

Women for Water



Partnership

Valuing water and women's roles

Annual Report 2021



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Message from the President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen



Dear Friends,

'Reflecting on the year 2021, I quickly realize how intensely we had to cope with the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing climate change effects. Worldwide, water management and women's equality were struck off the list of important issues, even though availability of safe water is one of the solutions to refrain from COVID and women had to deal with family, health, food security, hygiene, water and sanitation. This pandemic has significantly deepened inequalities and prejudice worldwide.

However, COVID-19 also opened opportunities to change the perception of what is possible in solidarity amongst partnerships, stakeholders and members.

That is why the theme of World Water Day 2021 'Valuing water' was spot on. The value of water is about much more than its price – water has an enormous and complex value for our households, food security, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging of this finite, irreplaceable resource, specifically whilst climate change and the pandemic is impacting all of us.

The signing of the donor contract with BMZ through giz, Germany was a highlight for WfWP. We re-joined the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in a changing Climate (FAO / WASAG) as co-vice chair, the World Water Quality Alliance as Strategic advisory Committee (SAC) members and co-chairing the Stakeholder engagement Platform, and participated in the International Advisory Committee (IAC) in preparation of the 2nd High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, to name a few, which placed women and water high on the agenda and emphasized our leadership.

Of course, we were delighted to welcome Emma Anakhasyan of AWHHE as our honorary Secretary and re-entering Steering Committee member in 2021. We mourned the untimely death of Nelleke Fontein, who was Women for Water' honorary secretary when we started our adventure. She was instrumental in helping us to set up and shape our organisation, building a sound foundation with her drafting skills for our constitution and helping shape our first secretariat.

Looking at the future, we will be concluding our new five-year strategic plan, where we are re-committing to our core objectives that have always underpinned our mission, while encouraging new actions in relation to Women, Water, Climate Change and Leadership.

I would like to thank our entire Steering Committee team for the exceptional amount of work they assumed on a voluntary basis. I thank our valued members, partners, donors, co-stakeholders, collaborating governments and you all for your support and look forward to continuing our cooperation in 2022.

Alphen a/d Rijn, NL, November 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mariet Verhoef-Cohen', with a horizontal line underneath.

28 Members of Women for Water Partnership¹

1. Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), Armenia
2. Black Sea Women's club (BSWC), Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania, and Georgia
3. The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPWI), Global
4. CoAguas SAS, Colombia (former CONSAM), Colombia
5. Earth Forever, Bulgaria and EECCA Region
6. Isenim: Uzbekistan
7. Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT), Uganda
8. Medium and Sanitas, Romania
9. Mupan, Brazil
10. National Women's Movement (NVB), Suriname
11. Netherlands Council of Women (NVR), The Netherlands
12. NetWwater, Sri Lanka
13. Nile Basin Discourse, Uganda
14. Passage, The Netherlands
15. Soroptimist International Europe (SIE)
16. Soroptimist International, Global
17. Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) Tanzania
18. Tegemeo Women Group (TWG) Tanzania
19. Uganda Women for Water and Sanitation (UWWS), Uganda
20. Women and Labour Market Foundation (VAM) The Netherlands and ACP countries
21. Women of Today (Vrouwen van Nu), The Netherlands
22. Waterlution, Canada
23. Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Nigeria
24. Women Fund Tanzania (WFT), Tanzania
25. Water Mothers Myanmar (WMM), Myanmar
26. Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) Nigeria
27. Women Professionals in the Land Use Sector (WPLUS), Nepal
28. Women's Resource and Outreach Centre Limited (WROC), Jamaica

1. Introduction

2021, again a year to remember; full of activities despite the lockdowns and postponements as a result of the COVID19 -pandemic. Of course, the main focus was on advocacy; knowledge exchange and research; to our regret a lot of local activities could not take place.

Chapter two is dedicated to the core activities of WfWP as far as WfWP is supporting or directly involved, however, there are many more projects carried out by our members and some of them you will find reported below and on our website. Members enabled members and local women's groups to implement projects in inter alia Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Mali, Ukraine, South Asia. Next to other SDGs, these projects contribute mainly to SDG's 4, 5 and 6 (par 2.1). The Commission on the Status of Women and the virtual Stockholm World Water Week were again a highlight, but WfWP participated in many other actions and events (see annex) to advocate for a recognised, improved and visible position of women as sustainable water managers (par 2.2). In terms of knowledge development,

¹ You can find more information about our members at the following link: <https://www.womenforwater.org/member-organisations.htm> and see para 3.2

work started on the second phase of our governance research on the impact of participation of women, the seed-funding proposals and research on the blue fund and developing a framework for mentoring; all of this made possible through a grant we received from giz, Germany. All of this work will continue well into 2022. (par 2.3)



In terms of governance both the General Assembly and the Steering Committee showed decisiveness and commitment even though all discussions and decisions had to be taken via email consultation and Skype or Zoom meetings (par 3.1 and 3.3). The group of partners went through some changes (par 3.4). Many efforts were made to raise funds for WfWP and some of these applications are still pending. (par 4.4). Facebook, our YouTube channel including the website were, also in 2021, important means to communicate with the outside world (par 4.1). The update of our website started. A summary of the main financial figures is presented in paragraph 4.6.

2. Core activities

The mission of WfWP is to position women as active leaders, experts, partners and agents of change to realise access to safe water for all - including gender responsive sanitation - for all uses; thus, contributing to all SDGs, but especially goals 4, 5 & 6.

