potential to attract new partnerships and new donors.

About the supervisory board

- Throughout the year the supervisory board and the management team operated entirely according to the declaration's rules and intent.
- The supervisory board is the managing director's employer and supervisor and acts as her adviser. The board itself has no managerial or operational responsibilities.
- The supervisory board members are recruited according to pre-agreed profiles to ensure the board's composition encompasses diverse areas of expertise. Vacancies are publicly advertised.
- The supervisory board appoints new board members. The supervisory board may involve the managing director in the assessment and selection procedure.
- The accountability and responsibilities of Simavi's supervisory board are described in the organisation's Declaration of Accountability (see [www.simavi.nl/en/governance](http://www.simavi.nl/en/governance)).

Composition

Simavi's supervisory board is composed as follows:

Supervisory board members	Area of expertise	Current position	Other ancillary positions
Ankie van Wersch-Lenders chair	Strategy; international organisation and partnership building; corporate social responsibility	Managing Director, MVO Nederland	Supervisory Board Member at Het Groene Brein; Tika Foundation; IMAGINE leader
Joyce Browne vice-chair (until December 2024)	Global health; maternal health; epidemiology; planetary health and climate justice	Associate Professor, UMC Utrecht	Chair member of Global Health Knowledge Centre; Advisory board member of Expertise centrum Kinderen en Adolescenten Nieuw in Nederland; Advisory Board member of the Green Care Alliance (Groene Zorg Alliantie)
Vera Arnoldus audit committee	Legal; governance	Company Secretary, PharmAccess Foundation	
Willem van de Put	International health development	Director, Culture4Change	Research Fellow, the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University;
Olutayo Bankole-Bolawole	Organisational development and culture; institutional development and organisation growth, leadership development & management, transformational change specialist in international development	Global Director of People and Culture, Tearfund	Board member, Ajegunle Community Project, Lagos, Nigeria; Expert on Africa, WASH and Women, World Economic Forum
Jochem Schuurman audit committee	Financial management, financial reporting, risk assessment, due diligence, climate philanthropy	Finance Manager at Stichting Springpact / BlueCity /RechtstreeX	

Rotation and election procedure

Supervisory board members are appointed for a maximum of 2 x four-year terms. Simavi is looking at the profile of the supervisory board member that will replace Joyce Browne. A new vice-chair will be appointed in 2025. The board's rotation schedule is as follows:

Supervisory board members	Appointed	End of first term	End of second term
Willem van de Put	2018 (December)	2022	2026
Joyce Browne	2020 (January)	2024	-
Vera Arnoldus	2021 (March)	2025	-
Ankie van Wersch-Lenders	2022 (November)	2026	2030
Olutayo Bankole Bolawole	2023 (October)	2027	2031
Jochem Schuurman	2024 (March)	2028	2032

Compensation

The remuneration policy for the supervisory board remains unchanged. Members of the supervisory board do not receive any form of compensation. Actual expenses incurred may be reimbursed.

Supervisory board meetings in 2024

The board convened 5 times in 2024. The standard agenda items for supervisory board meetings throughout the year are:

- discussion and adoption of the annual plan and budget
- formal audits, financials and evaluations
- risk management and fraud prevention
- the impact report
- programme strategy
- strategic partnerships and alliances
- review of the governance structure
- development of the organisation, its capabilities and the strength of its leadership
- employee engagement.

In addition to the standard agenda items, the board was a sounding board for the management in relation to:

- the Simavi strategy & long-term plans given the changing landscape
- Simavi's Change Process
- the fundraising strategy and financial investment for these plans, ensuring our financial sustainability for the future
- the Water Justice Fund and our ambitions to scale this up.

Audit committee

The audit committee convened 4 times in 2024. Meetings took place about two weeks before the

regular supervisory board meetings. Simavi's managing director and director of finance and operations also attended. Topics included the annual budget and forecasts, the internal financial reports and annual accounts, the auditor's report and the governance structure. The external auditor also participated in the discussions of the annual accounts and the auditor's report.

Management system

A safe management system is in place. Simavi's ISO-certified quality management system is an important means to ensuring the controlled and reliable execution of the organisations operations and mitigating the associated risks.

Self-evaluation of the supervisory board

In line with Simavi's governance code, the supervisory board annually evaluates its performance.

Recognition

In 2024 Simavi and its partners operated in turbulent circumstances. The supervisory board greatly appreciates the commitment and perseverance shown by Simavi's volunteers, employees and management team throughout the year. The supervisory board especially thanks Simavi's in-country partners for their cooperation and impactful work on the ground and expresses its appreciation for the strong relations with the organisation's Dutch and international stakeholders. Looking forward to 2025 and beyond, the supervisory board has confidence the Simavi team will find new and effective ways to achieve our common purpose: powerful women, healthy societies. •



# Annual accounts

## Balance Sheet as per December 31, 2024 (after appropriation of result)

ASSETS (x 1,000 Euro)	NOTE	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
<strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong>	1		
Tangible fixed assets		12	11
		<strong>12</strong>	<strong>11</strong>
<strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong>			
<strong>Receivables and accrued income</strong>	2		
Bequests to be received	2.1	-	-
Interest to be received		47	29
Grants to be received	10	460	167
Other receivables and prepaid expenses	2.2	1,177	1,001
		1,684	1,197
<strong>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</strong>	3	5,573	5,355
<strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong>		<strong>7,269</strong>	<strong>6,563</strong>

