



Annual report 2020

**Join For
Water**





Looking ahead from today

Resilience is what you need when circumstances are very tough. To persevere, and to look for solutions. That resilience was demonstrated by our partners and staff during the corona crisis. They focused on raising awareness and increasing the availability of water for hand washing. In order to do so, we could rely on the extensive network of drinking water committees that reach out to their members. In the meantime, major efforts have been made to simultaneously conduct the regular activities: ensuring sustainable access to clean water and sanitation for tens of thousands of additional people by 2020. You can read strong testimonials about this in this annual report.

To achieve this sustainability, we are focusing on Integrated Water Resources Management. IWRM is an approach at the level of a local water basin that ensures that the available water is distributed in an equitable manner, for all users and for all purposes. In this annual report you can read about technical solutions, but also about nature based solutions.

Among our partners and supporters, there is a growing awareness that we need a perspective that goes beyond today's water consumers. The supply of fresh water is not infinite. Already we are observing groundwater levels drop and rainfall become volatile, in our partner countries and also here.

This can be addressed in our country and elsewhere through adapted behavior and future-oriented policies. Sometimes we amplify these problems through our indirect water use, through the import and consumption of goods that require a lot of water during their production in vulnerable countries.

That is why our year-end campaign with the 'forestry voucher' was so popular. The investment in the planting of trees in Uganda and here, to protect our and their water supply, is an example of international cooperation in which equality and a shared commitment are paramount.

We count on you to join us on this road, in 2021 and the following years. We would like to thank all the partners and donors who have supported us in a difficult year and look forward to a continued fine collaboration.



Antonique Koning
President



Bart Dewaele
Director

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Key figures 2020

Number of people who have gained access to...



No infrastructure without management M

In 2020 Join For Water empowered local authorities, committees, associations... to ensure proper management:



Partners



Join For Water works with various local partners. In 2020, 33 of them had a signed convention with Join For Water.

Operating income

2019 € 6.920.004
2020 € 8.314.776



Expenditure programmes

2019 € 5.753.625
2020 € 7.190.084

A difficult balancing act Universal access to drinking water and financial sustainability of the services

To make a drinking water supply financially sustainable, there are several options. Together with the drinking water users Join For Water continues to strive for the best solution for each context. This is sometimes a real balancing act.

Join For Water strives for effective access to drinking water for all. This means that, in addition to the drinking water infrastructure being within a reasonable distance, there are no financial, social or other obstacles and no one is excluded. The financial contribution of users is not the only possible obstacle in this regard, but it is an important one. Data collected from our projects show that this universal access does exist and that the price users pay for the service is feasible, even for vulnerable groups. This is obviously good news. But at the same time, this is where the problem lies when we are discussing the management of the drinking water supply and the financial sustainability of the drinking water system.

Management can be done in different ways and by different parties: by volunteers elected by the users, by a government agency, by a private professional manager or by a combination of the above options. It is important that drinking water is always regarded as a public good under the control of the (local) government and/or the users so that privatization of water is out of the question.

Each system has advantages and disadvantages. The ideal scenario of users jointly managing the drinking water system through their committee often does not work. Imagine if we were to maintain our streets together in Flanders: how feasible would that be? In addition, pricing is not a simple matter: they often charge what the population is willing/able to pay, instead of the actual price (that can cover the costs). So it is not easy to make the system financially sustainable. And as a volunteer it is not easy to urge your neighbors to pay their monthly contribution.

Adapting management to the context

Yet it is not all doom and gloom. In several countries, drinking water user committees are increasingly bringing in private individuals or small companies: they are responsible for the correct distribution of the drinking water and for collecting the contribution per volume delivered. And they are remunerated on the basis of their turnover. The committee itself holds the final responsibility and checks that the agreed price is correctly applied. While this is a good solution for cities, it is somewhat more difficult in rural areas, and certainly in challenging or conflict zones, such as Ituri in DR Congo. But even there, the drinking water committees are looking for creative solutions. For example, it is not a good idea to collect contributions monthly: there is no bank nearby and nobody wants to keep their cash money at home. It is a better idea to collect the necessary money for a repair, at the very moment when there is a breakdown.

In other countries, professional management by a private player is consistently implemented. This does imply that the government (or users) must be sufficiently empowered to supervise the manager. And private management must also be sufficiently cost-effective for an operator: the