WfWP applies four strategies:

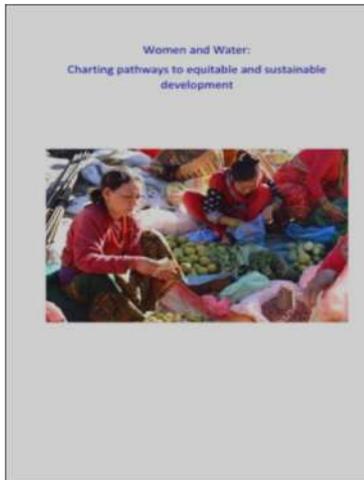
- 1.1 Providing access to water and sanitation via project implementation of our members, based on human rights principles and approaches
- 1.2 Influencing policy at all levels via lobby and advocacy activities
- 1.3 Knowledge development and sharing
- 1.4 research into impact of women's participation

WfWP's approach is seeking solutions at three levels simultaneously:

1. At the **grassroots** level, through its member organisations and in cooperation with strategic partners, WfWP enables local women's groups to address priority challenges in their communities related to water and sustainable development. Women groups are coached and supported to manage and supervise their own projects, lobby and advocate to influence local agendas and to become leaders or agents of change in their constituencies.
2. At the **national level** WfWP capacitates and supports member organisations to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of policies and programmes in their regions and countries.
3. At the **global level** WfWP and its member organisations use their collective voice for women in global agenda setting and contribute to international policy development through UN and other

global processes. WfWP looks out for improving policies and keeping governments to their commitments.

WfWP has a 5-year Strategic framework 2016-2021



with the following strategic goals:

1. Advocate the link between women, water and sustainable development in policies and implementation;
2. Position women as agents of change, leaders, experts, and partners on equal footing with men in water and sustainable development programmes to achieve equitable access to water for all for all uses;
3. Advocate for women's access to financial investments and instruments and vocational training;
4. Use and promote gender disaggregated indicators and (citizens) data collection in the water sector;
5. Establish regional or national hubs;
6. Develop a knowledge platform for learning.

The strategic goals are still relevant, however, due to lack of funding for strategic goal 5 – the establishment of hubs has not been implemented. see also:

https://www.womenforwater.org/uploads/7/7/5/1/77516286/20151027_final_strategic_framework_wfwp.pdf

2.1 Project Implementation:

Members help members contributing to strategic goal 2

Members of WfWP carry out projects to ensure access to water for all for all uses as well as safe sanitation. In all projects women are taking the lead, showing that they are experts, managers of the projects and the budgets, taking part in all decision-making processes concerned and achieving great results with often relatively small budgets. These roles are still exceptional for women in the water world and therefore good examples to shift perceptions and stereotypes. Besides, most of these projects take place in remote areas; areas often neglected by the main players amongst others due to higher costs and perceived higher risks: in general, the inhabitants of these areas are often left behind.

The members of WfWP and the partnership itself experiences that the budgets allocated to women and their organisations are decreasing every day: in 2017 less than 1 % of the total budget for development aid, according to the OECD². Despite this fact members supported members and other local women groups and we will mention a few examples of projects, where there was direct involvement of the Steering Committee or the Secretariat. There are many more activities accomplished locally and reported on by the member organisations themselves (some examples are to be found on our website under the heading “membership”).

Thanks to the grant of giz and the high commitment of our members, 6 new projects were started to be accomplished in 2022 with a high focus on capacity development.

² <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Aid-to-gender-overview-2018.pdf>. New data will be released in 2021

**Tegemeo Women Group Tanzania (TWG) supported by Passage
€ 45,000 2017-2020 (prolonged till 2021)**



The women group lives high up in the mountains in the village of Mweteni of Same District. The road to the group is almost inaccessible and this impacts their lives but also their business plans. In the past a multi-year water and sanitation project was carried out and the women wanted to undertake the next step - setting up businesses - since clean water is available year-round. The Dutch Christian social women's movement Passage supported the women group in these endeavours and financed a three-year project, focused on vocational training, capacity building and investments for establishing group- and individual businesses. In 2020 we have said goodbye to the volunteers of Passage Coby Meyboom and Ira Stam, who have supervised the project and have been on a mission twice to visit the group in Tanzania and have given workshops.

In 2020 the programme started in the summer, when the amount of the instalment of the third year was on the bank account and the last period of the project will be completed in 2021. The programme 2020 deals with the VICOBA loan programme; two training sessions, study tour and implementing a milling and packaging project.

VICOBA Program:

In 2020 TWG provided a loan to 13 of its members. VICOBA programme remained a solid source of capital among group members. The majority of the group members cannot access loans from financial institutions due to lack of collateral and guarantors. Therefore, having this group is a huge advantage to the members. The loan accelerates growth of individual's business and growth of capital at the same time. The number of individual businesses increased from 22 in 2019 to 47 in 2020 due to this program. TWG stands as role **model** group in Bwambo ward and Same district due to its efforts to uplift women's living standards.

Cooperative training

This training was conducted by cooperative experts. The aim of this training was to build capacity to TWG members of cooperative key issues and practices. TWG want to operate as a cooperative society, therefore this training was very useful to their plan. During five days of training the following topics were covered: Meaning of cooperative; Cooperative principles; Roles of cooperatives and Cooperative management and marketing.



The milling machine project:

Unfortunately starting a milling group business in 2019 was not feasible due to lack of and high costs of electricity and alternatives for electricity in the area. In 2020 TWP has solved the electricity challenges in collaboration with development partners which are Bwambo ward office, village office, three groups and individuals in Mweteni village.



TWG has bought two machines: a milling machine and a corn threshing machine. These machines have different functions as one is special for processing and producing maize flour, and the other one is for corn threshing. After the threshing process, the next process is milling, though not all maize flour undergoes threshing process. The group started business in 2021.

Earth Forever Bulgaria supported by Soroptimist International

In view of the committed action of Soroptimist International (SI) to water and women, the responsibility was given to women for the improvement of living conditions through sanitation and wastewater treatment. This project constitutes a follow-up to the SI President’s Appeal project for Bulgaria (2017/2019) and is set in Maglizh Municipality, the village of Yulievo, Bulgaria. In an aim to contribute to living standards improvement through adequate sanitation and facing the reality of many families lacking connection to wastewater systems, and the uncertainty for the country to comply with the standards even by the horizon of 2038, this was and still is an action with a charitable purpose to advance community development and alleviate missing means for a decentralized wastewater treatment installation for public benefit. The Ancient Plovdiv SIE club together with the association Earth Forever in Stara Zagora and with the welcoming attitude of a woman in her 4th term as mayor jointly had the 1st decentralized wastewater facility installed for the administrative building of the Mayoralty in the village of Yulievo, which is also a pilot project for the Municipality of Maglizh.

