Drip by Drip e.V.

2022 IMPACT REPORT

DEAR WATER ADVOCATES,

Since we launched, Drip by Drip has been on an incredible journey. What initially started as a passion project, has become an institution in the world of water and fashion.

Because of the incredible support that our idea received over the course of the past years, we have been able to expand our activities to 5 countries, quadruple the number of projects in the Global South and North and grow our team to 6 permanent members.

Since 2018 up until today, we are the only organization globally that is fully committed to tackling the water crises of the fashion and textile industry. Therefore, we are thought leaders in the field of tension between water and fashion and are proud of our ever growing network of experts and future-proof companies that align with our vision and support our mission.

With this report, you will get a glimpse of our work and resulting impact over the past year. The entire Drip by Drip team looks forward to continuing to expand our projects together with you as our partner. We believe that we need strong partnerships in order to develop a healthy future for the communities and ecosystems that the fashion and textile industry depend on.

Many thanks to all of you for being part of our community and for making a difference.

Dripping greetings,

Amira Jehia,
Chairwoman of Drip by Drip

OUR MISSION
OUR *VISION*

1.

We are on a mission to put water first in the textile industry.

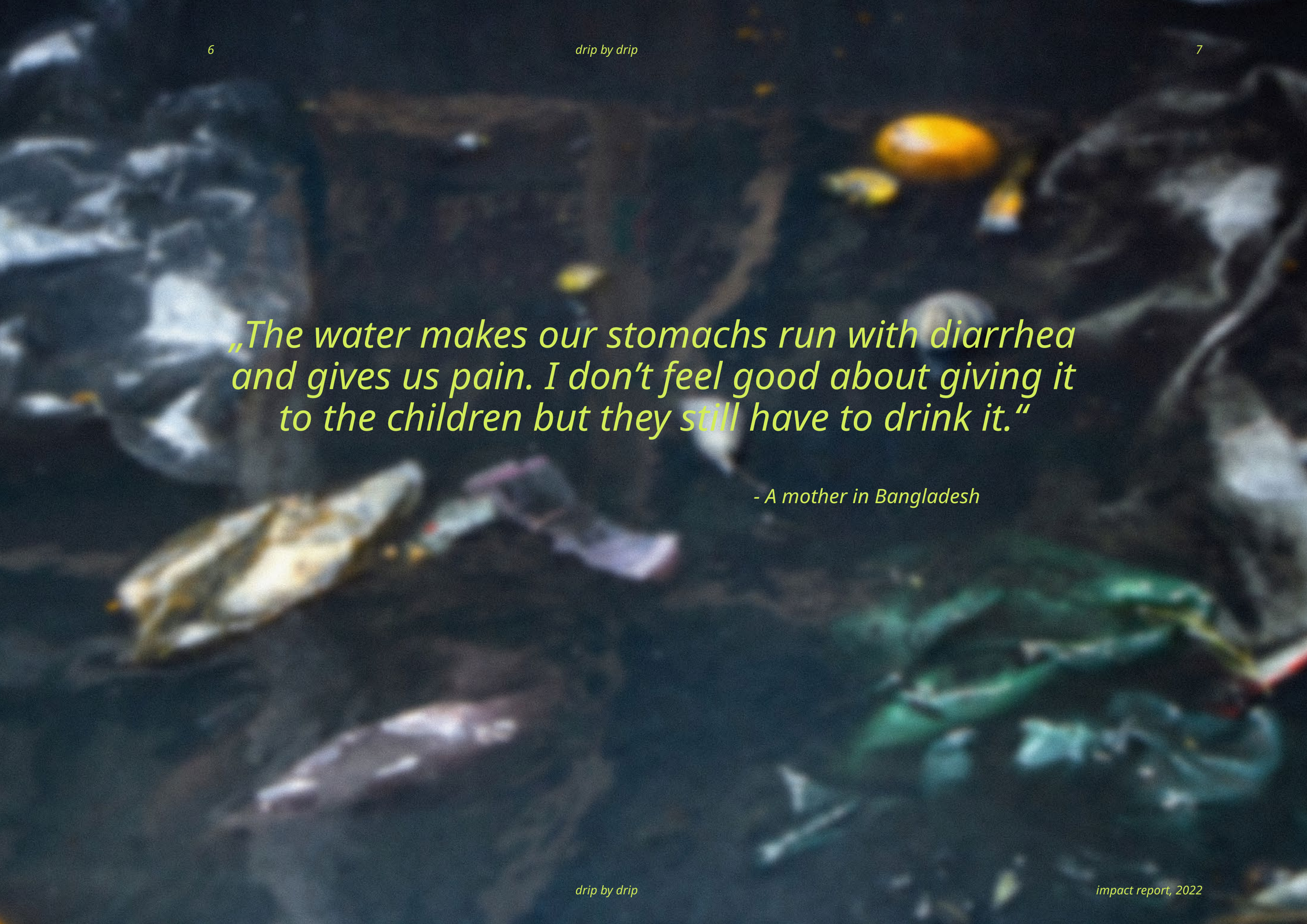
Our goal is to convince the global fashion industry to put an end to the over-consumption and pollution of water, while also cleaning up polluted water resources.