LIABILITIES (x 1,000 Euro)	NOTE	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
<strong>RESERVES AND FUNDS</strong>	4		
Continuity reserve	4.1	2,106	2,336
Reserve for financing assets	4.2	12	11
Earmarked reserves	4.3	3,253	2,588
Earmarked Funds		-	10
		<strong>5,371</strong>	<strong>4,945</strong>
<strong>SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES</strong>			
Taxes and social insurance premiums		51	65
Other liabilities and accruals	5	247	333
Deferred income	6	1,600	1,220
		<strong>1,898</strong>	<strong>1,618</strong>
<strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong>		<strong>7,269</strong>	<strong>6,563</strong>

## Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year 2024

ASSETS (x 1,000 Euro)	NOTE	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
<strong>INCOME</strong>				
Income from private individuals	8	3,201	2,350	1,731
Income from companies		741	495	388
Income from lottery organisations	9	1,208	900	900
Income from government subsidies	10	1,221	1,130	3,610
Income Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	10	1,710		8,832
Income from other non-profit organisations	11	263		220
Income from delivery of products / services			26	
<strong>TOTAL INCOME RAISED</strong>		<strong>8,344</strong>	<strong>4,901</strong>	<strong>15,681</strong>
<strong>EXPENSES</strong>				
SPENT ON OBJECTIVES	12			
<strong>Awareness raising</strong>		1,339	1,565	1,277
<strong>Programmes</strong>				
Simavi programmes		2,972	2,714	4,894
Paid to alliance partners		1,710		8,832
<strong>Advocacy</strong>		137	340	193
<strong>TOTAL SPENT ON OBJECTIVES</strong>		<strong>6,158</strong>	<strong>4,619</strong>	<strong>15,196</strong>
Cost of generating funds	13	1,233	1,279	978
Management & administration costs	14	604	529	584
<strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong>	15	<strong>7,995</strong>	<strong>6,427</strong>	<strong>16,758</strong>
<strong>Balance of financial income and expenses</strong>				
Financial income		77	-	42
<strong>RESULT</strong>		<strong>426</strong>	<strong>-1,526</strong>	<strong>-1,035</strong>



Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year 2024 - continued

APPROPRIATION OF RESULT (x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Withdrawal from earmarked reserve Projects	-173	-470	-583
Withdrawal from earmarked reserve Strategic development	-304	-120	-771
Withdrawal from earmarked fund interest to be spent on objectives	-10	-	-
Withdrawal from reserve for financing assets	-8	-8	-8
Withdrawal from reserve continuation	-230	-928	
Addition to earmarked reserve Projects	142	-	307
Addition to earmarked reserve Legacy	1,000	-	-
Addition to reserve for financing assets	9	-	10
Addition to earmarked fund interest to be spent on objectives		-	10
TOTAL	426	-1,526	-1,035

Cash Flow Statement for the year 2024

(x 1,000 Euro)	NOTE	2024	2023
Result		426	-1,035
Adjustment for depreciation	1	8	8
Adjustment for interest income		-77	-42
		356	-1,069
<b>Changes in operating capital</b>			
Change in receivables	2	-469	-149
Change in short-term liabilities	5, 6	280	-551
Interest received		59	13
<b>Cash flow from operational activities</b>		227	-1,756
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>			
Investments in fixed assets	1	-9	-10
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		218	-1,766
Balance of cash and cash equivalents on January 1		5,355	7,121
Balance of cash and cash equivalents on December 31	3	5,573	5,355
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>218</b>	<b>-1,766</b>



Accounting policies

General

The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Dutch Accounting Standard for Fundraising Institutions (RJ 650) . The annual accounts aim to provide a fair presentation of the financial position of Stichting Simavi, registered in Haarlem (reg.no. 40594571), having office at Naritaweg 135, 1043 BS Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Simavi), as of December 31, 2024, and of its income and expenditure for the year 2024. The financial year coincides with the calendar year. The valuation principles and methods of determining the result are the same as those used in the previous year.

Continuity

Due to the closure of two major programmes by the end of 2023 and March 2024, for which Simavi has not received renewed funding, and the ensuing decrease in income, Simavi went into a period of transition in 2024 which will still continue in 2025. Simavi has focused its activities in three overarching programmes. Impact will be leveraged through building more strategic relationships. Financially, income from government grants will be significantly less in 2025 than in 2023 and before. This is expected to grow again from 2026 onwards, albeit not to the same level. Having trust in the relevance and potential of our mission, Simavi will invest in its fundraising capacity. As a result, income from individual donors, companies, foundations and lotteries is expected to grow in 2025 and 2026. Total income in 2025 is projected at EUR 8 million, including a significant legacy. We anticipate spending EUR 5.2 million on objectives. The costs of leveraging funds will be EUR 1.6 million, costs of management and administration will be EUR 0.5 million. The projected positive result of EUR 1.7 million will be added to a dedicated reserve, to be used in 2026 for programmes and strengthening our individual donor base, which will lay the foundation for a financially and sustainable organisation. Simavi’s funding, liquidity and financial reserves have been stress tested and are sufficient to finance the ongoing programmes and Simavi’s operations in 2025 and 2026. Consequently, our financial statements have been prepared on a going concern assumption.