Based on the acquis of the President's Appeal project and on the experience and activity in Yulievo, we gave a valuable example and did and are still doing lobbying for a wider spread of sanitation efforts and for a legislative and policy reform aiming for efficient and affordable wastewater treatment solutions for small rural communities. The project initiators undertook the installation of the modular water treating system being compliant with Bulgarian and EU legislation. Project activities were held as a next step in implementing the foreseen actions for publicity and awareness-raising, reaching to institutions, and spreading knowledge on the project topic. With the implementation of the project, a modular decentralized wastewater facility was built to replace the existing septic pit of the administrative building of the village mayoralty that used to violate the existing national legislation for wastewater treatment.



Former Septic Wastewater



The modular wastewater facility that was installed to meet the requirements of national legislation.

AWHHE

AWHHE apart of a lot of other very important projects inter alia on water quality, pollution and impact of chemicals (annual report see WfWP website) continued advocacy for Armenia's ratification of the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health. One of the main objectives of the Protocol is the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation to everyone, with special consideration to ensure equitable access to these services for all members of the population. In 2018, AWHHE focused on ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation, especially for vulnerable groups including women.

Projects and initiatives

"Enabling Women to Participate in Sustainable Water Management in Armenia" project

The Enabling Women to Participate in Sustainable Water Management in Armenia project was implemented from 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2021 to contribute to strategies regarding the sustainable management of natural water resources in the Ararat Valley through enhancement of women's groups that supply oversight and equity in community water and sanitation resources. Three groups of activities interlinked in their actions to facilitate discussion on tariff compensation; monitor the participation of oversight activities on irrigation; and implement four pilot projects at the community level. Pilot projects identified community-based participatory approaches to decision-making involving women to improve access and management of water resources. AWHHE website provides more information on the project activities and results (<https://awhhe.am/2019-enabling-women-to-participate-in-sustainable-water-management-in-armenia/>)

Upon completion of the project, UNDEF conducted an independent evaluation, which confirmed the positive results. The evaluation report is published in the evaluation section of UNDEF's website (<https://www.un.org/democracyfund/content/europe>); it can be directly accessed at: https://www.un.org/democracyfund/sites/www.un.org.democracyfund/files/udf-17-775-arm_undef_evaluation_report_final.pdf

VAM

The Dutch VAM foundation supports and promotes emancipation, gender equity and economic independence for women in particular applying and developing made-to-measure methods and concepts for (vocational) training and capacity building in general for women.

They train and certify teachers in the methods and concepts of vocational training and capacity building for women. It specializes in made-to-measure vocational training for (especially) women in developing countries- in the fields of inter alia computer maintenance and services, entrepreneurship, management by water committees and maintenance of water pumps, plumbing, carpentry, building, agriculture, etc.

Currently (2021) VAM is assisting in projects or monitoring projects in mainly in Mali.

VAM combines more than 25 years of experience in vocational training for especially women and project management to improve livelihoods for women. It has a network of very experienced trainers and consultants, who work for the Foundation on a project basis.

As an active member of the [Women for Water Partnership](#), VAM promotes, in all her projects, themes of water, sanitation and hygiene, at the moment mainly in Mali.

The last Years:

The VAM foundation in cooperation with the local participating women's associations, have built a vocational school for women in Bandiagara, southern Mali, curricula have been developed for the

vocational school. Mali is a very dry country, with low rainfall, means any water-use avoided or reduction achieved is a big advantage. That's why VAM and our partner Tuma Barama started several years ago a project of constructing eco-composting toilets. VAM started a vocational training in constructing these toilets, and 8 women of the school build the eco- / dry toilets and visited GIZ-projects in the region to learn about the organisation, the farming and maintenance of similar projects. Like the GIZ projects the women will start from the basis of a small farm. So eco-toilets and a farm with use of a reduction of water (good irrigation with a drip-system) will be a big advantage for their country and has also an educational impact.

The women will start, with support of VAM a vocational training in water-reduced irrigation for that farm and what is the best way for the eco-composting on their farm. In cooperation with VAM, the school selected in 2021 several women who want to be educated in constructing an irrigation system for their farm, learn to maintain and how to use the fertilizer.

A well-constructed irrigation system will replace heavy physical labour by women and ensure enough, more efficient water use for the crops.

VAM foundation hopes that this project, will be finished in 2022.

[International Federation of Business and Professional Women \(IFBPW\)](#)

During the whole month of March 2021, the BPW Brasil clubs in celebration of Woman's Day organized many activities to discuss role of women in the society. On March 22nd - World Water Day – BPW Brasil organized an online webinar talking about the importance of Dublin Principle 3 which was agreed over 25 years ago but still lacks traction in many parts of the world. Emphasized the importance to achieve gender equality in Water Leadership we need to have: SDG 4,5,6 On April 24th Earth Day - BPW members were invited to attend virtual webinars, where discussions were held bringing reflexions on how to make difference by changing or adopting some habits to have a more sustainable world.