2.

A positive water footprint for the fashion industry.

Water is a vital resource, and access to it is a fundamental human right. Our vision is for a future where our fashion consumption and production habits no longer jeopardize our global freshwater reserves.

We believe that the goal should not only be to reduce the amount of water used, but also to clean up resources that have already been polluted. In doing so, we can create a positive water footprint by generating more clean water than wastewater.



„The water makes our stomachs run with diarrhea and gives us pain. I don't feel good about giving it to the children but they still have to drink it."

- A mother in Bangladesh

& WATER POLLUTION SCARCITY

Only 1% of the world's freshwater is available for use, as the rest is locked up in glaciers, polar ice caps, the atmosphere, soil, or is too polluted or difficult to extract at an affordable cost.

The water cycle concept shows that water isn't lost, but overuse, pollution, and unsustainable consumption can lead to a decrease in available resources. Groundwater used for industrial purposes, for example, can't be used for drinking water if not returned to the environment properly.

Without proper management, clothing production disproportionally consumes water resources, leading to water-stress-related problems in production regions. By 2030, an estimated 700 million people may face displacement due to water shortages and droughts.

93 billion cubic metres of water is used by the fashion industry.

According to the UN 2 billion people worldwide are lacking basic access to clean and safe drinking water – today.

Meanwhile textile factories illegally release contaminated textile effluent into water systems deteroriating ecosystems and communities. This water in turn is used by communities for their crops. In Bangladesh, textile dyes have been found in fruit and vegetables samples grown close to textile dyeing factories.

Only 1% of the world's freshwater is available for use.

The polluted water is also cause for various health issues in communities close to textile factories, most of them skin and respiratory conditions. Women and children are especially affected by this.

An estimated 93 billion cubic metres of water - enough to meet the needs of five million people - is used by the fashion industry annually (according to the UNCTAD). This massive overconsumption and pollution of our water need to stop now.

impact report, 2022

DRIP BY DRIP AND THE SDGS

The member states of the United Nations have set 17 goals with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016, in order to create globally sustainable structures – namely the UN Sustainable Development Goals or short „SDGs“. Our work is committed to the following goals:

Goal

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Our approach

WASH & Water filter projects in the Global South

Goal

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Our approach

Informing and educating actual and future decision makers

Goal

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Our approach

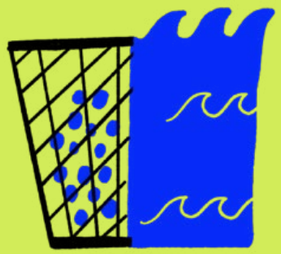
Building a network of dedicated NGOs, brands and political institutions

