



**Annual report
2021**



**Join For
Water**



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MALI - MOPTI © JOIN FOR WATER

Water as an instrument for peace

In this time of war and turmoil on the European continent, we, at Join For Water, also look more closely at our contribution to peace and security.

The extent to which drinking water and water for agriculture can be instruments for war has unfortunately become even more apparent in Ukraine in recent months. Denying drinking water to innocent civilians is used as a cruel weapon. Making agriculture impossible when rainwater and irrigation water allow crops to germinate, causes dramatic price increases and soon food shortages in Africa, which imports a lot of wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

We invite you to read our annual report from a peace perspective. On the next pages we report specifically on the tens of thousands of people who obtained better access to water in 2021 thanks to Join For Water.

Behind the success of the drinking water projects in Ituri in Congo, there is the successful negotiation of our partner CIDRI to get the sources of the water out of the hands of rebels. In Mali, the shared interest in decent toilets and clean water brought a divided community back together. In Benin, we were able to raise the conflicting interests of the users of river water for discussion through a game and to reach a proposal for management that benefits everyone. For thousands of women, together with our partners, we reduced the risk of sexual violence by providing toilets closer to home.

Water as an instrument for peace requires investments in the future. Global warming is making fresh water scarcer, which threatens to cause a fierce battle over access to water. That is why, from this year on, we will focus even more on protecting vulnerable ecosystems that are important for preserving global fresh water resources. At the same time, together with our partners, we will continue to bring water closer to as many people as possible in the here and now.

In order to continue to use water as an instrument for peace, your interest in Join For Water is very important. Thank you for your support and encouragement!



Antonique Koning
President



Bart Dewaele
Director

Key figures 2021

Number of people who have gained access to...



No infrastructure without **management.** M

In 2021 Join For Water empowered local authorities, committees, associations... to ensure proper management:



Partners



Join For Water works with various local partners. In 2021, 33 of them had a signed convention with Join For Water.

Operating income

2020 € 8.314.776
2021 € 7.698.318



Expenditure programmes

2020 € 7.190.084
2021 € 6.735.309

Improving access to water From tap to source

For more than 40 years, Join For Water has focused on improving access to water in the Global South. And it still does. However, a lot has changed over the years in the way we try to improve that access.

From the very beginning, together with our partners, we have been good at improving basic water and sanitation needs through adapted infrastructure. We used this strength to optimum effect during the past multi-year program (2017-2021).

In all countries where Join For Water has been active in the past 5 years, new infrastructure was built to bring drinking water closer to the people or on the field, and toilets were built for households and schools.

For example, in Uganda, a ram pump was installed along the Mpanga River to pump up water in a steep valley. This prevents erosion from people and animals having to walk down (and back up) the slopes, and makes it easier for them to irrigate their fields.

Over the years, more and more efforts have been made to make access to water more sustainable in the longer term through a broader focus on management aspects and integrated water management. To this end, management committees were set up to ensure that the built infrastructure is maintained and that water systems are financially sustainable. Over the past 5 years, specific attention has been paid to this in all countries.

- For example, in DR Congo, Join For Water and its partner built kiosks where water can be purchased. The operators of the kiosks – mostly women – are paid with the proceeds and the water system is kept in working order by various management committees...
- In vegetable fields in Mountougoula, Mali, solar-powered pumps and water towers were installed, so that the women have permanent access to water for their crops. Part of the proceeds is used for maintenance and repair of infrastructure.

The road to water begins at the source

In addition, it became clear that nature conservation also plays an essential role in ensuring access to water. We see that water resources everywhere are suffering from increasing pressure because of rapidly increasing population, urbanization, pollution, and a rising demand for water for food production.

Over the past 5 years, we have therefore worked with our partners to restore and protect these water resources and the area around water sources. For example, tree planting actions were carried out in Haiti, Burundi and Uganda to increase water infiltration and protect the area around a source, and in Benin riverbanks were protected against erosion, with a positive effect on water quality.

In short, over the past multi-year program we have come a long way in helping to improve access to water from tap to source and everything in between. Along this road we have been able to make a difference in many places, but we have also been confronted with new

challenges. In the future, we will therefore reverse the logic and start at the source. Because without a source, there is no water.

As a result, our renewed strategy for protecting and preserving water resources doesn't come out of nowhere. It is a response to the needs we see in the countries where we work, and to the global climate and environmental challenges we are all facing today.



NTAARA – UGANDA © MATTHEW COOPER

JOIN FOR WATER AND ITS PARTNERS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER, STARTING FROM THE SOURCE: NTAARA – UGANDA.

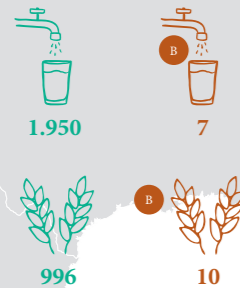
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I would like to contribute to our community and have therefore made a piece of land available for a tree nursery.
- Dorvilus



Haïti

© Celine Jacmain



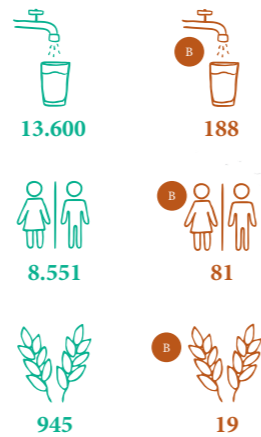
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We have become a role model for others, every day, there are visitors who come and take a look.
- Gaoussou



Mali

© Yassi Diaby



”

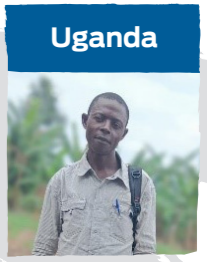
We don't realize enough that our water consumption goes beyond the water we see flowing from our taps.
- Anne



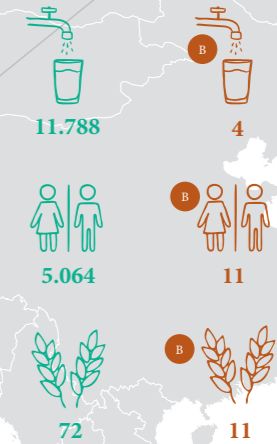
Belgium

”

I have been campaigning for safe drinking water in our community and can now proudly say that this dream has come true.
- Orando



Uganda



Join For Water worldwide

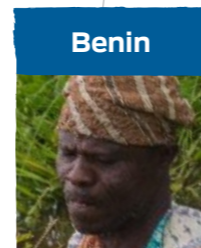
Symbols, see p. 2

The number of persons 'having access to' can only be measured when drinking water, sanitary or irrigation systems are put into operation, so that in the annual reports, considerable fluctuations can be noticed. Join For Water does not work in every country in the 3 sectors either, which explains the lower figures concerning 'water for agriculture'.