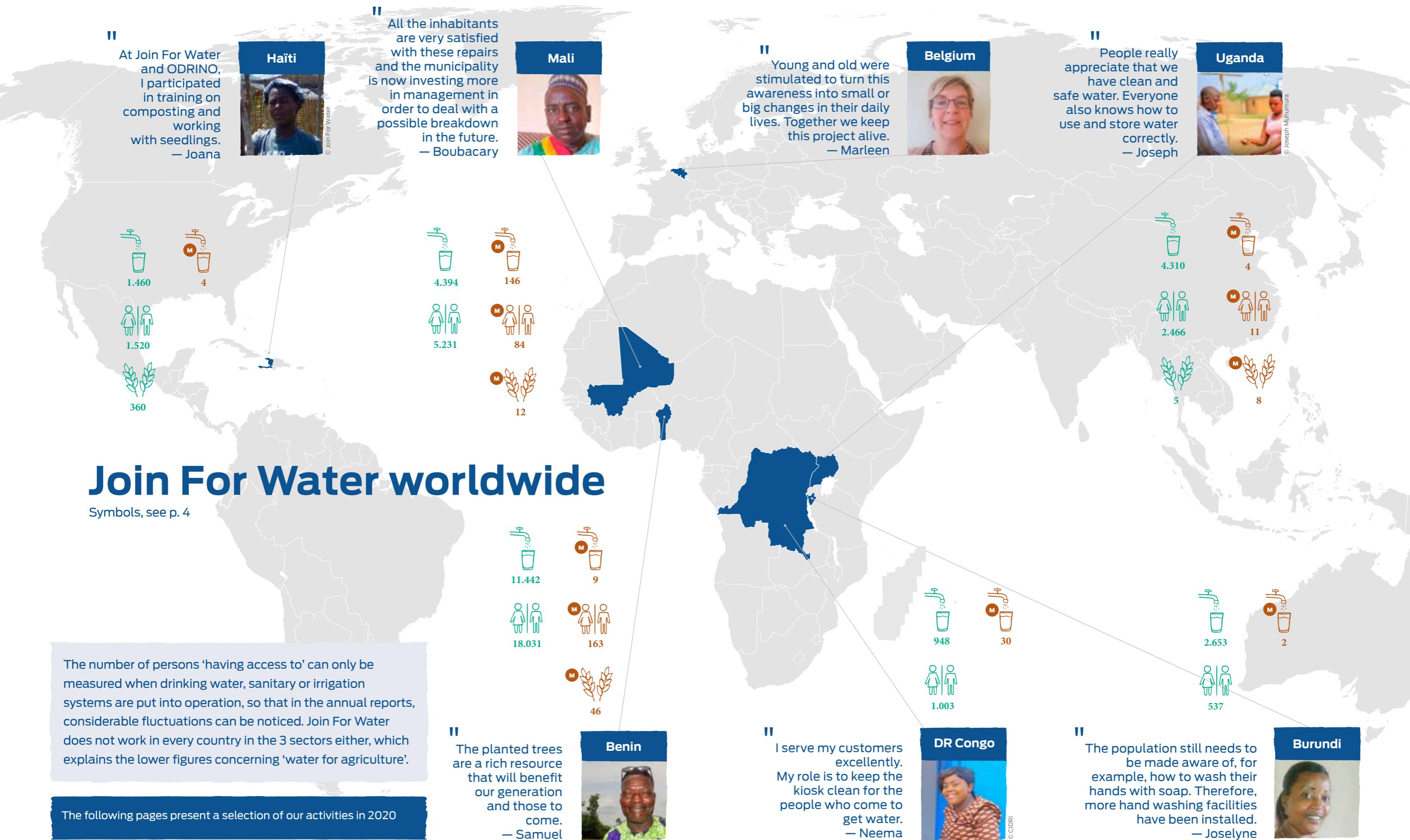
number of customers must be sufficiently high and he or she must have the means and authority to effectively disconnect non-paying customers without excluding the most vulnerable groups. This does not appear to be the case everywhere.

Where professional management is not a possibility, management by the community - professionally supported and guided by the local government - is a viable alternative.

Over the years we have learned what is feasible and what needs to be improved. Searching for the best adapted form of management in each context and support and guidance for this management will remain important issues for Join For Water in the future.



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DRINKING WATER IS ALWAYS REGARDED AS A PUBLIC GOOD UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE (LOCAL) GOVERNMENT AND/OR THE USERS.



Restore the mangrove and everyone wins

BENIN – Mangroves are rich ecosystems, but they are often threatened by logging. In the south of Benin, Join For Water therefore follows a double track: restore the mangroves and provide an alternative for the need of wood.

Mangroves consist of mangrove trees or shrubs and are found only along tropical coasts and in river deltas. They are of great importance for people and the environment: they provide wood for people, they prevent salt water from entering fresh water areas and they protect the coasts from floods, storms and erosion. They also provide a habitat for valuable fish and shellfish species. Mangroves are also carbon sinks, which means they absorb more CO₂ than they emit. Worldwide, mangroves therefore play a crucial role in the pursuit of a CO₂-neutral world.

Conservation and restoration of mangrove forests is, because of their multiple functions, a so-called nature-based solution to the consequences of climate change.

In the southern part of the municipality of Aguégués, mangrove forests lined the banks of the Ouémé and Lake Nokoué until the 1980s. They have almost disappeared after being felled for timber. Meanwhile, so-called acadjas have been constructed in this area. These are like parks created with sawn branches in shallow waters to create a habitat for certain species of fish. It is a typical aquaculture technique for this region.

Join For Water worked with the inhabitants of the municipality of Aguégués to restore the mangrove and to find an alternative to logging so that the new mangrove forest would not be put under pressure again.

The community itself approached Join For Water to join forces. Both parties entered into a dialogue to identify all issues and find sustainable solutions together.

This already led to an impressive result: an area of 8 hectares was replanted with mangrove trees and on 13 hectares fast-growing trees such as acacia, bamboo and eucalyptus were planted. They will be used as firewood and as material for constructions. Of course, these activities were preceded by a lot of consultation, awareness-raising and training on maintenance techniques. In each village, a citizens' committee will supervise the compliance with the restoration rules. Only with an ample accompaniment you can ensure the sustainability of a project like this.

Some figures?

- 800 members of the local community, including 126 women, were involved in the activities;
- 18,500 mangrove seedlings were planted on an area of 8 hectares;
- 32,500 acacia, bamboo and eucalyptus seedlings were planted on an area of 13 hectares.

And now it's up to the trees: seedlings will grow and take up their role in nature.



Testimony

Samuel Ahouansou

52 years old and a fisherman with a large family of 10 children.

" We had no wood left in the village to make fire and the area where we were planting seedlings was not vegetated, everything and everyone passed there, including cattle. I helped to plant the trees. Not everyone wanted to do that, because of the 5 neighbourhoods that our village Djigbékomé counts, only 2 cooperated actively. The others felt that their land was taken away, and afterwards they regretted not having participated.

Join For Water has accompanied us well from the start. That motivated us, because we received explanations and saw that the project was being followed up. We were also paid for our work. It is very positive that we received training on the importance of mangrove forests and on setting up tree nurseries. This will allow us to further protect, maintain and manage the area in the future.

In the coming years, we will have firewood, shade and wood to build our houses. We are also organising ourselves to continue the work, for example, we have used part of our fee to further develop the site and buy more plants.

The project has improved our family's living conditions and food supply, as we now have an income. The planted trees are a rich resource that will benefit our generation and those to come.



Testimony**Boubacary Bah**

is 57 years old and mayor of the municipality of Ouroubé-Doudé in the region of Mopti. He himself lives in the village of Sendégué.

“The faulty pump made the shortage of drinking water felt even more acutely, as the demand for water is only increasing. We also saw that families reverted to undesirable practices such as using water from the river and wells, with all the health risks that this entailed.

