

IMPACT

REPORT

AGNES BENE:

**'When we
come together
as women, we
bring a lot of
change'**

PAGE 16

SAREEN MALIK:
**'Water is a
daily struggle'**

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LALASING MARMA:
**'I want men and
women to have
equal rights'**

PAGE 30

Fighting for equality

**Water justice for
women and girls**

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Impact is more
than counting
toilets, but we are
proud to present
a brief overview of
our results.



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The climate crisis is
a water crisis. Simavi
made that clear
through the Water
Wake-Up Call.



22 The leadership of a single
woman can be the start
of real change. Read the
story of Annet Ithungu.



On the cover: Agnes Bene is the
chairperson of the Ngape Women
Group in Kajiado county in Kenya.
The group is preparing a proposal
for the Water Justice Fund, one of
Simavi's flagship programmes.
Photo by Sacha de Boer.

CREDITS

Production: Hilda Alberda, Karin Bojorge, Lindsay van Clief, Noa Gortworst, Danny Joyce, Wendy Klaasse, Samir Kumar Paul, Yvet Voppen, Connie de Vries and all colleagues of Simavi. **Design:** Hannah Barrow. **With special thanks to:** All partners of Simavi.
SIMAVI, MAY 2023

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GLOSSARY

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

Dienneke van der Wijk

Be bold

Four decades ago, when scientists first united to raise the alarm about climate change, it seemed a problem for the distant future. The year 2022 showed that this perilous future has arrived. The urgency of tackling the climate crisis and the resulting water crisis has never been more apparent.

This was felt strongly by everyone working for Simavi, be it in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia or the Netherlands. And it was felt even more by the women and girls in the communities that are most vulnerable to the water crisis.

As the newly appointed director of Simavi, it has strengthened my determination to take up the implementation of Simavi's new strategy with full force. This strategy was developed in 2021 under the inspiring leadership of Ariette Brouwer. The renewed focus on water, climate and gender has already been recognized as extremely relevant. Putting women and girls at the centre and working on 'locally-led' solutions that build ownership is the best way we can work towards a solution.

I am proud that over the last year, Simavi has become bolder and more strategic in our messages toward the public and especially toward decision-makers on all levels. We need action and we want to be clear about what is needed to tackle the water crisis. That's why Simavi started the Water Wake-Up Call in March 2022, why we invited Dutch Members of Parliament to our Water Cocktail Bar and why we participated in the Climate March in Rotterdam. That's also why in August we went to the World Water Week in Stockholm and invited our strategic partner Sareen Malik from ANEW to join us. By making connections we are strengthening each other's capacity to make an impact. In October, together with Cinetree, we organised the very successful third edition of HER Film Festival. Engaging new audiences and new supporters is an important part of our strategy to diversify our funding.

The impact we make is particularly clear in our programmes. For example, in our WASH SDG subprogramme in Bangladesh. Since 2017 until June 2022 already 450.000 people gained access to water services, 400.000 to sanitation services, and another 300.000 to at least basic hygiene facilities. In the EU-funded Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures programme, we are working with almost 12.000 young women and girls from indigenous groups in Bangladesh. In Ghana we continue to work on Check-2Gether, an innovative approach to reach pregnant mothers and midwives.

Last but not least: we have made great progress in 2022 in developing our new flagship programmes in a co-creation process with partner organisations in Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh. Punching above our weight is our goal and 2023 already promises to be an exciting year for Simavi.

Dienneke van der Wijk
Director

'The urgency
of the
water crisis
has never
been more
apparent'

PHOTO BY SANDER STOEPPER

Simavi's 2022

in review

We had an eventful year with many highlights. A big thank you to everyone who supported Simavi this year.

JUNE

1

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures kicks off a creative project with girls clubs in Bangladesh, addressing the change local girls want to see in their communities.



APRIL

13

Campaigning with a Water Cocktail Bar on the doorstep of the House of Representatives in The Hague.



JUNE

15

Simavi-director Ariette Brouwer says goodbye to Simavi. She is succeeded by Dienneke van der Wijk.



AUGUST

23

We participate in the World Water Week conference in Stockholm. Discussing the importance of locally-led climate adaptation and the water crisis.



OCTOBER

14

We celebrate the opening of HER Film Festival in the Royal Tuschinski cinema in Amsterdam, together with hundreds of loyal supporters, partners, and activists.



NOVEMBER

14-17

Together with our partners we attend the Family Planning Conference in Thailand to present Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures programme.



2022



MARCH

22

On World Water Day we launch our new campaign: the Water Wake-Up Call, demanding action from the Dutch government to address the catastrophic water crisis.



MAY

10

Our lobby and advocacy officer Brechje Oonk meets with Liesje Schreinemacher, the Dutch minister of foreign trade and international development cooperation.

JUNE

19

No water, no life! Simavi takes the Water Wake-Up Call to the streets of Rotterdam during the Climate March.



SEPTEMBER

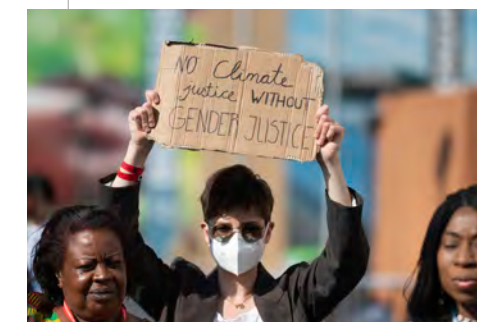
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Simavi-director Dienneke van der Wijk and strategic partner and water activist Sareen Malik are interviewed for the Dutch television show Koffietijd, to discuss the effects of climate change on the lives of women and girls.

OCTOBER

14-23

The third edition of HER Film Festival takes place online. In partnership with Cinetree, we provide viewers with inspiring movies about female empowerment.



NOVEMBER

6-20

The COP27 takes place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, resulting in a loss-and-damage fund for vulnerable communities.

Women and girls enjoying their rights

How Simavi strives for system change

Simavi's mission is simple and at the same time very ambitious. We fight for equality and for women and girls to overcome barriers and claim their human rights to water and sanitation. Our Theory of Change guides us towards our goal.

At Simavi we want all our activities to contribute to our ultimate goal: a world in which all women and girls can enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation. We focus on women and girls because they are especially affected by inadequate access to water and sanitation, and also by climate change. At the same time, they are often excluded from decision-making processes. We strongly believe that not only women and girls themselves, but society as a whole will benefit if women and girls have equal opportunities.

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. That is why Simavi does not provide communities with water and sanitation services directly. We see it as our role to support civil society, women and girls, and their communities to claim their rights, for example by supporting them in their lobby towards their government or in gathering evidence to support their claims. 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.

What is our Theory of Change?

In 2021 Simavi developed a new Theory of Change (ToC). Our ToC helps us to ensure focus and describes how our key strategies contribute to our ultimate goal. Two mutually reinforcing strategies form the core of our work. The first 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. The second strategy is collaboration. We collaborate with civil society organisations, such as community groups and NGOs, to strengthen their efficiency and leadership in achieving human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls. 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. And we want them to shift the power towards women and girls and amplify their voices.

In our Theory of Change, we identify four levels of change: short-term outcomes, mid-term outcomes, long-term outcomes and impact, which is the ultimate goal of our work and the combined result of the long-term outcomes that represent a broader change in the system. In our day-to-day work, we work towards the short-term outcomes that combined contribute to the mid-term outcomes. With the programmes that we



'The Theory of Change helps us to stay focused on our goal'
Hilda Alberda, Director Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning



implement together with partner civil society organisations we aim to directly achieve our impact on individual and community levels.

How do we measure our progress?

The Theory of Change helps us to stay focused on our work. All our activities should contribute to achieving our ultimate goal. We aim to 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 ToC.

To measure and showcase how programmes contribute to our ultimate goal, we developed indicators that are aligned with each of the outcomes in our ToC. Where possible we align these to the Human Rights framework or the Sustainable Development goals and targets. To inform these indicators we collect all sorts of evidence from our activities and programmes, through surveys,

A community in Kajiado County in Kenya is playing the Climate Game. Partners who were involved were NIA, CESPAD, KEWASNET, DAYAD and Proportion.

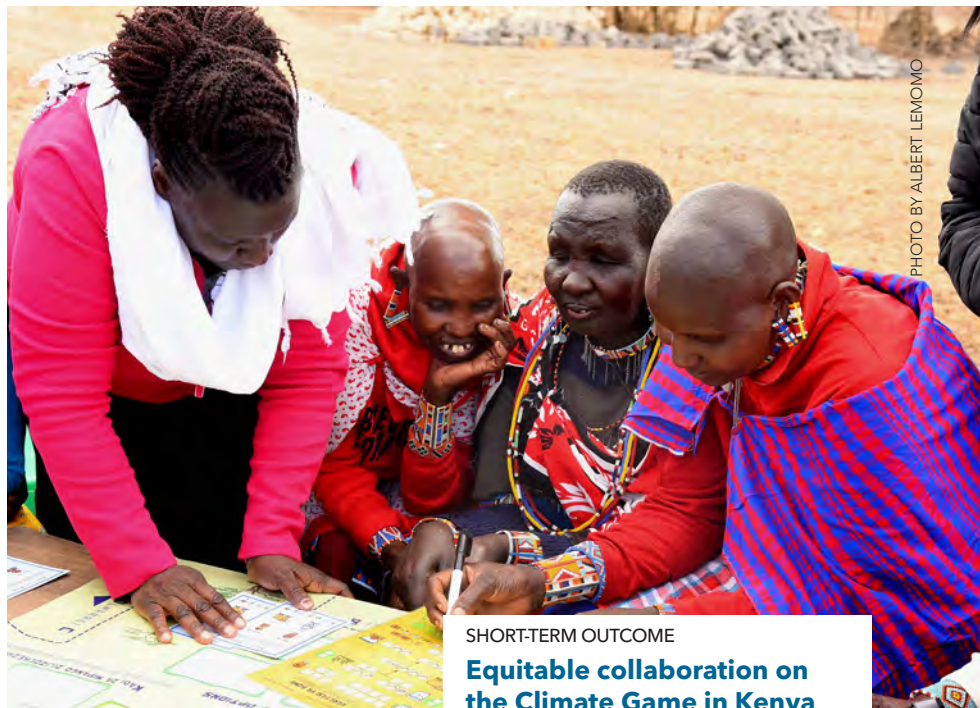


PHOTO BY ALBERT LEWOMO

SHORT-TERM OUTCOME

Equitable collaboration on the Climate Game in Kenya

In Kajiado county in Kenya, climate change is putting immense pressure on the dryland ecosystem on which pastoralists depend to rear their cattle and earn a living. Simavi, NIA and CESPAD, our partners in Connect4WASH, worked very closely with pastoralist groups in Kajiado county to adapt the Climate Game developed by Day of Adaptation to the Kenian context. In their work with affected communities, NIA and CESPAD experienced that effective climate adaptation action is not just about the availability of resources, technical knowledge or policy, it is also about communication and engagement that can motivate collective and inclusive action in communities. A problem is that communication and education about climate change tend to be technical, abstract, negative, one-directional and fear-generating. Connect4WASH needed a tool that could break this cycle and inspire community-led actions. Following Human-Centered Design methods, the game concept was extensively researched and tested with the full participation of CSO facilitators and target audiences, including women, youth, low-literacy community members and senior citizens. During prototype testing, we found the game worked well and that it encouraged shared decision-making among the players. Community members felt inspired, and after game sessions, lively discussions followed on how to improve real-life situations as a community.

In the programme Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures ten locally based Civil Society Organisations were supported to have increased capacity to serve communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh with comprehensive sexuality education, youth-friendly services and better menstrual health facilities in schools.



MID-TERM OUTCOME

Changing civil society organisations in Bangladesh

In our programme Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures ten local civil society organisations brought changes in their organisations around gender and power. A holistic approach was used to bring about change in the CSOs' staff's mindsets and to enhance knowledge and skills to take sustainable action to transform gender roles and power relations. Rakhi Tripura, a trainer for Zabarang (a CSO in Khagrachori) reflected: 'I have been included in the Senior Management Team. I am proud that junior female staff's opinions like mine are valued in taking decisions. This was unimaginable before.' And Myamesing Marma, project coordinator for AKS (a CSO in Khagrachori) looks back at how visiting remote areas – a six hours journey by boat and on foot, with no toilets at all – during menstruation used to be an ordeal: 'The female staff could not talk about this problem. Instead, I used to stop drinking water the night before and I would wear double pads. Now the battle is over. Now we prepare menstruation-friendly field plans and women staff can decide whether they go to the remote areas during menstruation.' This journey helped the CSOs to better understand the needs and challenges of women and girls. This has impacted how effectively they can play their role. Not only have they transferred their learning to the community level, but they have also been able to effectively negotiate with the policymakers and community leaders to support the needs and priorities of women and girls.