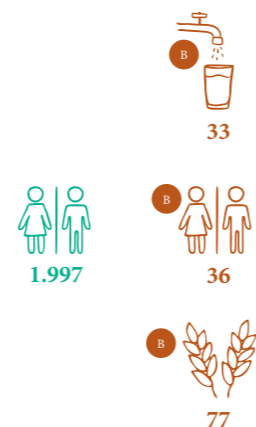
The following pages present a selection of our activities in 2021.

”

I learned the proper techniques and was able to earn some money for my family
- Grégoire



Benin



”

In our Bankoko district, this kiosk makes a big difference. Fetching water used to be a real hassle.
- Merveille



DR Congo

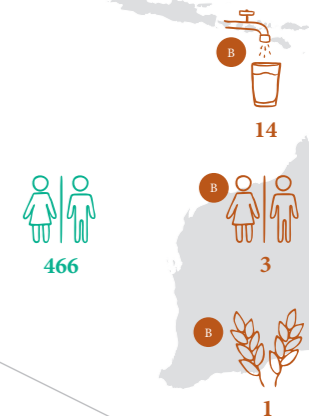


”

Children who pass by on their way to school are also allowed to use the latrine, if they leave it tidy.
- Rose



Burundi



Who has the best cards?

Benin - The valley of the Ouémé in the south is blessed with an abundance of mineral resources. But the area is suffering from climate change and from the overexploitation of these natural resources.

Join For Water is carrying out a project on Integrated Water Management with Green Keeper Africa and Antea Group. This project supports the population in the execution of various activities to protect and restore the valley's ecosystems and their services. The residents have decided on the activities together and in dialogue.

To map everything, the French research institute CIRAD developed a role-playing game, completely adapted to the context. Through the game, the population is introduced to the principles of integrated management of water resources, and to water ecosystem services. In this way, the community can better assess the consequences of its activities for the environment and make concrete proposals for restoring ecosystems/services.

The principle is straightforward: all areas in the village are represented on the game board, such as the highland, the flood plain, the river... An animator facilitates the game and the discussions that arise. At the start, the players receive game materials such as labor tokens, money, animals and fishing nets, and activity cards that generate an income from, for example, agriculture.

Each round of the game represents a period of high water or receding water. Depending on the time period, available tools, manpower and income, the players move on the board to the appropriate area to carry out their activities. At the end of each round, the facilitator takes stock of each player's income and the pollution caused by the activities.

Depending on the choices of the players, new situations arise. For example, it becomes impossible to use the canals because of the rampant water hyacinth, and thus to go fishing or to get to the market. The players soon realize instinctively that bad practices in the valley cause all kinds of problems.

Through the game, the players understand the complexity of ecosystem services and see connections between their use and their decay. They are therefore ready to propose measures for restoration and conservation. The facilitator collects all proposed activities.

In order to be as representative as possible, several focus groups play in the same village: women, men, young people, and the old wise men of the village. In this way, the habits of each group emerge and one can distinguish between the problems and the solutions.

This role-playing game was played in the 28 villages involved in the project and made it possible to list priority actions for the community in each village. Follow-up is planned during additional meetings with the villages involved.

The game set a lot in motion!



© JOIN FOR WATER

THE GAME ALLOWS THE PARTICIPANTS TO BETTER ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS.



Testimonial

”

I became involved in the community and helped clear the Goussa canal in Dékanmey. I learned the proper techniques and was able to earn some money for my family.

Grégoire Agossou – Goussa-Aguégués

Testimonial



Gaoussou Konta

52 ans - head of Selenguégoun.

”

We have lived here for 40 years with over 300 people, but strangely enough we never had access to drinking water or any form of sanitation. The situation was very difficult for us, and also unhealthy, because we were at risk of all kinds of diseases.

Today we are very happy with the drinking water point and the toilets. We no longer have to cross the river to get drinking water and we can use clean latrines. We have adopted good hygienic behavior: washing hands after visiting the toilet, putting potties for the children, using the latrines correctly, sweeping the courtyards, and so on. We have become a role model for others, every day, there are visitors who come and take a look.



© BART DEWAELE

Leave no one behind: drinking water is a right for everyone

Mali – ‘Leave no one behind’ – is the central guideline for the Sustainable Development Goals. And likewise for Join For Water. That’s how the Bozo finally got access to drinking water and decent latrines.

The Bozo are a people in Mali, who traditionally live from fishing, but nowadays also from sand extraction. Many live a semi-nomadic lifestyle, according to the seasons and the varying level of the rivers. In the capital Bamako they live along the banks of the Niger or on - sometimes artificial - islands in the river. During extremely high water, they are forced to temporarily seek shelter elsewhere.

The Bozo’s livelihood is threatened by declining fish stocks, disorganized sand extraction and waste discharge in the Niger. Their relatively low literacy and education level and the lack of title deeds to the land on which they live are some of the causes of their marginalization. The Bozo are hardly taken into account in the development plans of the district of Bamako and sub-municipalities. Urban development on the banks of the Niger is displacing the communities that live there.

More than 40 years ago, a Bozo community settled in Selenguégoun on one of the islands. Until recently, they had no access to drinking water and sanitation. Drinking water came from the river or was brought by boat from the mainland. Defecation was done in the open air, which was a violation of their dignity, especially for women and the elderly.

When the community came into contact with ADéCB (Association pour le Développement des Communautés à la base), partner of Join For Water, it was decided to install a drinking water point, which uses slow sand filtration of river water, an innovative system produced by a Malian start-up. Classic latrine blocks were built, but also others that are equipped with a toilet bowl. This is easier for the elderly and less mobile people.

The community has adopted good hygienic behavior such as washing hands after going to the toilet. The community was also assisted in the proper management, maintenance and repair of the drinking water installation and the latrines.