Related parties

Transactions with related parties are disclosed in the notes insofar as they are not transacted under normal market conditions. The nature, extent and other information is disclosed if this is necessary in order to provide the required insight. With reference to Section 407(1a);13, Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, the financial data of Stichting NFICH and Stichting Zien have not been consolidated. The current accounts between Simavi and these foundations are reported under Other liabilities and accruals (see note 5).

Functional and reporting currency

The annual accounts are denominated in euros, Simavi’s functional and reporting currency. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies conducted during the reporting period are recognised in the annual accounts at the rate of exchange on the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the rate of exchange at the reporting date. Any resulting exchange differences are recognised in the statement of income and expenditure.

Use of estimates

In applying the accounting policies and standards for preparing annual accounts, the management of Simavi is required to make estimates and judgements that might significantly influence the amounts disclosed in the annual accounts. If necessary for the purposes of providing the insight required under Section 362(1), Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, the nature of these estimates and judgments, including the related assumptions, has been disclosed in the notes to the relevant items. Simavi did not change its policies for accounting estimates compared to the previous year.

Basis of measurement

Unless indicated otherwise, the annual accounts have been prepared using the historical cost basis.

Events after the balance sheet date

Post balance sheet events that provide further information about the actual situation as at the balance sheet date and appear up to the date of the preparation of the financial statements will be adjusted in the financial statements for the current year. Post balance sheet events that do not provide further information about the actual situation as at the balance sheet date will not be adjusted in the financial statements for the current year. If such events are considered material to the judgement of the users of the financial statements, their nature and estimated financial implications are disclosed in the financial statements as ‘Events after balance sheet date’.

Impairments

Simavi assesses at each reporting date whether there is any evidence of assets being subject to impairment. If any such evidence exists, the recoverable amount of the relevant asset is determined. An asset is subject to impairment if its carrying amount is higher than its recoverable amount; the recoverable amount is the higher of net realizable value and value in use. If it is established that a previously recognised impairment loss no longer applies or has declined, the increased carrying amount of the asset in question is not set higher than the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised. An impairment loss is directly expensed in the statement of income and expenditure.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets, both tangible and intangible, are carried at cost less straight-line depreciation over their estimated useful lives. The percentages used are: Equipment: 10 %; Office machines: 20 %; Computers and software: 20 - 33 %.

Operational Leasing

The lease of the office premises is recognised as operational lease, as a large part of the risks and rewards associated with the ownership are not for the benefit of, nor incurred by Simavi. Lease payments are recorded on a straight-line basis in the income statement for the duration of the contract.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments include receivables, cash and cash equivalents, project/programme commitments, accounts payable, and other payables. Financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value. Any directly attributable transaction costs are part of this initial valuation. Financial instruments are subsequently valued in the manner described below.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is carried at nominal value.

Receivables and accrued income

Receivables and accrued income are initially stated at fair value, and are subsequently valued at amortised cost. An allowance is made for obsolescence where necessary. Bequests to be received and legacies with usufruct are valued at the time they can reliably be determined based on the notarial deed of distribution.

Reserves

In order to secure the continuity of the foundation in case of unexpected events, part of Simavi’s capital has been transferred to a separate continuity reserve. The size is in accordance with sector regulations and is aimed to meet legal and moral obligations in case of a significant fall in income. Simavi holds a reserve for financing fixed assets to guarantee replacement of these assets in the future. Earmarked reserves are held for different purposes as determined by management. Management of Simavi can change the specific earmark of reserves, when deemed appropriate.

Earmarked funds

The earmarked funds represent all received earmarked income that the donor intended for a specific purpose, for which the underlying objective and related expenditure have not yet been realised. Furthermore, earmarked funds are held for accumulated interest income earned on the

advance payments of grants in respect of the applicable programmes. The earmarked funds are expected to be used within 3 years or in case of interest from grants during the remaining project period of the grant. The restriction following the earmark can only be released by specific third party approval.

Financing contracts with government and other major donors

Simavi signed financing contracts for carrying out specific projects. Simavi recognises the incoming resources from these financing contracts and grant decisions at the time resources are actually expended. The difference between the income recognised and the actual amounts received in the form of contributions from donors is recorded in the balance sheet. This results in receivables if more resources have been expended than received or in deferred grants if amounts actually received are greater than those expended.

Pension scheme

Simavi’s pension scheme is a defined contribution scheme, managed by life insurance company Nationale Nederlanden. All premiums pertaining to the reporting year are included under staff costs. Any premiums due at year-end are included on the balance sheet under other liabilities, any premiums paid in advance or in excess of the premiums due are included as prepaid expenses, in case these can be offset against future premiums due. There are no additional obligations arising from the management agreement with the pension insurer, the pension agreement with employees or other commitments to employees.

Project/programme commitments

The grants unconditionally committed as of the balance sheet date, which have not been already paid, are divided into short-term liabilities and long-term liabilities. The amounts that are expected to be settled after more than one year after the balance sheet date, are accounted for as long-term liabilities.