- mobile tools, interviews or feedback from stakeholders and other means. Where possible we make use of established tools. For example, when evaluating sanitation services we follow the Human Rights' AAAQ framework which stands for availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of services. To collect this information we interview stakeholders, including women and girls, or we have external evaluators collect information against international standards, such as the JMP ladder. 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, with stakeholders, and partner organisations, within specific areas and between countries.

Long-term outcomes, which ultimately lead to all women and girls being able to enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation, are placed above the accountability ceiling in our Theory of Change. This is because Simavi is only one of many players that contribute to these outcomes. By cooperating with and influencing other stakeholders we try to maximise our impact on this level. Always with our ultimate goal in mind: making sure that all women and girls enjoy their human rights to water and sanitation. •

INFLUENCING STATES

Making the WASH Desk more effective

The Department of Public Health Engineering is one of the driving forces behind the concept of the WASH Desk in Bangladesh. This is a one stop information hub where people can get free access to WASH-related information, provide feedback, seek help to improve or repair WASH facilities and receive services from municipalities. Simavi and partners motivated local government institutions to arrange a room for this service desk in their office and appoint a person for this desk. The result is that guidelines are transformed into actual success. People, including women and girls, lodge their problems or complaints in the register book or through a mobile phone. Service providers maintain another register book to document actions taken to address those complaints and problems. Local government institutions review the progress of WASH Desk in their coordination meetings.

LEARNING

An innovative app in Nepal

Karmath Subedi, MEL-officer at Simavi, contributed to a very promising innovation. 'After working on the WASH-SDG project in Nepal for more than three years we always felt like something was missing when it came to monitoring at the grassroots level. Then, after the Nepal team's visit to Bangladesh, we came up with this innovative idea to combine a digital data collection tool and a community scorecard. This results in an app showing communities their current status and score in real-time so they can use the collected data without further analysis. In one rural municipality, 55 households that had never done a water quality test, did so just to get a better score next time.' 'Additionally, we are partnering with local government to lead this process and incorporate these data into their website for regular monitoring activities.' More challenges still lie ahead: training community members in digital data collection tools and getting service providers to use these periodic data for planned and accountable service delivery. 'This is only just beginning - we have more learning, adaptation, and repeating ahead of us!'

The core of our work is influencing and collaboration

Irene Namusu is the MEL-Officer for the WASH SDG programme in Uganda. MEL stands for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. In Kamrono, Agago district she visited an agro forestry intervention project that makes communities more resilient to climate change.

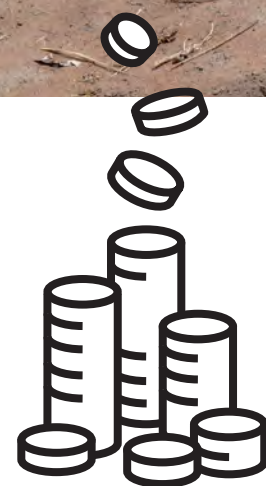
PHOTO BY HASSAN YUNUS OCEN

2022

We are proud of our numbers

10.9
MILLION

euros were spent on our objectives



32,750
SUPPORTERS

made a financial contribution to our work

5,753
PEOPLE

received training related to our focus: WASH, climate, social inclusion and women's empowerment

13 PROGRAMMES IN
10 COUNTRIES

Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia. Technical advisory roles in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Liberia



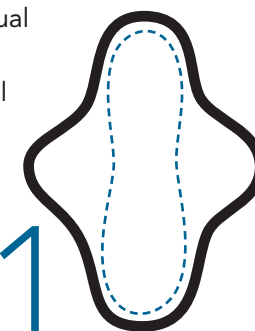
81,590
PEOPLE

now have access to a piped water source in Nepal

9,071

REUSABLE
MENSTRUAL
PADS

have been sold or distributed in Uganda, Tanzania and Indonesia



HER
FILM
FESTIVAL

The online HER Film Festival by Simavi and Cinetree received

91,000
VISITORS

194,023
PEOPLE



in our programme areas were reached through our campaigns on water and sanitation practices, women's empowerment and climate issues

What programmes did we work on in 2022?

Simavi works with women and girls in Africa and Asia to claim their human rights to water and sanitation. We work in close collaboration with civil society organisations in ten countries and provide technical support to partner programmes in other countries. Together with our partners we also worked on designing new programmes for 2023 and beyond, like Connect4Wash and the Water Justice Fund.



PHOTO BY SACHA DE BOER



Access to Sanitation and Hygiene for all (ASHA)

Location Nepal

Period January 2020 - December 2022

Donor Dopper

In-country partners SEBAC

Goal To improve access to and the quality of drinking water, improve sanitation status and hygiene behaviour, local governance and maintenance of WASH facilities, and empower local women and socially excluded groups.

Running water

Mani Tamang is washing her hands at the water tap with her granddaughter Prinsa Tamang. During her childhood, the area experienced droughts, and she remembers the tiresome walks she had to make with her mother to collect water. Now, she has running water available on her doorstep. Therefore, she can spend more time with her granddaughter, who won't have to walk for hours to collect water when she grows up.

Mani Tamang now has running water available on her doorstep

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures

Location Bangladesh

Period 5 years (2019 - 2023)

Donor European Union

Consortium partners

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)

In-country partners

Progressive, Hill Flower, Taungya, Weave, Ananya, Gram Unnayan Sa, Tahzingong, Zabarang, Khagrapur Mahila Kalyan Samity, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha

Goal Enable and support young women and adolescent girls from indigenous groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh to transition into adult womanhood with dignity and bodily and sexual autonomy, without violence, coercion and/or discrimination.



Girls club

Jayna Chakma, 19 years old, is from Pankhwa Para in Bangladesh. In her community, there are a lot of misconceptions and taboos around sexual and reproductive health and rights. She used to be very hesitant to talk about these topics, but after attending a girls club organised by Our LHF, she learned a lot about her rights and sexual and menstrual health.

Perfect Fit

Location Indonesia

Period 5 years (2019 - 2023)

Donor Stichting Merk Biologisch Plus, Stichting Valle, Schmallhausen, De Johanna Donk-Grote Foundation, Anna Muntz St, Stichting Familiefonds Jan Waal Gz, St. Majoh, St. Boaz, St. Vierhout, St. Dando Felix, St. Voor uit- en inwendige zending, Flexiplan, St. Main, Rooms Katholiek Weeshuis Bergen op Zoom, Steunfonds Fajans

In-country partners Kopernik, PT Putri Fajar Inspirasi (Perfect Fit Indonesia)

Goal Women and girls in Indonesia have a better period experience through enhanced knowledge of menstrual health management and the provision of alternative affordable and eco-friendly menstrual products. Women and girls are socially and economically empowered in the community through the Perfect Fit sustainable business model.



Padman

Domi, from Lembata, Indonesia joined Perfect Fit as a program coordinator and soon became known as "Domi Pembalut" (Domi Padman) because he always carries reusable pads to educate people about menstrual health. He realises that to break the menstrual taboo in Indonesia, it is crucial for men to be involved in menstrual health advocacy and to make women's issues a priority.

Her WASH

Location Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Pakistan

Period 2019 - 2023

Donor Global Affairs Canada

Consortium partner

WaterAid Canada (lead) | Canada World Youth

Goal Improved comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a focus on women and adolescent girls, through menstrual health interventions in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Pakistan.

EWI Empowerment in WASH Index

Location Bangladesh

Period 1 year (July 2022 - June 2023)

Donor Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

In Country Partner WASH

SDG WAI Programme Bangladesh

Goal This collaboration aims to have a better understanding of the level of empowerment in WASH in the context of a climate change and gender programme led by Simavi in the district of Satkhira in southwestern Bangladesh.



WASH SDG

Location Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda (Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania and Zambia through partners)
Period 6 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.

MHM++ Bringing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights to life in Menstrual Health Management training in Uganda

Location Uganda
Period June 2021 - March 2023
Donor Nuffic
Consortium partner SHE Collaborates - Maastricht University (lead)
In-country partners partners of the SRHR Alliance Uganda and the WASH Alliance Uganda
Goal A mixed group of 28 participants will receive training and coaching during the project. The cohort will be involved in developing and implementing the training on menstrual health management (MHM) with integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as well as on pedagogy and deductive skills.

WASH Desk

As part of the WASH SDG programme in Bangladesh local government officials were motivated to arrange a room and a person for a WASH Desk. This ensures accountability for sustainable WASH services. Hasina Begum (55), living in Jhawdanga Union, learned of the WASH Desk: 'I registered my demand for safe drinking water. Union Parishad assessed the demand and provided me with a rainwater harvesting water point in October 2022, which ensured my rights to water and a dignified life.'

Water by Women

Location Nepal
Period 2022 - 2025
Donor Made Blue, Artist
Consortium partner SEBAC Nepal
Goal To ensure access to inclusive, sustainable and resilient WASH facilities and services. And also, enhancing the entrepreneurial capacity and participation of women and girls.

Gender & WASH

Location Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda
Period 3 years (end 2020 - 2023)
Donor Simavi
In-country partners Nepal, Uganda and Bangladesh WASH Alliances
Goal This research aims to explore the connection between the availability of water, sanitation and hygiene and gender-based violence in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda.



Resilience through Information on SRHR & Empowerment (RISE)

Location Bangladesh
Period May 2021 - December 2022
Donor Nuffic
Consortium partners KIT Royal Tropical Institute and RedOrange
Goal This programme will deliver a tailor-made training programme to 30 NGO (health) professionals primarily from Family Planning Association Bangladesh (FPAB) and Integrated Social Development Effort (ISDE) Bangladesh.

Advocacy workshop

L&a-officer Brechje Oonk and programme manager Mahbooba Haque Kumkum of Simavi facilitated an Advocacy and Knowledge Translation workshop. Seven master trainers worked on successfully getting their message on early pregnancy across to important policy-makers. Afterward, they invited important decision-makers to a round table to discuss how to reduce adolescent pregnancies in Bangladesh.

Important decision-makers were invited to discuss how to reduce adolescent pregnancies in Bangladesh.

Group Care for the First 1000 Days (GC 1000)

Location Ghana
Period 4.5 years (2020 - 2024)
Donor EU (Horizon 2020)
Consortium partners Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) (Lead), Academic Hospital Leiden (LUMC) Free University Brussel (Belgium), Group Care Global (US), City University Of London (UK), University Of Cape Town (South Africa), Action for Mothers and Children (Kosovo), Perisur (Surinam), Presbyterian Church of Ghana Health Service (PHS/PCG, Ghana)
Goal Co-create and disseminate evidence-based implementation strategies and tools to support successful implementation and scale-up of group care in the first 1,000 days in health systems throughout the world, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Testing kits

'When women are asked to go to a different environment, their blood pressure is likely higher', says Isaac Apeliqre Adabre, District Health Nurse and Supervisor from the Binduri District Health Directorate. With the free Check2gether testing kits, pregnant women in rural areas do not have to travel far to get prenatal check-ups, nor do they have to pay a high price for a doctor's visit. This increases the chances that pregnant women get screened for pregnancy-related issues, resulting in healthier mothers and children. Programme manager Loan Liem (left on the photo) is testing the innovation that measures hemoglobine at a clinic in Ghana.



WASH & Learn 3.0

Location Uganda, Tanzania
Period Sept 2020 - Aug 2023 (3 years)
Donor Made Blue, Wandelen voor Water
Country partners E-MAC (Empowerment of Marginalized Communities, Tanzania), CEMDO (Community Environmental Management and Development Organization, Tanzania), HEWASA (Health Water & Sanitation - Caritas Fort Portal, Uganda), JESE (Joint Effort to Save the Environment, Uganda), WASEU (Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association, Uganda)
Goal Girls and women have increased well-being and are socially and economically empowered through an effective learning environment that includes sustainable, quality and female-friendly WASH and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services in schools.



