Women for Water Partnership

Annual Report 2018

THE ANSWER IS IN NATURE

HOW CAN WE REDUCE FLOODS, DROUGHTS AND WATER POLLUTION?
BY USING THE SOLUTIONS WE ALREADY FIND IN NATURE.
DIVE IN AT WORLDWATERDAY.ORG
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Message from the President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

Dear Friends,

“The answer is in nature”. Nature-based solutions was the theme of the World Water Day in 2018, and many events were organised centred on this topic. Women for Water Partnership focussed on the wisdom women demonstrate in using or finding nature-based solutions, for example during the Stockholm Water Week.

In this Annual Report we pay special attention to the projects members are implementing as well as their advocacy activities which are all contributing to sustainable developments goals 6 and 5. We are grateful to the 16 members who devoted their time to participate in the annual survey. We are very proud of what our members accomplished in 2018; the results are striking, also considering the small budgets members have to realise projects and advocacy work.

One of the highlights of 2018 was the 8th World Water Forum held in Brazil in March. We were present with nine participants and acted a.o. as a co-organiser of the regional European process, the thematic process on water governance. Our members were speakers or moderators in 25 sessions. “You are everywhere” was one of the comments heard in the corridors and that was exactly our objective: Ensuring that the perspective of women was included in all sessions, instead of organising a specific women’s conference. Furthermore, I was honoured to speak during the launch of a new water decade on World Water Day 2018 in New York.

In addition to knowledge sharing, knowledge development was a particular focus of our activities this year. Together with other organisations we contributed to research and publications, such ‘Women as change-makers in the governance of shared waters’ and the World Water Development Report. At the end of the year GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) sponsored the first phase of research into women-inclusive governance in the water sector that we are undertaking together with OECD in 2018/2019.

We are also very happy with the number of visits to our website: 137,800 by 57,700 persons. The number of people following WfWP on Facebook is steadily rising too.

We remain grateful to our main donor, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), for the core-funding which allowed us to pursue our mission in 2018. The Netherlands Ministry of infrastructure and Water management made it possible to remain involved in processes such as “Aquawareness”, “Valuing Water” and “global governance for water” Many thanks also to our other sponsors, such as Aqua for All, a client of ABN AMRO and Passage, who supported several projects of our members. We received funding for our participation in conferences and events. Since our core funding for 2019 is not yet secured, we are curious what the year will bring.

I thank our members, partners, donors, collaborating governments and you for your support and look forward to continuing our collaboration in 2019!

The Hague, January 2019
Members of Women for Water Partnership

[Logos of various organizations related to water and women's empowerment]
A water secure world in which women are heard and empowered to exercise their full potential to achieve equitable and sustainable development is Women for Water Partnership’s (WfWP) vision. WfWP applies three interlinked strategies; (i) members implement projects (ii) lobby and advocacy by members and the partnership (iii) knowledge development- and sharing.

Project implementation: Ensuring access to water for all uses and sanitation
WfWP members implement many projects to ensure access to water for all for all uses. Projects contribute to all SDGs and mainly to SDG 6 & 5.

Lobby and advocacy
WfWP was visible at key water events around the globe to spread our messages. The highlight was the World Water Forum in Brazil where WfWP, contrary to the past world water fora, no longer organised a specific women’s conference, instead ensured that the perspective of women was included in all sessions and it worked, also with the help of the thematic commission that made gender and youth balance a condition for approval of sessions.

Knowledge development and exchange
In terms of knowledge development WfWP contributed to several publications for example a paper about gender equality in transboundary water governance launched during the Stockholm Water Week². To advance learning and sharing the “Members Only platform” on our website was regularly updated and the topic ‘publications’ is becoming a rich resource in the field of water and women.

Governance, members & partners
During the year all decision-making of the General Assembly was done electronically. The Steering Committee held 4 meetings in 2018 of which one Face to Face meeting in September in the Netherlands. We have 27 members with several applications to be decided upon and we continued to collaborate with many different partners.

Communication
WfWP’s visibility increased significantly. Both Facebook and the website are our most important means to communicate. Our website was visited 137,800 times by 57,700 unique visitors. On Facebook the number of followers increased steadily to 1429 persons.