Liabilities

On initial recognition, liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received, taking into account premiums or discounts, less transaction costs. This usually is the nominal value. Liabilities due within one year are presented as short-term liabilities; liabilities due after one year are presented under long-term liabilities.

Conversion of foreign currency

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currency are converted into euros at the closing rate at year’s end. Exchange differences are accounted for in the statement of income and expenditure under financial income and expenses.



Determination of results

**Income from private individuals, companies, lottery organisations and other non-profit organisations**  
Income from private individuals, companies, lottery organisations and other non-profit organisations is recognised in the year to which it pertains, unless income is subject to conditions still to be met.  
Legacies and bequests are accounted for as income in the year in which they are received. Provisional payments are accounted for as income in the financial year in which they are received.

**Income from government subsidies**  
Income from government subsidies that have been allocated by the donor depending on actual project costs is accounted for in the statement of income and expenditure in the year that the eligible expenditure is recognised, it is probable that the amounts will be received and Simavi complied with all attached conditions. In this context, the expenditure in respect of alliance partners in alliances where Simavi is the lead agency is equal to the amounts paid to these partners.  
Differences between the (final) settlement of the grants and accumulated income are accounted for in the statement of income and expenditure in the year in which these differences can be reliably estimated.

**Expenditure**  
Amounts spent on Simavi projects and programmes are accounted for as expenses in the financial year in which the contribution has been unconditionally committed. The expenses recognised in the statement of income and expenditure include the related direct and indirect organisational costs.  
Fundraising, awareness raising and management & administration costs are charged to the statement of income and expenditure in the year to which they pertain and as soon as they become apparent.  
Salaries, wages and social security contributions are recognised in the statement of income and expenditure based on the pay and benefits package to the extent that they are payable to employees.

**Expenditure allocation**  
Expenditure allocation is described in note 15 of the notes to the statement of income and expenditure.

**Financial income**  
Financial income is recognised in the statement of income and expenditure time proportionally.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method. To determine the change in cash and cash equivalents during the reporting period, the result for that year is adjusted for items in the statement of income and expenditure and for balance sheet movements that did not result in actual cash flows.

The cash flow statement makes a distinction between cash flow from operational, investment and financing activities. In this context, changes in long-term debts from project/programme commitments and interest income are presented as cash flow from operational activities. Under the investment activities, only investments are included for which cash is paid.

Notes to the balance sheet

Note 1 - Fixed assets

Fixed assets are used for operations only. Tangible fixed assets comprise office machines, equipment and computers. The movements during the year can be specified as follows:

(x 1,000 Euro)	Tangible Fixed assets
Value as at January 1, 2024	
Aquisition value	155
Cummulative depreciation	-144
Book value	11
Movements	
Investments	9
Depreciation	-8
Divestments	-
Depreciation on divestments	-
Balance	1
Value as at December 31, 2024	
Acquisition value	164
Cummulative depreciation	-152
Book value	12
Depreciation percentages	
	10 - 33%

The 2024 investments relate to the purchase of computer equipment.

Note 2 - Receivables and accrued income

2.1 Other receivables and prepaid expenses

(x 1,000 Euro)	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
Other receivables	124	28
Contribution Dutch Postcode Lottery	1,000	900
Prepaid expenses	53	73
Total	1,177	1,001

All amounts are to be settled within one year after the balance sheet date.  
The contribution of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, committed but not yet received, amounted to €1.000K at year-end (2023: €900K). All receivables and prepaid expenses are collectible so no provision has been made (2023: also zero).

Note 3 - Cash and cash equivalents

The cash and cash equivalents are placed on current accounts or savings accounts. The total amount of €5,373K includes no foreign currency (2024: US\$95K €86K). All amounts are placed at Dutch banking institutions and are available upon demand, except for €26K, which is restricted as a collateral for a bank guarantee. There are no cash or cash equivalents placed on deposit for more than 1 month. The cash and cash equivalents are intended for objectives and operations only, so not for investment purposes.  
The average yield on outstanding cash and cash equivalents was 1.3% in 2024 (0.7% in 2023).



Note 4 - Reserves and funds

4.1 Continuity reserve

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	2,336	2,336
Withdrawal	-230	-
Addition	-	-
Balance as at 31 December	2,106	2,336

The continuity reserve is designed to create a sufficiently large buffer to enable Simavi to complete or terminate ongoing projects/programmes appropriately in case of a significant shortfall of key sources of funding. Furthermore, it includes funding necessary for actions to enable Simavi to rebuild such a shortfall or, in worst case, dissolve the organisation, while still meeting legal and moral obligations.

In accordance with the Guidelines for Responsible Financial Management of April 2021 as set by the association for fund-raising institutions (Goede Doelen Nederland), the continuity reserve is based on a risk analysis.

4.2 Reserve for financing assets

The reserve for financing assets matches the book value of the total fixed assets.

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	11	9
Withdrawal	-8	-8
Addition	9	10
Balance as at 31 December	12	11

4.3 Earmarked reserves

The earmarked reserves held by Simavi in total €3,253 K in 2024 (2023: €2,588K), including the movements in these reserves during the year, are specified below:

Projects

This reserve will be used in the coming years to match funds of institutional donors and foundations to realise projects and to finance projects out of own funds for which no funding is yet available from other sources.

