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

impact report, 2022
OUR MISSION

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.

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 waste-water.
“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
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.

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 deteriorating 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.

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.

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

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

20K
people provided with clean drinking water in the Global South

196 T
plastic waste recycled in the Global South

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

impact report, 2022
GROWTH OF IMPACT

[Graph showing growth over years with trends for water filters/deep tube wells, people with access to clean water, liters of filtered water in mio, education projects (workshops, events, etc.), and budget.]
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

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

2022 impact 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

14,320 people provided with clean drinking water

2,864 households provided with clean drinking water

32 water filters and deep tube wells funded & implemented
“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
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.

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 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.
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.

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.

Chapter 2
Nairobi, Kenya

An average of 150–200 tonnes of textile waste

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

impact report, 2022
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 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.

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.

Dr. Carolin Ermer
Europa-Universität Flensburg

They are the decision-makers of tomorrow.

More than 10 workshops held at 6 different universities in the second half of 2022.

Check out our workshop program here.
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 experts and selected guests.

The vernissage for our very first public exhibition and a panel talk that discussed the question: „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.
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
Total Income: €223,825,35
- Donations: €148,403,16
- Public Fundings: €72,700,00
- Other Income: €2,722,19

Total expenses: €181,275,82

Project costs Global North: €60,710,24
- Project costs Pakistan: €63,316,53
- Project costs Global North: €60,710,24

Administrative costs: €57,249,05
- Staff salary: €46,729,50
- Other operative costs: €10,519,55

Other income: €2,722,19

2022 Financials

Drip by drip impact report, 2022
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.