Kitchen gardens

Kitchen gardening is a way to make effective use of wastewater. This initiative not only addresses water issues, but also climate resilience and income generation. Birungi Kabooko, a farmer and mother of seven children from Karugaya, Uganda: 'I received knowledge and skills during the training in kitchen gardening and now I grow my vegetables and I have more money to spend. WASH & Learn has not only transformed my knowledge, attitudes and practices, but also those of the children and the men in the community.' So far the programme has supported kitchen gardens in four villages, reaching more than 2,000 people. The success formula is now being picked up by communities elsewhere.

Pro-poor WASH Access in Kenya Reducing Inequalities through Partnerships

Location Kenya
Period 2022 - 2024
Donor EU (via UN-HABITAT)
Consortium partner Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (Lead Mentor Partner), Water Service Providers Association (Co-Mentor) and Simavi (External Partner).
Goal WOP Kenya programme aims to improve water and sanitation services for approximately 250,000 people living in Low-Income Areas of the service areas of the targeted five mentee water utilities in Kenya.

Kapilvastu

Location Nepal
Period 3.5 years (2018 - 2022)
Donor Simavi and Hike for Health
In-country partners Kapilvastu Integrated Development Services (KIDS), Society for Local Integrated Development Nepal (SOLID Nepal)
Goal Gain more experience in combining WASH and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), focusing on a different aspect of hygiene and health (hygienic behaviour during pregnancy and safe delivery); pilot the inclusion approach developed within Simavi to reach disadvantaged people and ensure inclusivity in the way we design and implement our projects.

Co-creating two flagship programmes with five partners across three countries. How does Simavi strive to be cutting-edge when it comes to shifting power, locally-led solutions and local resource mobilisation?

Punching above our weight

The Simavi flagship programmes



PHOTO BY SACHA DE BOER

Agnes Bene (in the middle) is chairwoman of the Ngape Women Group in Kajiado county in Kenya. 'We are working on a proposal for the Water Justice Fund for a solar powered borehole at a centralised place so that all women can access water closely.'

A world where less than 1 percent of the billions pledged to address climate change supports water services for poor communities, where local civil society organisations are on the margins of climate interventions, and where two-thirds of climate projects don't factor in gender considerations, is very much in need of successful approaches that prove that things can and should be done differently. Simavi is taking up the challenge with two flagship programmes, the Water Justice Fund and Connect4Wash. Both flagships are aligned with Simavi's new strategy and are designed to share our learnings and fill the gaps in the existing knowledge and practice. They should also increase our visibility and thought leadership on WASH, climate and gender. And profile our organisation and our partners as the go-to actors for funding locally-led climate adaptation programmes. As such they are both critical for Simavi and our partners, as well as for communities and women's groups.

What is the Water Justice Fund?

In 2022 a lot of ground work has been laid together with our partners Uttaran (Bangladesh), Neighbours Initiative Alliance (Kenya) and Sahakarmi Samaj (Nepal) to design the Water Justice Fund. This programme aims to tackle the lack of gender-just climate finance for local civil society organisations. This lack of funding reinforces the exclusion of women and other marginalised groups in decision-making and climate action. Through local community consultations and global planning sessions,

our partners steered the design of the Water Justice Fund. Starting in January 2023 the Fund will support local women and girls groups in Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh and provide them with small grants to realise locally-led and women-owned solutions that tackle water vulnerability, protect water sources, or lead to more equitable water access when water is scarce. This will provide us with valuable experience with grassroots grantmaking. In the meantime, a strategic partnership will be further explored to scale up the Water Justice Fund globally. Project Lead Susan Wilkinson: 'Collaboratively, we build a practice of greater accountability – where women take decisions at all stages of the grant cycle and are supported in their leadership by civil society and non-government organisations. Resources are directly placed in the hands of women and girls so that they are decision-makers and act on their priorities and solutions. That way, the Water Justice Fund actively challenges gender norms that reinforce power inequalities.'

What is Connect4WASH?

The second flagship programme Simavi has been working on in 2022 is Connect4WASH: an advocacy programme to amplify the voices of citizens and empower civil society to lobby for the realisation of climate-resilient and inclusive WASH services. Starting in January 2023 in Kenya, it is intended to scale up funding and expand to multiple countries in Africa

The legacy of Peter Dicke

Simavi owes a huge responsibility and is very grateful to Peter Dicke (1931-2020) and his family. Peter was very concerned about overconsumption, the climate, the water crisis and the inequality of women and girls, and his legacy is very important for the implementation of the flagship programmes. Janne Dingemans, account manager institutional fund, worked on the Water Justice Fund: 'It was beautiful to embark on a co-creation process with some of our long-standing partners. The legacy funding allowed us to go at a different pace compared to when we work on deadline-driven proposals – we created more space for collaboration and exchange, including time and resources for our partners to explore ideas with women in their communities.'

and Asia over the next 5 years. The goal is to work with governments and the private sector to break existing silos, making sure that WASH is embedded in climate action and that more climate-smart WASH funding is available for southern partners. Project lead Patrick Mwanzia: 'In Kenya, almost 8 million people are suffering from water insecurity, a number that will only rise due to climate change. Water insecurity is an inequality issue and therefore political. Good governance, public investment and a strong civil society can increase universal access to water.'

The programme consists of several activities. The first is the capacity strengthening of civil society organisations: training and coaching of youth associations, women's associations, community champions, and community leaders to raise their voices. Facilitation of dialogue, and feedback sessions between civil society, women, youth, government and service providers is another pillar of this programme. All advocacy will be evidence-based and inclusive monitoring, learning and evaluation an important parts of the process. Also crucial will be the co-creation and use of key tools for citizen engagement: the climate game that was developed is an important instrument for this. NIA (Neighbours Initiative Alliance) and CESPAD (Centre for Social Planning and Administrative Development), our partners in Connect4WASH, worked very closely with pastoralist groups in Kajiado county on the development of this communication tool intended to inspire community-led actions. Following Human-Centered Design methods, the game concept was extensively researched and tested with the full participation of end users (civil society organisation facilitators) and target audiences, including women, youth, low-literacy community members and senior citizens. Mwanzia: 'Prototype testing showed it encouraged shared decision-making amongst the players. Community members felt inspired, and after game sessions, a lively discussion followed on how to improve (real-life) situations as a community.'

Strategic partner Sareen Malik (ANEW):

'Womens voices are gaining traction'

In 2022 Simavi worked closely together with Sareen Malik, the executive director of ANEW, an organisation of 50 civil society organisations focusing on water and sanitation in 26 African countries. Why are strategic partnerships important for impact?

Working together in equitable collaboration with our partners toward the rights to water and sanitation is an important value and strategy for Simavi. That's why Simavi invited Sareen Malik to speak at the World Water Week in Stockholm and to appear in the media in the Netherlands. Malik, on behalf of the the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW), is a strong advocate for community-driven water and climate solutions. 'Water is a daily struggle for women and girls coming from low-income communities. In a majority of households, women have been designated as the main water providers. On average they have to walk four miles a day, just to fetch water for their daily needs.' What that means is often hard to grasp for people who are used to having tap water available to them. Malik describes an occasion where she wanted to analyse how long women and girls take to access water. She had to line up for three hours at a water point in one of the urban informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya. 'Even though I was there by 5 am, I still found a long queue of women with jerrycans waiting for their turn. Some might have walked for miles to get there; others were young girls who probably got late to school because that water is needed at home.'

'We were in Stockholm to tell the world what's happening'

Amplify womens voices

Last year she arranged to have a female community member from Mali attend a water conference. 'Without any filters, she talked of the daily realities they have to go through. How, as a result of the shrinking water spots due to climate change, their lives had become more difficult. They are now more exposed to assault and other forms of violence in their quest to find water.' 'More of these voices need to be amplified. I believe that

they are the ones who should sit at the Northern tables in order to really bring the experience home in terms of what is happening; a depiction of how people are suffering and which mitigation efforts are being employed. We are seeing a bit of that shift, with their voices gaining traction in terms of having them speak in the latter's floors and forums, regardless of whether they are in cabinet or parliament, with support from their global partners.'

Space for civil society

'We have been working hard to ensure that governments open that space for civil society to come in and table the issues. On the ground, we are seeing more women coming in.' A woman-centred approach is necessary, but also a huge shift in terms of policies and the way systems are currently built, according to Malik. 'It places women at the centre of how systems and facilities are built and designed to respond to certain segments of society like girls, children and people with disabilities. We are trying to advocate for that and are doing so at all levels, from the planning to design, and encouraging more girls to take up the study and get involved in the sector.' 'One of the initiatives we have been pushing is for women to be at the point of sale since they are rarely the water vendors. Evidence-based reports show that water points that are managed by women have few cases of sexual and gender-based violence. So, we encourage them to get involved or be given more chances to be water vendors.'

Strategic partnership

One of the reasons that Sareen Malik is an important strategic partner for Simavi is that ANEW is a powerful platform recognized by many governments and other major stakeholders in Africa. That makes it possible for ANEW to influence policy on a continental level. By working closely together Simavi and ANEW can strengthen their political impact. Simavi's story was heard more clearly at World Water Week in Stockholm being voiced by one of the few



people present that could explain the situation of women and girls from her own experience. Opening up networks in the North and making connections, makes it easier for ANEW to directly contact and advocate its causes to relevant stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector.

Working together on sextortion

After the Stockholm conference, Malik traveled to the Netherlands to speak to the press about the upcoming climate summit and the UN 2023 Water Conference. Interviews with her appeared in different newspapers (Nederlands Dagblad), magazines (Vice Versa) and websites (Bedrock). Together with Simavi-director Dieneke van der Wijk she appeared on television in the Dutch Breakfast Show 'Koffietijd'. 'We were in Stockholm to tell the world what's happening. Climate change is leading to a water crisis. And this water crisis hits women and girls in Africa the hardest. And we are here now to explain to the Dutch government and the Dutch people that this is a serious

issue. That we need to mobilise people and support.' 'I hate to see those awful yellow jerrycans. Because it means that girls can't go to school, can't build their future. And with climate change, we see that wells are drying up or being flooded. That means that girls have to spend even more time fetching water on top of all the other duties they already have.' In 2023 Simavi's collaboration with ANEW will continue. Specifically on the subject of sextortion. 'There have been cases of some not having money to purchase water, even after queuing for long hours. Whoever pays the piper, plays the tune and in this case, whoever controls the resource, calls the shots. Women have been made to trade sex for water, a survival tactic they had to employ so they can acquire this precious resource.' •

Sareen Malik was interviewed in Nairobi, Kenya by Eunice Mwaura and Nicera Wanjiru from Simavi's strategic media partner Vice Versa Global.



HER Film Festival:

Gender equality in the spotlight

2022 marked the third edition of HER Film Festival: a collaboration between Simavi and the online film platform Cinetree. Through the festival, Simavi managed to engage more than 21 thousand new and returning participants: 'It was truly an experience I will never forget. So moving to see that there are so many other women out there fighting for the same things as me.'

With HER Film Festival, Simavi and Cinetree want to give a voice to stories that need to be heard. HER Film Festival is the first online film festival in the Netherlands that focuses on the position of women. HER stands for Health, Empowerment and Rights - themes that are more relevant than ever. From October 14 to 23 a carefully selected range of movies and documentaries could be watched for free at home.

Sabine Brusse, project lead of HER Film Festival: 'We ask ourselves every year how our film festival can contribute to conversations about gender equality and the position of women. The year 2022 was full of #MeToo-scandals, of horror stories on the news about women-unfriendly regimes. We also learned that women and girls are 14 times more likely than men to be killed or injured as a result of climate crises and natural disasters. With our selection of international titles, we encourage our audience to look beyond their own experiences. Films such as RBG and Writing With Fire inspire us to take action in our own hands and support each other as women.'

Reaching 18.3 million people

HER Film Festival is strongly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It also calls upon topics that were globally relevant in 2022, including the #MeToo movement, women's reproductive rights, and the effects of climate change on women's livelihood. The festival was successful in demonstrating why the message of women's empowerment, health, and rights are as important as

ever. This approach resulted in significant attention from the media. HER Film Festival was featured in several high-profile publications and media outlets. Reaching 18.3 million people through printed articles alone.