Monitoring
It was the third year that WfWP used its electronic monitoring tool, tracking information of our members. In total 16 members (63%) gave direct input, next to our general planning and monitoring cycle.

Fundraising
Despite our intensive efforts to attract funding it becomes more and more complicated for a small network organisation like WfWP to receive a substantial amount of funding that covers our core activities. Nevertheless, we are grateful for the project- and event funding received.

Finance
WfWP’s actual income was 578,926 euro and includes 301,388 euro volunteer/ in-kind contribution. Our actual expenditure was 567,246 euro leading to a positive result of 11,680 euro to be allocated to our reserves.

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¹ You can find more information about our members at the following link: https://www.womenforwater.org/member-organisations.html
1 Core activities: Project implementation, lobby & advocacy, knowledge development & learning

The mission of Women for Water Partnership is to position women as active leaders, experts, partners and agents of change to realise access to safe water for all - including gender responsive sanitation – for all uses; thus contributing to all SDG’s, especially goal 5 & 6. WfWP applies three interlinked strategies; (1.1) providing access to water and sanitation via project implementation of our members, (1.2) influencing policy at all levels to position women as leaders and actors in the water sector via lobby and advocacy activities and (1.3) knowledge development through contributing to research, case descriptions, publications as well as knowledge sharing amongst members.

The following picture gives an overview of the results achieved in 2018.

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1 Based on 2018 reporting by 16 (out of 27) members and the WfWP secretariat
2 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
4 www.womenforwater.org
5 Women as change-makers in the governance of shared waters (IUCN); 2018 World Water Development Report (UN Water); World Water Forum European Report on Water; Women Inclusive Water Governance (ongoing research in cooperation with OECD)
1.1 Project implementation

Ensuring access to water for all uses for all and ensuring that women are equal partners and agents of change is the aim of our projects. We focus on the inclusion of women from design, budget allocation to evaluation and women’s participation in water governance. Capacity development activities are critical elements in our projects and the same counts for vocational training. Project implementation contributes to Strategic goal 2 of WfWP: To position women as agents of change, leaders, professionals, experts and partners on equal footing with men in water and sustainable development programmes to achieve equitable access to water for all for all uses.

Every year WfWP conducts a survey amongst its members to get an impression of their activities in the field of project implementation and lobby & advocacy. One of the outcomes of the survey is that members are having a voice in water governance bodies. For example Tegemeo has 4 members in their village water body, including the chairperson and secretary. Katosi and TGNP have members in the committees established for each constructed water source in their respective areas. MAMA-86 members participate in 3 River Basin Councils: River Dnieper, River Desna and River Prut and at international level in the Interdepartmental Working Group on coordination of Protocol on water and health implementation and of the Working Group on Water and Health to the Protocol on water and health Secretariat.

Together members contributed to all SDGs and in the next tables you can see their specific contribution to SDG 5: achieving gender equality and women empowerment and SDG 6: achieving access to water and sanitation for all. Target 6b to strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management got most of the attention.

WfWP Projects contributed to all specific SDGS indicators...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere</th>
<th>SDG 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres</th>
<th>SDG 5.9: Give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land, financial services, inheritance and natural resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>74.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</th>
<th>SDG 5.10: Enhance the use of enabling technology, i.e. information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 5.4: Value unpaid care and domestic work and promote shared responsibility within the household</th>
<th>SDG 5.11: Strengthen policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
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Some examples of projects implemented are:

- Development of school hygiene promotion materials in Kiev with a budget of $2,500.00 by Mama-86 in partnership with UNICEF Ukraine.

- Demonstration and vocational training on eco-toilets in Bandiagara Mali with a budget of €4,210.00 for 20 women & girls and 40 men & boys implemented by VAM together with a vocational school, the government of Mali and local women’s organisations. With the training women can start their own enterprise to construct toilets.

- Helping battered women to establish a network when leaving a shelter in Denmark implemented by SIE.

- Revision of national targets in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health in Armenia and implementation of the Action Plan on equitable access to water and sanitation with a budget of $40,000.00 implemented by AWHHE together with UNECE, Ministries of Nature Protection, Health, Energy, Infrastructures and Natural Resources. An analysis of the water legislative framework and identified legislative barriers to ensure the implementation of the ‘Equitable Access Scorecard’ was part of the process.