Our municipality did not have additional resources to repair and guarantee the water supply, and the regional government could not include Bokoré in its planning. They advised us to contact Action Mopti. They were then able to make the necessary repairs with the support of Join For Water.

All the residents are very happy with these repairs and the municipality is now investing more in management to deal with possible breakdowns. We also make sure that the members of the user association pay their contributions. They also have a role in ensuring the sustainability of the drinking water supply. As a municipality, we foresee an expansion of the infrastructure, as more and more people come to live in Bokoré, fleeing their unsafe environment.



© Join For Water

Terror does not stop repair of water system

MALI – Despite the continuing threat of terror, our local partner Action Mopti managed to have the drinking water system of Bokoré rehabilitated. This is very crucial, because in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus, the inhabitants must have access to water at all times.

In the region around Mopti, the security situation has deteriorated significantly since 2012. There are no longer any government representatives, which gives armed jihadists free rein. The population is under strong pressure, and international development organizations are also under threat. This has led to the closure of our antenna in Mopti. Since then, our activities have been carried out by our sound local partner Action Mopti.

The case of the village of Bokoré demonstrates that having a good partner is of vital importance.

Bokoré is located in the region around Mopti and has 6,000 inhabitants. For their drinking water, the inhabitants depend on a large drinking water system, with a water tower, solar-powered pump and 10 taps. Unfortunately, the pump broke down in June 2019. Ouroubé-Doudé, the municipality to which the village of Bokoré belongs and owner of the water system, took the initiative, as it should, to repair the pump. The jihadists made consultation between the municipality and its local partners impossible: access to Bokoré was always denied to them. In addition, the jihadists imposed a tax, both on the residents and on the municipality. As a result, Bokoré had no resources for the rehabilitation of the pump.

Finally, the repair of the pump succeeded, after the intervention of our partner Action Mopti. A local repair service was allowed to repair the pump thanks to their mediation. Join For Water provided financial support. The repair is fantastic news, because the population now has access to clean drinking water and has water to wash their hands. This is important to prevent the coronavirus from spreading.

The municipality of Ouroubé-Doudé will continue to receive support for the sustainable management of its water infrastructure.

THE USERS ALSO HAVE A ROLE IN
ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY.

© Joseph Muhumuza



Testimony

Wilson Beyunga
is 50 years old and an operator of a water point.

“People really appreciate that we have clean and safe water. Everyone also knows how to use and store water correctly. To drink and prepare food, the water is boiled. Right now, a person who previously used one jerrycan is now in position to use three or more because a jerrycan is only one hundred shillings* which is very affordable.

*2,50 eurocents

© Joseph Muhumuza



Fred Byamugisha
is 28 years old and has a family with three children.

“We have been using water from lake George which is contaminated and it is very dirty. We have been using the water for almost everything and people would get cases of typhoid, worms, bilharzia and cough. At times, I fear sending a child to fetch water from the lake because he or she may find a dangerous aquatic animal or even drown. The situation is much more favourable for us now. It is now very safe to fetch water and the water taps are easily accessible. We now have clean and safe water for domestic use. The water borne diseases have gradually decreased and now we are living happier and healthier.

Water from the tap around the clock

UGANDA – For the fishing village of Kyendangara, 2020 brought an important development. The population can now fetch water around the clock from an automated water dispenser. Of course, there are still several public taps.

For a public water point, you need someone to keep the kiosk open. He or she is then present during the day and receives the money that the water users pay for their full jerrycan. So people can only buy water when the water point is open, but the new water automat has changed all that.

It works very easily. Users are given an electronic token on which they can load money, a bit like a prepaid SIM card for a mobile phone. They swipe this token at the sensor of the water dispenser, after which 21 litres of water flow from the tap. That is the volume of a full jerrycan. The inhabitants of Kyendangara can therefore fetch water at any time of the day, even when the regular drinking water points are closed.

For the water system, a 9 km long pipeline was laid, with several tapping points and this electronic water dispenser. The 4,466 inhabitants of Kyendangara no longer have to walk 3 km to an unsafe water source. They save time and now have access to safe drinking water.

Nice to know : the project was made possible by the 10 Join For Water supporters who travelled to Uganda in February 2020.



© George Bwambale

Human manure boosts agriculture

BURUNDI – It may sound a little strange, but human excrement is also valuable for agriculture. Our Burundian partner AVEDEC provided us with two examples of how human manure created great changes.

The EcoSan latrine is a terrific solution for people and the environment. The faeces are collected separately: urine is diverted to a barrel or a bidon, solid excrement ends up in a separate container. After a few months, the excrement can be used as fertilizer on the land. What's more, they give agriculture a serious boost. And a flourishing agriculture immediately offers good prospects for the farmers and their families.

Schools

In recent years, Join For Water and its Burundian partner AVEDEC have built many EcoSan latrines at schools. The manure produced by these latrines is used on the horticultural land of the schools and the results are amazing. The maize, beans and amaranth grow luxuriantly.

The fields not only provide more vegetables for the school kitchens. The schools no longer have to invest in chemical, polluting fertilizer products. And some schools sell part of the yield and use the proceeds to buy soap, chlorine and brooms to keep the school environment clean.

Vulnerable women

Ethnic violence in the 1990s left many women widowed. They were left alone with their children. A situation like this is a recipe for poverty in Burundi. Through our partner AVEDEC, 500 women in the municipality of Isale were supported: each of them received a rainwater harvesting system, a less polluting oven, poultry, rodents, a vegetable garden... and an EcoSan latrine.

Again, the manure from the latrines improved agricultural production. The women grow carrots, amaranth, beans, eggplants and cabbages, among other things. Some of the vegetables they use to feed their families, the rest of them are sold. With the proceeds they buy clothes or pay the school fees of the children.



THE FAMILIES GROW
VEGETABLES IN A KITCHEN
GARDEN NEAR THEIR HOMES.

© AVEDEC

Testimony



Joselyne Hatungimana

has been working for more than 10 years with Join For Water's partner in Burundi, AVEDEC (Association Villageoise pour l'Entraide et le Développement). Joselyne is responsible for logistics and administrative support to the management.

“

AVEDEC's head office is in Gitega, but I also work in the capital Bujumbura, 100 km away.