BPW Brasil established a partnership with the MPF Federal Public Ministry (Brazilian Federal Prosecution Service) to publicize the tool "ÁGUA BOA DE BEBER" officially launched on World Water Day – March 22nd. "Água Boa de Beber" allows citizens to access public data to monitor water quality and learn about the risks that substances found in water may impact to their health and the environment. The tool, which can be accessed from any computer or mobile device, allows easy research of public data of the Ministry of Health, which gathers results from analysis, by monitoring points, made by professionals from the health sectors and supply systems in all regions of the country. This Project "Água Boa de Beber" was one of 126 projects selected to be presented in the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar (2022) (Water Connection Project Brazilian Federal Prosecution Service) <http://agua.mpf.mp.br> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_BWlfvlems

Action4life

BPW Brasil, on World Environment Day - June 5th - **with** the support of Women For Water Partnership - WfWP and in partnership with BPW Canada and BPW – USA, carried out a joint and symbolic action to plant seedlings of native trees or flowers from each region, in white and yellow colors. The aim was to pay tribute in this date to healthcare professionals and all victims of COVID-19. This action brought opportunity to create a BPW global action to raise awareness on environmental issues, including how water can impact our lives. In Brazil, the suggestion was to plant native seedlings of Ipê - a symbol of our country in white or yellow colors, in partnership with public and private entities and in spaces such as parks, schools, hospitals, patios or balconies, etc. Despite of lock downs due to Covid 19, 23 BPW clubs located in different regions of Brazil organized in small groups to pay tribute to the professionals and victims of Covid.

It is worth mentioning that on World Environment Day, UNEP launched the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The UN Decade aims to massively intensify the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems to combat the climate crisis, prevent the loss of biodiversity and increase food security, water supply and livelihoods. Planting trees connects land/soil, water and air and this can be done in both urban and rural areas and contribute to the revitalization of nature.

Article: “A story of a fisherwoman who lives along the Billings Dam” to be published by REBOB (Rede Brasil de Organismos de Bacias Hidrográficas) REBOB MULHER

“Vanderléa is in the fifth Generation of fishermen family. At the age of five, she went to live on dry land, in the house where she lives to this day on the banks of the Billings dam, in the municipality of São Bernardo do Campo – SP. She married a young fisherman at the age of 16, with whom she had four children and fishing has always been part of her life.

She has always cultivated solidary attitudes towards the community, showing the life of professional and artisanal fishermen, such as those who make a living from fishing, sharing knowledge about the legislation for the preservation of water Billings Reservoir, its sources, the Atlantic Forest, always thinking and rethinking the region's water resources and environment.

.... It is important to emphasize that in addition to their paid activity, the fishermen/women began to value and fight for the quality of the water in the Billings dam. Colonia de Pescadores (organized fishermen/women group) managed to create a routine of exams and analysis to monitor the water quality and also the quality of fish, guaranteeing the livelihood of an entire community. The community became aware of different factors that can pollute and contaminate the water dam, making water and fish unfit for consumption and a threat to the reproduction of fish and animals that live around it.

So, collectively, they organized working groups, on weekends, to clean the garbage and pollutants of the dam, moreover, bringing awareness to the locals and tourists about protecting and caring for the Billings Dam - the most valuable asset - that provides the livelihood of all.

And highlighting the fisherwomen's achievements: professional recognition, registration in the professional identity card as an artisanal fisherwoman, space in their community, their own boats, and financial independence. Today, they, together with Vanderléa Rochumback Dias, influence people to value and protect the water of Billings, its springs, affluents and the Atlantic Forest.

June 6th to celebrate the World Environment Day BPW Brasil organized:

1. a virtual meeting with members from different regions to attend a panel focused on impact of environment on women's health. The guest speaker – a BPW member – Dr Nise Yamaguchi – a well-known oncologist brought us a lot of information and alerted on how food, life style, contaminants in water can impact our health.
2. Talk show with members about tree They planted last year to pay tribute to all professionals and victims of Covid 19. Now, we realized how important, and touching was the Action4life for members, families and Community impacted by the virus (more than 600.000 people died from Covid all over the Brazil).

Soroptimist International (SI) and Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE):

Many activities have taken place in both organisations also in close cooperation with WfWP. Their annual reports can be read in the following links:

https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/flipbooks/SI_Annual_Report_2021/?page=1

<annual-report-2020-2021-en-final.pdf> (soroptimisteurope.org)

2.2 Lobby and advocacy

Looking back, WfWP with limited human and financial resources did an amazing lot of work and worthwhile activities.

What gets clearer is that our message both on vocational training and access to the labour market and getting money to-the-ground is getting more traction.

WfWP participated in many international events to advocate for positioning women as experts and leaders in the water world and not only as vulnerable groups or beneficiaries. This message is not new but needs to be repeated consistently. One of the reasons is that stereotypes about the role of men and women are persistent and often (unconsciously) play a role in doing research, collecting and analysing data, designing programmes and projects, managing companies, organising (inter)national meetings events and the like. Most people are aware of the fact that men and women need to be treated equally, but do not know that budget and expertise need to be specifically allocated to realise this. Many policies and international declarations such as Dublin Principle 3 (accepted in 1992) state that women play a central role in the supply, management and safeguarding of water. There is a huge gap between these (international) policies and practice on the ground. This gap needs to be bridged for instance by paying more attention to and facilitating of the managers, advisors and implementers to actually have the ability to translate policy into action.

Next to the main message mentioned above, the lobby and advocacy activities contribute to the strategic goals:

Goal 1: Advocate the link between women, water and sustainable development in policies;

Goal 2: Advocate for vocational training, mentoring etc. for women and educate teachers and managers and parents;

Goal 3: Advocate for women's direct access to financial investments and instruments;

Goal 4: Use and promote sex-disaggregated indicators in the water sector.

One of the vehicles WfWP uses for its lobby and advocacy work is to be a member/partner of international organisations of influence such as ECOSOC, HLPF, CSW, UNEP / UNEA, UN Water, and UNESCO, where WfWP is accredited with consultative status. WfWP has accredited representatives to the organisations mentioned above and in /to most of the main seats of the UN and they contribute on a regular basis to meetings and conferences. By being a member of for instance the Women Major Group caucuses we raise our voices collectively in meetings and prepare messages jointly for the CSW, UNEA, High Level Political Forum – in charge of the agenda 2030 and the SDGs - etc.