- Upgrading skills of members of Mwihoko Women Group in Kenya supported by SI Kenya such as skills in hygiene, what kind of seeds to use for their plot, irrigation, energy saving, multi-story vegetable gardening and menstrual hygiene: 198 women farmers attended a 6-day residential farming clinic at Egerton University for experiential training to expand their horizons in farming including value chain & best practice in sustainable farming. Installment of water tanks and rain water harvesting took place in 66 households.

- Solar Water Project in India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador implemented by IFBWP with private sector, CSO’s, knowledge institutions in the respective countries. A portable solar water pump is made accessible through the establishment of supply chain and payment options. The pumps have no operational costs and minimal maintenance costs, are environment friendly, and minimize a physical burden...
that often falls on women and children. Easier access to water enables communities to increase their income with high value and off-season cash crop production and come out of poverty.

Only in few cases and on request, the WfWP Secretariat takes the responsibility for project management on behalf of a member. In 2018 the following projects were supported:

- **Safe water, sanitation and green energy for schoolgirls in the community, by member Soroptimist International Europe in Kenya:** Budget 2015-2018 € 149,092 sponsored by a client of ABNAMRO bank.

The project finished in 2018 and implementation took place in 6 counties in Kenya. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, this project aimed at enhancing access to education by girls, their school attendance and performance; access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to prevent water related diseases; and access to affordable and clean energy contributing to a more sustainable environment. It is estimated that 80% of diseases in children are related to water hygiene, personal hygiene and open defecation (Anan, 2003). About 70% of Kenyan schools do not have adequate sanitation facilities and safe water supply. The project has attributed girls attending school due to having access to safe water and sanitation facilities (less absenteeism caused by menstruation); households are using lighting system that is environmentally friendly, children are doing their homework in the evenings and thus increased their performance. The use of fireless cookers and Chepkube stoves has increased the time girls can spend on studying since they do not have to collect much wood for cooking; being clean stove system emitting minimum smoke has resulted in less smoke related diseases, reduce indoor pollution. This has contributed to better girls’ school results and clean environment. Although the project aimed to focus on girls, the whole school community benefited from clean water facilities and the solar lamps, fireless cookers and capacity building. All the planned results have been achieved and even more due to commitment of the school communities. Stakeholder meetings were held in combination with training in health education or renewable energy, 55 toilets were constructed and 22 rainwater harvesting tanks. More toilets were built including special facilities for persons with a disability. The demand for solar lamps and fireless cookers was also higher than expected and the demand was satisfied because people had to contribute to the costs of these products. In the end, the project benefited 10 schools and reached 8,571 persons. The total community benefited from clean water facilities and the whole household of the LED lamps and fireless cookers.

A lesson learned was that such a project requires intensive monitoring, so the number of monitoring visits expanded, showing fierce commitment of the Soroptimist clubs in the respective areas.
The first year of the project was a successful year, the members were trained in various skills such as entrepreneurship, leadership, financial management, marketing to improve or start new businesses, agriculture. Some of the participants had elementary knowledge of entrepreneurship as they already operate small scale business in the village. The majority of participants practices traditional agriculture and livestock keeping and their knowledge was updated with new technology such as agricultural irrigation e.g. canal construction, appropriate agricultural technology, food storage methods, cattle and goat management, garden management.

In their area it is impossible to get a loan via financial institutions with affordable conditions, therefore the members of Tegemeo started a Village Community Bank (VICOBA) with two separate windows: a window to support members in social issues and a window for businesses. The investment part of the project runs through the business window of VICOBA. In the first year loans were provided to 12 members to start for example retail shops, ginger cultivation, grain business. The types of business established fit the environment and provide daily human needs. The businesses are being operated by participants of the trainings implementing the skills acquired - learning by doing. For the second year additional training, exchange visits and starting a group business are being planned.