In AVEDEC's vision, the entire population has access to drinking water and lives in a healthy environment. AVEDEC's approach has become more participatory over the years.

In the past, AVEDEC itself carried out the water and sewerage works, but now implementation and management are more in the hands of the community, the municipality, the local staff of the province, the local companies. As a result the community itself becomes the owner of the facilities. As far as the EcoSans are concerned, it is a good thing that now more girls go to school because there is room for personal hygiene in the latrines at school. And the latrine 'products' are no longer considered dirty, because with the proper treatment they also have an economic value, and they provide greater revenues.

I am happy that in recent years I have been able to learn a lot about water management and administration. As a woman, I have my own responsibilities and my capacities are valued. AVEDEC is truly a gender-aware organisation.

2020? The Covid-19 crisis has slowed down our activities, among other things because we were not allowed to travel. The population still needs to be made aware of, for example, how to wash their hands with soap. More hand washing facilities have been installed and, fortunately, there was also an obligation to wear masks on public transport.

For the next few years, I still foresee work on better management of the drinking water services and on information about the transmission of Covid-19 and its prevention.



© Salomon Niyonzima

The impact of insecurity and violence on activities in Ituri

DR CONGO – Working in the countries where Join For Water is operating, is never easy. But sometimes we have no choice but to temporarily halt our activities. And then we have to start anew.

From 1999 to 2007, a civil war raged in Ituri, killing more than 50,000 people and displacing half a million. Our partner CIDRI temporarily moved to a relatively quieter area and continued the work from there. Drinking water systems continued to function as well as possible, reflecting the resilience of the population and the commitment of CIDRI and the management committees.

Many of the displaced people settled in the cities, where they put a lot of pressure on the drinking water systems, which could not meet the high demand.

After a relatively calm period of 10 years, violence has flared up again in Ituri since 2017. Armed militias are attacking villages, looting, raping and killing. The rural population is fleeing to the cities. The pressure on basic services such as drinking water is increasing.

In these circumstances, Join For Water supported CIDRI in building a drinking water system for 28,000 people in the provincial capital Bunia. The project was delayed due to insecurity, but the system was completed in early September 2020.

The population could not benefit for long, because a few weeks later this new system and another one managed by Caritas (coincidentally the first system CIDRI ever built, over 30 years ago) were sabotaged by a militia in the source zone. Under protection of the Congolese army, technicians were sent to make the necessary repairs.

Three technicians escaped death while preparing the repairs of the Ngongo drinking water pipeline. They were just outside Bunia when they heard shots around the place where other technicians were working. Those men, technicians from Caritas, have not returned and there is no news from them. Our thoughts are with their families.

Join For Water brought this particular case to the attention of the Congolese government at provincial and national level, because of its responsibility to protect the population and guarantee basic services. The Belgian government and the European Union were also informed, as they were contributing financially to the project.



© CIDRI

At the provincial level, the Governor and CIDRI initiated a mediation process. Other organisations from civil society and also the Church were involved. Far from the central government, the Church has an important role in ensuring access to basic services such as drinking water. The aim was to reach a non-violent agreement for the repair of the drinking water systems. The group behind this sabotage is made up of young people from the area. They do not represent the population, but they do originate from it. Listening to their grievances proved especially important.

In the end, this initiative led to the repair of both drinking water systems and gave the population of some neighbourhoods in Bunia access to safe drinking water again.

Testimony

Neema

is responsible for one of the drinking water kiosks in Bankoko district of Bunia.

I serve my customers excellently, I respect them and we get along well. My role is to keep the kiosk clean for the people who come to get water. My customers can count on me to have clean water. I also help them to lift the jerrycans.



© CIDRI

Lakes, a versatile resource of food security

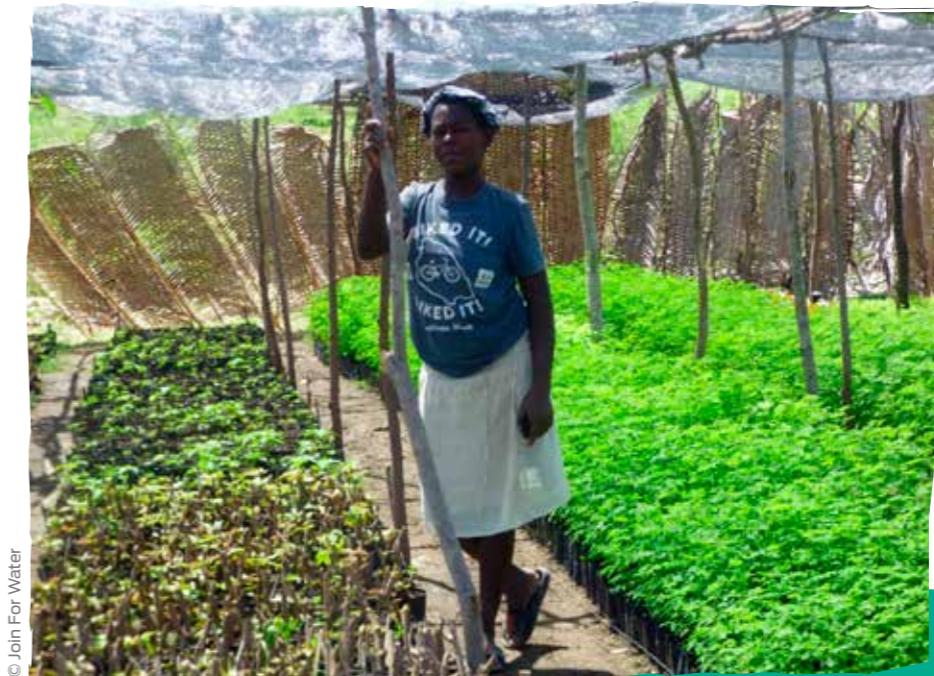
HAITI – In the northwest of Haiti, embankments were built on natural depressions in the hills. This has created small lakes, excellent catchment areas for rainwater. Together with our local partners, we worked on a better arrangement and management of 8 of these lakes.