Through the online festival, we reached thousands of people. Over 21,000 people signed up for the festival. 14,004 also signed up to receive newsletters from Simavi, twice as many as in 2021. A strong social media campaign contributed to an increased awareness of the HER Film Festival. As a result, our audience watched over 18,000 movies. Furthermore, over 600 guests attended the opening of the festival at the Royal Tuschinski Theatre in Amsterdam. A range of inspiring speakers addressed our audience of partners, loyal donors, and industry professionals.

HER Climate Stories

In collaboration with Cinetree, Simavi produced a series of short films: HER Climate Stories, which were presented during the opening of HER Film Festival. In this series, we share the stories of three women, who each take action in their own way to tackle the climate crisis: Climate activist Eefke van der Wouw, Indigenous leader Sâmia Biruany, and water activist Sareen Malik. Their message: Women are the key to solving the climate crisis. Also new in 2022 were the offline screenings and talks in cinemas across the Netherlands. The year 2022 would have been the first year of HER Film Festival outside The Netherlands. Preparations for an edition in Kampala, Uganda were far advanced. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Ebola virus, this event has been rescheduled for 2023. •



'We encourage our audience to look beyond their own experience'

Sabine Brusse, project lead

Over 600 guests attended the opening of HER Film Festival at the Royal Tuschinski Theatre in Amsterdam.



Hanna Verboom, Diana Kazooba, Eefke van der Wouw en Sophie Dros on stage

PHOTO'S BY KIRSTEN VAN SANTEN



Annet Ithungu speaking to fellow residents of Karugaya at the water source. Her community unanimously nominated her to chair the water committee. 'I was always at the well.'

PHOTO'S BY MARK WILLIAMS WASSWA

Female leadership

The inspiring story of Annet Ithungu

The leadership of a single woman can be the start of real change. The story of Annet Ithungu, a local leader participating in Simavi's WASH & Learn programme in the village of Karugaya in Western Uganda, is an excellent example.

The article was produced in cooperation with Simavi's strategic media partner Vice Versa.

Karugaya has a population of seven hundred, spread over about 100 households. Most people are farmers, producing coffee, potatoes, beans, cassava and yams. Annet Ithungu, as a chair of the water committee in Karugaya, has recently grown into one of the leaders in her village. She used to be very shy, but now her ambitions reach higher, providing a source of motivation for other women in her community. 'I'm showing them that a woman can lead an organisation and that you can make a positive impact without any man involved.' Access to water is essential in this area, whether for drinking, washing or watering

the fields when there is an uneven distribution of rainfall like now. All households depend on one natural source of water. The water supply is sufficient, but the water hasn't always been clean. Annet tells that, until two years ago, people would wash their clothes here, the animals would urinate in it, and there were no management measures in place. 'Many people suffered from typhoid, worms, and other water-borne diseases.'

Rigid gender roles

Richard Alituha from Simavi's partner JESE (Joint Efforts to Save the Environment) regularly visits remote villages like Karugaya on his motorbike to talk to communities, discussing plans to improve their living situation. In 2020, the village was visited by JESE and the decision was made to join efforts to revamp the water source. A sturdy bridge has been built at the water source, but what

Richard is thrilled about is Karugaya's water committee, made up of three women and one man. 'Gender roles were traditionally extremely rigid,' he says. 'There was a deep belief that ensuring access to water, for example, was a man's job.' 'There are still some men who question how a woman could issue commands and make decisions. That's why our projects aim to tell many stories of women who are doing good things, like this water committee in Karugaya and the job Annet is doing in the community.' Annet Ithungu laughs. 'Our motto is: anything men can do, women can do much better.' Richard nods in agreement. 'Our experience here and in other villages is that women are more loyal and involved when they commit to something.' That is also his experience with Annet. 'This community believes in her; Annet has the zeal and enthusiasm to make things better here.'

Positive impact on the children

Annet tells about the dirty water and myriad diseases caused by the water source, about how the community and JESE joined forces to 'rehabilitate' the well, and how she played her part in this as a resident of the village. 'I was always at the well.' She also recounts how the community unanimously nominated her to chair the committee and how she first discussed the topic with her husband. 'He also liked the idea and has always supported me,' she says. 'He still encourages me and also sees that the water committee has a positive impact on our family – it's been a long time since our children were last sick.' She also thinks it makes sense that there are more women than men on the committee. 'They use water more than men. Who cooks? Who bathes the children? Who washes the clothes? Exactly. That's why women always monitor the water: they're more likely to pick up on potential sources of contamination or any other problems around the water source.'

Savings for maintenance

Annet mobilises people for meetings and has started a savings group for a fund earmarked for repairs to the water source. Each household contributes one

thousand Ugandan shillings a month (25 euro cents). She also acts as a sort of law enforcer: anyone who commits an offence around the water source – washing clothes near it, letting cattle drink from it, allowing children to urinate in it, and so on – will be given a fine of twenty to thirty thousand shillings. 'People who can't or won't pay the fine are given an alternative punishment, such as digging or sweeping the area around the water source,' says Annet. One of the challenges the community faces is climate change. Together with the government, Annet Ithungu and her fellow villagers talk about planting new trees. There was barely any rainfall in the area between July and August, and the flow from the water source also decreased. 'And there's always the threat of contamination,' she adds. 'A strong flow also flushes chemicals out of the well, which then drains off. Dry periods bring a peak in water-borne diseases. We occasionally have to use water from the well to irrigate our crops, whereas we used to get enough water from rainfall.'

Running for political office

As in other villages, JESE provided training on gender equality and social inclusion in Karugaya. Very few men attended the training at first, 'but what was discussed slowly spread through the village,' says Richard. 'There was a heated debate at first, since some men want to be the boss and won't budge on that,' says Annet. 'You have to show men that women getting more involved is also to the men's advantage. It means men are free to do other things, like looking for ways to pay their children's school fees. A healthy community is built on women's participation.' She will chair the water committee for another three years, after which Annet Ithungu is looking to climb the ranks. 'The time when women were overlooked when it came to filling important positions is over, thankfully,' she says. 'Across the region, I see women doing well. That's what I aspire to be; I want to lead at a higher level in a few years. With the experience I've gained up to now, I'd also feel confident running for political office.' •

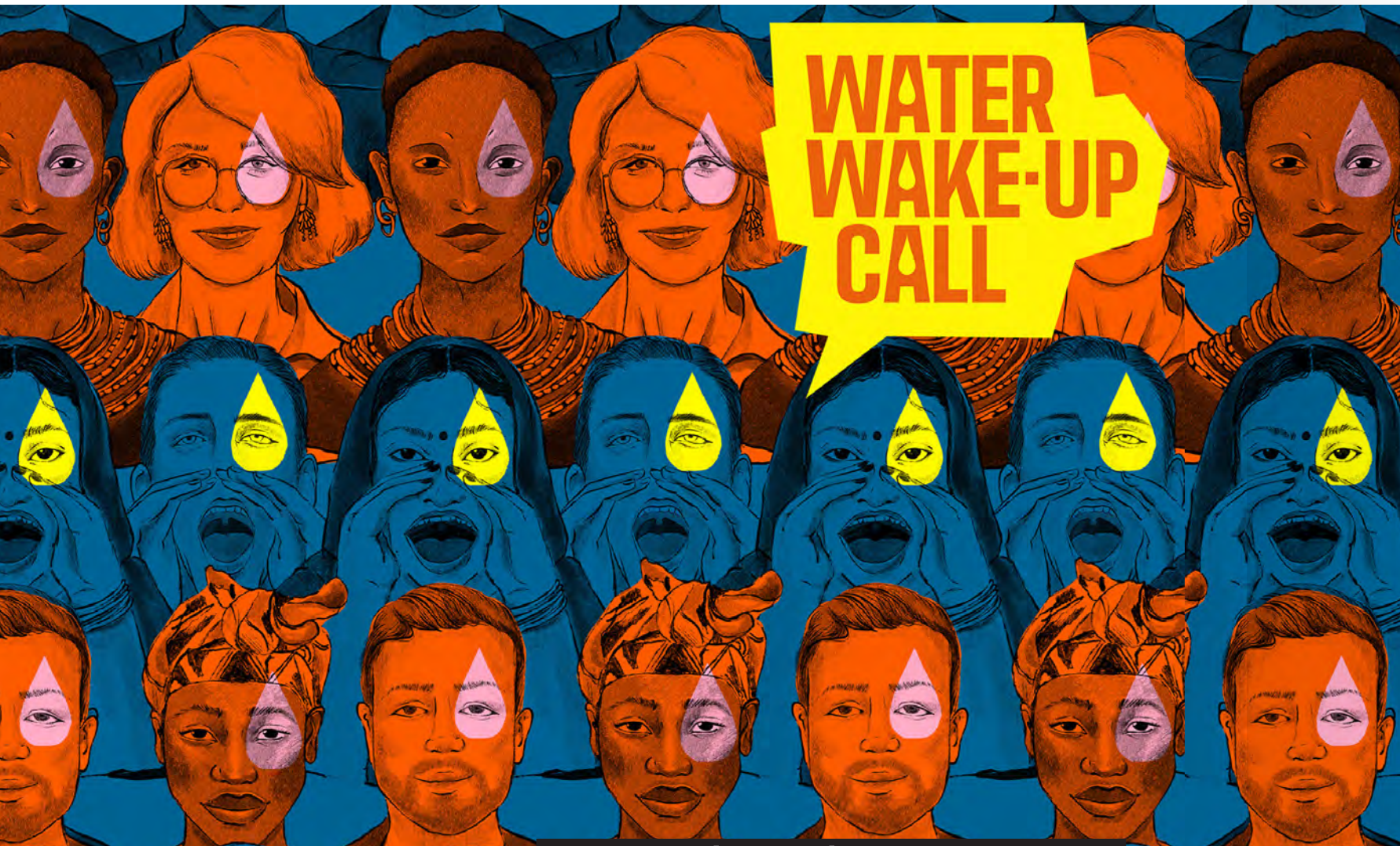


'Anything men can do, women can do much better'

Annet Ithungu, chair water committee Karugaya

WASH & Learn

WASH & Learn, a three-year programme running to August 2023, is implemented by four partners – two from Uganda - JESE and HEWASA (Health through Water and Sanitation) - and two from Tanzania - CEMDO (Community Environmental Management and Development Organisation) and E-mac (Empowerment of Marginalised Communities). The programme focuses on WASH-related activities. Advocacy, innovation, and economic and social empowerment are also integrated into the programme approach. Water user committees are strengthened and facilitated to develop water safety plans. They are also trained and encouraged to start village savings and loans associations to establish alternative sources of finance to cater to the operation and sustainability of the water sources.



Impact through campaigning

Climate crisis = water crisis

Launching a large-scale social media campaign and an online petition, inviting Members of Parliament to our Water Cocktail Bar in The Hague, marching the streets of Rotterdam during the Climate March: 2022 was the year Simavi started the Water Wake-Up Call. Our goal: creating awareness about the fact that the climate crisis is a water crisis, and demanding action from our government.

The Water Wake-Up Call is a multi-year campaign, launched with an eye on the UN Water Conference in March 2023, co-chaired by the Netherlands. With this campaign we asked the public to take action by signing a petition. This petition targets the Dutch government: it is high time they recognize that water is a central point of the climate crisis. We call upon them to increase the Dutch budget for climate adaptation for countries that are hit hardest by the water crisis, while they have done little to cause it. Therefore, the Dutch government must bear responsibility and support those who suffer the impact of the climate crisis. With the online campaign, we reached nearly 166,000 people. Almost 3,000 people signed our petition in 2022 to call upon the Dutch government to take action. Many of them also chose to support Simavi financially or subscribe to our newsletter. Simavi also participated in the Climate March in Rotterdam. Together with 10,000 others, we took to the streets to wake-up the Dutch government with our message: 'no water, no life'. At the

The Dutch government must bear responsibility and increase the budget for climate adaptation

Climate March, newly appointed managing director Dieneke van der Wijk led us in the 'Water and Women'-block of the march. Spoken-word artist Hind Eljadid underlined Simavi's message with a performance on the main stage.