Thanks to the collaboration between the community, ADéCB and Join For Water, 430 people from 40 households now have access to drinking water and sanitation, and have improved their hygiene habits.

THE DRINKING WATER POINT MAKES THE BOZO A LESS MARGINALIZED POPULATION GROUP IN BAMAKO.

Testimonial



Orando Juma Safari

42 years – Bukana – coordinator of the Health Teams in Mahyoro subcounty

Orando is the committed leader of the Village Health Teams who knows every family by name and who was there for us every day. Under his watchful eye, households are informed about the importance of safe drinking water, the use of the water points and the participation in our research.

We keep in touch with Orando to stay informed about the use of the water points and to report back on the results to the families.

”

I have been campaigning for safe drinking water in our community for a long time and can now proudly say that this dream has come true together with Join For Water and HEWASA.

Measuring is knowing

Uganda - Until recently, safe drinking water was not a given for the communities of Mahyoro subcounty on the edge of Lake George. They used boreholes, drew water from the lake and the rivers, or dug for groundwater near their homes. Until recently...

Join For Water and the Ugandan NGO HEWASA joined forces in 2021 to tackle this precarious situation, resulting in nine new drinking water points spread across the villages. Not only an investment that was enthusiastically received by the communities, but also a great opportunity for scientific research!

Professor Bart Defloor and doctoral student Femke Maes of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Ghent University dive into the scientific side of things. They focus on three questions:

- To what extent do the households decide to use the new drinking water points ?
- What is the role of the walking distance, the risk of diarrhoea, the availability of the drinking water source and the water price in this decision ?
- What is the impact of the intervention on the drinking water quality in the houses and the health of the residents?

Supported by a team of twelve from the university in Fort Portal, they went into the field twice to collect data. 70 percent of the population was questioned about their drinking water behavior and a drinking water sample was taken in every home visited.

We can already give you a hint of the results.

Before the intervention, 90 percent of the drinking water samples were found to be of poor quality and the majority of the community indicated that they were prepared to pay up to 100 UGX for a jerry can of pure drinking water. With the same amount you can for example buy charcoal two times.

We still have to wait for the final results of the analyses after the drinking water intervention, but the lab already communicated that it has noticed a significant improvement.

To be continued.

FEMKE AND BART WITH THE INTERVIEWERS OF THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON UNIVERSITY IN FORT PORTAL. BEFORE GOING OUT TO THE FAMILIES AND TO TAKE WATER SAMPLES, THEY RECEIVED A TRAINING.



© FEMKE MAES

When every patch of land has to provide food

Burundi – In the municipalities of Isare and Bubanza, several wells provide drinking water to the families in the area. That is the work of partner AVEDEC and Join For Water.

To make sure the water is drinkable, the protection of the source areas is crucial. Around the source lies a protection perimeter of 350m² where farming and pasturing are prohibited to avoid pollution.

Other necessary interventions are planting trees and digging ditches to increase rainwater infiltration and prevent erosion. All these interventions require land, which is scarce. 9 out of 10 Burundians live from agriculture and each family owns an average of 0.25 hectares of land.

It is consequently understandable that it is difficult for a family to give up a piece of land to protect the source area, even if it is in the interest of the community.

The law provides for compensation to the landowner, but the procedure can take a very long time, while a family that has to give up their land needs that compensation immediately. Not so much in cash but rather with another parcel of land.

Finding another suitable plot of land within a reasonable distance from the house is not easy either with a population density of about 400 inhabitants per km². This land problem is therefore a real challenge in Burundi, where the authorities have to find a balance between water quality and access to agricultural land.

An additional challenge is that reforestation is often done with eucalyptus. This tree quickly generates income from wood and charcoal, but also affects water resources. Since 2020, a campaign is being conducted across the country to harvest eucalyptus trees within 15m of every developed source. Actions to replace eucalyptus with local species are ongoing, in collaboration with the Burundian organization ASREEBU, but the necessary change of mindset is slowing down the process. The action also costs a lot of money and different institutions have to join forces to achieve tangible results.

Together with the protection of the source areas, AVEDEC has started the construction of ecological latrines (ECOSAN) for families. The same problem arises here: a latrine also requires land. The population is therefore not always keen on building latrines.

THIS WELL IS ALREADY PROTECTED BY A PIECE OF LAND WITH ONLY GRASS AND TREES, BUT THE AREA SHOULD BE MUCH LARGER.



Testimonial

Rose Minani
full time mother - Muhanza.



There were a lot of flies in the previous latrine because the pit was not covered, now it is more pleasant. Less flies also means being sick less often. Children who pass by on their way to school are also allowed to use the latrine, if they leave it tidy.

We use four water cans a day, the journey to the source takes 20 minutes there and back. The residents here had first developed the well themselves, but when it rained a lot, the water had a strange colour. Then we had to fetch water from another source. The well is now better developed, but the protected area around the well is actually not large enough yet.



© JOHAN SLIMBROUCK

Growing with the population

DR Congo – Working in a conflict situation presents many challenges. This is a recurring theme in our annual report and this is unfortunately not different for 2021. Take for example the province of Ituri in Congo.

The entire province was placed under military martial law because of the escalating violence. This forced our partner CIDRI to limit all its activities to the city of Bunia.

But that doesn't mean there was less work. On the contrary! Like many other cities, Bunia is characterized by a very rapid population growth. Due to the better economic situation in the city, many people move to Bunia from the surrounding villages.

In addition, Bunia is experiencing an influx of refugees from the rural areas which are ravaged by violence. As a result, the city has grown enormously in the last 10 years. Furthermore, the demand for drinking water infrastructure is also increasing rapidly. But the government cannot keep up with this demand, which means that many city residents have little access to drinking water and sanitation.

And that is precisely where CIDRI and Join For Water make a difference. At the beginning of the past multi-year programme, a water network was constructed to get water from the source areas in the mountains to the city.

In two neighbourhoods in Bunia, 38 kiosks were built to distribute this water, 11 of them in 2021. Most kiosks are now connected to this network, so that residents can buy drinking water. We were able to observe this during a site visit in November 2021, where we were able to talk to users and operators of the kiosks. The water turns out not only to be of good quality - and according to some, it is even tasty! - but it also helps users to save time and build a social network.