WfWP is actively involved in three taskforces of UN Water: taskforce on World Water Day 2022, Taskforce on agenda 2030 and Taskforce on regional/ national support. WfWP lobbies also via contributing to working groups and organisations such as the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) and especially the Stakeholder engagement Platform, hosted by UNEP, by contributing to reports such as the annual World Water Development Report, by attending meetings and (co) organising events. WfWP has accredited representatives to the organisations mentioned above and in /to most of the main seats of the UN and they contribute on a regular basis to meetings and conferences. By being a member of for instance the Women Major Group caucuses we raise our voices collectively in meetings and prepare messages jointly for the CSW, UNEA, High Level Political Forum – in charge if the agenda 2030 and the SDGs - etc.

But also, being aligned and working with OECD, Aquafed, Alliance for Water Stewardship, Human Rights to Water, IUCN and many others.

In Europe, in collaboration with European Pact for Water, the European Commission and the government of Slovenia (holding the EU presidency), WfWP in January 2021 co-organised a capacity building conference “**EU Water and Beyond**” <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-water-and-sanitation/events/water-and-beyond-eu-transformative-approaches-international-partnership>. Outcomes of the conference were also instrumental for the EU Council conclusion on (foreign) policy in November 2021 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14108-2021-INIT/en/pdf>.



The 65th session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) took place in New York in March 2021. WfWP sent in a written statement. WfWP, in close coordination with members Soroptimist International and BPW International highlighted the crucial role of women and girls and what is needed for that in reaching safe access to clean water and sanitation for all.

The theme of World Water Development report 2021 (WWDR) and World Water Day was “Valuing water”. <https://www.unesco.org/reports/wwdr/2021/en>. Apart from our substantial contributions to the WWDR, WfWP staged a session on women water and climate, and one on “fix the system, get her elected” (https://www.womenforwater.org/uploads/7/7/5/1/77516286/20210321-blog_csw_session_fix_the_system_get_her_elected.pdf).

Of course, we took part in the Stockholm World Water Week in August 2021. WfWP organised (another) session on women, water and climate; the launch of the action for gender equality in the water domain and others we participated in.

Other examples of lobby and advocacy activities are inter alia:

- WfWP is a steering committee member of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition with a large focus on the World Water Forum (2022 in Dakar)
- WfWP still participates and contributes to the OECD Water Governance Initiative and promotes and uses the OECD Water Principles³
- WfWP is co-coordinator of the European Pact for Water (<https://europeanpactforwater.org/>)
- Contributed to multiple other publications (see our website)

Also, in 2021 we started working on the preparations for the 2023 UN Water Conference.

In Appendix A you can find an overview of events the Steering Committee of WfWP and some of our members on behalf of WfWP attended or contributed to in 2021. Our appreciations go to the hosting organisations that in many cases made our participation financially possible.

2.3 Research, Knowledge development, exchange and learning

Knowledge exchange and learning activities contribute to WfWP’s strategic goal 6: Develop a knowledge platform for learning.

³ <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regionaldevelopment/oecd-principles-on-water-governance.htm>

On a regular basis WfWP takes part in expert groups / taskforces of UN Water and contributes where possible to research where expertise on women’s participation and gender issues is sought (see also above under advocacy).

WfWP is a member of the Water and Gender working group of UNESCO World Water Assessment Program.⁴ Inter Alia we contributed to the revision of the Toolkit on sex-disaggregated data and gender mainstreaming and extensive research into the status of implementation of all the international agreements on gender and water and sanitation. In 2021 the position paper was published and the call for action launched. WfWP is a member of this coalition: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/call-action-accelerate-gender-equality-water-domain>.

WfWP is a member of the Strategic Advisory Committee of the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) and the Social Engagement Platform of WWQA (starting 2020)⁵.

Furthermore, as an open source, WfWP monitors the release of publications and documents and makes them available on the website.

3 Governance, members and partners

3.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is the highest governing body of WfWP, and it consists of one delegate per (direct) member organisation. During the year 2021 all decisions were made via email or online meetings e.g. for the annual plan and budget 2022 as well as the annual report and annual accounts 2021. An election was held for honorary Secretary. A number of years this function was combined with that of treasurer by our SC member Marjon Verkleij. Furthermore, we felt we had to strengthen our board with a new SC member and we are pleased that Emma Anakhasyan of AWHHE was elected as our Honorary Secretary. WfWP held two General Assemblies on 6 June 2021 and an informative GA on 8 November, both online.

3.2 Member Organisations

The members are the core of WfWP. The current number of members is still 28. The member organisations are diverse, have wide ranging aims and themes and together reach approximately 1 to 1.5 million women.

3.3 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held 8 meetings online in 2021. The SC devoted 238.039 voluntary hours to WfWP. In the absence of paid staff – except for the administrator / bookkeeping and some external support for communication - SC members took on some operational tasks for the time-being until our financial situation improves further. All decisions on finance and contracts are discussed with the full steering committee for comments and approval; they are recorded and made available to the General Assembly.

Position	Name	Start Term	End Term	Term	Eligible for re-appointment
President	Mariet Verhoef-Cohen	1 April 2014 1 April 2020	1 April 2020 1 April 2023	2 nd 3 rd	No

⁴ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/water-and-gender>

⁵ <https://communities.unep.org/display/WWQA/World+Water+Quality+Alliance>

Vice President	Margarida Yassuda	1 December 2016	1 December 2022	2 nd	No
Hon. Secretary,	Marjon Verkleij	1 April 2015	7 October 2021	2 nd	no
	Emma Anakhasyan	7 October 2021	7 October 2024	1 st	yes
Treasurer	Marjon Verkleij	1 July 2018	1 July 2024	3 rd	no
Advocacy	Leshia Witmer	11 February 2015	11 February 2021	2 nd	no
		11 February 2021	11 February 2024	3 rd	
General member	Kusum Athukorala	18 April 2019	18 April 2022	1 st	yes
General member	Rose Mwangi	18 April 2019	18 April 2022	1 st	yes
General member	Ulla Madsen	18 April 2019	18 April 2022	1 st	yes