Engaging in dialogue with politicians

We also took a Water Cocktail Bar directly to the doorsteps of the Dutch Parliament in the Hague to engage in dialogue with politicians, and to encourage them to address the water crisis in parliament. The water cocktail bar was visited by several members of parliament, including Tom van der Lee from GroenLinks, and Jan Klink from the VVD. Both MPs expressed appreciation for Simavi's commitment to solving the water crisis and acknowledged that the Dutch government needs to commit to addressing the global water crisis. Even prime-minister Mark Rutte received a pamphlet about the Water Wake-Up Call campaign.

In 2022, Simavi also put in a lot of preparation leading up to the UN Water Conference in New York. We increased our collaboration with existing networks, partnerships and alliances to advocate for country-level pledges to increase public investment in safe water for the most marginalised communities in the world. We also invited five representatives of local partners to attend the conference in March 2023. •

Targeting powerholders

Making the rights to water and sanitation real

It is an important goal for Simavi: getting people in positions of power in the WASH-sector to support women's and girls' human rights to water and sanitation and to support the redistribution of power and resources. And have them not only support this, but also effectively act upon it. The Make Rights Real approach, which is applied in the WASH SDG programme in Bangladesh, has been an important method to achieve real impact.



Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is the most basic human need for health and well-being. It is also a human right. Local government officials who are committed to the human rights to water and sanitation can make all the difference. Especially when they are willing to listen to the needs of women and girls in their communities and when they have the right tools and knowledge. According to Simavi, these powerholders are the key factor in improving institutions and taking action for the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation. Make Rights Real is an approach designed to do just that: to enable WASH specialists to coach local government officials to overcome challenges to the provision of water and sanitation services for all. Make Rights Real was formed out of a collaboration between Simavi, WASH United, WaterAid, UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures, UNICEF, Rural Water Supply Network, and End Water Poverty. In Bangladesh, Simavi uses the approach as part of the WASH SDG Bangladesh WASH Alliance International sub-programme. A Bengali version of the Making Rights Real handbook was developed containing sections on measuring and analysis; planning; implementation; and supervision & monitoring.

Would-be hero

A crucial part of the Make Rights Real approach is the selection of a 'would-be hero', a government official, who is committed to improving the rights to water and sanitation but is facing obstacles in doing so. In Bangladesh, ten representatives of local government institutions were selected by our partners Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), Uttaran, and Practical Action. Over the last 18 months, they regularly discussed the challenges to the realisation of water and sanitation services for all and ways to overcome them. The goal was to make sure that the principles of equality and non-discrimination, access to information, participation, accountability and sustainability became well-engrained. Along with the standard of WASH services: available, accessible, affordable, safe and acceptable for everyone. In doing so they made sure that the priorities and activities were discussed, including how to plan and monitor them. One section would for example offer information on how a local government official can collect data and identify the people who are excluded from WASH services in their locality. Planning, with

consideration for the limited budget, and identifying key stakeholders, is also something that the 'would-be heroes' were coached on. The final sections focus on implementation and monitoring through visits, community feedback mechanisms, and complaint mechanisms.

Not always easy

Getting local government officials on board has not always been easy, says Hasina Parvin from Simavi's longstanding partner Uttaran. 'We would offer the Making Right Real Manual and ask them to take ten minutes to discuss the summary. After that, we would come back to discuss each paragraph. People came to realise it helped them to work systematically. And to make their work measurable. That made them very happy.' The partners put great effort into making the materials they used as accessible as possible. Partha S. Kuntal from DORP described that when they started working with the Making Right Real materials these had been translated into Bangla. 'But it turned out it was still difficult for them to understand. Then we discussed it using the terms from the local dialect and using examples. That made it easier for them.' As a result, they were asked to come back: 'People would ask: what

Hasina Parvin, Project Coordinator at Uttaran (left) in discussion with Mayor Kalaroa



new things can you share with us? And we would explain that working in a slightly different way would help them to work more structurally on the actual needs of the people.'

Improvement of institutions

Partha has already witnessed the gradual improvement of institutions. 'One official, the secretary of a local government council, shared information from the make rights real approach in a meeting with his colleagues. We only had to facilitate the process. Previously the work was limited to providing tube wells and latrines, but not on a community basis. Now the people who need it are taken into account.' Hasina Parvin from Uttaran recognizes this experience. 'We were asked to please provide a list of socially excluded communities, which we did.' Simavi's partners work hard to support each would-be hero in a way that encourages them to make a difference. As each official faces different challenges



'We discussed the materials using the terms from the local dialect'

Partha S. Kuntal, Programme coordinator DORP

'People came to realise it helped them to work in a systematic way'

The WASH SDG programme

The WASH SDG programme aims 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. The programme works across 73 sub-national locations in seven countries with a total population of more than 9.5 million people. The programme is organised across 14 sub-programmes, three of which are under the direct leadership of Simavi. As of June 2022 in Bangladesh 450,000 people gained access to water services, 400,000 to sanitation services, and another 300,000 to at least basic hygiene facilities, exceeding the targets. In Bangladesh, the Make Rights Real approach was first piloted in 2019 with DORP and Stichting Land Ontwikkelings Project Bangladesh (SLOPB). In the summer of 2021, the approach was integrated into the WASH SDG programme implemented by WASH Alliance International in various working areas in the southern coastal part of Bangladesh. Issues that local government officials and the communities are facing include waterlogging, salinity, and water sources containing arsenic and iron.

in their work, these need addressing on an individual basis. Because of the time and effort our partners put into working with them, and the willingness of our partners to listen to their own needs and views, many would-be heroes became very enthusiastic about the approach.

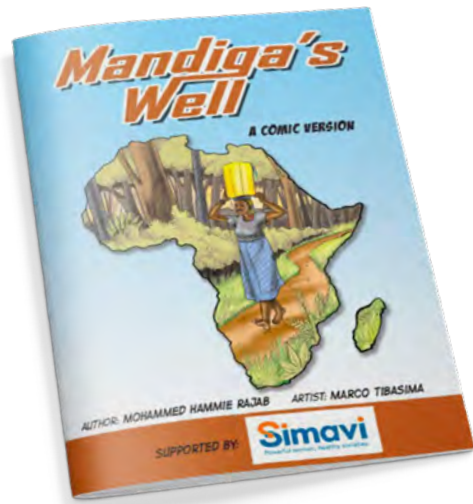
Impact

The first preliminary results indicate that government officials change their mindset, become enthusiastic, and inform their colleagues. Simavi's partners see the potential of the Making Rights Real approach. Not only can the approach be implemented across other WASH programmes, but if properly contextualized, there is potential for it to be implemented in other sectors. So far, the Make Right Real approach has been applied in over 12 countries by 37 civil society organisations. The approach has proved to be useful to complement systems-strengthening activities. It can overcome defensiveness towards human rights. It has achieved promising results across three levels of impact: on civil society implementers, on local government officials and WASH services. This change doesn't happen easily, it takes time and effort and follow-up and the exchange and celebrations of successes. There is still much to learn and improve based on our experiences so far. •

Mandiga's Well

The power of storytelling for social change

In 2022 Mandiga's Well, a comic book on the violence women encounter when fetching water, was published in collaboration with Simavi. The book has been certified as official teaching material and distributed among dozens of Tanzanian schools. It is a prime example of how storytelling can be a force for far-reaching social change.



At 7pm, when Mandiga leaves her village for her two-kilometre daily walk to the well down the forest, thugs attempt to rape her. When back home she is unable to cook due to the trauma, whereupon her husband beats her. Mandiga considers leaving him, but how will her community ever accept such a move? This fragment is taken from the book Mandiga's Well (2022) by Tanzanian journalist Mohammed Hammie, which has been shortlisted for the James Currey Prize for African Literature and the Quramo Writers' Prize. Mandiga is a fictional name, but the woman she represents is real and the book has sparked a lively dialogue on the daily experiences of women in rural Tanzania. In a glorious twist of hope and success, Mandiga decides to confide in an

empowered woman with links to a local NGO. She steps out of her comfort zone, connects with her fellow ladies and discovers that most share similar experiences, but kept quiet. Together, the women break their silence. They inform the authorities, after which the thugs are caught. What follows are discussions between the authorities, community leaders, women, children and men. The net result is not only a water source in the village which frees up time for women to do productive work, but above all broken taboos and female empowerment.

A deeper sense of urgency

Diana Kazooba, knowledge management and learning officer at Simavi in Uganda, collaborated with Hammie during his writing process. 'What connects people around the world are different arrays of emotions, fear and hope,' Kazooba says. 'The story of Mandiga's Well creates a connection between the storyteller, the listeners and the main character. That connection recognises the ways in which we are the same and promotes understanding where we differ. That is the foundation of building stronger communities.'

Simavi wants to scale up its creative storytelling activities. 'We work with activists in countries who record and write down people's stories,' Simavi program manager digital & innovation Selma Hilgersom explains. 'Seeing their own stories in writing can give people a deeper sense of urgency on what they want to achieve in life. Africa



Mohammed Hammie (with white T-shirt), author of Mandiga's Well, poses with Sara Daima (left), Mayasa Ally (sitting down), Paulina Mwangwa and Roseline Munuo, all members of the Tanzania Library Service Board staff.



has much more of a storytelling culture than we do, so I'd like to point out that we've definitely not come up with a new concept.' She and Diano Kazooba spoke about Mandiga's Well at the ninth Partos Innovation Festival on October 14 in Amsterdam, where ideas and insights were shared on how to accelerate and boost the impact of international development cooperation.

Traumas with a life-long impact

Kazooba knows the risks of carrying water from personal experience. 'I know what it means to leave home at 6pm, walk down to the well – ours was also in the forest – and then carry twenty litres of water back home even though I was lucky to only be back in my village during school holidays. It's tricky, it's traumatising, I think it's the worst any girl could go through. I used to see and hear hissing snakes. My cousin almost drowned in the open well one day; they managed to pull her out just in time. You never know what a girl encounters, because she may never tell. These traumas can have a life-long impact.' 'The way we communicate on humanitarian situations must change,' Kazooba says. 'Let people speak for themselves. Storytelling for social change for me is telling the truth from the horse's mouth, for the outside world to feel and

understand. That way, we try to drive a connection between the two.' Mandiga's story is a prime example of how opening up can bring about life-changing transformations in communities where one would least expect it. 'It also shows you the key problem may not be that people don't have water; the problem is that people don't have information. That's the root cause and the mindset we tackle.'

Men and boys on board

Kazooba calls Hammie a hero and a feminist. 'Look at his LinkedIn page. He's always posting about women; women breastfeeding, women at the well. His contribution goes beyond publicly advocating for women as a man; Hammie changes the feminist perspective. In East Africa, men think of feminists as women who are too empowered, who do not respect men, who threaten men and thus create a new power imbalance. The way we portray feminism – should we even call it that? – should ideally be all of us respecting each other.' Hammie's book, which is translated from Swahili to English and also available on Amazon, concentrates on both the female and the male involvement in the solution to Mandiga and her fellow women's struggles, Kazooba explains. 'We need the men and the boys on board; we need everybody.' •



'The key problem may not be that people don't have water; the problem is that people don't have information'

Diana Kazooba, knowledge management and learning officer

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures 'Slowly everything is changing'

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures started in January 2019, with the support of the European Union. The 5-year programme in Bangladesh is designed to support adolescent girls and young women to live with dignity and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health without violence, coercion, and discrimination. 16-Year-old Lalasing Marma from Bandarban tells her story.



Lalasing Marma: 'I love reading storybooks in my spare time, and I like to talk to my friends. When I was in class 8, I was often bullied by street boys. My mother would send my father to school, and tell me that I should go to school together with my friends instead of going to school alone. We still often see violence against women in our society.'



Lalasing: 'We have participated in a variety of activities at the Girls Club. After coming here, I became aware of my rights as a girl. Mentors have taught us to think that there is no difference between women and men. Slowly everything is changing. When I wash the dishes, now my brother pours water. I think there will be more positive changes ahead.'



An evaluation done at the end of 2022, showed that 61% of people surveyed know they can reach out to services in relation to harassment and gender-based violence, versus only 11% at the start of the programme in 2019. Lalasing: 'Everyone has to come forward to prevent violence against women in our society, so that such incidents do not happen in the future.'

Lalasing is from Bandarban, a community in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The CHT are in the southeastern part of Bangladesh. It is home to 11 indigenous communities, also known as the Jumma people.