Despite the enormous challenges in this fast-growing city and the unsafe situation, we still got to see many smiling people.



© KAMABU VÉRITÉ



GETTING WATER CLOSE TO YOU, THAT'S SELF EVIDENT

Testimonial



Merveille
Seamstress - Bankoko/Bunia.



In our Bankoko district, this kiosk makes a big difference. We can use the water for drinking, cooking, washing... that is a huge help. It used to be a real hassle. We had to walk 2 to 3 kilometers to the Hoho district to get water. I hope that one day my children can become engineers or doctors to help the population like CIDRI is doing now.



© CIDRI

Stopping a negative spiral

Haiti – In Haiti, the risk of floods as a result of climate change and their adverse effects is very high almost everywhere. But the basin of the Trois Rivières is very much at risk. It extends over the departments of Artibonite, North and Northwest.

In this area, the soil erosion is very serious, which makes the consequences of the floods even worse. The current agricultural practices, such as growing annual crops more frequently, leave the soil barren and exposed to the extreme weather conditions for most of the year. Result: intensive rainfall and storms cause floods that wash away the fertile top layer of the fields.

The large-scale deforestation in the mountainous parts of the river basin is also exacerbating the erosion. Trees are cut down in large numbers for the production of charcoal, the primary fuel of households. Most of the native forests have been cleared. The demand for charcoal will not decline as its production provides an alternative livelihood for many farmers. Farmers need that extra income in case of low yields, failed harvests, or unexpected expenses, especially in extremely wet or dry years..

All these practices have radically changed the natural landscape of the river basin. A negative spiral has emerged with phenomena that reinforce each other. The infiltration capacity of the bare soil is substantially reduced, during heavy rainfall a lot of soil is dragged along, and water resources are affected. During the following floods, even more soil washes away and more rocks and soil end up in the rivers, polluting the water and blocking drainage infrastructure, for example. This cycle amplifies the next round of flooding, leading to the destruction of crops, farmland, and agricultural infrastructure. People and livestock sometimes lose their lives as well.

The ultimate consequence for the people in this river basin is that food security has sharply decreased.



© CÉLINE JACMAIN

SMALL WALLS ON THE SLOPES PREVENT FERTILE SOIL FROM BEING WASHED AWAY.



Water to fight food insecurity

That's why Join For Water works in Trois Rivières both at the level of ecosystems as well as of water-related ecosystem services in some small sub-basins of Trois Rivières. One of these is Baladé which has an area of 11,7 km². The project in Trois Rivières is supported by the European Union.

Some achievements from 2021: in the tree nursery in Bion, 32 000 trees were grown to protect the most erosion-sensitive zones and to support local farmers in their transition to agroforestry.

Farmers built walls on the slopes and dug ditches to hold back the runoff and the washed away soil.

In the lower part of the basin, Vital's 100-hectare irrigation system was restored, reducing water loss by half. 350 farmers (m/f) now use the available water efficiently.

In total, 152,8 ha or 13% of the basin is protected. The aim is to increase this to 20% in order to achieve a measurable impact on the water cycle.



© CÉLINE JACMAIN

Testimonial

Dorvilus Saturné
inhabitant of Bion.

”

I would like to contribute to our community and have therefore made a piece of land available for a tree nursery. And that tree nursery is really a good thing: many people have come to get trees, fruit trees or trees that will later yield wood. It was really encouraging to see the enthusiasm to reforest our area. And now we can also maintain the nursery ourselves so that we have trees in stock at all times.

Water with challenges

Belgium -Take a look in your wardrobe and see how much water is in there. Think about your eating habits, how much water from the South do you absorb with them? With these and other questions, Join For Water, together with the municipalities of Brasschaat, Merelbeke, Kortrijk and Roeselare, challenged 310 families in the Water Challenge@home. In this try-out campaign we worked together on a (more) water-conscious world. This collaboration between Join For Water and 4 local authorities was part of Project W, which ran from 2017 until 2021.

During the Water Challenge@home – starting on World Water Day – participants received for 12 weeks a challenge, tip or assignment by email to reduce their water consumption. People participated with their families, as a couple or alone. Together with other enthusiasts, they saved thousands of liters of water through their participation and learned a lot about direct water from the tap, and especially about indirect water that is hidden in everything we use.

At the start of the challenge, the participants received a starter pack, including a poster to show that they were participating in the Water Challenge@home. The assignments concerning food, clothing, goods and water in the house/garden and the tips were linked to the context of the city or municipality.

The participants from Merelbeke and Roeselare took a water walk. In Brasschaat and Kortrijk, the participants had the choice between walking or cycling. They got to know package-free shops, local sharing or food initiatives in their neighbourhood.

The results of their activities appeared in Facebook groups, where the participants proudly posted their pictures. At the end of the challenge, the participating families were rewarded with nice prizes such as a book package, trees, gardening advice, a swimming subscription or a vegetable package.

The prizes were handed over to the winners at home, in the company of the local alderman of sustainability. Thanks to all this interaction and despite the corona lockdown, the challenge was a lively affair.

In short: as a try-out campaign, this challenge was certainly a success. We took some points for improvement to the 2022 edition – which, by the way, counts around 1500 participants!

Testimonial



Anne Drake
water challenge ambassador in Brasschaat.

”

The campaign has been a real eye opener for me. We don't realize enough that our water consumption goes beyond the water we see flowing from our taps. In addition, I really enjoyed taking on the Water Challenge together with other people from my town.

The assignment I liked the most was making the olla. We had flowerpots that we hadn't used in a while. Now they provide a sort of mini-irrigation for our newly planted marigolds.



THE PARTICIPANTS POSTED THEIR PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM.

Colleagues looking back

RD Congo



Achille Biffumbu
Programme manager

I started at Join For Water in April 2021, so in the final months of the previous multi-year programme and in the preparation of the new one. I learned a lot from colleagues and partners in both processes while trying to give the best of myself.

I admire the flexibility and resilience of Join For Water and CIDRI all these years of the programme, during an uncertain and unsafe period with both Ebola and COVID. And on top of that, the unstable political situation, both

nationally and in our province.

I am looking forward to the way in which Join For Water, together with the partners, will position itself in the renewed strategy of protecting water resources and the new dynamics around it.

