

Facts & Figures



Pabitra Thapa Khatayat (left) and Nanda Khatayat are residents of Taranga V.D.C, Surkhet, in Nepal. Pabitra is not only involved in creating more awareness around sanitation and hygiene in the village, but she is also an inspiring entrepreneur. She owns a small company that produces bio-sand filtration systems.

Report of the supervisory board

New faces and new momentum

The year 2022 was turbulent in many ways. The Covid pandemic gave way to new crises such as the war in the Ukraine, the world population exceeded 8 billion, the US Supreme Court overturned abortion rights, and climate change caused drought and floods at unprecedented scale. Soaring energy and food prices and overall high inflation added to insecurity. Amidst all this Simavi had to deal with substantial changes in the office and the supervisory board.

In December 2021 Simavi's managing director Ariette Brouwer announced her departure from Simavi after nine years, going into effect June 2022. Ariette was the face of Simavi and brought great energy and good humor - the supervisory board wishes to express its great appreciation to Ariette for her leadership and hard work over these years. Finding a successor for Ariette was not an easy task, but after a careful search the supervisory board selected and appointed Dieneke van der Wijk. Dieneke has a solid background in international work with, among others, Oxfam and Save the Children. Her extensive experience in Africa and Asia is important in the process of shifting power. Her appointment took effect on June 15, 2022, and we welcome Dieneke wholeheartedly!

The supervisory board itself also had to change, because Michiel de Wilde and Jeroen Wels reached the end of their second term in 2022. Both stepped down towards the end of the year, and we lost our most efficient chairman and highly valued human resources adviser - and more than that, strategic thinkers with visions who coupled seriousness with a sense of relativism. A wonderful team that had been the energetic axis of the board for many years. Michiel and Jeroen, thanks a million, you will be missed!

We are very happy to have found Ankie van Wersch-Lenders, who was appointed to chair of the board and the audit committee in November 2022. Ankie embodies a new vision of international work, where the emphasis is more on creating equal relationships with partners in the countries Simavi works in, moving away from the dependency that comes with the traditional donor-recipient model. There was thus never a dull moment for the supervisory board in 2022, as reflected by having no less than seven meetings in 2022. Apart from the personal changes, 2022

was the first year of implementing the new strategy that had been put in place in 2021. The strategic plan for 2022-2025 focuses on Simavi's core expertise area: women and girls' human rights to water and sanitation. In the new strategy Simavi acknowledges the powerful role of women and girls as key drivers of change and will actively ensure they can take up this role. Women and girls need to participate actively, freely and meaningfully, be equally included in decision-making, and be heard and respected at all levels of WASH governance.

Simavi believes access for women and girls to sustainable water and sanitation services should be at the heart of the struggle for climate justice, because the impact of climate change affects girls and women most. Shifting the Power, a call to redistribute power and resources to the people who are deprived of their human rights, is an important part of the new strategy and Simavi's way of working.

Simavi will further invest in local leadership and support local initiatives and local actors. The focus of Simavi's programmes will be even more on supporting context-driven community engagement through partners who work with grassroots women and girl-led initiatives. This approach is key to authentic and lasting social change and transformation.

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

In designing and planning Simavi's new flagship programmes – the Water Justice Fund and Connect4WASH – together with our partners, the principles of the new strategy were clearly reflected. Shifting the Power is increasingly embedded in Simavi's programmes, influencing work, partnerships, in how Simavi is organised and in Simavi's identity. At the same time Simavi managed to deliver on all the programmes and ensured learning and impact captured.

In August Simavi participated successfully in World Water Week with great visibility and new partnerships. The successful HER film festival in October with good visibility, feedback and many new contacts also contributed to the profiling of Simavi. On various occasions it became clear that Simavi is 'seen' by important stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The supervisory board is confident that Simavi is ready for the next level of implementation of the new strategy and the strong determination to Shift the Power to local ownership in the coming years.