5 YEARS DRIP BY DRIP

in numbers

20K

people provided with clean drinking water in the Global South



196 T

plastic waste recycled in the Global South

628 MIO

liters of clean drinking water provided

45

Community Projects implemented in the Global South

3,000+

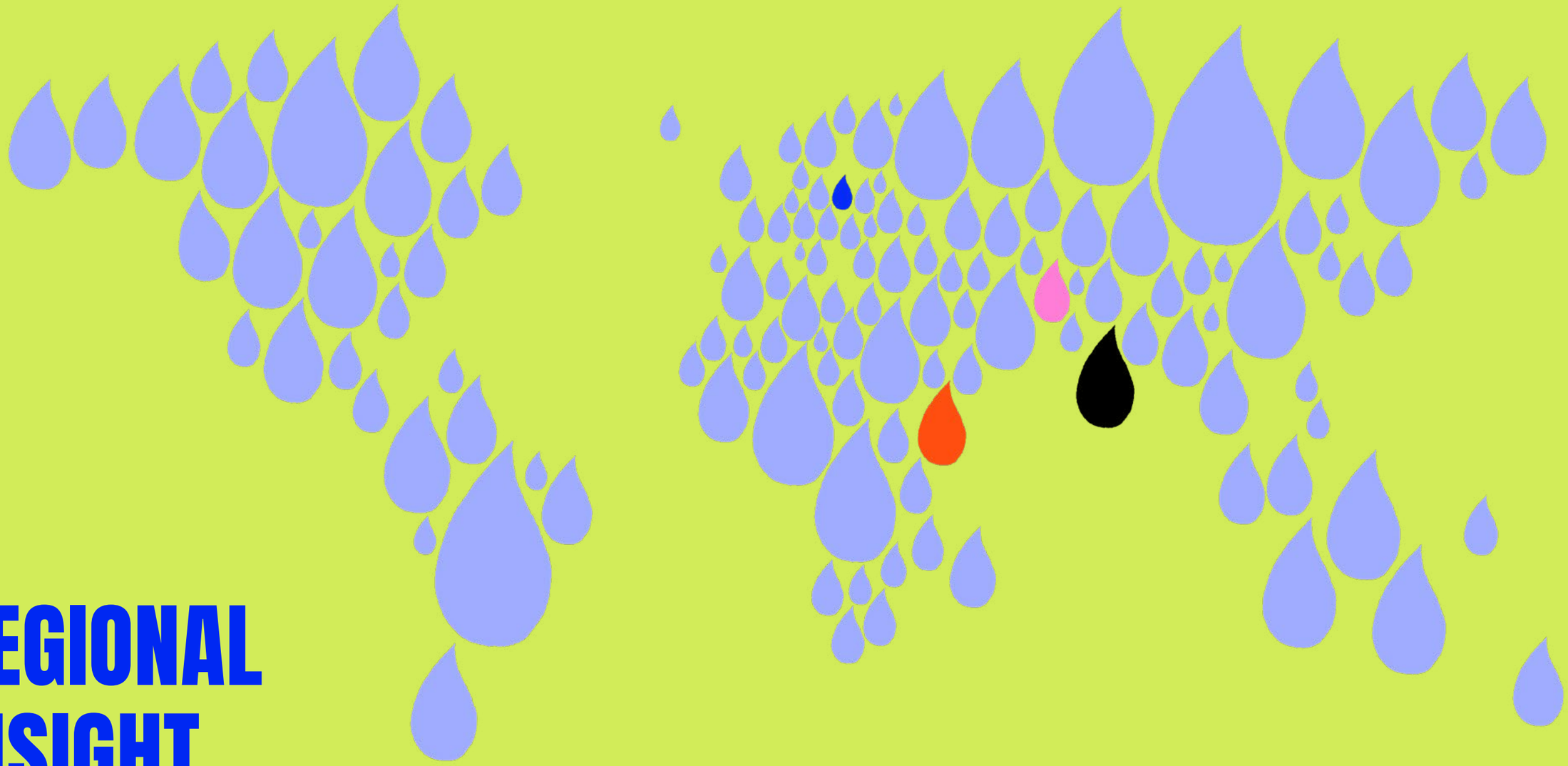
people informed & educated in the Global North