In 2022 842 girls' groups worked on a creative project about a key issue they would like to see changed in their community. They then presented these projects on topics like stopping child marriage, menstrual health, support in preventing harassment and gender-based violence to their families and community leaders. Lalasing: 'I want men and women to have equal rights. Just as girls will work outside the house, boys will also do housework. I want this to be understood by everyone. The posters that we have made – all members of a family should see them.'



Students from Karugaya Primary in Uganda on their way to fetch water from a well located 2 kilometers from the school.

Creating lasting impact

with our partner Made Blue

Utilising entrepreneurship to invest in clean drinking water: that is the aspiration of Made Blue, a foundation that is one of the corporate sponsors of Simavi since 2014. The success story of Simavi and Made Blue illustrates how collaboration with corporate partners can inspire and create lasting impact in the development sector.

The unique partnership between Simavi and Made Blue has been characterised by a shared ambition to focus on people. We want to bring innovation and learning to the WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) sector and support local solutions that work – and that will continue to work.

As an entrepreneurial foundation, Made Blue uses its business model to generate income to invest in safe water. Simavi and Made Blue have been working together since the founding of the latter in 2014. Simavi's vast expertise, long-term vision, and reliability are reasons for Made Blue to keep the collaboration going today. According to Frank van der Tang, co-founder of Made Blue, his organisation trusts that when



'We want to take communities with us in a learning process'

Selma Hilgersom, Programme Manager for WASH & Learn at Simavi

Simavi is involved in a project, sustainability and longevity are always considered. This in turn results in structural impact rather than short-term outcomes, which both Simavi and Made Blue value. Furthermore, the collaboration between Made Blue and Simavi goes well beyond only financial contributions. There is regular contact about the programmes, and innovative ideas and advice are shared to make the programmes the best they can be. This co-creation aspect is what makes this partnership so successful for both Made Blue and Simavi.

The collaboration is built upon the agreement that all changes should arise from local contexts to create a sustainable impact. The role of Simavi is also to inspire, ask questions as a 'critical friend' and guide processes to enable system improvement on the local level. Van der Tang emphasises that local communities already possess a wealth of knowledge about water, 'we just have to support them to set the flywheel in motion.'

Strengthening local structures

In 2022, Made Blue continued to sponsor our WASH & Learn programme in Uganda and Tanzania. The goal of this programme is to increase access to water and sanitation in schools, specifically focusing on the needs of girls.

With WASH & Learn, Simavi wants to help strengthen the structures that already exist within the countries. 'By inspiring local stakeholders, but also giving them the responsibility to find solutions to problems themselves while continuing to support them, you create a more equal basis on which to collaborate.' Selma Hilgersom, Programme Manager for WASH & Learn at Simavi, explains how this programme embodies the Shift the Power strategy. 'Rather than telling local organisations and communities what they should do, we want to take them with us in a learning process on how things can be done better.'

Cost recovery methodologies

A successful example of how WASH & Learn has transformed local circumstances is the use of cost recovery methodologies.



'When Simavi is involved sustainability and longevity are always considered'

Frank van der Tang, co-founder of Made Blue

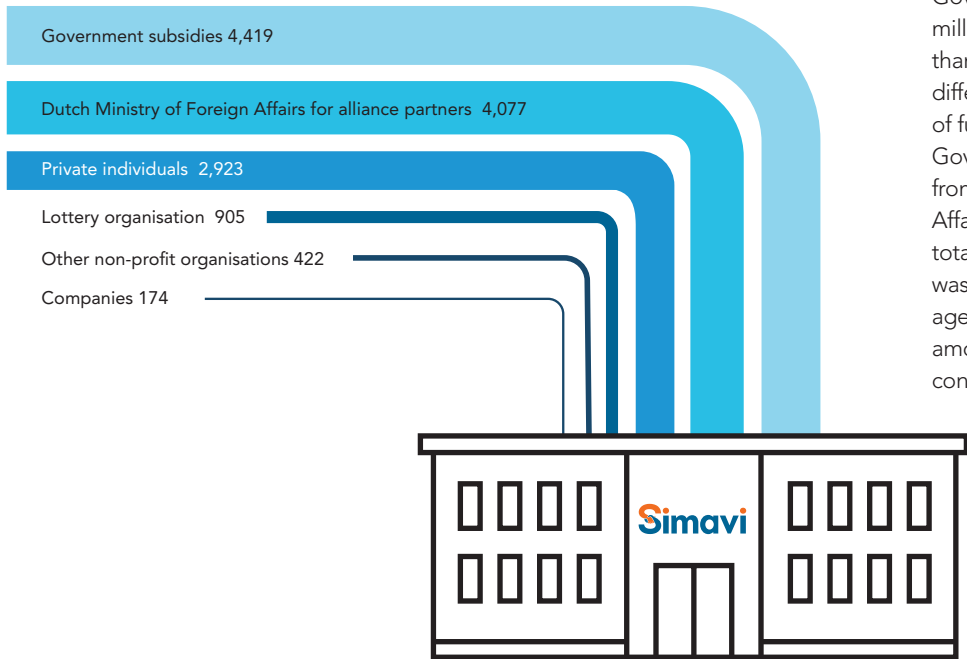
In this process, schools and communities work together to raise funds to cover water and sanitation facilities at schools – to achieve long-term functionality. These cost recovery schemes are locally-led initiatives based on a learning-by-doing approach. Within the programme we have seen the set-up of substantial 'kitchen gardens' using wastewater to grow fruits and vegetables, which was made possible by the increased water supply, as well as crafts that are made and sold by women groups. These activities are not only meant to raise funds but also to develop skills that deepen climate resilience amongst communities and within school environments.

But the WASH and Learn programme goes further than the work in communities and schools. We partner with activists who advocate for human rights to WASH, and with research organisations to learn how to have more impact. We also run interactive radio campaigns in partnership with TRAC FM to actively engage and accentuate the voices of the people in remote places. The success of the joint programmes of Made Blue and Simavi has been made possible by shared ambition and a strong trust basis. That means we are not hindered by rigidity in achieving our goals. We are confident that our partnership will keep evolving and bring innovation and water to communities wherever we work. •

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 2022? An overview.

TOTAL INCOME 12,920 (X 1,000 EURO)



INCOME FROM: (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021
Private individuals	2,923	1,565	2,034
Companies	174	424	282
Lottery organisation	905	900	900
Government subsidies	4,419	5,226	6,364
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	4,077	7,574	6,515
Other non-profit organisations	422	915	531
Total Income raised	12,920	16,604	16,626

In 2022 Simavi generated an income of €12.9 million. Income from private individuals amounted to €2.9 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 €1.5 million, €0.7 million under budget, which is mainly due to lower income than expected from companies and events. Government subsidies made up €8.5 million of our income, €4.3 million less than budgeted, due mainly to the timing difference between receipts and transfers of funds for alliance partners. Government subsidies include grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governments. Of the total amount of €8.5 million, €4.1 million was received by Simavi as the lead agent of the WASH SDG alliance. This amount was paid out directly to the consortium partners.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 12,752 (X 1,000 EURO)

Management & Administration costs 631

Cost of generating funds 970

Spent on objectives 11,151

Please refer to the explanatory notes to the Annual Accounts for more information on our financial status. (To be found at [simavi.nl /AR2022-A2](https://simavi.nl/AR2022-A2))



Ratna Bdr. Thapa from Melamchi in Nepal is cleansing himself in the running tap water, part of the ASHA programme. He has seen a massive change in the access to water in his life, he says.

Fundraising in 2022: another year of crises

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

Our four main fundraising priorities in 2022 were to:

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

We hoped for a steadier year in 2022 after two intense years of Covid-19. But with the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and other crises such as the extreme rise of inflation and energy prices and the tight labour market, we faced some challenging external influences that led to several adjustments in our planned program throughout the year.

Renewed partnership with Postcode Lottery

In 2022 we received again €900 thousand from the Dutch Postcode Lottery and we have signed a renewed 5-year partnership with the Postcode Lottery. We are very happy and pleased with the confidence and support of the Postcode Lottery for Simavi. The funds we receive from the Postcode Lottery each year make a vital contribution towards realising our mission

and developing new programmes. We also received additional funding from the Dutch Government to support an inclusive UN water conference in 2023, as well as other funding from new partners.

Our partners' continued commitment

Our business partners Made Blue and Dopper continued their long-term commitment to our programmes in Uganda, Tanzania and Nepal. In addition, we initiated the Water Justice Fund with partners in Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya. The fund will be launched in 2023 and supports grassroots women's organisations in fighting climate and water vulnerabilities. Also this year we had an amazing HER film festival which brought our partners and supporters together in the Amsterdam movie theatre Tuschinski for an engaging programme. It was wonderful to feel the passion for Simavi's work and the support for our message.

Engaging our supporters

In 2022 we engaged more than 64,000 supporters, of which 32,750 supporters made a financial contribution to our work. Gross turnover from private donors has been almost stable at around 1.7 million euros. Individual donors are of great importance to Simavi. The financial support given by our supporters in the Netherlands funds a big part of our daily work. But their engagement means more than just that; they also strengthen our visibility and are a powerful voice in spreading the message.

Growing in times of crisis

In 2022 we saw a stabilisation in our income from direct mail. We think that is a very good result if we look at the turbulent year we had: the rise in energy prices and inflation turned out to not have a big impact on the willingness to donate from our loyal supporter base. We are proud and happy to rely on the support of the people that believe in our way of working. In 2022 we welcomed more structural donors to our supporter base, and we will continue to invest in persuading people to move from a pledge 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, resulting in 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 2022, we almost reached 7.000 structural supporters.

Campaigns as a starting point for a long-term relationship

Throughout the year we provided opportunities for a broad audience to contribute and engage with our work, like joining our campaigns and our film festival. We invested more in attracting a new and younger audience and increasing our supporter base through appealing public campaigns and other engaging activities. Since 2020 we welcomed thousands of new supporters in our database through our public campaigns The Water Wake-Up Call and HER Film Festival. These new relations are asked to join our movement with a financial contribution. Resulting in approximately 1.000 new structural financial relations in the long term. Our campaigns are important as a first touch point with Simavi as well as a starting point for a longer commitment. Nevertheless: due to the outbreak of the war in Ukraine we sized down our on- and offline activities – especially during the first half year of 2022. Which led to fewer dynamics in our Water Wake-Up Call campaign than planned.

A legacy for future generations

More than a third of our income from private donors comes from legacies. We are very grateful that so many people add Simavi to their will, and it is an honour to work in their spirit. In 2022 we received €1,45 million from legacies. The biggest part of this income came from one big legacy we received in 2022, with an amount of around €1,15 million. This legacy by Peter Dicke was an amazing start for a long-lasting dream we had within our organisation: a special fund to accelerate community-based water resilient initiatives in the most climate-vulnerable areas we work in. In 2022 we developed all the preparatory work for our Water Justice Fund, which will be officially launched in 2023 and wouldn't be possible without the kick-start financing we received from this legacy. Our warm thoughts go out to all supporters of Simavi that passed away in 2022 and left our organisation a part of their legacy to fulfill their wishes for a more water-resilient future for women and girls. We cherish all gifts to our mission, but special thoughts go out to those whom we aren't able to personally say thank you to anymore.

Walking for Water

One of our core pillars for engaging with a broader audience – especially with children – is our Walking for Water event. For over twenty years, Walking for Water has been a leading event that involves primary school children in an educative programme in which they learn about water. The Covid-19 measures presented many schools, especially in the first months of the year with a considerable challenge, which reduced participation from levels in previous years. Even though Covid-19 has negatively impacted the commitment from schools, we received over €183 thousand for our Wash & Learn programme from school activities in 2022, in which about 10,000 children took part.

SDG Art for Simavi

Artivist is a brand new platform that combines art with activism and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

of the United Nations. Artist's goal is to 'fight' through her artworks in a positive and inspiring way. They ask artists to create art around a particular SDG theme and one hundred percent of the net income of each Artist collection goes to that specific SDG project. For the kick-off collection of Artist, SDG 6 - clean drinking water & sanitation for everyone - was chosen. The net income raised through sales was donated to Simavi's Water by Women in Nepal project. An amazing donation of € 15.000 was the result in 2022.

Strengthening our partners

We think it's important to share knowledge and expertise. In 2022 we started with online fundraising training with a few of our long-standing partner organisations. In such a way we strengthen our partner organisations for the future and have a positive impact on local fundraising too. From both sides, this pilot session was positively evaluated and will have a broader rollout in 2023.