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	2,284	2,560
Withdrawal	-173	-583
Addition	142	307
Balance as at 31 December	2,253	2,284

Strategic Development

This reserve was formed for Strategic Development to further position Simavi, preparing for the future. This reserve was invested in: further strategic and organisational positioning, private fundraising and programme development. In 2024 all remaining funds of this reserve are utilised.

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	304	1,075
Withdrawal	-304	-771
Addition	-	-
Balance as at 31 December	-	304

Reserve Legacy fund

In 2024 Simavi was informed that Simavi will receive a large legacy , and in 2024 Simavi received an advance of €1.000K of this legacy. The funds of this legacy will be used in a period of two to three years.

The purpose of the dedicated reserve is to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Simavi’s programmes, following a two-pronged approach: seed funding for Simavi’s three core programmes; and an impulse for growth and rejuvenation of Simavi’s individual donor base.

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	-	-
Withdrawal	-	-
Addition	1,000	-
Balance as at 31 December	1,000	-

4.4 Earmarked funds

(x 1,000 Euro)	2024	2023
Balance as at 1 January	10	-
Withdrawal	-10	-
Addition	-	10
Balance as at 31 December	-	10

During 2023 Simavi received €10K interest of WASH SDG grants, this amount is spent on WASH SDG program activities in 2024.

Note 5 - Other liabilities and accruals

All other liabilities and accruals are due within one year.

(x 1,000 Euro)	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
Accounts payable	72	91
Current account Stichting NFICH and ZIEN	11	10
Accrued vacation hours	39	54
Accrued holiday allowance	63	90
Accrued audit fees	62	88
Total	247	333

Note 6 - Deferred income

(x 1,000 Euro)	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
Government grants	114	922
Other projects	1,486	298
Total	1,600	1,220

In 2024 the deferred income from government grants decreased to €114K. More income was recognised than factually received. Further information on deferred income from government grants is provided in note 10. In 2024 Simavi received an amount of Dutch Postcode Lottery (€1,450K ) for Water Justice Fund program. This explains the increase the amount of deferred income other projects in 2024.



Note 7 - Off balance sheet rights and obligations

Off-balance sheet rights

In 2024 Simavi is informed that Simavi will receive a legacy of around 4 million Euro in 2025. Simavi received in December 2024 an advance of €1.000K of this legacy.

Off-balance sheet obligations

In the programs Simavi and its partners entered into contractual (multi-year) project commitments to carry out projects in areas where Simavi operates. Where these contracts depend on conditions that are yet to be met they have not been accounted for in the balance sheet. These obligations amounted to €569K at the end of 2024 (2023: €512K. At the end of 2024 the amount of obligation government grants is zero (2023: €870K)

Simavi is located at rented premises. The rent amounts to €87K per year. A bank guarantee for this lease has been issued in the amount of €26K. The contract runs until December 31, 2024, with a six-months’ notice period, and can be extended year by year. The total obligation amounts to €87K, due within one year.

Notes on the statement of income and expenditure

All income reported in the annual accounts has a structural character.

Note 8 - Income from private individuals

This income comprises donations and gifts as well as legacies and bequests. The donations and gifts from private individuals amounted to €1,636K which is higher than in 2023 (€1,423K). From a legacy Simavi obtained 15 certificates of shares (16.9% of the total shares) in Marnel Zaandam Beheer B.V., registered in Amsterdam. In 2024 the company Marnel Zaandam Beheer B.V. closed down and in December 2024 the equity of the company was paid out to its shareholders. Therefore Simavi received in 2024 an amount of €204K (including 15% dividend tax). The total income from legacies and bequests amounted to €1,565K (2023: €307K). Income from legacies and bequests is not budgeted given the uncertainty of this type of income.

Note 9 - Income from lottery organisations

In 2024, Simavi received €1,000K as a contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery an increase of the structural support with €100K (2023: €900K). The unearmarked contribution Dutch Postcode Lottery is made under a multi-year conditional commitment. In 2024 Dutch Postcode Lottery awarded Simavi an additional amount of €1,450K for Water Justice Fund Program. The program started in April 2024 and a total amount of €208K was spent in Water Justice Fund Program in 2024. The balance € 1.242K is included in total amount of deferred income (note 6).

Note 10 - Income from government subsidies

The income from government subsidies in 2024 amounted to €1,221K (2023: €3,610K) which is €91K higher than budgeted. The lower income compared to 2023 is a result of the end of the WASH SDG program at the end of March 2024. In 2024, the income from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners amounted to €1,710K (2023: €8,832K). These funds are directly transferred to the consortium partners of the WASH SDG alliance. The decrease is due to end of WASH SDG program end of March 2024.

The table below gives an overview of the grants received and income accounted for from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and other government grants.