5

countries

5

years of activism



REGIONAL INSIGHT

Berlin

20+ University Workshops

2 Online Tools

3 Events

2 Art Exhibitions

3 Campaigns

Bangladesh

13 Water filters

30 Deep tube wells

1 Plastic recycling facility

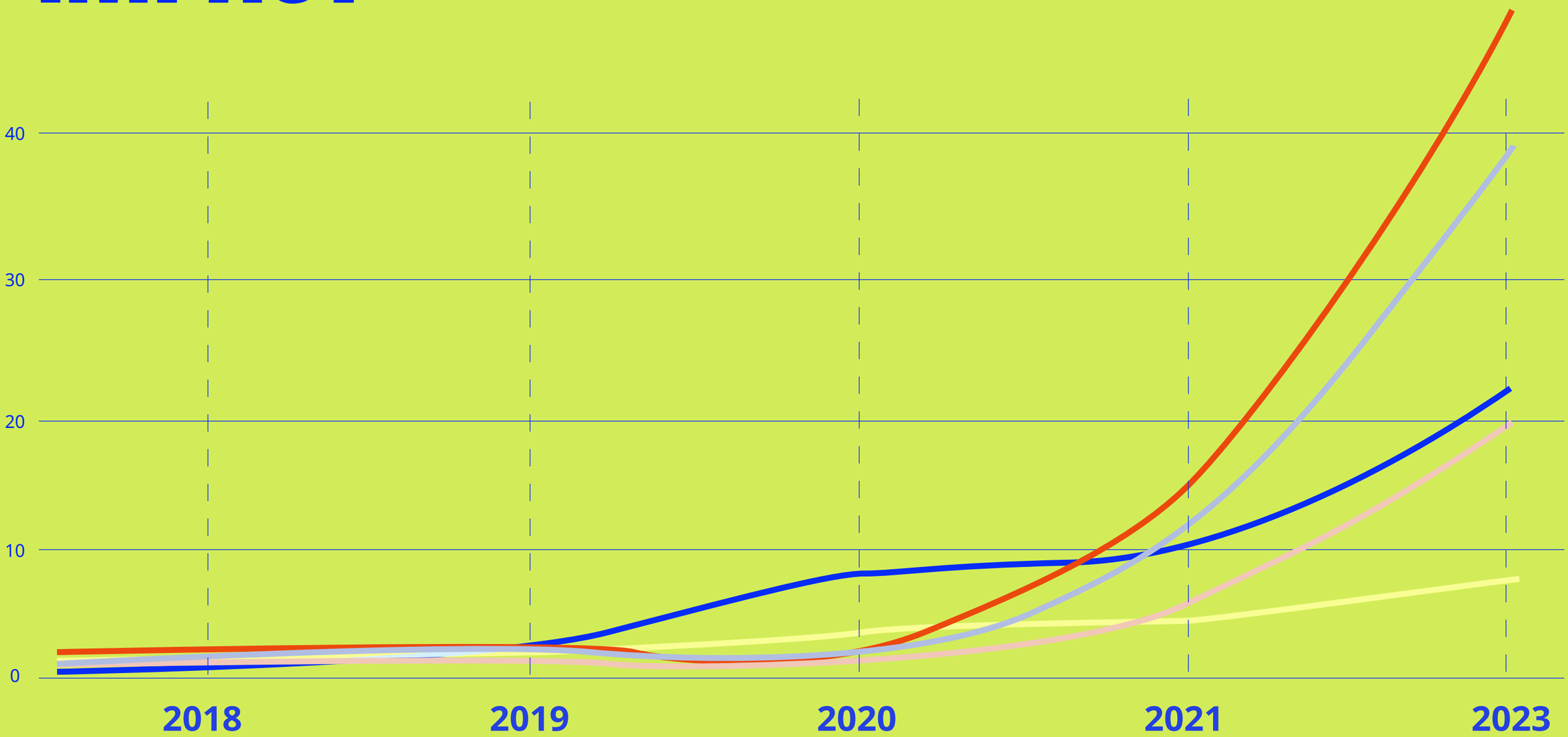
Pakistan

1 Wash school intervention

Kenya

40 Safety gears for river clean-ups

GROWTH OF IMPACT



32
water filters & deep tube wells

14,320

providing 14,320 people with clean drinking water in Dhaka, Bangladesh

1
plastic recycling facility

30 T

recycling 30 t plastic waste per month in Dhaka, Bangladesh

2022 IMPACT

1
wash school intervention

900

providing 900 people with clean drinking water and 220 school students and teachers with sanitation facilities in Landhi, Malir, Karachi, Pakistan

40
safety gears for river-clean-ups

6

providing safety for 6 clean-ups per week in Nairobi, Kenya

IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

WATER FILTERS & DEEP TUBE WELLS

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the world's second largest textile producer, with textiles making up 80% of the countries' exports. The capital Dhaka suffers greatly from the water pollution caused by its 3,000+ textile factories. A study by the World Bank showed that Dhaka's peripheral rivers receive 1.5 million cubic meters of wastewater daily.