Enhance women’s role in increasing access to water in rural fisher communities and adequate sanitation, by member Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) in Uganda: Budget 2017-2018 € 82,817, sponsor Foundation Marie Stella Maris through Aqua for All.
The project closed in 2018 and achieved its main objective: to strengthen rural women’s organisation to increase access to clean safe water and adequate sanitation for improved rural livelihoods. Twenty-four households consisting of approximately 215 persons as well as 5 communities covering 1,125 people have gained access to clean water. For access to adequate sanitation facilities the focus was at six schools with approximately 2,765 beneficiaries. Around all constructions the management and maintenance were emphasised amongst other by training user committees. In total around 650 persons participated in the different trainings offered. The project immensely built the capacity of women both individually and as team. The skills acquired by the different groups at all levels has imparted the desired knowledge to maintain the facilities put in place. For example the training of the women masons contributed to sustained use of the domestic rain water harvesting tanks, as well as increasing the number of households that have clean water. Access to masons with skills within the community enables repair of facilities as well as reduction in construction costs. The women masons’ status has been elevated and skilled masons have the capacity to teach members of other groups. Additionally, the income has uplifted them from dependency.

It should, however, be noted that the project has not gone without challenges, the tension within landing sites where government has exerted a lot of force on residents in an effort to curb illegal fishing has displaced people, leading to unplanned migrations. This has affected KWDT’s project implementation in various ways. However, KWDT as a key actor in WaSH in the 5 sub counties is recognized for example KWDT is invited to all sub county sector meetings on WaSH and other sectors.

1.2 Lobby and advocacy

Lobby and advocacy is a crucial part of the activities of WfWP. Lobbying to ensure that decision-makers take on board the role women play and could play in achieving water security remains important since it does not happen automatically.

The lobby and advocacy activities contribute to three of our strategic goals:

Goal 1: Advocate the link between women, water and sustainable development in policies;
Goal 3: Advocate for women’s access to financial investments and instruments;
Goal 4: Use and promote sex-disaggregated indicators in the water sector

Directly or through its members WfWP provided input to inter alia the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA), to the special advisor on human rights to water and sanitation, debates around water, women and migration and gave suggestions for resolutions on water (decade) to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the European Union reference document and Council conclusions on water and development.

In 2018 the theme of the World Water Day was “Nature Based Solutions” (NBS) meaning solutions inspired and supported by nature and use, or mimic, natural processes to contribute to the improved management of water. There are important gender dimensions to NBS. For example: women often better understand natural resource management and are often the stewards of resources (e.g. in small-scale farming, livestock rearing or forestry management) and nature-based solutions offer significant practical solutions for issues of particular importance to women (cost-effective, sustainable drinking water supply, disaster risk reduction etc.). Women are often at the fore-front of NBS applications. Nature Based Solutions was also the theme of the Stockholm World Water Week and WfWP co-convened multiple events. For example we co-organised the seminar “Tapping into collective wisdom” and two member organisations were among the speakers: Kusum Athukorala of NetWwater Sri Lanka talked about climate change adaptation efforts of women in Sri Lanka. Gemma Akilimali of TGNP Tanzania spoke about gender responsive budgeting. That the work of WfWP is appreciated is shown by the invitation to be one of the three Key Collaborating Partners for the world water week in 2019 as well as a clear message of SIWI they want to mainstream women and gender into the water world.
The highlight of 2018 was the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil. Contrary to the past world water fora, WfWP no longer organised a specific women’s conference, instead ensured that the perspective of women was included in all sessions and it worked. We were present with nine participants and co-organiser of the regional European process, the thematic process on water governance, coordinator of topics under the cross cutting theme ‘Sharing’ and one of the moderators of the online platform “Your Voice” as well as speaker or moderator in 25 sessions. We contributed to the Citizens Forum and the political ministerial process. An example is the session initiated by Brazilian women representing Soroptimist International and Business and Professional Women International to celebrate the process which started in April 2017 to discuss the role of women in water in different regions in Brazil. They are called the ‘Water Ambassadors’. In the panel Arzu Ozyol, Margarida Yassuda, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen and Lesha Witmer shared their experiences and encouraged the Brazilian women to continue their journey.