(x 1,000 Euro)	31-12-2023		2024			31-12-2024	
	Grants to be received	Grants received in advance	Add: Grants received	Minus: Income government subsidies	Minus: Income Dutch MoFa for alliance partners	Grants to be received	Grants received in advance
WASH SDG	-	386	2,178	1,019	1,798	253	
WASH First	-	313	-372	29	-88	-	-
Our Life, Health, Futures	167	-	-	40	-	207	-
Other	-	223	24	133	-	-	114
Total	167	922	1,830	1,221	1,710	460	114

A positive balance between the grants received and the actual expenditure eligible for grant funding is presented in the balance sheet as advance government grants under deferred income (see note 6). In the event of a negative balance, these assets are presented in the balance sheet as grants to be received. Some smaller programmes are grouped under ‘Other’. Note that the accounted income and expenditure can differ from what was reported to the related donor, because of their specific reporting or accounting requirements.

Note 11 - Income from other non-profit organisations

This income relates to the donations received from foundations and the income from schools, relating to the Walking for Water campaign. The income is specified as follows:

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Income from foundations	155	-	102
Income from schools (Walking for Water)	108	-	118
Total	263	-	220

In budget 2024 the budget of income Walking for Water (150K) was included in budget private fundraising instead of income from foundation. The income from foundation is higher than income 2023.



Note 12 - Spent on objectives

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Awareness raising	1,339	1,585	1,277
Simavi programmes	2,972	2,714	4,894
Paid to alliance partners	1,710	-	8,832
Advocacy	137	340	193
<b>Total spent on objectives</b>	<b>6,158</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>15,196</b>

The actual expenditure on objectives in 2024 is €9,042K lower than last year, and €1,535K higher than budgeted. The difference with budget is mainly caused by amount of payments for alliance members.

Spending percentage

The ratio of the total expenditure on objectives as a percentage of the total income is presented in the following table:

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Total spent on objectives	6,158	4,619	15,196
Total income raised	8,344	4,901	15,681
<b>Spending percentage</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>	<b>96.9%</b>

The percentage expenditure on objectives of total income in 2024 is 73.8%, as compared to 96.9% in 2023. Corrected for the effect of payments to alliance members, the spending ratio is 67.0% in 2024 (92.9% in 2023).

As a percentage of total expenditure, the expenditure on objectives amounts to 77.0% (2023: 90.7%). This lower percentage in 2024 is mainly resulting from the higher amount of payments for alliance members in 2023.

Note 13 - Cost of generating funds

The cost of generating funds relate to the various funding activities. The most important are the costs relating to private fundraising and the costs for fundraising of grants. The percentage cost of generating funds is higher at 14.8% (2023: 6.2%). The increase is mainly reflecting the decreased income level in 2024. The amount of expenditure in 2024 was in line with costs of budget 2024.

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Cost of generating funds	1,233	1,279	978
Total Income raised	8,344	4,901	15,681
<b>Percentage cost of generating funds</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

Apart from the costs of our own organisation, the fundraising costs relate to the costs of our newsletters and mailings, these are important for maintaining and expanding our donor base.

Note 14 - Management & administration costs

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Management & administration costs	604	529	584
Total expenditure	7,995	6,427	16,758
<b>Percentage management &amp; administration costs</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

The management & administration costs are above the 2023 level and budget. As a percentage of the total expenditure, the costs are also higher at 7.6%, mainly due to the lower level of total expenditure.

Independent auditors costs

PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. have audited the financial accounts. The following fees are charged:

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Audit of the Financial Statements	76	91	98
Audit contracts institutional donors	26	30	29

The amounts for the audit contracts institutional donors are allocated to the programmes were applicable. Two contract of institutional donor required audited reports in 2024 (2023: three). In 2024 Simavi received advise on continuity assumption 2023 (€8.5K). No other costs for financial or fiscal advise were incurred in 2024.



Note 15 - Total Expenses

	Objective			Generating funds	Management & Administration	Total 2024	Budget 2024	Total 2023
Expenditure (x 1,000 Euro)	Awareness raising	Programmes	Advocacy					
Grants and contributions	-	3,516	-	-	-	3,516	1,831	12,453
Publicity and communication and outsourced work	814,46	52	25	746	-	1,637	1,687	1,249
Staff costs	463	983	98	430	450	2,424	2,442	2,597
Accommodation costs	26	56	6	24	25	137	162	149
Office and general expenses	34	72	7	32	128	273	297	302
Depreciation	2	3	1	1	1	8	8	8
Total	1,339	4,682	137	1,233	604	7,995	6,427	16,758

All direct and indirect costs are allocated to 1) the three objectives of Simavi (Awareness raising, Programmes and Advocacy); 2) the cost of generating funds; and 3) management & administration costs.

Apart from direct costs spent on Simavi projects/programmes, all other out of pocket costs that can be directly allocated to the objectives and fund generation are specified under Publicity and communication and outsourced work. All indirect costs, such as staff, accommodation, office and general expenses and depreciation are allocated based on the number of hours employees have spent on the aforementioned components. A calculation of the hours spent is made for every employee. This calculation is based on the employee's job description.

Management & administration costs include all administrative and secretarial hours, as well as all hours classified by the organisation as overhead, such as meetings with the supervisory board and other meetings intended to provide guidance and direction to the organisation.

Note 16 - Staff costs

(x 1,000 Euro)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Salaries in the Netherlands	1,520	1,635	1,871
Social insurance premiums, insurances	379	403	369
Costs of pension facilities	101	91	107
Other staff costs	423	296	251
Total	2,423	2,425	2,598

For information about the allocation of staff costs to the different categories of expenditure presented in the statement of income and expenditure please refer to note 15. The staff costs are lower than in 2023. This is reflecting the lower number of staffing in the Netherlands, in line with the lower level of activities.