Benin



Guillaume Houinato
Technical assistant

There was a lot of work in 2021, because the multi-year programme was coming to an end. There was some time pressure to finalize everything, to make reports and to plan schedules, and to further manage the partnerships. In 2021 there were also restrictions due to the corona pandemic, but we were able to achieve the objectives.

The population and the parties involved in the drinking water, sanitation and water management projects were very satisfied. We were also very pleased with a student's research into agricultural water from producers in the municipality of Athiémé. Interesting to take with us to the next multi-year programme.

Over the many years at Join For Water, I have gained a lot of practical and theoretical experience and skills. And I was happy to take on the professional challenges in poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

PS Guillaume will retire at the end of 2022.

Mali



Fassirima Keita
Technical assistant

Mali had a difficult political year in 2021 and the clashes between armed militias and terrorist groups in various places in Mali continue.

I do the follow-up of the food security project in the Koulikoro region, which is a project supported by Enabel. In 2021 there was a lot of work, in the office and in the field, but it went well and the colleagues supported each other. The work with the partners also went smoothly. I

worked long days because I wanted us to succeed in our aim. I was pleased with the congratulations from elected officials, technical services and Enabel. We were able to complete the works on drinking water and some sanitation infrastructures in schools.

The most positive in 2021 was the realization of the first drinking water point in the village of M'Pètè and the fact that this village of more than 500 inhabitants obtained the certificate of "ending open air defecation". There was joy and contentment, with them and with us.

It was difficult to manage the working time, which was often too short to achieve results. The security aspect also seriously affected us: in the area around Nara we were forced to temporarily stop some activities.

My wish is that our interventions will last.

Haïti



Antoine Verlaine Bien-Aimé
Programme manager

The 2017-2021 multi-year programme went through difficult circumstances, difficult for Haiti itself and due to the corona pandemic. But we have been able to fulfill the dream of many people: to be able to tap water at a drinking water point close to home. The inhabitants of Morne Couleuvre, in Belladère and those of Foison, in Port-de-Paix, are very happy that they no longer have to go up and down the steep slopes to fetch water. After all, drinking water infrastructure was constructed or repaired.

With the new programme, we hope to protect and conserve water resources for future generations.

Belgium



Sarah De Raedt
Route counselor sustainable water use in schools

The past year was dominated by the completion of Project W with the schools and the municipalities. 2021 was of course still marked by corona with keeping distance, working from home, ban on getting together with large groups... We had a lot of contact with schools and teachers, but that was mostly online. The celebration moment per region with the schools could not take place, but we came up with an alternative. Each school received a 'celebration package' containing products from the local merchants.

2021 was also a year of transition – the last year of a programme and the preparation of a new one: so I was very busy with evaluations, collecting good practices and translating to other target groups. That was very interesting. However, process guidance is even more my kind of thing, but there was less of that in 2021. But the concluding conversations with teachers and civil servants or staff of the municipalities were very satisfying. We received great reactions and the schools can be really proud of what they have achieved with the students.

Yemi Oduwale: a new ambassador for Join For Water

A better brand awareness among the general public is an important ambition in our communication strategy. The better your brand awareness, the easier it is to recruit new donors.

You can achieve this goal faster if a familiar face helps to put your organization on the map. In October, we therefore invited Yemi Oduwale to visit our activities and partners in Uganda. The actor is known for popular TV programs, but also plays in films and theater plays.

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At first I was a bit hesitant about going to Uganda, because I have questions about organizations from Western countries telling how things should be done in vulnerable countries.

Join For Water has completely dispelled that doubt. It was fantastic to see how Join For Water leaves the initiative to the people of Uganda, but also to Ugandan NGOs. That is important for the support and success of a project.

The four-day journey went to the city of Fort Portal, and through the basins of the Mpanga and Semliki rivers. We visited many different projects: drinking water systems, ecological latrines (Flower toilets), watering troughs for cows, sustainable farming methods, tree nurseries and initiatives to protect wetlands.

Yemi thinks it is important that people learn more about the theme of water and use water more consciously. He enthusiastically puts his shoulders to our organization and we are of course happy to make use of that. After his visit to Uganda, he promoted our gift voucher 'Water & Forest' in various media titles, with which you could give your gift to Join For Water (for water and forest in Uganda and Flanders) to someone. He also likes to use his own Instagram account to support our actions.

We are happy to have Yemi on board. In 2022, he will continue to commit himself to Join For Water.



Visibility at and through companies

We notice that more and more companies know how to find us for a collaboration. That is good news, because corporate gifts, whether or not awarded for specific projects, give a nice boost.

Many companies like to inform their customers about their partnership with Join For Water. Great, because this way we benefit from extra visibility. They include us in their customer magazines, newsletters or social media posts, but some companies choose other channels. In the Delhaize supermarkets, during two weeks around World Toilet Day, you could see floor stickers and hear radio advertisements about our collaboration with Bref, a well-known brand for toilet cleaning. Rubber ducks are sold at the cash registers of X2O Badkamers (bathrooms) for the benefit of Join For Water. And we will soon be featured in the TV spots of Finish (dishwasher tablets).

Partnerships and networks



Vlaams Partnerschap Water voor Ontwikkeling (VPWvO) (Flemish partnership Water for Development) is a platform for players of the Flemish government, the public (drinking) water companies, private companies active in the field of water, the Flemish academic and research world, NGOs and non-profit organizations. By working together, they contribute to the realization of SDG 6 «Ensure access to sustainable water and sanitation for all».



Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs is a non-profit organization that aims to stimulate and strengthen socio-economic projects and initiatives in Africa. Companies can do this by supporting a project of a Belgian NGO or by helping entrepreneurs in low- and middle-income countries with money and expertise. The ultimate goal is sustainable economic growth through entrepreneurial projects, and this in a socially responsible and sustainable way.



The Shift is the Belgian sustainability network. Together with members and partners, they want to realize the transition to a better society and sustainable economy. Their approach: Connect. Commit. Change.



Ngo-federatie is the Flemish federation of NGOs for Development Cooperation. They represent the sector to federal and other governments, strengthen how NGOs work, and inform NGOs about new rules.