GRATITUDE

Dieneke van der Wijk: 'The personal and professional relationships we have with our donors are deep and warm. We see them as true partnerships in which we work together to achieve our mutual objective: the empowerment of women and girls to be able to enjoy their rights to water and sanitation. While the major grants allow us to design and implement big programmes, the unrestricted funds are just as vital. For building a strong and relevant team; investing in high-quality programmes; learning from everything we do; growing our fundraising; and being bold in our influencing and advocacy.'



Our campaigns bring in new structural donors for Simavi.



Around 10.000 school children participated in a Walking for Water event.



Artivist, a platform that combines art with activism, raised 15.000 euro for Water by Women in Nepal.

How did we spend the money?

We are proud of every euro invested in our work. Simavi's result for the 2022 financial year was €151 thousand positive (2021: €552 thousand negative). Our budgeted result was a negative amount of €1,649 thousand. The favourable difference mainly stems from the income from legacies and bequests (total amount 2022:€ 1,456 thousand), which were not budgeted given the uncertainty of such income.

Spent on objectives

In 2022 Simavi spent a total of €11.2 million (2021: €15.2 million) on our objectives, €5.4 million lower than budgeted. This was mainly due to the reduced number of activities and the timing difference between receipts and transfers of payments for alliance partners. In 2022, the ratio of Simavi's total expenditure on objectives to its total income was 86.3% (2021: 91.6%). We strive to spend at least 90% of our income on our objectives.

Non-objective expenditure

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

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

The percentage cost of generating funds has increased to 7.5% (2021: 6.7%). This increase is a result of the lower level of income realised. In monetary terms the costs are almost stable. Our total management and administration costs were 4.9% of our total expenditure (2021: 4.5%). This increase is also attributable to the lower total expenditure in 2022.

Accountability

Simavi's accounts for the financial year 2022, 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



Avenita Surya works as a tailor on reusable pads for Perfect Fit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.

EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021
Total spent on objectives	11,151	16,276	15,232
Total cost of generating funds	970	1,279	1,119
Total Management & Administration costs	613	673	767
Total Expenditure	12,752	18,228	17,118

EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTIVES (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021
Total Income	12,920	16,604	16,626
Total Expenditure	12,752	18,228	17,118
Total spent on objectives	11,151	16,276	15,232
% total spent on objective/total income	86.3%	98.0%	91.6%

NON-OBJECTIVE EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)

	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021
Cost of generating funds	970	1,279	1,119
Total Income raised	12,920	16,604	16,626
% of generating funds	7.5%	7.7%	6.7%
Total management & administration cost	631	673	767
Total expenditure	12,752	18,228	17,118
% total M&A costs /total expenditure	4.9%	3.7%	4.5%

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 2022. •

Safeguarding our operations

How does Simavi manage risks?

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

Simavi uses multiple strategies that shield Simavi's mission and objectives from harm. Our risk management framework and guidelines help us to systematically scrutinise risks, optimise our decision-making and safeguard our operations.

Programmatic risks

Programme implementation is Simavi's core activity. This entails several aspects of risk that might jeopardise the execution of programmes or the outcomes to be achieved, such as integrity issues, fraudulent partners, substandard partner performance and security, activities that are not rolled out according to plan, or that do not adhere to our quality standards, and safety or health incidents. In doing our work we cannot avoid taking risks. This is acceptable, provided we are aware of these risks and can manage them without jeopardising our continuity and goal. Overall, Simavi's risk tolerance is moderate. We have put several preventive controls in place to reduce the likelihood of a risk occurring and to mitigate the consequences if it does. Clear internal policies on integrity, compliance and sanctions, the systematic screening of existing and new partners, and a safety and security policy are examples of these controls. Furthermore, we continue to work with our partners to ensure their effectiveness, high performance and good governance.

Organisational risks

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

Human resources

We are committed to responsible human resources management and have enacted policies to safeguard our employees' health and safety. Our ISO-certified quality management system is an important means of ensuring the controlled and reliable execution of Simavi's operations and mitigating the associated risks.

Data security

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

Financial risks

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

Funding

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

Currency

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

Insurance

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



PHOTO BY EMMY CHAKMA

Thuiyna ching Marma lives with her mother, father, brother and sisters in a village called Kukimara, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. Her days are filled with agricultural work, studying at Karnofuli Gvt College, and collecting water from the well every morning and afternoon. Through the programme Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures she learned about reproductive health. 'I want that women's participation in all activities and decision making is increased and all kinds of inequalities are eliminated.'

Our people: working from all over the world to maximise impact

> Reputational risks

For an organisation like Simavi, a good reputation is essential, but at the same time, it is fragile. Any incident may pose a real threat to Simavi's reputation and thus affect its ability to achieve its goals and objectives, and even its continuity. Many factors can damage Simavi's reputation: inconsistent, incomplete, incorrect, low quality, or uncontrolled communication (online and offline); lack of transparency; involvement in controversial issues or debates; bad press; ethics and integrity issues; incidents in the fundraising or civil society sector; and environmental incidents. Our reputational risk tolerance is low, as these risks may affect people's trust in Simavi, our partners and the people we work with, and eventually reduce the donations and funding we need to achieve our goals. To mitigate reputational risk, Simavi endeavours to communicate openly and with a positive tone. We seek not to be provocative but focus on constructive, transparent and positive messaging.

Our financial health

Simavi's financial position is sound and sufficient to ensure continuity. Although sufficient funding is contracted for all our budgeted programmes, donor commitments are not irrevocable. For this reason, Simavi maintains a continuity reserve. We have estimated the need to cover six to nine months of operational expenditure, which will enable us to either regain sufficient funding or properly shut down or restructure our active programmes. Our continuity reserve meets this criterion and amounted to €2,336 thousand at year-end 2022. On 31 December 2022, our total cash balance was €7,121 thousand. This balance consists mainly of the amounts we have received in advance to be spent on programmes in the coming year. It also covers our continuity reserve and our earmarked reserves. •

Please refer to the explanatory notes to the Annual Accounts for more information on our financial status. (To be found at [simavi.nl /AR2022-A2](https://simavi.nl/AR2022-A2))

Every day our international team is committed to maximising the impact of our programmes. Together with in-country partners, we're working on the fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation for women and girls.

Our colleagues work from all over the world, our teams are based in 7 countries. The majority of our programmes team (22 consultants in 2022) is located in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and Tanzania. 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 43 people (December 2022). The staff based in the Netherlands consists of support and back-office staff (HR, Finance, Assistants), as well as some programme managers, programmes officers, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) advisors and the Fundraising and Engagement Team.

The leadership team is also based in the Netherlands. 2022 brought a significant change in the management team with the recruitment of a new Managing Director, Dieneke van der Wijk. The role of Director of Finance and Operations and the role of Director of Programmes also became vacant. Recruitment was successfully taken up and two new directors start in 2023.

Our turnover was 34% with 15 new employees (countries and Dutch offices). The average sickness absence rate at our office in Amsterdam was 5.6%.

How do our employees feel?

We conduct an employee satisfaction survey each year. The 2022 survey showed a slight fall in general satisfaction ratings, which we can partly attribute to the uncertainty linked to the changes in the organisation (new strategy, new leadership). On a scale of 1 to 10,

the overall average score for all questions was 7.2. This average is 0.1 lower than in 2021 but considering the transformation we went through, this was a particularly good result. Compared to 2021, our employees felt that the new strategy was clear and they support it.

Initiatives to promote employee engagement and colleagueship include weekly global catch up on Mondays, workouts, a yearly team-outing and lunch/coffee breaks, and end of years festivities. We also introduced a hybrid work policy. Employees come two days (or more) to the office and can work the rest of the week from home. This has improved the work/life balance, according to the results of our Employee Satisfaction Survey. To monitor employee well-being, we continued the quarterly Happy & Healthy Survey introduced in 2020.

Simavi's employee representative body (ERB) consists of four elected employees. The ERB flags and discusses issues that are important to Simavi and its employees and share them with the management on the employees' behalf. The ERB met four times in 2022. The ERB also raised the issue of the position of Simavi's colleagues abroad and how to include them more closely within the team and our work policies, as far as that is possible under the options available to Simavi.

Agile organisation

Simavi uses a circles-based, agile organisation model. Each employee is typically a member of one circle but can join several circles and take up distinct roles that match their talents and expertise with the needs of the organisation. The ambition is to have decision-making at the lowest possible level in the

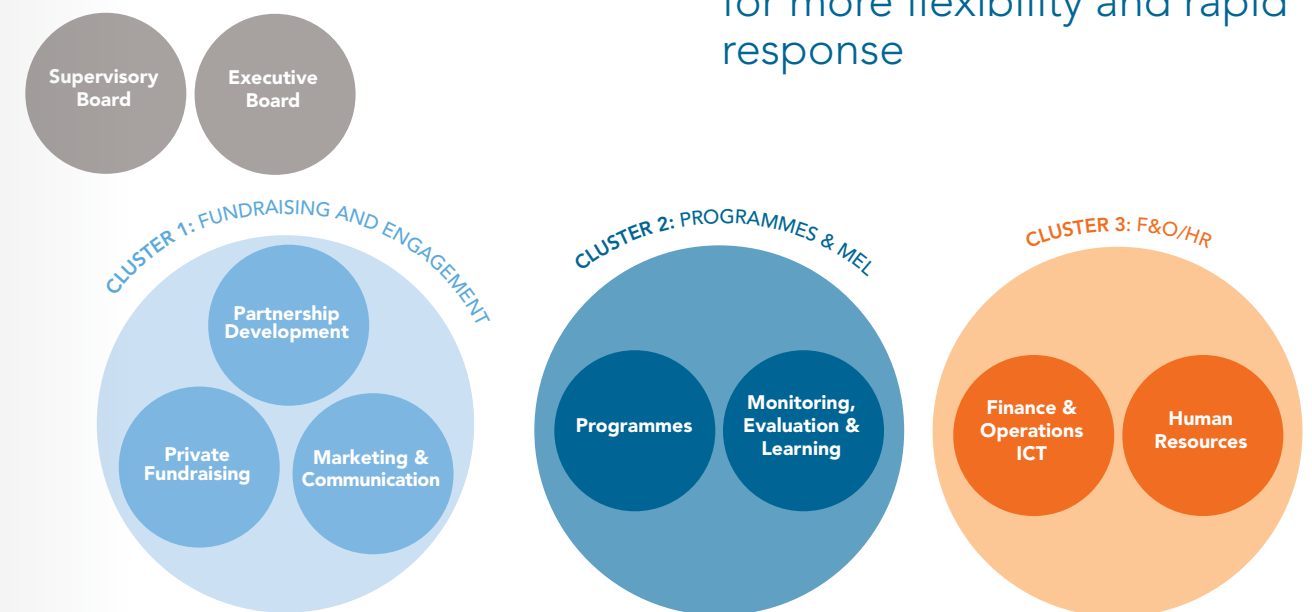
organisation. This organisational model empowers our staff and allows for more flexibility and rapid response. The organisation is grouped into eight functional circles, each with a specific purpose. In 2022 the circles were grouped into three clusters and the executive board. This was done to better reflect the size of the organisation with a smaller management team, but it did create an additional level in the organisational structure.

The cluster Fundraising and Engagement consists of the circles Partnership Development, Private Fundraising and Marketing & Communication. The cluster Programmes consists of the circles Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning and Programme Implementation. And the cluster F&O/HR consists of the circle Human Resources and Finance & Operations.

Volunteers and interns

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

Our organisational model empowers our staff and allows for more flexibility and rapid response



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 2022 Simavi welcomed a new chair of the board, Ankie van Wersch-Lenders.

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

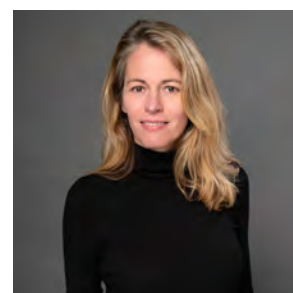
We are proud to have a supervisory board consisting of highly capable people, each with a unique background and talent. Their efforts help our organisation to realise its mission.