The development of the number of staffing is as follows:

Average number of persons employed	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2024	ACTUAL 2023
Dutch office staff	29.7	31.7	38.2
in average number of FTE's	27.3	28.8	34.3

Outside the Netherlands, Simavi has no employees on its own payroll.

Management model and remuneration

Simavi has a two-tier board: a supervisory board for monitoring, supervising and consulting, and a one person executive board (the managing director) for the implementation of Simavi’s strategy and its day-to-day management. The salaries of the staff are based on a formalised salary structure. The functions are grouped into categories based on the job characteristics. The categories are linked to a salary grid. The categorisation and salary grid are based on a standardised calculation method performed by an independent agency (Human Capital Group). Periodically we participate in a general survey on salary levels, commissioned by Goede Doelen Nederland. The results of latest survey indicate that our salary levels correspond to the average levels in the sector and are in conformity with the market.

Remuneration of the supervisory board

The members of the supervisory board receive no remuneration for their activities. The members of the supervisory board have also not received any loans, advance payments or guarantees.

Name	Position
Ankie van Wersch Lenders	Chair of the supervisory board
Vera Arnoldus	Member of the supervisory board , audit committee
Willem van de Put	Member of the supervisory board
Olutayo Bankole Bolawole	Member of the supervisory board
Jochem Schuurman	Member of the supervisory board, audit committee from March 2024
Joyce Browne	Member of the supervisory board, vice chair till December 2024



Remuneration of the managing director

The supervisory board determines the remuneration policy, the level of executive remuneration and other fixed remuneration components. The policy is reviewed periodically. Simavi follows the guidelines of Goede Doelen Nederland, laid down in the Advisory Guidelines for the Remuneration of Executives of Charities (see [www.goededoelennederland.nl](http://www.goededoelennederland.nl)) in determining the remuneration policy and remuneration levels. These guidelines provide a maximum norm for the annual salary based on weighing criteria. These criteria result in a, so called, BSD-score. The rating for Simavi is determined by the supervisory board. The resulting BSD-score is 425 points, indicating a maximum full-time gross salary of €144.154 (excluding remuneration payable in future).

In 2024, the managing director, Ms Dienneke van der Wijk, received a gross salary, including holiday allowance, of €101.097 (2023: €98.380). This is well within the remuneration guideline of Goede Doelen Nederland norm. The managing directors did not receive any bonuses, loans, advance payments or guarantees. The 2024 employer’s contribution to the pension scheme of the managing director Dienneke van der Wijk amounted to €12,216. Allowances for expenses are only granted based on actual costs incurred and contain no remuneration elements. Simavi does not provide lease cars. In 2024, the managing director Dienneke van der Wijk received untaxable allowances for telephone (€300).

Remuneration Executives (GDN-format) (x 1 Euro)	2024	2023
Name: E.H. van der Wijk , Managing Director		
Duration of employment	determined	determined
Contract hours	36	36
Part-time percentage	100	100
Term of employment	1/1 - 31/12	1/1 - 31/12
Total remuneration		
Gross salary	93,748	91,481
Holiday allowance (8%)	7,349	6,899
Remuneration	101,097	98,380
Pension scheme paid by employer	12,216	12,545
Total remuneration	113,313	110,925

Remuneration of Simavi’s goodwill ambassadors

Ms Dieuwertje Blok, Simavi’s goodwill ambassador, carried out her activities without receiving any remuneration.

Note 17 - Multi-year income analysis

The below table provides an overview of the development of Simavi’s income over the past six years.

(x1,000 Euro)	Individual giving	Legacies and bequests	Corporate	Lottery organisations	Government subsidies	Other non-profit organisations	Total income
2019	1,927	755	127	900	18,566	990	23,265
2020	1,828	737	367	900	23,364	354	27,550
2021	1,506	528	282	900	12,879	531	16,626
2022	1,467	1,456	174	905	8,496	422	12,920
2023	1,423	307	388	900	12,443	220	15,681
2024	1,636	1,565	741	1,208	2,931	263	8,344

The drop in income from individual giving in 2021 was caused by a change in fundraising strategy, which provided better returns per invested euro and aimed to lay a solid foundation for future years. In 2022 the income from individual giving decreased due to the war in Ukraine and resulting inflation in the Netherlands, which affected the financial capacity of many donors. The amount received from legacies and bequests is volatile and unpredictable, yet they are an important source of income for Simavi.

Over the past years, the regular contribution of the Dutch Postcode Lottery was €900K. In 2024 the regular contribution increased to €1.000K. In 2024 the Dutch Postcode Lottery awarded the Water Justice fund Program a total amount of €1.450K, with expenditures in 2024 of €208K.

The amount of government subsidies has been substantial over the past years. The government subsidies are inclusive the amounts received for alliance partners. This income has been exceptionally high in 2020 due to the WASH SDG and WASH-First programmes, which Simavi was leading. The 2021 results reflect the finalisation of a few important programmes. The increase of income in 2023 is the effect of approval of an additional amount of €8,000K for the WASH SDG programme in 2023. The decrease of income in 2024 is the effect of the closure of the WASH SDG Programme at the end of March 2024 and the closure of the EU program OHLF in December 2023.