Other examples of lobby and advocacy activities are:

- “Bucket off Women” to reduce the distance and time to water points allowing women to engage in economic, political and social activities in 7 districts in Tanzania organised by TGNP together with knowledge centers, CSOs, parliamentarians, councilors and grassroots communities.
- "Challenging social norms and stereotypes is a priority, particularly within the water industry” said WfWP President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen in her speech at the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) annual conference, held in Vienna form 10-12 January.
- “Economic empowerment of Women and Girls” was the theme of CSW 62. We organised an event about this topic in collaboration with the Government of Brazil, Soroptimist International and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPWI). Willemien Koning, women representative of the Netherlands to the UNGA and a farmer herself, spoke about the influence of farmers in decision making processes.
- "Ensuring women participation and empowerment for water and development” was the title of a brainstorming lab co-convened during the European Development Days in Brussels.
- “Are Women meaningfully involved in implementing SDG 6+ in the national plans?” was the theme of a session during the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The session was based on an analysis of the voluntary national reports and organised together with the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN, NGO Coordination Commission on the Status of Women, IFBPW and SI.
- After successful interventions of WfWP through the European Pact for Water, the Council of Foreign Affairs of the European Union (EU) adopted conclusions on water diplomacy putting water high on the political agenda.
- “Stop pregnancy to students” a campaign organised by Tegemeo Women Group in Tanzania with the key message: “Female students: recognize your status, study first”.
- MAMA-86 organised an e-petition to the President on right to water and sanitation for all, particularly to children, women and men affected by military conflict in the East of Ukraine.
- Women and Labour Market Foundation (VAM) contributed to and signed the Netherlands shadow report on the Istanbul Convention and the follow-up to the CEDAW report.
- “Orange the World - Leave No One Behind, Say No to Violence against Women and Girls!” was the central key message of this year’s “16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence” campaign and Soroptimist International Europe contributed actively.
- Netherlands Council of Women (NVR) participated in multiple activities as Women’s Representative of the Netherlands to UN in New York and submitted recommendations in reaction to the draft law on Equal Remuneration of Women and Men.
- Uganda Women for Water and Sanitation (UWWS) presented several research findings and proposals to stakeholders and media in Uganda about access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a human right, essential for life, health, dignity, empowerment and prosperity.
Women Fund Tanzania (WFT) campaigned and submitted recommendations to “Sensitising the Office of Registrar of Political Parties to include gender equality principles in the new proposed Political Parties Act” with the following key message: Women should enjoy equal rights to leadership and political participation just like men.

NetW Water spoke at a “Water security for the estate sector” event in Sri Lanka about the importance of women and children as stakeholders for catchment conservation.

In Appendix A you can find an overview of events the Steering Committee of WfWP attended in 2018. In terms of budget WfWP spent at least 46,331 euro to these activities. However, in most cases our costs were covered by the organisers of events - 36,019 euro - since we were invited as speakers or co-conveners or facilitators.

1.3 Knowledge development, exchange and learning

Knowledge exchange and learning activities contribute to WfWP strategic goal 6: Develop a knowledge platform for learning. WfWP organised several activities to develop knowledge, stimulate learning and exchange and also via the survey amongst members lessons were captured and shared.

In terms of knowledge development WfWP jointly with IUCN and others published a paper about gender equality in transboundary water governance, demonstrating that positive change is happening on the ground.

In December we received a grant of GIZ to start a research, together with OECD, to prove that women’s inclusion in water governance works. The first phase is mainly meant to prepare a full-fledged research in a later stage.

Next WfWP contributed to the World Water Development Reports 2019 and 2020 as well as the groundwater overview “Making the invisible visible “of UN IGRAC and the European report for the World Water Forum.

Our member WPLUS conducted three research projects on the role of women in good governance in drinking water and sanitation management to understand availability, suitability for drinking and purification methods of tap water; to investigate alternatives to tap water and challenges faced in drinking water management and the household garbage management system. Member WFT researched women’s contribution to the development of Tanzania from the grassroots to national level to identify unseen (s)heroes, document and visualize their stories and raise awareness on women movements in the country.

In the survey 13 members have expressed what their main expertise is and what they learnt during the year. Examples are:

- Passage with expertise to support activities for women in their home environment as well as at regional and national level, learned that visits to members in the Netherlands are important to better understand their living conditions
- Tegemeo Women Group, an expert in lobby and advocacy on gender equality in their area learned that capacity building is crucial to encourage women to apply for leadership positions at village, ward and division level and focus on inclusion of young girls to take (over) positions in the future.
- Mama-86 with expertise on the protocol on water and health, lobby for the right to water & sanitation as well as implementation at national to local level, experienced that more work with different central executive bodies is needed to reduce the risk of low priority and lack of political will in one (part of) a ministry. They also learned that regional stakeholder’s
consultation is key for the implementation of the Water and Health Protocol and that requires a budget.