MICHEL DE WILDE chair, remuneration committee, strategy committee (till November 2022)
AREA OF EXPERTISE Strategy and organisation, international development, corporate social responsibility, donor relationships
CURRENT POSITION Director of Pathfinder BV



JEROEN WELS remuneration committee, strategy committee (till November 2022)
AREA OF EXPERTISE Human Resources Management
CURRENT POSITION Former Executive Vice-President Human Resources, Unilever. Founder People@Work Innovation Collective



ANKIE VAN WERSCH-LENDERS chair (from November 2022)
AREA OF EXPERTISE Strategy, International organisation and partnership building, corporate social responsibility
CURRENT POSITION Managing director/CEO of Powered by Enviu



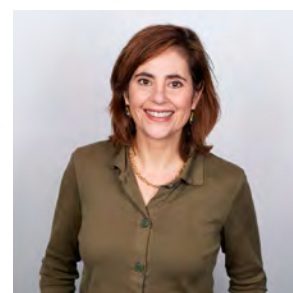
WILLEM VAN DE PUT
AREA OF EXPERTISE health development
CURRENT POSITION Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp



JOYCE BROWN vice-chair
AREA OF EXPERTISE Global health, maternal health, epidemiology
CURRENT POSITION Assistant Professor, UMC Utrecht



HANS VALKENBURG audit committee
AREA OF EXPERTISE Planning & Control, Theory of Change, international development, poverty alleviation, journalism
CURRENT POSITION Self-employed consultant on finance, strategy and planning



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

How much does the managing director earn?

Our supervisory board has determined the managing director's compensation package in line with the guidelines for directors' salaries at charitable organisations issued by Goede Doelen Nederland. Responding to the discussion on salaries in the NGO sector, the supervisory board has proposed a more modest salary to the new director. In 2022, managing director Ariette Brouwer received a gross salary till first of September of €84.201. And managing director Dienneke van der Wijk who joined Simavi of 15th of June received a gross salary of of €48.117. In accordance with the standards set by Goede Doelen Nederland, Simavi does not pay bonuses to its managing director or any other employee.

Chair of the supervisory board

Ankie van Wersch-Lenders:

'Simavi is on the right track'



You joined the board in November, what drew you to Simavi?

'Well, I was honored to be able to join the supervisory board of Simavi. Simavi has existed for a long time so I remember it even from my childhood. Access to water for women is not only a right, but also a necessity in our move towards a more equitable society. Being able to be part of an organisation that does have that focus on women, water and climate, feels great.'
'At Enviu, we build businesses for positive impact. We built strong teams in the countries we operate in, and we formed international partnerships that accelerated our ambition and impact. I have learned a lot from that process and would love to share these learnings with Simavi.'

What are these learnings?

'If you want to empower women and girls, then you must understand well how they believe their problems could be addressed. And the best way to do that is by operating locally. But shifting power is also about us: the next supervisory board member we are hiring should be someone coming from the countries we work in, with grassroot, bottom-up experience.'

How could Simavi increase its visibility?

'I believe Simavi is on the right track. For example, Simavi going to the UN Water Conference in 2023 with representatives who can explain what is going on at the grassroot level. That is a big step for our visibility. It is an example of how Simavi is starting to be recognized for its expertise. These types of initiatives could help to get the Simavi name out there.'

What should Simavi's strategy be towards the private sector?

'To make a positive change you must set positive examples. There are private sector parties that are willing to form partnerships with NGOs. And I think in creating such partnerships, for example with the flagship programme in Kenya, it could show that it is possible for the private sector to create access to clean water for all. And these positive examples hopefully will help others to follow.'

And how can we collaborate with other NGOs that share our goals?

'What I see happening in the development sector is that organisations are connecting around a specific group of people, an approach called collective impact. For example, in India, you see that organisations with different expertise connect to help the waste workers, a vulnerable group. There is a need for Simavi's expertise and experience in these types of programs as it is often vulnerable women for whom access to water and sanitation is still a luxury.'

What will be your focus for 2023?

'In 2022 the Simavi team and board have created a strategy, onboarded a great managing director, Dienneke, and developed impactful flagship programmes. For me, 2023 will be about making these things happen. Building the necessary partnerships, shifting the power, and also looking at what the team needs to facilitate that. Bringing the direction and the structure you need so Simavi can implement its well-designed strategy.'

'Shifting power is also about us'

A key ingredient for impact:

Integrity

Integrity is not a science, a handbook, a guideline or a rule – it is an ongoing debate about morals and ethics. The work we do is very much based on trust. We use donors' money to get our job done and we are committed to spending their money in a fair and transparent way. At the same time, we work with marginalised groups. We cannot betray trust or harm people. All our stakeholders and colleagues must be able to rely on proper conduct, transparency and accountability.

Simavi's integrity system

Simavi's code of conduct clearly defines appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. Our integrity system sets out what procedures are to be followed in the event of inappropriate behaviour and which proportionate sanctions are to be taken in such cases. Simavi has adopted a child safeguarding policy, an anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy, a whistle-blower policy and a complaints policy (available on our website or on request). New employees are familiarised with Simavi's code of conduct and relevant policies and procedures. All employees are required to submit a certificate of good conduct (Verklaring Omtrent het Gedrag). Simavi strongly encourages the filing of complaints and reporting of suspected irregularities and is committed to act whenever its core principles are violated or threatened. Our duty is to protect the victims and restore justice, and to learn from and prevent any repetition of such violations. To keep the conversation going integrity issues are discussed in meetings (e.g. within the programmes, in cluster teams and in financial meetings).

Dilemma: local laws and cultural norms may go against what we want to achieve, such as gender equality.

Integrity and Shift the Power

We regularly discuss issues we encounter in our work. These can present serious dilemmas. For example, in the countries where we work we respect local laws and cultural norms, but these may go against what we want to achieve, such as gender equality. Local ways of working may exclude women from certain decision-making processes, for example. We discuss such challenges, not

only to find a way out of the predicament, but also to equip our staff with the resources and the tools to remain consistent in their day-to-day work.

Even though we were not confronted with any concrete integrity issues or serious complaints in 2022, we continue to discuss and rethink our role in the development arena. As part of our Shift the Power-strategy we want to promote equality by featuring it prominently in our Flagship programs. Over the past year, the development of the Water Justice Fund placed support to women's voice and agency at its heart to ensure that they are in the driver's seat implementing locally led climate adaptations that address their immediate needs with their own solutions - the ones they consider best.

Commitment to Shift the Power

Susan Wilkinson, thematic lead and flagship programme manager at Simavi, was involved in the process of developing our role in advancing localisation. Her role was to spearhead the development of a Flagship programme that places resources and decision-making power 'closer to action'. The Water Justice Fund Flagship design uses a grassroots grantmaking funding model, that puts money into the hands of women and girls. It also uses a locally led climate adaptation approach, that allows her make decisions in all stages of the grant cycle. And finally, it has a local resource mobilisation strategy that increases her access to financing available in the district where she lives. A valuable lesson Susan learned was that 'shifting power' has to 'shake the roots of the problem' providing alternatives to how resources are allocated and who gets to make the decisions on the issues that affect women.

Shift the Power is the underlying principle that runs through Simavi's new Theory of Change. In terms of integrity, Susan sees two big challenges: 'Firstly, being responsible, we must approach change as a



Seretan Makoi lives in Kajiado County, Kenya. She has witnessed a change in the rainfall in the last ten years. 'Nowadays, the rain comes too early or it comes too late. And it's often very little rainfall compared with the past.' Growing hay has helped to feed the cattle during drought.

well-considered process with relevant steps and stages of preparedness and action. Secondly, being patient, we must appreciate that change can at times be immediate and rapid and at other times a slower and measured, as timing and readiness can vary.'

Corporate social responsibility

When selecting new partners and monitoring our work, we feel it is imperative that we share the same values and vision on what makes a world that works for everyone, including gender equality, LGBTIQ+ rights, diversity and inclusion, HIV and AIDS, cooperation among civil society organisations, financial management and sustainability. In accordance with our Theory of Change, sustainability is a core component of our work. At our office in the Netherlands, we are fully aware of our responsibilities regarding the environment. We offset the CO₂ emissions from our road and air travel through a compensation contract with Climate Neutral Group and monitor the number of flights we make per year. Our lunches largely consist of organic and Fair Trade certified products. We use biodegradable cleaning products, we separate out recyclables, we purchase green electricity and we use FSC-certified paper for printing and copying as well as for our correspondence and newsletters.

Double check on accountability

The quality of Simavi's operations is safeguarded by an ISO-certified quality management system. This system monitors and evaluates our internal processes. It is embedded in internal manuals, which specify the applicable policies, procedures and processes. More detailed information is available in our Declaration of Accountability at www.simavi.org/declaration-of-accountability. This document also describes Simavi's policy cycle. In October 2022, EIK Certificering BV conducted the external surveillance audit of our ISO 9001:2015 and Partos 9001:2018 certifications. In 2021 we successfully renewed our certification for the next 3-year period. Our certificates are valid until November 2024. The Central Bureau for Fundraising conducted its regular annual review and concluded that we comply with their standards and extended our official recognition. In addition to external audits, in 2022 we performed two internal audits on our processes and procedures to ensure proper functioning of our system. The outcomes of these internal audits were discussed in the management review and followed up accordingly by the respective employee circles. •



No long daily journey to collect water anymore for Manisha Sasashankar (orange dress) from Dhaule, Nepal. After a water reserve is set up, she and her family now have access to a running water tap. Time she can spend with her daughter or graze her cattle. The ASHA programme is implemented by our partner SEBAC-Nepal and supported by Simavi and Dopper.



PHOTO'S BY PRAVIN MANANDHAR

The financial outlook for 2023

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 women and girls and partner organisations in different countries in Asia and Africa we have never been afraid to adjust and innovate. We are constantly adapting our working methods to suit the changing landscape of development and the needs and rights of women and girls.

Financial outlook for 2023

In 2022 we put a lot of effort into our ongoing programmes, the most prominent being Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures and WASH SDG, which run through 2023. To continue to make an impact we are determined to obtain new funding for the period 2023 to 2025.

In 2023 we anticipate spending €13.8 million on our objectives, about 98% of our total income of €14.1 million. This rather high percentage is due to the investment in programmes from our own reserves, amounting to €0.8 million. The cost of generating funds is budgeted at €1.3 million. This is more than in previous years because of our increased fundraising efforts in 2023.


Simavi will undergo a transformative change in line with our new strategy and ambition to shift power and build strategic partnerships. We continue to invest in our flagship programmes. In line with our strategic plan 2022 till 2025 and our shift the power ambitions we will, where relevant, adjust the organisational and financial structures. We take note of the changing funding landscape and the larger debate about international development and are reflecting on these. The possible financial impact on our own organisation can be absorbed by making use of our continuity reserve.

Simavi will undergo a transformative change in line with our new strategy and ambition.

For the future, we aim to realise a stable volume of funding. To achieve this, we need to prolong our existing sources of income and obtain new sources of funding, targeting both institutional, corporate and private donors in and beyond the Netherlands.

Simavi's financial situation is sound, which means we are able to continue our operations. Our reserves and funding are sufficient to ensure continuation of the existing programmes in the coming years. Given the critical importance of our work, we are confident that we will be able to raise sufficient income to continue our endeavour to realise our mission. •

BUDGET 2023	
INCOME (X 1,000 EURO)	
Income from private individuals	1,525
Income from corporate fundraising	590
Income from lottery organisations	900
Income from government subsidies	5,293
Income Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for alliance partners	5,232
Income from other non-profit organisations	553
TOTAL INCOME	14,093
EXPENDITURE (X 1,000 EURO)	
SPENT ON OBJECTIVES	
Awareness raising	1,550
Programmes	
- Simavi projects	6,786
- Paid to alliance partners	5,232
Advocacy	203
TOTAL SPENT ON OBJECTIVES	13,771
OTHER EXPENDITURE	
Cost of generating funds	1,272
Management & administration costs	720
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,763
BALANCE OF FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	
Financial income	
RESULT	-1,669
APPROPRIATION OF RESULTS	
- Earmarked reserve Projects	-821
- Earmarked reserve Strategy	-840
- Financing assets	-8
	-1,669



Our Impact Report 2022 contains not only the most important facts and figures behind Simavi's programmes, but also many stories highlighting the impact of our work. The girl in the picture is Khing khing mya Marma from Kukimara village in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. After participating in Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures she is ready to be at the forefront of change: 'In order to enjoy a healthy and beautiful life in the future, we need independent opinions, decisions and a supportive environment.'