The inhabitants of this mountainous region lead an isolated existence, far from basic facilities and often subject to longer droughts due to climate change. For them, these lakes are an aid in the fight against food insecurity. They provide water for domestic and horticultural use. But the lakes also serve other functions. They replenish the aquifers and provide a home to the flora and fauna. They prevent water from seeping away too quickly and protect lower farmlands by retaining sediments such as soil and rocks. This is crucial because the lower-lying areas around the Moustiques River have many irrigated fields. The yield of these fields not only provides the staple food for the farmers and their families, but also an income.

If you want to protect and manage these lakes, technical expertise and an appropriate social approach are needed. Join For Water and its partner ODRINO strive to ensure that water is available fairly and sustainably to all users and for all purposes. And this is best achieved with the approach of Integrated Water Management. Each lake has its own consultative body with all stakeholders and an adequate management plan, as with a river basin.



THE LAKES, SUCH AS LAC LAURENT,
FULFIL MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS.



Testimony

Joana Petit Blanc Jean

is 45 years old and a mother of 7 children. She also looks after the three children of one of her sisters. She lives in Raymond, in the Denise basin. She works on the land and sells some of her produce. Joana actively participated in the protection of Lake "Laurent".

Since 2005, I have been a member of a women's organisation. I have followed training on microcredit, agriculture, leadership... At Join For Water and ODRINO, I participated in training on composting and working with seedlings. That's how I got involved in the organisation and protection of the small river basin of Lake Laurent. I have planted about 1,000 seedlings for the reforestation of the area upstream. Thanks to this project, the lake will be put to better use, for instance by planting trees, cultivating fish, horticulture... I myself have gained more knowledge, I earn money by cultivating vegetables and I don't have to buy them anymore.

I hope that we will have fewer difficulties in getting vegetable seeds. I would like to continue to be involved in activities of Join For Water and ODRINO to learn more and have an income, so that I can take good care of my family.

Water Counts!

BELGIUM – For Join For Water Belgium, 2020 primarily focused on raising awareness on the water footprint.

In recent years, water resources worldwide have been under increasing pressure, also in Flanders. Our consumption habits have a part in this. For example, a lot of water is needed to make clothing and meat products. When we buy these things, we indirectly consume this water.

The activities of Join For Water in Belgium, together with the schools and the municipalities, have been focusing on the water footprint for several years. In 2020, the time had come for a major public campaign. Both the website and the campaign we launched were named "Water Telt" or Water counts. With a tool on the website - the calculator - anyone can calculate their water footprint. In this way, we make people reflect on their daily indirect water usage. The website also offers extensive information and numerous tips on saving water.



To support the campaign, we distributed videos, visual material and advertisements via social media, TV and the press during three months, starting on World Water Day 22 March 2020. A TV ad with 2 Flemish actors was shown on television. After all, Join For Water had won airtime, which we could use for this. We also used influencers for promotion and had animated films made. Unfortunately, the planned event in Brussels, where we were going to have some renowned speakers on the agenda, could not take place due to the corona crisis.

The campaign and the website were an incredible and, above all, surprising success! People liked it a lot on social media and the reactions were enthusiastic. Press attention went through the roof, especially during spring,

when a long period of drought started in Flanders. At the end of the campaign - in June 2020 - just under 17,000 people had calculated their water footprint. During the summer, the number even exceeded 20,000! We would like to capitalise this momentum.

In the meantime, the website has been transformed into 'waterchallenge.be' in order to work on change after raising awareness. Of course, all information and the calculator can still be found there.

THE WATER CHALLENGE.

Join For Water collaborates closely in Flanders with municipalities and schools, both primary and secondary, to create more awareness about the local and global importance of sustainable water use and a reduced water footprint.

Testimony

Kathleen De Wulf

is Sustainability Officer at the municipality of Evergem and already implemented a change in 2020.

The municipality of Evergem switched from bottled water to tap water and provided drinking bottles for all employees and several water taps in the buildings. We no longer buy bottled water and have installed tap installations in our 8 municipal buildings in central locations where employees can fill their water bottles. There is a choice between still or sparkling water, chilled or at room temperature. Those who like their water flavoured can add a dash of syrup. All employees received a drinking bottle with our logo and core values on it. We sensitised our colleagues to use the taps and now nobody is questioning it anymore. They are used to filling their bottles when they come in and take them to work. The water taps also ensure that the employees exercise more because they regularly come to refill their bottles. The colleagues get to know each other even better across the departments.



Testimony

Katrien Leyns

is 42 and a teacher of the 4th grade at 'De Kinderberg' in Bierbeek. This primary school enthusiastically embarked on a project to use water more sustainably.

Our school already undertook various sustainable actions, but Join For Water encouraged us to find out what else we can do at school, in the classroom and at home to reduce our water footprint.

Teachers, children and parents alike gained a better understanding of how we use water and what we can do to reduce our water footprint. Drinking tea instead of coffee, using more often vegetarian spreads on our sandwiches, visiting a second-hand shop, reflecting on how much indirect water is needed to make each product that ends up in our shops, ...

Young and old were encouraged to transform this awareness into small or large changes in their daily lives. Together, we keep this project alive, because in the end, even small changes can make a big difference to the future of our children!

Colleagues looking back



Philippe Saint Croix | 46 years | Haiti

Working for Join For Water since 2018 | Coordinator of the European Programme in the Northwest

2020 was a special year for 2 reasons: the ongoing socio-political crisis in our country and of course the corona crisis with a four-month lockdown. The activities in the field were therefore delayed. In spite of everything, we were still very active: we were able to raise and plant almost 109,500 tree seedlings, build irrigation channels in the plain of the Moustiques

River and deliver compost, which we make in the tree nurseries, to the farmers. More than 1,253 vulnerable families received support through our international partners. To bridge food shortage periods, the poorest received vouchers to exchange for locally produced food. There was also a lot of extra attention for hygiene. We distributed buckets with a tap and soap to local traders and raised awareness among families about hygiene. In six public places, people could wash their hands. I was very happy that we were able to participate in this way in the Covid-19 relief effort.