WPLUS with expertise in capacity building and research in women, water and sanitation issues realises that more funds are needed to properly investigate the role and circumstances of women when implementing projects.

VAM, an expert in vocational training and empowerment of women, experienced in their project to train women in making eco-sanitation toilets in Mali that it is important to involve families and especially husbands. It takes time to participate in training, time which cannot be spend on household tasks. It is also important to inform the family about the possibilities to get work, starting enterprises and improving the well-being of the family as well as on the effects of climate change, hygiene, health, sanitation and security of the women.

SIE with expertise in lobbying for education, women empowerment, violence against women, learned during the implementation of their project on battered women that expectations must be matched from the very beginning. The project demanded a lot of resources and the success was doubtful, therefore the project was closed.

AWHHE with expertise in policy as a member of the Steering Committee of the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue noted that more stakeholders need to be involved in the process of target setting under the Protocol Water and Health.

Katosi and expert in capacity building of women and increasing rural access to water and sanitation learned that a budget is needed to conduct inception meetings to fully engage the communities before projects are being implemented.

UWWS with expertise in lobbying for increased access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene and increased food production learned that it is important to recognize government authorities and policy makers as critical agents of change and engage them in the design to ensure that the projects are aligned with their capacity, development needs and service delivery approaches

TGNP - an expert in gender responsive budgeting, lobby & advocacy, capacity building, organizing for a collective voice, movement building, research and analysis - lessons are as follows: communities have an important role to play in social change and accountability. More needs to be done to empower the collective voice of communities.

In order to encourage sharing of knowledge as well as informing members about important new developments, we have a Members Only Platform. In 2018 members were informed about fund raising opportunities e.g. UN Trust Fund or Funds SUEZ, how to engage in international days for example World Toilet Day. About courses, webinars and e-learning such as a The Geneva Water Hub 3rd edition Distance Learning Course on International Water Law and the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. What type of awards interesting for members such as UN SDG Action Award or the 'Gender-Just Climate Solutions' Awards. Also guidelines, tools and papers and of course the results of the annual survey were shared on the platform.

Moreover, the topic publications on our website is becoming a valuable resource for relevant material in the field of ‘women and water”’. Next, Facebook covers our activities and many links to relevant interesting information, making the page an integral part of our knowledge platform.
2. Governance, members and partners

2.1 General Assembly
The General Assembly (GA) is the highest governing body of WfWP and it consists of one delegate per member organisation. During the year 2018 all decisions were made via email e.g. about the annual plan and budget 2018 as well as the annual report and annual accounts 2017.

2.2 Member Organisations
The member organisations are Women for Water Partnership. The member organisations are diverse, have wide ranging aims and themes. In 2018 the membership stayed stable at 27 members, however we have received five applications of which two have been declined. Three applications are in process.

2.3 Steering Committee
The Steering Committee held 4 meetings in 2018 of which one Face to Face meeting in September in the Netherlands. Next, there were elections for three functions in 2018: one for the treasurer, one for the honorary secretary and one for the advocacy expert. None of the members proposed a candidate for a treasurer, therefore it was decided that Marjon Verkleij, the re-elected honorary secretary would combine this function with the one of treasurer during her second term. Next, due to too many other commitments Salamatu Garba resigned from her communication seat in September. Therefore, the last quarter of the year, the SC consisted of 5 members instead of the 7 members it started the year with. The composition of the Steering Committee as well as the end date of the respective terms is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mariet Verhoef</td>
<td>1 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Margarida Yassuda</td>
<td>1 December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Secretary /Treasurer</td>
<td>Marjon Verkleij</td>
<td>1 April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Development</td>
<td>Asha Abdulrahman</td>
<td>15 March 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Lesha Witmer</td>
<td>11 April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Salamatu Garba</td>
<td>30 September 2018</td>
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2.4 Partnerships
WfWP has a huge range of different types of partnerships, formal partnerships with funding agencies such as our long-term relationship with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). At the end of the year the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) started a contract with us. We are part of networks such as the, the Major Group Women, MGO HLPF coordination mechanism, OECD Water Governance initiative, World Water Council, UN Water. We are founders and facilitators of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition, the #ClimateIsWater campaign and the European Pact for Water. We work together with a range of different partners such as BORDA, Aquafed, and UNESCO-WWAP. In essence, we never walk alone.
3. Operations: communication, planning & monitoring, fundraising, staffing, finance

3.1 Communication

The website and Facebook are our main means of communication with the outside world. On the website we communicate about important events, we update the item publications regularly and since 2018 we have started the topic “Projects@Work”. Here we highlight current projects of members demonstrating our contributions to reaching SDGs 5 and 6. In total six stories have been published of Earthforever, NetWwater, Wplus, TWG, SIK and Katosi.