3.4 Partnerships and collaboration

In essence, for each activity we try to find one or more partners both amongst other women's organisations and networks, the broader water sector and organisations "out-of-the waterbox" that are involved in water-use and management, to jointly work on different issues. WfWP has a huge range of different types of partnerships, with agencies such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (giz), Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Global framework on water scarcity in agriculture (WASAG), IUCN, World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA), and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

We are part of networks such as, the Major Group Women and NGO/CSW for the Commission on the Status of Women, MGoS HLPF coordination mechanism, OECD Water Governance initiative, World Water Council, UN Water (contributing to the world water development reports and taskforces) , World Water Quality Alliance and the Alliance for Water Stewardship and Human Right 2 Water. We are founders and facilitators of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition and the European Pact for Water. We work together with a range of different partners such as BORDA, Simavi, Aquafed, IWRA and UNESCO-WWAP (World Water Assessment Programme).

WfWP is very active in these networks and contributes as steering committee member of WWQA and core member (and now chair 2022) of the Stakeholder engagement Platform taskforce; steering committee of the Butterfly Effect, vice-chair / steering committee of WASAG; Member, International Advisory Committee for the 2nd high-level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for sustainable development, 2018-2028", to be held in June 2022, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; action group member 2E for the World Water Forum in Dakar; member of the UNESCO-WWAP water and gender working group where we contributed heavily on the analysis and the position paper launched in 2021.

Apart from this WfWP is often asked to join others because of its reputation and expertise in the field of water and women. For more information: see our website.

4 Operations

4.1 Communication

Basically starting in March 2020 all our communication with members and partners happened online. The website (www.womenforwater.org) and Facebook/Twitter and YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNke_sr5IBWCR2HZ2tJf5Mg) are our main means of communication with the outside world at the moment. On the website we communicate about important events, and we update the item 'publications' regularly, making the site a valuable source for our virtual knowledge platform. Facebook covers our activities and gives many links to relevant interesting information. Due to the lockdowns the need to work more online grew, so we invested in professional subscriptions to Zoom Pro to hold our meetings (incl. the General Assembly) and webinars. Communicating mainly by way of ICT is not easy for a number of reasons: we have to cope with very different time-zones, not all our members have access to fast and strong and good enough connections / internet, and all have to learn yet again how to use a different platform and software. We are appreciative and thankful to the two volunteers that kept our website updated. However, the website does need a make-over and be updated and this is planned for 2022 in the frame of our new communication strategy 2021-2025.

4.2 Planning and monitoring

Due to lack of capacity it was not possible to monitor the achievements of our members in 2021 in our usual extensive way.

The elements of our current planning and reporting system are:

- A strategic framework 2016-2020 - currently being updated - translated into annual work plans and budgets
- Annual reporting and accounting
- Monitoring decisions taken by the GA and the SC
- Financial reporting to follow up budget expenditure
- Reports of / and regular (on-line) SC meetings, to monitor progress and financial matters
- Back to office reporting of (SC) members after participating in external events
- Special reports to funders to account for the budget received
- All our officials' reports are accessible through our website (incl. official publications).

4.3 Hubs

As in previous years, strategic goal 5 – the establishment of regional or national 'hubs', was put on hold due to the lack of finance. The SC makes now an inventory among its members if this idea will be part again of our new strategy 2022 and beyond.

4.4 Fundraising

Also, in 2021 WfWP actively searched for funding for member projects, global projects, advocacy and core funding. Examples are:

- We submitted a programme proposal to GIZ / BMZ to follow up on the preparatory study to women inclusive governance in the water sector, the women Blue fund and mentoring. A contract was signed covering work in 2021 and 2022.
- Together with NetWwater and Soroptimist International we applied to organise an Asian Regional Conference on Leave No one Behind at Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) Women, Water and Climate, tackling the Challenges. This proposal was approved, and the main work was done in October / November 2020 and was very well received. All material is accessible on our website; Facebook - #WomenWaterClimate; Twitter - @Climate_Water and YouTube (and see below).

We received funding from:

- Project: GL/NE/2021-002 - Ministry of I&W has supported WfWP in 2021 with a budget of €9,500 for organizing a digital session at World Water Day 22 March 2021 named "Valuing Water"
- The Stockholm Environmental Institute gave a grant of 42,318 in total for the Women, Water and Climate project encompassing several webinars and an online conference mainly aimed at activities in Asia. Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns not all activities could be done in 2020; an agreement was reached on activities in 2021 with the remainder of the budget
- Soroptimist International club (SI club) Nijmegen +SI club Rotterdam Project MO/AF/KE/2021-001 The Eldoret Women Clubs, Kenya were given a grant from SI Nijmegen + Rotterdam of €3,225 for a women water project of installing tanks, cooking stoves and vegetable gardens. WfWP was intermediary between the two
- Passage supported a project of Tegemeo Women group for a period of three years of in total 45,000 euro; in 2021 the remaining budget of the third period was spent; the project is finalized.
- Contributions third parties' outreach & advocacy are mainly contributions for travel and accommodation for outreach & advocacy events, paid by Steering Committee members themselves. This year most Steering Committee members also have donated their SC allowance to WfWP. For a total amount of € 3.195, -
- A substantial part of the work of WfWP is done by volunteers, in kind contributions. In kind contributions are those contributions that do not involve money transactions through the WfWP bank account, such as work or expertise provided by members pro bono to contribute to the core business of WfWP, lobby and advocacy work and governance. To capitalise these hours the agreed rate is € 67.50 per hour.
- Passage Project MO/AF/TZ/2017-001 - Tegemeo Woman Group (TWG) Capacity Building Project. The project is implemented from 2017 till 2020. The budget amount was in total €45,000. For the remaining budget of €3,730 a plan was sent, which was approved in 2021. The remaining budget is paid. The project has been finalised.