Mady Bagayoko | 59 years | Mali

Cooperation with Join For Water since 2006 | Director of Action Mopti

Over the years, our role as partner of Join For Water has changed from an operational partner - responsible for the implementation of infrastructure - to a more strategic partner. Today, there is a full partnership, with more autonomy and responsibilities for us. We receive coaching from Join For Water from Bamako, so that we are strong enough to manage the programme in the Mopti region properly.* We are very satisfied with the

cooperation with Join For Water and the evolution towards increased autonomy. Our teams were able to do a good job in the beneficiary villages.

* Action Mopti has been a partner of Join For Water in Mali since 2006. Due to the unsafe political situation, it is not easy to work in the region of Mopti. The need for clean drinking water and sanitation facilities is nevertheless very high. The organisation has an important role to play there. For security reasons, Join For Water had to close its regional office in Mopti in 2017.

George Bwambale | 35 years | Uganda

Since 2016 | Program officer

I mainly follow up on the planning and implementation of activities by our partners. I do a lot of field visits and follow the meetings of partners, local authorities, ... In 2020, all 'software' activities, such as meetings, trainings, workshops, which bring many people together, were cancelled. Because of the corona crisis, our projects were delayed due to the disruption of supplies - such as building materials - and the decrease in manpower. The

most important thing was to limit or prevent the spread of the virus and other infections. We put extra effort into sensitization with posters and through radio broadcasts. With our partners, we took extra measures at the water points and provided more handwashing facilities, including soap and sanitizers. There were also caretakers present throughout the day to make sure everyone complied with the precautionary measures. For me and my colleagues, the corona crisis also meant working from home and juggling work, family and other responsibilities



Chloë De Raedt | 31 years | Belgium

Since 2019 | Communication officer and graphic designer

2020 was a very special and exciting year for me. At Join For Water, I got the opportunity to put my weight behind a wonderful project around the water footprint: creating a tool and campaign to make people more aware about their water consumption. The success of the website watertelt.be ("water counts") surprised us. Last summer, the counter stood at just under 20,000, the number of people that calculated their water footprint! One of the best

moments was the day the campaign film was shot. I also learned a lot about communication strategy, web design and working with influencers during the roll-out of the campaign. The positive reactions of the visitors of our website stay with me the most. A lot of enthusiastic people started living (somewhat) more water conscious lives. Mission accomplished!

WATCH THE VIDEO.

CALCULATE THE WATER FOOTPRINT.



Baldomer Agbodové Migan | 40 years | Benin

Since 2019 | Project Manager for Integrated Water Management in Nouvelle Vallée de Ouémé



2020 was special because we were still able to carry out all tasks and activities we had planned, despite the context of the corona pandemic. I especially worked on the planning and implementation of the rehabilitation of the mangrove forests. I am satisfied that I contributed to the restoration of this particular ecosystem, important for the protection of water resources. It was

satisfying to make communities understand the importance of mangroves and to involve them in the activities.

All hands on deck

Raising funds from the general public during a pandemic is not easy. No familiarization trip, no fundraising, no events. We also had to put our plans for street recruitment on hold. On top of that, The Warmest Week (a fundraising action organized by a Flemish radio station) was transformed into a volunteer event, and no longer focused on fundraising.

We did not throw in the towel and pulled out all the stops to recruit new donors through inserts in newspapers and through an online campaign. For the end of the year, we came up with an original fundraising campaign: if you donated 40 euros, you planted 40 trees in Uganda. We donated 1 euro to our partner BOS+, for a reforestation project in Flanders. Those who wanted to could buy a 'Bosbon', a voucher for trees, and give it to someone as a present. Companies that supported the tree planting campaign received a certificate for their contribution, to display in their reception or meeting room. The action was picked up by various media and was a hit.

In February 2020, a third edition of the familiarization trip took place, but no new one was planned. The loss of this income, the cancellation of the Warmest Week and the postponement of street recruitment will be felt especially in 2021. We must continue to look for successful fundraising formulas. Moreover, uncertain times once again demonstrate the importance of loyal donors. Therefore, we will continue to fine-tune the donor journey and guide our supporters as much as possible to the club of Water Friends, our monthly donors. In order to monitor this properly, in 2020 we implemented Salesforce, a tool for customer relations management (CRM).



[WATCH A MOVIE ABOUT OUR TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN IN UGANDA.](#)



[WATCH A MOVIE ABOUT OUR TREE PLANTING EVENT IN BELGIUM.](#)



© Dries Moorthamers

Documentary for various TV channels

In February 2020, before the corona epidemic, we made a television documentary about our work in Benin. Our Benin partner AVPN guided Join For Water supporters Cato, Bart and Célestin around in the southwest of the country. They experienced the impact of our projects on drinking water, sanitation, agriculture and integrated water management.

The documentary was possible thanks to the financial support of our partner De Watergroep and will be broadcasted in the course of 2021 on several TV channels.

[WATCH THE FIRST EPISODE OF THE DOCUMENTARY.](#)



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 organisations. By working together, they contribute to the realisation of SDG 6 "Ensure access to sustainable water and sanitation for all".



Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs wants to stimulate and strengthen socio-economic business projects and initiatives in Africa and other developing countries. Companies can do this through a project of a Belgian NGO or directly by supporting a SME in a developing country.



The Shift is the Belgian network for sustainability. The aim is to work with members and partners to achieve the transition to a better society and economy. The method: Connect. Commit. Change.



ngo-federatie is the federation of Flemish NGOs and offers its members quality work, representation of interests and a wide range of training courses.



11.11.11 is the umbrella organisation of the Flemish North-South movement, and carries out joint political action for the development of the South and informs the public about just North-South relations.



Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD) is the French-speaking North South umbrella organisation.



Perspective 2030 is a partnership for a better world by 2030. A coalition of Belgian NGOs with joint action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and follow-up of the Belgian contribution to the realisation of those goals.



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 its local partner CEFODI are working together to implement this cooperation agreement.



The Province of Flemish Brabant is putting extra effort into climate actions in the South with a number of projects. Together with Join For Water, they are investing in the project: "Improved water management for a better adaptation to climate change in Haiti".

EPfW – European Pact for Water is a European network of organisations active in the field of water that wants to put SDG 6 (water and sanitation) higher on the European political agenda through advocacy, information and awareness-raising 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.

The 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 provide advice on how to strengthen development cooperation on the theme of water. Join For Water is one of the initiators of this informal and horizontal platform.