Facebook is our main tool also to draw attention to our website. In August 2017, we reached 1,000 followers through organic growth only and for this year we aimed at 1,500. However, in response to new privacy regulations introduced by the EU, Facebook changed in June its algorithms prioritizing posts from friends on people’s Facebook feeds, resulting in reduced visibility of Facebook Pages like ours. In that context the 1,429 Facebook likes and followers we ended the year with, without ever paying Facebook, is good.

Facebook covers our activities and many links to relevant interesting information, making the page a valuable source as integral part of our knowledge platform. Below graphic shows that while the total number of (web)page views in 2018 remained the same as in 2017, the number of unique visits (different people) increased with no less than 50%³:

³ Since above mentioned new EU privacy regulations, people in the EU can turn off cookies, affecting website insights (those page visits/visitors will no longer be registered by our host, Weebly).
WfWP continues to choose social media accounts to grow organically, rather than artificially increase numbers through advertisements and other promotional tools. We believe this approach to be more powerful with followers truly being engaged and helping us to get our key messages across widely.

3.2 Planning and monitoring

2018 was the third year in which the achievements of the members were monitored and we had a response rate of 63%, same as in 2017. Members again expressed their satisfaction with the tool and also that there is room for improvement to make the tool more user-friendly, without changing the contents. We will explore better alternatives for next year. A new element was to ask to rate the services of WfWP such as our policies, the activities of the Steering Committee, the support of the Secretariat, lobby & advocacy, our visibility, our internal communication, the website and Facebook. A distinct majority appreciates these services and only 2 members are responsible for a negative score. However, they did not provide information about their reasons or made suggestions for improvements.

The elements of our planning and reporting system are:

- A strategic framework 2016-2020, translated into annual work plans and budgets
- Annual reporting and accounting, including statements of the independent auditor
- The functioning of the network (GA participation and decisions are monitored)
- Monitoring tool member’s achievements on (i) lobby and advocacy activities, (ii) project implementations on SDG 5 & 6, (iii) lessons learnt, (iv) participation water governing boards and (v) evaluation monitoring tool and new (vi) satisfaction services of WfWP.
- Membership fee reporting
- Monthly financial reporting to follow up budget expenditure
- SC meetings, to monitor progress and financial matters
- Back to office reporting of SC members or official representatives of advocacy and participation in official external events

In case the WfWP secretariat manages a project of a member directly, the planning and monitoring cycle is based on the requirements of the respective donor. Monitoring is used as an important tool for learning and capacity development. Depending on the donor, financial and narrative reporting is done on a (bi-) monthly, quarterly, bi- or annual basis.

3.3 Hubs

As in previous years, strategic goal 5 – the establishment of regional or national ‘hubs’, was put on hold due to the lack of finance.

3.4 Fundraising

WfWP has actively pursued funding for member projects, global projects, advocacy and core funding. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) extended its core funding to 2018, for which we are very grateful. However, SDC also changed its procedures and will probably launch a call for proposals early 2019 in the field of women and water. The implication is that WfWP will face a gap in its core funding, however we activity approached other potential funders. We submitted concept-notes, proposals or other information to 16 different organisations, however funding for the full year of 2019 is not yet secured. Apart from this, 36.019 euro was raised to enable participation at events and this budget is not running through our accounts. Moreover, we were paid for our work and participation to the World Water Forum as well as the European Development Days. The Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management supported us again for two types of activities: the