This groundwater pollution is alarming because 95% of drinking water is obtained from groundwater sources. Our partner in Bangladesh, the NGO Agroho, identifies communities that suffer greatly from the water pollution caused by the fashion & textile industry due to their proximity to the factories or to water resources that cross paths with the factories effluent outlets.

We then fund biosand water filters and deep tube wells for those communities that give them access to clean drinking water 24/7 through a simple tap.

Learn more.

1.5 million cbm of waste water daily

2,864

households provided with clean drinking water

32

water filters and deep tube wells funded & implemented

14,320

people provided with clean drinking water

„Our whole life and livelihood are dependent on water, without water everything stands still. This tube well has helped me fetch more water, have more time to rest after coming from the factory, and has improved the sanitation level in my home.“

Rokeya, Mother of two kids and garment worker

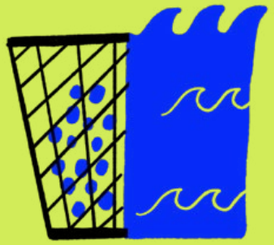
RIVER CLEAN-UP PROJECT

3

plastic recycling machines

200+

people benefiting from generated income



150,000

kilogram of plastic recycled

Chapter 1 Dhaka, Bangladesh

Wastewater is not the only polluting problem. Plastics are just as big a part of it. In Dhaka City plastic waste has gone up more than 3.5 times from 178 tons per day in 2005 to 646 tons per day in 2020.

Only 37% of it are being recycled, mostly by the informal sector.

Only 37% of it are being recycled

Landfills are mainly filled with single-use plastics, such as thin shopping bags. Plastic is choking Dhaka's drains and rivers causing open flooding and providing convenient breeding grounds for mosquito and water-borne diseases.

Microplastics are also posing a significant risk to humans and ecosystems alike. Together with our local partner Agroho, we set up a small plastic recycling plant in July in Old Dhaka.

It recycles a minimum of 25,000 - 30,000 kilograms of plastic waste per month – waste that will be collected from rivers and other water sources but also from the streets of Dhaka, to make sure that it doesn't end up in the rivers.

Today, the plant is not only operating financially independently and sustainably by selling the recycled plastic to China and India but also creates jobs for permanent staff

It recycles a minimum of 25,000 - 30,000 kg

members and regular income for rag pickers and their families. In 2022 the first three recycling machines have been funded, laying the groundwork for realizing a bigger plant in the future.

Learn more.

RIVER CLEAN-UP PROJECT

Chapter 2
Nairobi, Kenya

40

safety gears with gloves & boots

6

clean-ups weekly

Kenya is one of Africa's biggest importers of secondhand clothing. However, a great portion of the imported clothes (30 – 40 %) are of such bad quality that they cannot be sold anymore, amounting to an average of 150–200 tonnes of textile waste per day. Since there is no infrastructure to dispose of these massive amounts of textile waste, it accumulates in the local environment, aggravating the already existing plastics waste crisis. As a consequence, the Nairobi River is clogged and toxic.

An average of 150–200 tonnes of textile waste

This clogging of rivers and drains can lead to floods and the decomposing of the textile waste can release dangerous chemicals as well as microplastics which both have already caused severe medical issues in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Together with our local partner Komb Green Solutions we are working on cleaning up the Nairobi River. Komb Green Solution is a community-based organization located in Korogocho, Nairobi, devoted to bringing back the lost glory of the Nairobi River.

The volunteers who are working to clean up the river have physical contact with chemicals but also sharp objects floating in the water. Therefore, we have funded 40 waterproof overalls with attached Gumboots, as well as gloves to ensure the safety of the volunteers.

Learn more.