11.11.11 As the umbrella organization of the Flemish North-South movement, 11.11.11 joins the forces of dozens of organisations, tens of thousands of volunteers and partners worldwide. 11.11.11 opts for international solidarity and contributes to the development of democratic alternatives in which people and countries plan and realize their own development. Together they stand up for sustainable change. 11.11.11 takes joint political actions to this end and raises public awareness for fair North-South relations.



Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD) Join For Water is active throughout Belgium and is therefore also a member of the French-speaking North-South umbrella organization.



The Province of East Flanders realizes its international cooperation in 3 regions. One of these regions is the province of Esmeraldas in Ecuador. Join For Water and local partner CEFODI are working together to implement this cooperation agreement.



The Province of Flemish Brabant puts extra effort into climate actions with a number of international projects. Together with Join For Water, they are investing in the project: "Improved water management for better adaptation to climate change in Haiti". From 2022 onwards, the province will support a climate project in Uganda.



EPfW – European Pact for Water is a European network of organizations active in the field of water and development. EPfW wants to ensure that SDG 6 is placed higher on the European political agenda through joint advocacy and information and awareness campaigns.



CoEH – Coordination Europe-Haïti is a platform for European NGOs and networks active in Haiti. The platform defends the interests of and gives a voice to Haitian civil society concerning the policies of Europe and its member states.

Belgian Water Platform

is a group of Belgian water actors: public, non-governmental, academic, and private players who have met on a regular basis since 2018 to reflect and advise on how to strengthen development cooperation on the theme of water. Join For Water is one of the driving forces behind this informal and horizontal platform.

De watercoalitie (The water coalition) is a group of Flemish environmental organizations that strive for better water management in Flanders. Today, the group consists of BBL, Natuurpunt, Join For Water, Waterland, WWF, West-Vlaamse Milieufederatie and Gents MilieuFront, and is supported by many other environmental organizations. In 2021 the water coalition came out with a number of positions on water quality in Flanders.

SECORES

Join For Water is an active member of SECORES. This Network for Social-Ecological Resilience was established by 9 Belgian organizations during the elaboration of their Joint Strategic Framework within their five-year programs, co-financed by the Belgian government. The members are BOS+, CEBioS, Join For Water, VIA Don Bosco, WWF Belgium and Uni4Coop (the collaboration between Louvain Coopération, Eclasio, ULB coopération and FUCID). SECORES aims to integrate the concept of social-ecological resilience into the Belgian development cooperation, among Belgian actors but also among their partners in the field.

Water Europe (WE) was established by the European Commission as the European Technology Platform (ETP). WE is the acknowledged spokesperson and promoter of water innovation in Europe. WE has over 250 members who represent the diversity of the innovative water ecosystem and share the vision of a water-wise society. They include public water companies, commercial water companies and NGOs, including Join For Water.

Thank you

It is thanks to your contributions that Join For Water has been able to carry out the programmes for drinking water, sanitation and water for agriculture. We really appreciate this support.

Thank you very much!



All donors, volunteers, supporters and fans!

Provincial authorities

Limburg
East Flanders
Flemish Brabant

Urban and municipal authorities

Begijnendijk
Berlare
Bierbeek
Gent
Lebbeke
Ranst
leper

They provided us with the necessary knowledge and expertise to carry out our programmes

Aquafin
Antea Group Belgium
Arcadis Belgium
Farys
BOS+
BOSAQ
De Watergroep
Gents MilieuFront
MO*
Universiteit Gent
VMM
VVSG

Institutional donors for programme funding

Federal Administration, DGD Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and the
Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS)
European Commission
Flemish Administration, department for Environment (via Vlaams Partnerschap Water voor Ontwikkeling)
Misereor
Enabel
ESF (European social fund)

Companies, organisations, foundations

11.11.11
ADPO nv
ACLVB - CGSLB via ALIMENTO
Antea Group Belgium nv
Aquafin via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Ardo Foods
Association Sud-Nord
CISCO
Co-Valent via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Dafra Pharma
Denys nv via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
De Watergroep
Duror Fashion Group
Ecobeton Water Technologies
Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Exxon Mobile via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Familie en vrienden Elise Delsaerd
FARYS
Filip Roels Mgment consulting

F R B - Fonds Elisabeth et Amélie
Ghent Dredging
Hope via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Herbosch-Kiere
HidroPLUS PIDPA
KrisKras
Nature Solutions
North Sea Port Ghent via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
P.I.D.P.A.
Renotec via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Sopra Steria
Spot buy center
TREVI nv
UEBH
Water Circle
Wienerberger via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
Willemen Groep via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
X2O Sanitary Group



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FIETS Sustainability

Sustainability is an important point of attention in the programmes of Join For Water. Together with our partners, we strive for sustainable interventions according to the FIETS* principles: Financial, Institutional, Ecological, Technical and Social sustainability.

But also as an organization we want to be consistent and limit the negative effects of our own operations on the human development of others and on the environment as much as possible.

That's why we want to strive for a just and sustainable way of functioning on the basis of a social and ecological commitment.

To this end, we prioritize 4 objectives:



These objectives were translated into a number of concrete measures, according to 6 domains: food, paper, energy, mobility, direct water and 'other'. The employees from the Ghent office jointly determined these measures and they were tested for their impact and feasibility.

A selection of the measures :

- At the office in Ghent, you will not find water in bottles;
- At public events the catering offer is at least 50% vegetarian, as much as possible from fair trade and from the short food chain
- We are still a long way from a paperless office, but we limit our paper consumption by reading on the screen as much as possible. To keep our water footprint as low as possible, we print on fully recycled paper and also for external printing we ensure that this is done as much as possible on 100% recycled paper.
- Our electric power is completely 100% renewable and all energy-intensive appliances have been replaced by more ecological ones.
- Employees are encouraged to use public transport as much as possible, both for commuting between home and the office, and for work trips.
- Short flights by plane are prohibited and the CO2 emissions from our air travel, which are inherent to our operations, are monitored.
- As a water NGO we owe it to ourselves to use water in a rational way. Hence, all our toilets have a savings button and we only clean with environmentally friendly products. Our financial management also has an ecological footprint. That is why our financial transactions are conducted as much as possible through a bank that strives for sustainability.

Measuring is knowing

Every year we calculate the greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of all country offices, including the office in Belgium, and the water footprint of our office's operations in Ghent. This report is discussed internally, and we look into possibilities to reduce our ecological footprint even further, each time considering whether the proposals will not jeopardize our operations.