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4 You can find an overview in an annex to the annual accounts 2018
preparation of a high-level UN summit on water planned for 2020 or 2021 and engagement in activities in the field of valuing water and AquAwareness. More and more WfWP tries to sell its expertise on the market by joining projects managed by other organisations, for example we are part of a call of Borda to support their project on institutionalising gender in the water & energy sector in the Middle-East and North-Africa region. In December we received a small grant of GIZ to start a research, together with OECD, to prove that women’s inclusion in water governance works. A project submitted by NBD for research involving WfWP is still pending and other applications in this field are still in process. In terms of mediating for projects of our members we assisted our member Katosi with a multi-annual project to scale up their activities and unfortunately in the end the project did not get approval. Fortunately, the capacity building and investment project of TWG got funding of Passage. All in all, it becomes more and more complicated for an organisation like WfWP to attract funding despite our efforts and advocacy work that women’s organisation should receive funding directly. Looking at the Official Development Assistance figures women organisations do not even receive 0.05 % of the total funding. That needs to change, also in the case of WfWP.

3.5 Staffing
Since March 2017, only the executive director Annemiek Jenniskens is permanent staff of WfWP and for specific assignments we work with freelancers. In 2018 the following freelancers made great contributions to WfWP for which we are very grateful:
- Diantha Brackel as financial controller
- Arnold Marseille for communications

3.6 Finance
WfWP’s actual income was € 578,926 and includes € 301,388 volunteer/ in-kind contribution. Our actual expenditure was €567,246 and we had a positive result of € 11,680, to be allocated to our reserves. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) - through its Global Program Water Initiatives (GPWI) - approved a budget of €380,000 for 2016 and 2017 and the contract was extended till the end of 2018 with an amount of € 190,000. See our annual accounts for the complete financial overview.
# Appendix A: 2018 Lobby – Advocacy – Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACUNS meeting</td>
<td>10- 12 January</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zwolle municipality</td>
<td>16 January</td>
<td>Zwolle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFWP HQ Netherlands representative to UN</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>The Hague</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert meeting UN DESA on interlinkages SDGs for HLPF</td>
<td>25-26 January</td>
<td>NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEMI meeting ; UN Water meeting</td>
<td>31 January; 1-2 February.</td>
<td>IFAD, Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform Inclusive Finance</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>Utrecht</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>6 February</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting PGC Hydropower sustainability protocol</td>
<td>7 February</td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting thematic and regional process committees 8WWForum</td>
<td>8-9 February</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</td>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet European Pact for Water</td>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Prepcom ministerial 8thWWForum</td>
<td>27-28 February</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Women’s Day</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Düsseldorf</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSW62</td>
<td>11-17 March</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Nairobi, UNEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>3e Prepcom Ministerial declaration 8WWF</td>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Brasilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN New York</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Water Day network Event NWP Blue Deal</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>The Hague</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th WWForum</td>
<td>18-24 March</td>
<td>Brasilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASAG - FAO</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>ANA offices Brasilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate is water, Agwa informal meeting</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Brasilia</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP 142nd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</td>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>UNEP Nairobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation European commission on reference document on water strategy (DEVCO)</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting with EC Devco etc. and European Pact</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union for the Mediterranean Working groups</td>
<td>3-4 May</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>IWRM / UNECE working groups</td>
<td>28-30 May</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Development Days</td>
<td>5-6 June</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEAS meeting on European Policy re. water</td>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP 143rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit International water Decade</td>
<td>19-21 June</td>
<td>Dushanbe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop / planning meeting 9WWForum</td>
<td>25-27 June</td>
<td>Dakar</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd consultation EU DEVCO reference document</td>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLPF</td>
<td>9-18 July</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Water meeting</td>
<td>24-25 August</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockholm WWW</td>
<td>26-31 August</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protocol Governance Committee of HSAP</td>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Water conference EU</td>
<td>19-21 September</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean water week</td>
<td>12-15 September</td>
<td>Daegu, South-Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women, water, youth conference</td>
<td>26-27 September</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP 144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives</td>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Africa Water Week</td>
<td>29 October - 2 November</td>
<td>Libreville, Gabon</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWS global meeting</td>
<td>30 October and 1 November</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA WWC</td>
<td>30 November and 1 December</td>
<td>Marseille</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEF IW Learn conference</td>
<td>5-9 November</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD WGI</td>
<td>12-13 November</td>
<td>Zaragoza, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kick-off research workshop with OECD</td>
<td>10-11 December</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>NVR 120 years</td>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>Amsterveen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>