NEW
Update of our Water Playbook

1,500

providing 1,500 visitors with information about the connection between water and fashion

10+
Expert Workshops

150+

providing 150+ university students and teachers with hands-on solutions to minimize the effect of their design & production decisions on water resources

2&1
2 Exhibitions & 1 Event

300

getting 300+ visitors in touch with the water issues caused by the fashion & textile industry

REACH

50+ LinkedIn followers

200+ Newsletter recipients

1,500+ Instagram followers

21,000+ unique visitors of our website

2022 IMPACT IN THE GLOBAL NORTH

UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

In 2022 we facilitated over ten workshops at different universities in Germany. The workshops are free of charge for the universities.

Students of fashion design, textile development & production and fashion management, are introduced to the correlation between water and fashion as early as possible, as they are the decision-makers and

They are the decision-makers of tomorrow.

industry-shapers of tomorrow.

Throughout the series of workshops we cover concepts such as the natural water cycles and the water footprint concept, as well as the connection between production decisions and fashion consumption habits in the Global North and water scarcity and pollution issues in the Global South.

Check out our workshop program here.

10+

More than 10 workshops

6

held at 6 different universities in the second half of 2022

Dr. Carolin Ermer
Europa-Universität Flensburg

It is an unique opportunity for students to experience dedicated experts from Drip by Drip's network, who bring a lot of experience and, above all, practice from the field of water and fashion. The information in the workshops is always up to date and is characterized by a great complexity of content and topics. Thus, Drip by Drip connects the experienced practice with the teaching at the universities, which in my opinion, is absolutely essential for today's learning.

drip by drip

HOCHSCHULE HANNOVER
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

Universität der Künste Berlin

Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Umwelt Nürtingen-Geislingen

htw
Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin

Europa-Universität Flensburg

FH Bielefeld
University of Applied Sciences

FLUID FASHION EVENING

Our first event since the pandemic hit the World: The FLUID FASHION Evening, a pre-event for the 202030 Berlin Fashion Summit which took place during Berlin Fashion Week in March 2022, was a hybrid event of the vernissage for our very first public exhibition and a panel talk that discussed the question: „How anti-feminist is our closet really?“.

„How anti-feminist is our closet really?“

Together with Orsola de Castro and Marieke Eyskoot, our co-founder Amira discussed the connection between Water – Women – Fashion or how Orsola de Castro put it, the interconnection between “Women, Wages and Water”.

The professional exchange was framed by art installations of Austrian artist Armin Keplinger, who has dealt with the substance of water in his creations. The installations were shown publicly for the first time.

In addition, photographs of a documentary series by Bangladeshi photographer Saikat Baran Shil (which was commissioned by Drip by Drip), were exhibited. For the documentary, Shil has portrayed a number of the actual consequences of water shortage and pollution for the textile workers (mainly women) and their families.

Watch the event's aftermovie here.

Watch the full conversation here.