De watercoalitie is a group of Flemish environmental organisations that strive for water management in Flanders. Today, the group consists of BBL, Natuurpunt, Join For Water, Waterland, West Flanders Environmental Federation and Gents MilieuFront and is supported by numerous other environmental organisations. In 2020, the Water coalition successfully called on citizens and local associations to file objections to the proposals of the river basin management plans of the Flemish Government. After this first achievement, the Water coalition wants to continue as a critical watchdog for Flemish water management.

Thanks

Only thanks to your contributions, Join For Water was able to realize the programmes for drinking water, sanitation and water for agriculture. We really appreciate that support. A heartfelt thank you to all!

All donors, volunteers, supporters and fans!

Provincial authorities:

- Limburg
- East-Flanders
- Flemish-Brabant
- West-Flanders

City and municipality authorities:

- Berlare
- Bierbeek
- Ghent
- Lebbeke
- Ranst
- Arcadis Belgium
- Antea Group Belgium
- Aquafin
- Farys
- BOS+
- BOSAQ
- De Watergroep
- FARYS
- Gents MilieuFront
- KU Leuven, Departement EES
- Universiteit Antwerpen IMDO (Antwerp University)
- VMM
- VVSG

For the financing of the programme and partner operation:

- 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 and foundations:

- 11.11.11
- 4UCAMPUS
- ACLVB - CGSLB via ALIMENTO
- Antea Group Belgium nv
- Aquafin via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- Aquaflanders
- Association Sud-Nord
- Co-Valent via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- Denys via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- De Watergroep
- Ecobeton Water Technologies
- Familie en vrienden Elise Delsaerdt
- FARYS
- Filip Roels Management consulting
- Ghent Dredging
- Herbosch-Kiere
- HidroPLUS PIDPA
- IMDC
- Koning Boudewijnstichting - Music for Life
- Koning Boudewijnstichting - Fonds Elisabeth en Amélie
- KrisKras
- LAGO zwemparadijzen
- Leivoeders - Cibus
- Nationale Loterij
- Nature Solutions
- North Sea Port Ghent via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- P.I.D.P.A.
- Sanitechniek via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- SEDEF
- Sipwell
- SMA Benelux
- Social Dialogue Network
- Sonvigo International
- Sopra Steria
- The Busy Factory via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- TREVI nv
- UEBH
- Upgrade Estate
- Vandendriven, Finipur
- VEKO Houtwerk
- Vienne JO via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- Water Circle
- Wienerberger via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs
- Willemen Groep via Entrepreneurs pour Entrepreneurs



Working on integrity

Join For Water holds integrity in high esteem. Therefore, we are constantly working to improve our integrity policy. In 2020, no integrity violations were reported. However, further steps were taken in the development of the policy.

For instance, the updated articles of association refer explicitly to the ethical code. The articles state that in addition to the employees, the members of both the Executive Board and the General Assembly must also endorse the values and standards. The ethical code was therefore presented to the members of the General Assembly.

In order to be able to act correctly against possible violations of integrity, Join For Water also developed a complaints procedure in 2020. An important guaranteed principle is the protection of the notifier and/or victim, as well as the accused. The creation of a [hotline on the website](#) to report violations of integrity resulted from this. A complaints manager was appointed. Only this person has access to the information of the complaint.

In this way, Join For Water is fully compliant with the provisions of the integrity charter, which was signed in 2018 by all actors of the Belgian Development Cooperation.



Uganda © Goedele Opsomer

Notes to the financial statements 2020

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 head office, the accounts of each regional office are individually audited by a local external auditor.
- 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 2020 are approved by the General Assembly of 03 June 2020 and can be consulted on the National Bank's website 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 with Tom Mestdagh, tel. +32 9 235 25 16.

More information about our organisation and the sector can also be found on the website www.ngo-openboek.be.

Balance sheet

Intangible fixed assets

The costs incurred in 2017 and 2018 for recruiting new donors contribute to the fundraising income over several years and are capitalised on the balance sheet under the heading intangible fixed assets. This investment was fully depreciated by the end of 2020.

The purchase of the CRM tool (client relation management) in 2020 was also capitalised 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 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 these social liability to 20% of the total personnel costs. This earmarked fund was replenished in 2020 and currently amounts to 15% of total staff 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 of tangible fixed assets. The counter value is found under the heading capital grants

The provisions

In 2020, the provisions were modified as follows:

- the provision for returning expats was reversed for an amount of EUR 22,990. The expat in question is now no longer employed and has not used the capitalisation period;
- the provision for unforeseen costs was increased by an amount of EUR 60,000;
- a provision for pending litigation was made for the amount of EUR 25,000. Due to the closure of an antenna, the contract of the local staff member was terminated. This staff member has filed a lawsuit for wrongful dismissal;
- the provision for investments in recruitment campaigns was used on the one hand for an amount of EUR 6,050 to finance the CRM-system;
- on the other hand, the provision for investments in recruitment campaigns was increased by EUR 50,000. In order to achieve the financial strategy as discussed by the Administrative Body on 30/03/2021, further investments in recruitment campaigns and further diversification of resources are required;
- a provision was made for the investment in a new accounting application in 2021 for the amount of 5,000 EUR;
- in Benin, a provision was made for the purchase of a second-hand car in 2021 for the amount of 8,613 EUR.

Accrued charges and deferred income accounts

On the assets side, these are mainly project funds yet to be received per 31.12.2020 and on the liabilities side, these are mainly allocated project funds, which have not yet been spent as at 31.12.2020 and will be carried forward to 2021.