Especially during the first years of reporting and discussion, we were able to significantly reduce our ecological footprint through simple measures. In recent years we have not seen much progress, which indicates that these measures are fully integrated in our operations.

* 'Fiets' means 'bicycle' in Dutch

Notes to the financial statements 2021

Introduction

Join For Water has an integrated financial statement that is the sum of the figures of the head office and 4 regional offices. These financial statements are the end product of a process of internal and external audits:

- The annual accounts of the head office are audited by Clybouw Bedrijfsrevisoren.
- Following internal audits by the head office, the accounts of each regional office are individually audited by a local external auditor.
- The head office integrates all annual accounts. Clybouw Bedrijfsrevisoren then reviews the audit reports of the regional offices, and finally audits the integrated financial statements.

The audited annual accounts for 2021 are approved by the General Assembly of 16 June 2021 and can be consulted on the website of the National Bank under company number 0417.299.047.

The auditor has provided the financial statements with an unqualified audit report.

More detailed information about the annual accounts can be obtained from Tom Mestdagh, tel. +32(9)235 25 10.

More information about our organization and the sector can also be found on the site www.ong-livreouvert.be.

Balance

The increase in the balance sheet total is mainly due to the increase in debts following the end of the multi-year program 2017-2021. 98,50% of the subsidies have been accounted for, so that EUR 187 790 has to be repaid to DGD.

Intangible fixed assets

The purchase of the CRM package in 2020 has been capitalized on the balance sheet under the heading intangible fixed assets. This investment is being depreciated over a period of 3 years.

Tangible fixed assets

This only concerns the goods purchased with Join For Water's own funds and donations in kind. The investment goods, purchased with programme funds, are not included in the balance sheet, because the subsidy providers require them to be recorded as costs in the year of purchase.

Allocated funds

In 2016, a start was made with the establishment of an earmarked fund for social liabilities. In the longer term, the objective is to build up this social liability to 20% of the total personnel costs. This earmarked fund was replenished in 2021 and currently amounts to 15% of the total personnel costs..

Capital grants

Join For Water received a donation in kind from CISCO in 2020. This video conference equipment was valued at its market value under the heading tangible fixed assets. The counter value is located under the heading capital grants.

Provisions

In 2021 the provisions were modified as follows:

- the provision for unforeseen costs was increased by EUR 50 000;
- the provision for investments in recruitment campaigns was used for an amount of EUR 48 823 to finance the recruitment campaigns via inserts on the one hand and street recruitment on the other;
- the provisions of EUR 5 000 for the investment in the new accounting software and EUR 22 000 for restructuring were both used through the realization of these costs in fiscal year 2021;
- in Benin, the provision for the purchase of a second-hand car for the amount of EUR 8 613 was also fully reversed in 2021.

Deferred accounts

On the assets side, these are mainly project funds yet to be received per 31.12.2021 and on the liabilities side, these are mainly allocated project funds, which have not yet been spent as at 31.12.2021 and will be carried forward to 2022.

Balance 2021 (in €)

Assets	2021	2020
Fixed assets	45 263	55 431
Intangible fixed assets	6 050	12 100
Tangible fixed assets	14 527	17 204
• Land and buildings	747	0
• Plant, machinery and equipment	9 005	15 863
• Furniture and vehicles	4 776	1 341
Financial fixed assets	24 686	26 127
Current assets	5 347 371	5 076 515
Amounts receivable within 1 year	816 381	301 517
• Trade debtors	122 306	13 833
• Other amounts receivable of which non-interest bearing or at a low rate of interest	694 075	287 684
Cash at bank and in hand	4 095 674	4 591 593
Deferred accounts	435 316	183 405
Total assets	5 392 634	5 131 946
Fixed assets not integrated in the balance*	79 840	114 399
* Fixed assets purchased with programme funds which have to be fully considered as an expense at the request of the institutional donors.		
Liabilities	2021	2020
Liabilities	1 363 986	1 333 003
Permanent funds	667 335	667 335
Allocated funds	403 161	380 374
Result carried forward (*)	286 073	270 462
Capital grants	7 416	14 832
Provisions	401 945	436 288
Provisions for liabilities charges	401 945	436 288
Amounts payable	3 626 704	3 362 655
Amounts payable within 1 year	1 119 262	884 967
• Trade debts	114 578	119 056
• Taxes, remunerations and social security	165 342	136 370
• Other amounts payable	839 342	629 541
Deferred accounts	2 507 442	2 477 688
Total liabilities	5 392 634	5 131 946

Income statement

The result for appropriation for 2021 amounts to EUR +15 610 (including differences due to conversion). The total operating costs of 2021 amount to EUR 7 661 615 and were spent as follows:

- 87.9% for the direct realization of the programme objectives;
- 9.2% for general management by the head office;
- 2.9% for fundraising.

Results 2021 (in €)

	2021	2020
Operating income	7 698 318	8 314 776
Fundraising & Subsidies	7 670 195	8 285 980
• Fundraising	1 120 909	1 057 375
• Subsidies	6 549 286	7 228 605
Other operating income	15 681	12 560
Financial income	8 940	7 437
Extraordinary income	3 502	8 799
Operating charges	7 661 614	8 169 253
Services & other goods	1 011 494	810 172
Remunérations	2 687 814	2 505 148
Depreciations	16 702	65 221
Provisions	-34 343	119 469
Other operating charges	3 959 577	4 645 525
Financial charges	13 048	23 346
Extraordinary charges	7 323	372
RESULT excl. differences due to conversion	36 704	145 524
Differences due to conversion	1 694	-1 877
RESULT after differences due to conversion	38 397	143 647
Addition to allocated funds	22 787	133 570
Positive result carried forward	15 610	10 077