Since January 2016 WfWP introduced a membership fee and members have the choice to pay in cash or in kind. Because of COVID-19 pandemic there were less activities, and we were not able to collect the data of all our members for 2021.

4.5 Staffing

Due to lack of funding WfWP moved our Secretariat from The Hague to the honorary Secretary's address and for UN matters to a PO box from one of the SC members. Some of the out of pocket costs of SC members were reimbursed. Some SC members got paid in case of additional work that was not SC/ governance related, to be able to fulfil part of this assignment. Our freelance controller Diantha Brackel remained on board. We hired a consultant to assist with the governance research and a part-time communication officer, mainly helping out with the social media, lay-out of flyers etc.

The main tasks of the Secretariat were handled by different SC members on an agreed division of tasks. A big thank you and compliments should be extended to all our SC members, who took on operational tasks for the duration and managed and were willing to get an enormous amount of work done even with the lack of paid staff.

4.6 Finance

Like last year the annual accounts for 2021 were evaluated by an (internal) audit committee, consisting of two experts of two member organisations, instead of an external accountant. Our appreciation goes out to the expert volunteers who did the work. Looking at the (kind of) funding we received, there was no need to go to an external accountant. If the situation changes, we will of course hire an accountant again. Our bookkeeping is still done by a qualified administrator.

Below you will find the summary of the statement of income and expenditures 2021. The total income of WfWP in 2021 was € 238.039 including the in-kind voluntary contributions. However, this is excluding the in-kind contributions of our members, since we did not manage to get all the reporting done. In terms of cash the income was € 74,591. - and the expenditure is € 78,697 - this gives a result of minus € 4,106. -. A complete financial overview is presented in our annual accounts.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2021

	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
	€	€	€
INCOME			
Core Funding	-	-	-
Global projects	67.257	196.285	69.646
Member projects	6.955	6.955	11.270
Miscellaneous			
Membership fees	-	300	-
Various donations	134	-	445
Charity discounts	245	-	357
Total miscellaneous	<u>379</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>802</u>
Total income	<u>74.591</u>	<u>203.540</u>	<u>81.718</u>
Volunteer contributions in kind	238.039	270.000	246.848
Total income cash + in kind	<u>312.630</u>	<u>473.540</u>	<u>328.566</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Operational costs			
General Assembly	-	-	-
Steering Committee	452	3.300	-
Auditor	97	2.500	-
Secretariat	4.140	14.000	3.624
Events-Network- advocacy	1.766	4.110	791
Total operational costs	<u>6.454</u>	<u>23.910</u>	<u>4.415</u>
Costs Global projects	65.313	163.557	60.845
Costs Member projects	6.930	6.930	9.870
Total expenditures	<u>78.697</u>	<u>194.397</u>	<u>70.715</u>
Volunteer contributions in kind	238.039	270.000	246.848
Total expenditures cash +in kind	<u>316.736</u>	<u>464.397</u>	<u>321.978</u>
Result	<u>4.106-</u>	<u>9.143</u>	<u>6.588</u>

Appendix A: 2021 Events Participation of WfWP

Numerous meetings were still cancelled, moved to other dates or changed into online events due to the Covid-19 measures. The number of webinars and events WfWP participated in are extensive and the overview below is not completely showing all the work done and participation by WfWP SC and members. In some cases, it is a mention of

Event	Dates	venue
IUCN world congress		
Webinar Butterfly Effect re. 9WWForum	7 Jan. 15.00 – 17.00	online
WfWP SC meet	12 Jan. 16.00 hrs. CET	Online (zoom)
European Pact for Water meeting	13 Jan. 11.30 hrs.	Online (teams)
EU Water event	18-21 January afternoons	Brussels and online
Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) Climate Adaptation Summit	25 January at 18.00 hrs. CET	Online
WWQA meeting	27- Jan. and 28 Jan. at 10-14 hrs. CET.	Online
Parallel or Side events CSW		
UNEA	22-23/2 and 22-26 Febr.	Nairobi
UfM women in leadership	5 March, 11.00 CET	Online
Proposal SWWW	7 March and early April	Online
Webinar Human Rights to WASH and gender	8 March	online
WfWP SC meet	9 March, 16.30 hrs. CET	Online (zoom)
IAC Water Decade (Dushanbe)	10 March, 13.00 hrs. CET	online
CSW	15 – 26 March; parallel event 17 March, 17.30 CET	NY
Webinar women and 9WWForum	15 March, 10 am	online
UN Water Meeting	15-16 March at 14.00 hrs.	online
Virtual Townhall Meeting of Civil Society and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres	16 March, 10.15 EDT	Online
Alternative WWForum	18 March; 14.00 hrs.	(Berlin) online
HL / PGA meeting on water	18 March – 10.00 hrs. EST	Online
Regional Forum on sustainable development UNECE region	17-18 March	Hybrid; Geneva and online
Webinar water, sanitation, covid19	21 March, 18.00 CET	Online
World Water Day (pivotal events)	22 March, 13.00 and 15.00	Online
Sixth meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation, UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health	24 - 25 March, 10.00 am- 1.00 pm CET on both days	Online