Balance 2020 (in €)

	2020	2019
Assets		
Fixed assets	55 431	74 460
Intangible fixed assets	12 100	49 342
Tangible fixed assets	17 204	4 024
· Land and buildings	0	0
· Plant, machinery and equipment	15 863	2 235
· Furniture and vehicles	1 341	1 788
Financial fixed assets	26 127	21 094
Current assets	5 076 515	6 237 764
Amounts receivable within 1 year	301 517	745 675
· Trade debtors	13 833	1 947
· Other amounts receivable of which non-interest bearing or at a low rate of interest	287 684	743 728
Cash at bank and in hand	4 591 593	5 263 992
Deferred accounts	183 405	228 096
Total assets	5 131 946	6 312 224
Fixed assets not integrated in the balance*	468 730	96 394
*Fixed assets purchased with programme funds which have to be fully considered as an expense at the request of the institutional donors.		
Liabilities	2020	2019
Liabilities	1 333 003	1 174 525
Permanent funds	667 335	667 335
Allocated funds	380 374	246 804
Result carried forward (*)	270 462	260 385
Capital grants	14 832	0
Provisions	436 288	316 818
Provisions for liabilities and charges	436 288	316 818
Amounts payable	3 362 655	4 820 881
Amounts payable within 1 year	884 967	655 364
· Trade debts	119 056	97 665
· Taxes, remunerations and social security	136 370	157 964
· Other amounts payable	629 541	399 735
Deferred accounts	2 477 688	4 165 518
Total liabilities	5 131 946	6 312 224

Income statement

The result for appropriation for 2020 amounts to EUR +10,077 (including differences due to conversion).

The total operating costs of 2020 amount to EUR 8,169,253 and were spent as follows:

- 88.0% for the direct realisation of the programme objectives;
- 9.1% for general management by the head office;
- 2.9% for fundraising.

Results 2020 (in €)

	2020	2019
Operating income		
Fundraising & Subsidies		
▪ Fundraising		
▪ Subsidies		
Other operating income	12 560	19 143
Financial income	7 437	5 007
Extraordinary income	8 799	35 997
Operating charges	8 169 253	6 838 365
Services & other goods	810 172	872 942
Remunerations	2 505 148	2 468 044
Depreciations	65 221	203 907
Provisions	119 469	-116 125
Other operating charges	4 645 525	3 393 300
Financial charges	23 346	15 884
Extraordinary charges	372	413
RESULT excl. differences due to conversion	145 524	81 638
Differences due to conversion	- 1 877	571
RESULT after differences due to conversion	143 647	82 209
Addition to allocated funds	133 570	76 506
Positive result carried forward	10 077	5 703

Fundraising

In addition to the grants received, Join For Water used EUR 1,057,375 of its own funds for:

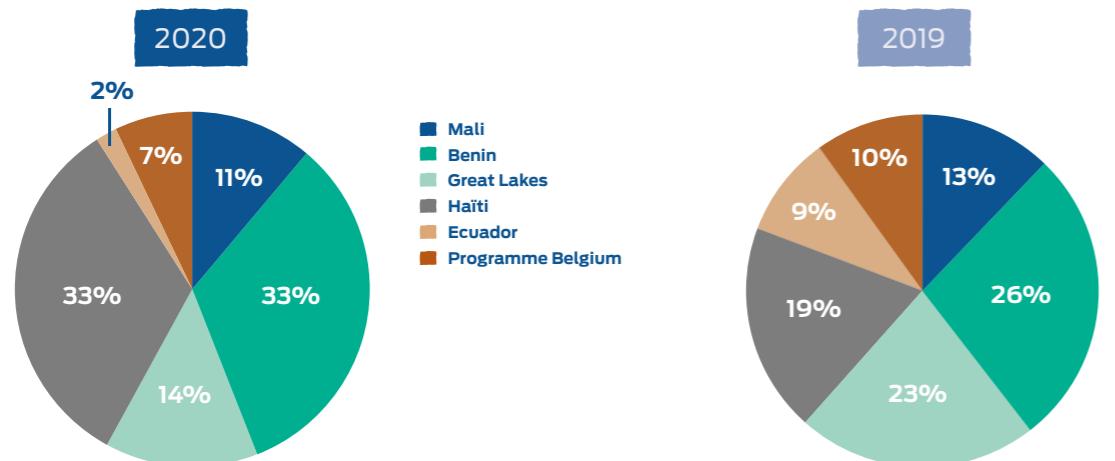
- own contributions for subsidised programmes;
- financing of projects, which were not linked to traditional public financing;
- financing of non-eligible costs related to the programmes;
- financing of part of the general management cost by the head office.

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

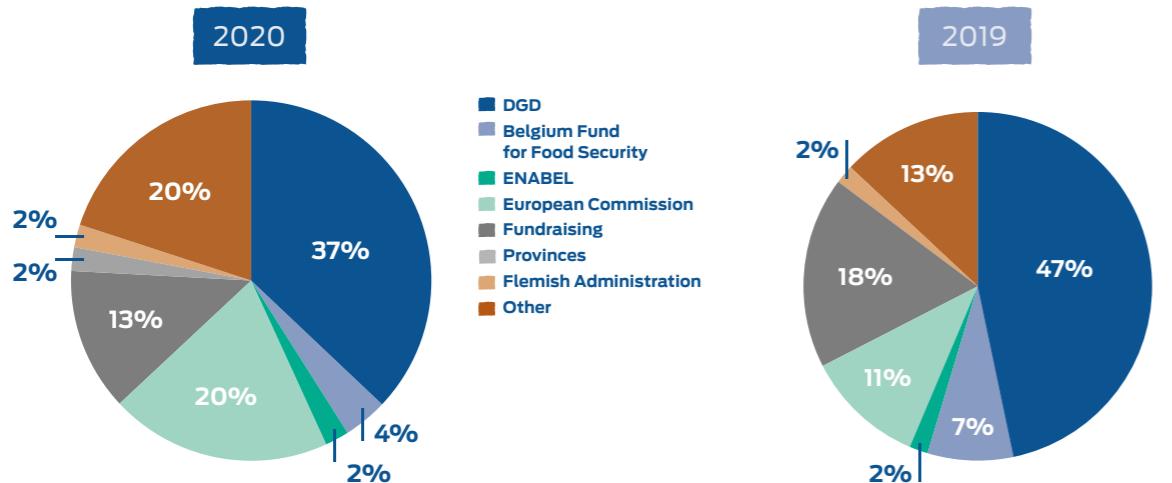
Evolution of the direct expenditure for our programme activities (in €)



The regional distribution of the expenditure for our programme activities



Origin of financing



Join For Water is committed to diversifying its sources of income, thereby reducing dependence on our main donor, DGD, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation.





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