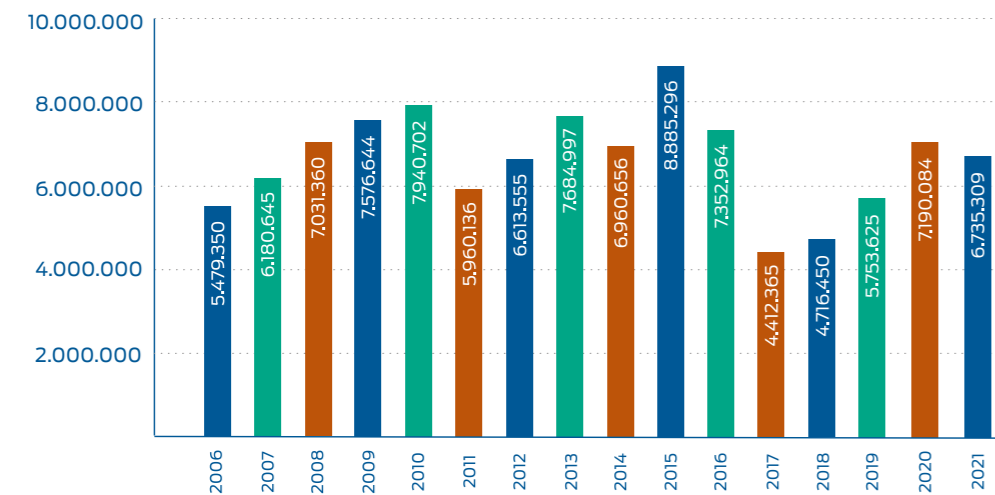
Fundraising

In addition to the grants received, Join For Water used EUR 1 120 909 of its own funds in 2021 for:

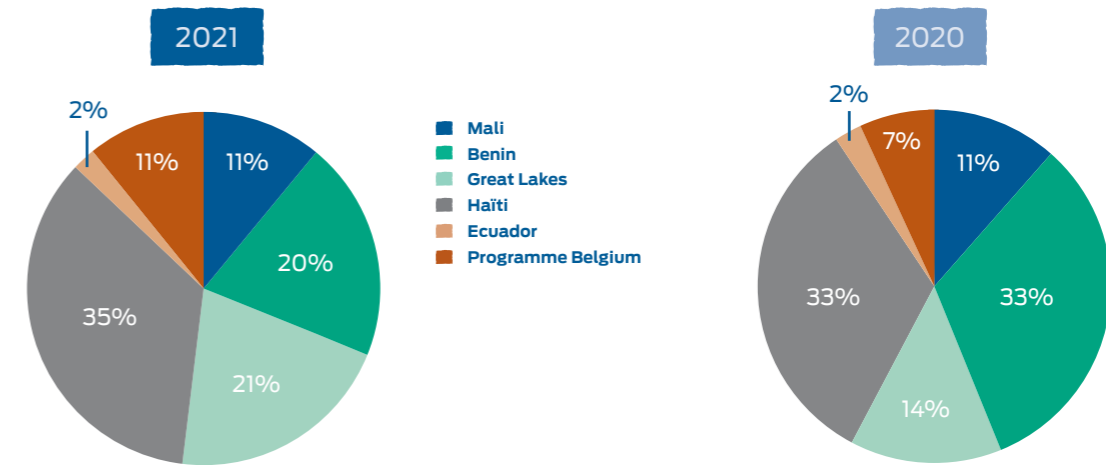
- own contributions for subsidized programmes;
- financing of projects which were not linked to traditional public financing;
- financing of programme-related costs which were not eligible for subsidies;
- financing of a part of the costs for the general management by the head office.

Join For Water gets part of the required NGO contribution for programmes from institutional cofinancing, and does so in a transparent way.

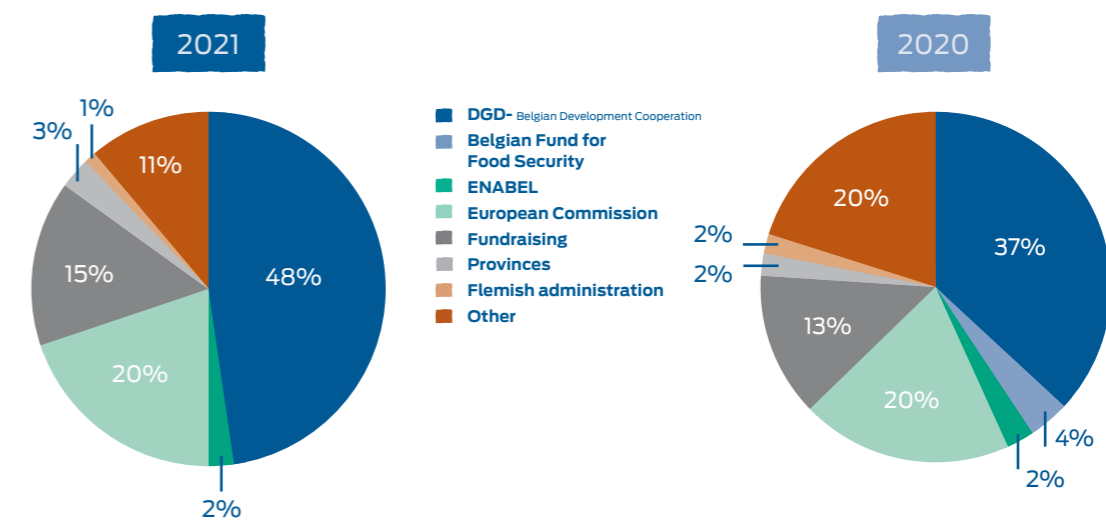
Evolution of the direct expenditure for our programme activities (in €)



The regional distribution of the expenditure for our programme activities



Origin of financing



Report on integrity

Join For Water holds integrity in high esteem. That is why training and exchanges on integrity were again organized in 2021, with the aim of continuously improving the integrity policy. The exchanges were about the roll-out of local hotlines and conducting an investigation in case an integrity violation is identified.

Integrity violations are violations of the Code of Ethics by one of our employees, volunteers or partners. In 2021, 2 integrity violations were reported, one of which was reported via the complaints line on the website and one was established after an internal audit. After the preliminary investigation, one violation was declared admissible.

The observation after the internal audit is a financial violation. The financial risk is EUR 5 080. The investigation has been completed and a complaint has been lodged with the court for further handling of the case. This violation has led to further optimization of internal procedures.





Join For Water

Flamingostraat 36 | 9000 Gent

T +32 (9) 235 25 10

Company registration number: 0417.299.047

info@joinforwater.be

Join us!

BE22 5230 8036 1747



www.joinforwater.be