The income from other non-profit organisations shows marked fluctuations. This is partly due to the effect of the timing of income recognition. Generation of income from foundations and the private sector remains an important focal point of our fundraising efforts.

Appropriation of result

The result of the financial year 2024, is €426K positive. The executive board proposes, with approval of the supervisory board, to appropriate the result for the year, in accordance with the overview provided in the Statement of Income and Expenditure on page 53 and the explanation in note 4.

After balance sheet date information

There have been no material post balance sheet events, which would require adjustment to the financial statements of Simavi for the year 2024.

Amsterdam, May 23 2025

Executive board	Supervisory board
Dienneke van der Wijk	Ankie van Wersch Lenders (chair)
	Vera Arnoldus
	Willem van de Put
	Olutayo Bankole Bolawole
	Jochem Schuurman

Other information

Appropriation of result

According to article 16.5 of the articles of association of Simavi, the Supervisory Board approves the annual accounts drawn up by the executive board. The annual accounts include a proposal for the appropriation of the result for the year 2024. The appropriation of result takes the imposed restrictions on spending by third parties into account.





# Independent auditor’s report

To: the executive board and the supervisory board of Stichting Simavi

## Report on the audit of the annual accounts 2024

### Our opinion

In our opinion, the annual accounts of Stichting Simavi (‘the Foundation’) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2024, and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 650 ‘Charity organisations’ of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

### What we have audited

We have audited the accompanying annual accounts 2024 of Stichting Simavi, Amsterdam.

The annual accounts comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024;
- the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the notes, comprising a summary of the accounting policies applied and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework applied in the preparation of the financial statements is the Guideline for annual reporting 650 ‘Charity organisations’ of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

### The basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. We have further described our responsibilities under those standards in the section ‘Our responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts’ of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



# Independence

We are independent of Stichting Simavi in accordance with the ‘Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assuranceopdrachten’ (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the ‘Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants’ (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

## Report on the other information included in the impact report

The impact report contains other information. This includes all information in the impact report in addition to the annual accounts and our auditor’s report thereon.

Based on the procedures performed as set out below, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the annual accounts and does not contain material misstatements; and
- contains all the information regarding the directors’ report that is required by the Guideline for annual reporting 650 ‘Charity organisations’ of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and the understanding obtained in our audit of the annual accounts or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing our procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of such procedures was substantially less than the scope of those procedures performed in our audit of the annual accounts.

The executive board is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the directors’ report pursuant to the Guideline for annual reporting 650 ‘Charity organisations’ of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

## Responsibilities for the annual accounts and the audit

### Responsibilities of the executive board and the supervisory board for the annual accounts

The executive board is responsible for:





- the preparation and fair presentation of the annual accounts in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 650 ‘Charity organisations’ of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board; and for
- such internal control as the executive board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the executive board is responsible for assessing the Foundation’s ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the executive board should prepare the annual accounts using the going-concern basis of accounting unless the executive board either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The executive board should disclose in the annual accounts any event and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation’s ability to continue as a going concern.

The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing the Foundation’s financial reporting process.

## Our responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our responsibility is to plan and perform an audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our opinion. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high but not absolute level of assurance, and is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Dutch Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the annual accounts.

Materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

A more detailed description of our responsibilities is set out in the appendix to our report.

Amsterdam, 25 May 2025  
PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V.

J. Gersen RA



## Appendix to our auditor’s report on the annual accounts 2024 of Stichting Simavi

In addition to what is included in our auditor’s report, we have further set out in this appendix our responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts and explained what an audit involves.

## The auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit consisted, among other things of the following:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the intentional override of internal control.
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation’s internal control.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the executive board.
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the executive board’s use of the going-concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, concluding whether a material uncertainty exists related to events and/or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report and are made in the context of our opinion on the annual accounts as a whole. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts, including the disclosures, and evaluating whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the supervisory board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



# 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 &amp; 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"><li>1. Establish WASH Model Schools, resulting in a healthy environment for girls and boys.</li><li>2. Improve WASH conditions at the community level by linking them with school initiatives.</li><li>3. Provide sustainable WASH products and services at schools and in communities through collaboration between local government (public) and the private sector.</li></ol>
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 &amp; Share project builds on eight years of successful WASH &amp; 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"><li>• 41 women-led groups supported in 2024 with Locally Led Adaptation Grants</li><li>• Establishment of the Water Justice Fund Advisory Board</li><li>• Scoping study initiated in Indonesia</li><li>• 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</li><li>• For every €1 invested through the Water Justice Fund, an additional €0.72 was secured by women’s groups through local sources of funding</li></ul>
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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.



# ENKONGU ENKARE

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Powerful women, healthy societies



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF  
KAJIADO



SUPPORTED BY :  
WATER JUSTICE FUND

IMPLEMENTED BY :  
Nia



Nampaso Mekure, from the Naishorua women's group in Kajiado County, Kenya, poses by the water kiosk, which was implemented with support from the Water Justice Fund. The water kiosk reduces the time women have to walk to fetch water. The digitalised system also reduces corruption.



PHOTO: JEROEN VAN LOON

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