2

experts

2

artists

50+

selected guests

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

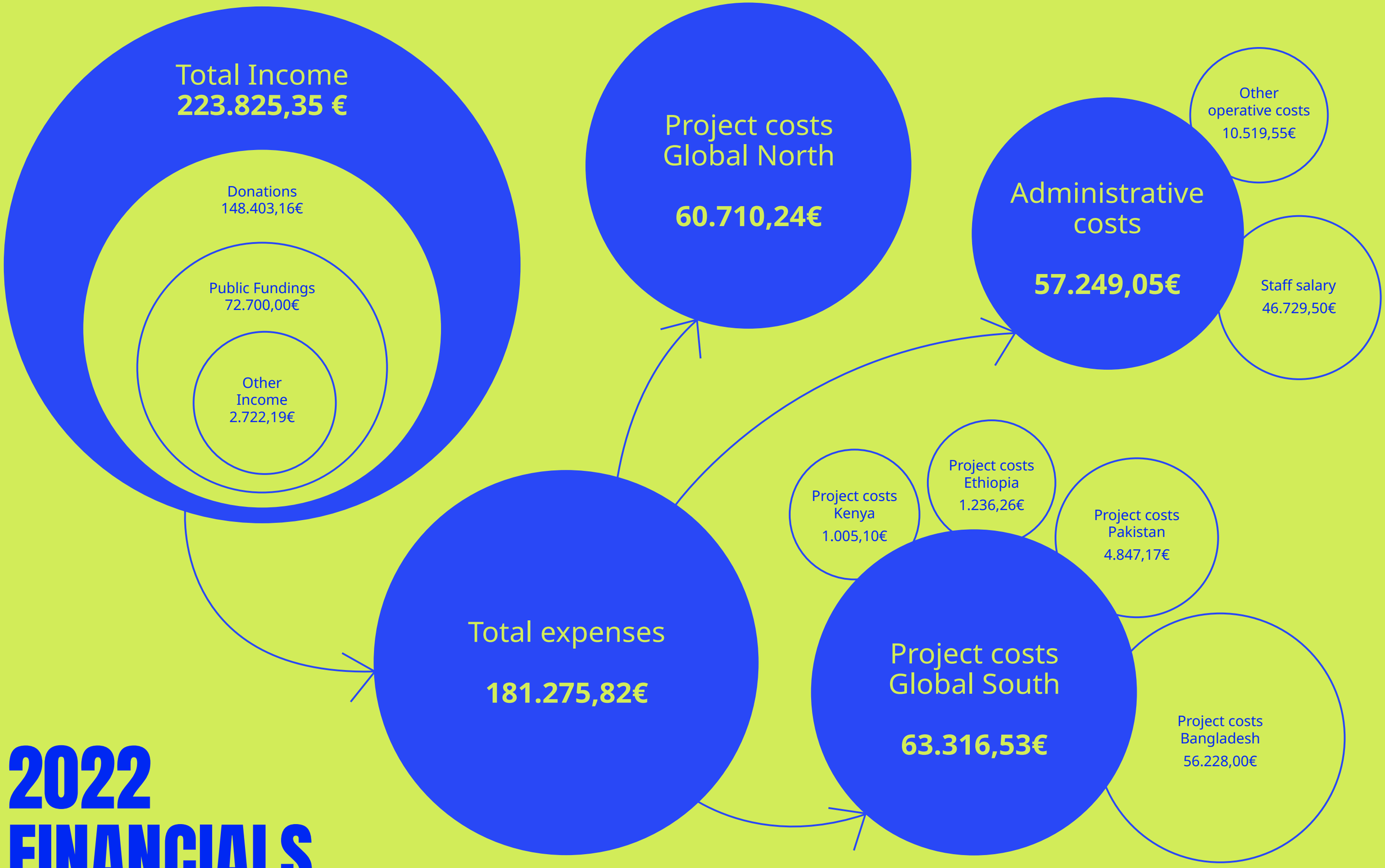
In 2022 the Fashion Council Germany published the study „German Fashion Footprint“ that addresses the global impact of the German Fashion Industry.

The study was run by Oxford Economics and was funded by a number of political institutions in Germany. Drip by Drip contributed a case study about the water pollution in Bangladesh called: „Vegetables in trend colors – Water and its social impact in Bangladesh“.

„The importance of water in the textile industry has long been neglected. Hardly anyone is aware of how much water is aduction of a simple garment. Drip by Drip works up this explosive topic professionally and thereby does a great and long overdue enlightenment.“

Tina Eisele, Water Expert & Consultant

2022 FINANCIALS



WHAT'S NEXT

Drip by Drip has exciting projects ahead in 2023. In the Global South, we will expand our activities to at least one more country. We will also expand our activities within Bangladesh.

So far we have focused on cleaning water to prevent the spreading of diseases and other health issues related to the consumption of toxic water.

In 2023 we will start to engage in providing medical services to the rural communities of the textile workers and their families, to treat the diseases that were already caused before we installed our water filters. Besides, we will continue to install water filters and deep tube wells in even more communities. For 2023 we plan to implement at least 30 new water solutions in Bangladesh.

In Pakistan we will expand our WASH interventions to more schools, as our pilot project was a great success.

In Kenya we will look into the possibility of plastic recycling to support the clean-ups of the Nairobi River even more.

In terms of our activities in the Global North, we will launch our very first Roundtable series with experts from different fields. We will launch The Drip – our first periodical publication.

We will continue to expand our network of brands and industry partners along the supply chain. And we will start to engage with younger students with our first school workshops.

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DE59 4306 0967 1223 0778 00
GENODEM1GLS

Design by Antimimosa
Date of Publication 02.06.2023

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