Generation Equality Forum	29-31 March	Mexico City / online (hybrid)
Input draft chapters WWDR 2022	March	
Spring meetings World bank and IMF	5-11 April	Online
WfWP SC meet	13 April, 16.30 hrs. CET	Online (zoom)
endorsement letter on new DAC report 2021 by OECD-DAC CSO	12 April	
Steering committee meeting Bonn water Dialogues	14 April, 11.50 CET	Online
Taskforce WWDR 2011 review	15 April, 15.00	Online
Twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health	14 - 15 April 2021	Online
“Science, Innovation and Data”, UN-Water global dialogue in water towards the Food Systems Summit	27 April	Online
OECD Forum Series 2021 - Building a gender- equal recovery!	28 April, 14.00 CEST	Online
UNECE working groups IWRM and monitoring	26-28 April	Geneva/ hybrid
2 nd version proposals SWWW – design session(s)	30 April	
Kyoto Water Prize	30 April	
EU green week	5/5 – 13/6	
Hand Hygiene Day	5 May	
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY	28 May	
WMG HLPF 2021 Position Paper	28 May	
IWA Digital World Water Congress	24 May – 4 June	Online
Signing shadow report CEDAW - NL	May	
OECD gender and the environment 2021	21 May, 12.00	Online
IAC, Dushanbe conference 2022	25 May, 11.00	Online
Steering committee Bonn water dialogues	2 June, 11.30 hrs.	Online
GA WfWP	2 June, 16.00 CEST	Online /Zoom
UN Water taskforce 2030	4 June, 14.30	Online
IWRA “One Water, One Health: Water, Food and Public Health in a Changing World.” Conference	7-9 June	online
Workshop EUWA/ WE/ EPfW – conclusions one year campaign re. commission and water “ water smart commission	14 June, 15.00 CEST	online
SDG 6 – HLPF – capacity building prep.	14 June, 15.00	Online
UNEA 5.1 webinar	15 June, 14.30 CEST	Online
EU development Days	15-16 June	Brussels
AWS strategy consultation	22 June, 9.00 am. CEST	Online
EIB consultation	22 June, 13.00 CEST	online

(2 nd session) Generation Equality Forum	30 June - July	Paris
BMU Germany: SDG6 water event	1 July, 14.00 hrs. CEST	Bonn / online
Food Systems Pre-Summit	26-28 July	Rome/ hybrid
SC WfWP	7 July, 16.30 – 17.30	Online
Food system summit, CSO forum	12 July, 14.00	Online
HLPF	6-15 July	New York
HLPF special event water	9 July, 14.00	NY / online
Health and water at the core of EU-Africa partnership	9 July, 14.00	Brussels / online
Hydropower sustainability Council	20 July	LW
Webinar WCC South Asia Conference,	26 July	online
SWWW “Building Resilience Faster”	23-27 Aug.	online
Sessions SIWI World Water Week	23 Aug. at 2 pm (1); 23 Aug. at 9 pm. (2); 24 Aug. at 10.00 am (4); 25 aug. 9 pm CEST (3);	online
SC WfWP meet	7 Sept. at 16.30 hrs. CET	Online
European Pact fW – meet and workshop	30 Sept. 11.45 CEST	Online
UN Water taskforce 2030	24 Sept. 14.30 hrs. CET	Online
IUCN world congress	3-11 Sept.	Marseille and online
<i>Conquering the unconscious bias: How Can Men and Women Be Better Allies to Women Colleagues in the Water Sector?</i>	22 Sept., 4 pm. CEST	
WWDR 2023 kick-of workshop, UNESCO-WWAP	21 and 24 Sept., 14.30 hrs.	zoom
Written statement CSW66	24 Sept- 15 October	
River Sand Mining webinars and SEA/SA collaborative webinar on Flood risk management	27-28 Sept.	
Virtual webinar on Flood Risk Management	4 Oct., 6 am. CEST (2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Malaysia time)	Kuala Lumpur / online
UN Water meeting	4-5 Oct., afternoons (14.30 CEST)	Online
Executive Board Non-Governmental Partners Committee	8 October	Paris
Water & Gender conference, organized by Slovenia/ Presidency EU	13 Oct. at 9.00 – 17.00 am CEST	Brussels / online
2 nd Stakeholder meeting WWForum Dakar	14-15 October	Senegal/ online
GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY	15 Oct.	
Proposal parallel event CSW 2022	15/10 – 15/01 2022	NY/ online
AIWW (Amsterdam international water week)	1-2 Nov. 3-5 Nov.	Online In person, Amsterdam
CoP26 (Climate)	1-12 Nov.	Glasgow / online
Guest lectures on water and food security, Arizona State university	5 and 12 Nov.	Online

SC meeting	3 Nov. at 17.30 hrs. CET	Online
General Assembly WfWP	8 Nov. at 4 pm. CET	Online
WWQA congress / Casandra	15-17 Nov.	online
Gender(on)gelijkheid & Klimaatverandering in Nederland; Atria en WO=MEN 17 november 2021. (Gender inequality and climate in NL)	17 Nov., 14.00	Utrecht
Twelfth meeting of the Task Force on Target-Setting and Reporting, UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health	17-18 Nov	Geneva
WORLD TOILET DAY IWRA webinar	19 Nov. 15.00 CET	Online
(Europe and N-America) Workshop on advocacy messages for 9th WWForum and 2023 UN Water conference	22 Nov., 15.00 CET	Online
SC WfWP	23 Nov. at 16.30 hrs. CET	Online
Webinar women and water, prep. for WWForum Senegal	24 Nov. at 11.00 CET	Online
Second introductory webinar to the 2022 International Conference "Groundwater, key to the Sustainable Development Goals"	25 Nov. at 14.30 hrs. CET	Paris / online
African Water Week and Africasan	22-26 Nov.	Online / Namibia
Nutrition for growth summit	7 – 8 Dec.	Japan
IWRA world congress	29 Nov. – 3 Dec.	Daegu, Korea
<u>AWS Global Water Stewardship Forum</u>		
NGO Forum on Global Citizenship (UNESCO)	6-7 Dec.	Online
SC meeting	8 Dec. at 15.00 CET	Online
AWS AGM	9 Dec. at 15.00 CET	Online
Water dialogue Bonn follow-up	14 Dec., 15.00	Online
2 nd . Nile Basin Discourse Summit	cancelled	Online and hybrid
regional conversation on Feminist Movements and Leadership	15 Dec. at 11.00 Istanbul time	online
IAC Dushanbe conference	17 Dec. 15.00	Online
Butterfly Effect steering committee	17 Dec., 16.00 hrs.	Online