

International lobby and advocacy for WASH and SRHR

Simavi aims to structurally improve the health of 10 million people in low and middle-income countries. Therefore we work in marginalised communities on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Our programmes focus on getting WASH and SRHR services in place; empowering communities to demand quality services and to practice healthy behaviour; and creating an enabling environment, consisting of groups from government, private sector and NGOs. Advocacy forms an integral component of Simavi's Theory of Change and involves holding local governments accountable; advocating with regional and national governments for budget, policy or legal changes; and engaging in international networks together with our partners.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Sanitation and water for all

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is an influential global partnership working towards universal access to WASH. It has over 90 partners including developing countries, donors, civil society, knowledge institutions and sector partners. They work together to increase political prioritization of WASH at the global level and to strengthen national government-led planning processes. Simavi has been involved in the SWA partnership since its inception in 2010 and is currently the focal point for Dutch WASH NGO's. Simavi participates in physical and virtual meetings (e.g. the formal bi-annual High Level Meetings and Sector Ministers Meetings, webinars, conference calls, etc.), provides input from the perspective of Dutch NGOs as well as our Southern partners, and shares outcomes of these meetings and processes.

End water poverty

End Water Poverty is a coalition of 270 NGO's from 60 countries campaigning to end the water and sanitation crisis. It is an important platform to share information and gain access to international stakeholders such as the United Nations. Simavi was an active member of the Steering Committee from 2010 – 2013 and currently acts as the regional representative for Europe and the USA. We play an active role in the yearly World Walks for Water and Sanitation which is the largest worldwide mobilisation for universal access to water and sanitation. We also participated in the Keep Your Promises campaign to keep decision makers accountable for their water and sanitation promises via one million signatures. End Water Poverty has proven to be a very effective coalition to put WASH high on the international agenda.

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WASH in Europe

In 2013 Simavi started working together with Vitens Evides International and Royal Haskoning DHV to create the right environment for blending public and private funding at the European level. As the home to the EU, Brussels is becoming increasingly important as the political hub in Europe for International Development, including the post-2015 agenda. Since water only receives marginal attention in the Agenda for Change, which sets the agenda for European development cooperation until 2020, Simavi petitions for the right financial and institutional arrangements in Brussels to develop sustainable WASH services in Africa and Asia.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Simavi is a strong player when it comes to SRHR advocacy in the Netherlands. In collaboration with the Dutch SRHR Alliance, Simavi has advocated with Dutch Parliamentarians and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to keep SRHR central to the agenda, including seeking both political and financial support and to have a strong Dutch position in the ICPD Review and post-2015 processes. National campaigns such as the 'Estafette' have been instrumental in gathering public support in the Netherlands, and an important means of applying pressure towards Parliament for sustained commitment to SRHR.

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Process is crucial for the future recognition of SRHR in International Development. Therefore, Simavi advocates for a progressive outcome of the 47th CPD in April 2014 and that this outcome will feed into the post-2015 agenda. Throughout this process, Simavi is working closely with Southern partners as we believe it is essential to ensure their perspectives are included and to hold their governments accountable when translating commitments to policies, laws and investments.

In 2013, Simavi embarked on an initiative to involve partners from Africa and Asia in the ICPD process. This includes capacity building, joint strategizing and financial support to attend relevant international conferences (regional ICPD review conferences, ICASA, CPD 2014, UNGA 2014, etc.). In addition to collaborating in this network, exchanging information and increasing Southern partner's capacity, Simavi has linked these partners to existing international SRHR advocacy networks.