A safe management system is in place. Simavi's ISO-certified quality management system is an important means to

ensuring the controlled and reliable execution of the organisations operations and mitigating the associated risks.

About the supervisory board

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

Composition

Simavi's supervisory board is composed as follows:

Supervisory board members	Area of expertise	Current position	Other ancillary positions
Michiel de Wilde chair, remuneration committee, strategy committee (till November 2022)	Strategy and organisation, international development, corporate social responsibility, donor relationships	Director of Pathfinder BV – a consultancy in the area of CSO strategy and impact management	Chairman of the board of Vrijzinnig-Christelijk Lyceum (The Hague)
Ankie van Wersch-Lenders chair (from November 2022)	Strategy, International organisation and partnership building, corporate social responsibility	Managing director/CEO of Powered by Enviu	Founder and board member of Pro2 Foundation and Tika Foundation
Joyce Browne vice-chair	Global health, maternal health, epidemiology	Assistant Professor, UMC Utrecht	Chair member of Global Health Knowledge Centre, Advisory Board member 'Expertise Centrum Kinderen en Adolescenten Nieuw in Nederland'
Vera Arnoldus audit committee	Legal, governance	Company Secretary PharmAccess Foundation	
Willem van de Put	International health development	Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp	Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University (New York); Co-founder/Director of Culture4Change
Hans Valkenburg audit committee	Planning & Control, Theory of Change, international development, poverty alleviation, journalism	Self-employed consultant on finance, strategy and planning	Non-executive member of the board of Tearfund; Member of the supervisory board of Holland Zorggroep
Jeroen Wels remuneration committee, strategy committee (till November 2022)	Human Resources Management	Former Executive Vice-President Human Resources, Unilever Founder People@Work Innovation Collective	Senior Advisor BCG

Rotation and election procedure

Supervisory board members are appointed for a maximum of two four-year terms. The board's rotation schedule is as follows:

Supervisory board members	Appointed	End of first term	End of second term
Michiel de Wilde	2014 (November)	2018	2022
Jeroen Wels	2014 (November)	2018	2022
Willem van de Put	2018 (December)	2022	2026
Hans Valkenburg	2019 (September)	2023	2027
Joyce Browne	2020 (January)	2024	2028
Vera Arnoldus	2021 (March)	2025	2029
Ankie van Wersch-Lenders	2022 (November)	2026	2030

Compensation

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

Supervisory board meetings in 2022

The board convened seven times in 2022. The standard agenda items for supervisory board meetings throughout the year are:

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

In addition to the standard agenda items, the board also discussed and reviewed the following items this year:

- the ongoing impact of and response to Covid-19,
- the new Simavi 3.0 strategy, including a new Theory of Change,
- the required response to the Shift the Power movement,
- the diversity and inclusivity policy,
- impactful programmes to be funded from our own reserves,
- the fundraising strategy and financial investment for these plans,
- succession of the managing director.

Audit committee

The audit committee convened 4 times in 2022. Meetings took place about two weeks before the regular supervisory board meetings. Simavi's managing director and director of finance and operations also attended. Simavi's managing director and director of finance and operations (or the senior financial controller) also attended. Topics included the annual budget and forecasts, the internal financial reports and annual accounts, the auditor's report and the governance structure. The external auditor also participated in the discussions of the annual accounts and the auditor's report.

Self-evaluation of the supervisory board

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

Recognition

In 2022 Simavi and its partners operated in turbulent circumstances. The supervisory board greatly appreciates the commitment and perseverance shown by Simavi's volunteers, employees and management team throughout the year. The supervisory board especially thanks Simavi's in-country partners for their cooperation and impactful work on the ground, and expresses its appreciation for the strong relations with the organisation's Dutch and international stakeholders. Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, the supervisory board has confidence that the Simavi team will find new and effective ways to achieve our common purpose: women and girls enjoying their rights to water and sanitation.