

Drip by Drip e.V.

2023 IMPACT REPORT





DEAR WATER STEWARDS,

Reflecting on another transformative year at Drip by Drip, we are reminded of our mission's importance.

Since 2018, we've tried to place water at the forefront of the fashion industry's agenda. Water is essential for life and a fundamental human right. Without careful management, the fashion industry strains vulnerable water resources. Water also plays a crucial role in climate change adaptation and resilient textile supply chains, achievable through robust stakeholder engagement.

This past year, our commitment has deepened. We conducted research, educated stakeholders and repaired damage that had already been caused.

Our projects include water filtration systems, WASH initiatives, mobile hospitals, and plastic recycling. These initiatives address immediate

needs and contribute to long-term climate resilience.

Thanks to your support, Drip by Drip has grown yet again. Our expanding network of experts from the Global South and North and forward-thinking companies enhances the resilience of communities and ecosystems that are sustaining the fashion supply chain.

This report showcases our 2023 efforts and achievements, highlighting the power of collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support and partnership. Together, we are forging a future where fashion respects and preserves our global freshwater reserves.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for your commitment to making a positive impact.

With dripping gratitude,

*Amira Jehia, Chairwoman of
Drip by Drip & Members of the
Board 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 has changed our lives. It has given me a good healthy body and it makes me clean and tidy. With the supply of clean water, I can stay in class and focus on my dreams. I want to become a doctor because I want to help sick people get well."

- Moushumi from Dhaka

& WATER POLLUTION & SCARCITY

Less than 1% of the world's freshwater is readily available for use, with the rest locked up in glaciers, polar ice caps, groundwater, the atmosphere, or soil among many other factors.

The concept of the water cycle teaches us that water isn't lost, but over-use, pollution, and unsustainable consumption can bring the system out of balance and lead to a decrease in available resources. Groundwa-

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

ter 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 disproportionately consumes and pollutes water resources, leading to water-stress-related problems in production regions. Already today, about 50% of the global population experience severe

water stress at some point during the year, while 25% of the world's population face extremely high levels of water stress each year, consuming more than 80% of their annual renewable freshwater supply.

According to the UN, 2 billion people worldwide are lacking basic access to clean and safe drinking water – today. South-East Asian countries, many of which have a very strong textile industry, are particularly affected by water risks. The ongoing impact of climate change is expected to exacerbate these issues, increasing the frequency and intensity of water risks, such as flooding and scarcity, and posing significant risks to social stability.

Despite global efforts, Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – is unlikely to be achieved by 2030. Current data reveals that progress is too slow to meet the targets, leaving billions without access to clean water and adequate sanitation.

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

Challenges such as insufficient funding, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change impacts exacerbate the situation. Urgent and accelerated action is needed from governments, organizations, and communities worldwide to address these gaps and move closer to achieving water security for all. Meanwhile, textile factories illegally release

2 billion people worldwide are lacking access

contaminated textile effluent into water systems, deteriorating ecosystems and communities.

Such water in turn is often used by local communities for irrigating their crops. In Bangladesh, textile dyes have been found in fruit and vegetable samples grown close to textile dyeing factories but also

afar. The polluted water also causes 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 meters of water – enough to meet the needs of five million people – is used by the fashion industry annually (according to the UNCTAD). This massive over-consumption and pollution of our water needs to stop now.



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

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Our approach
Informing and educating actual and future decision makers

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



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

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





6

team members

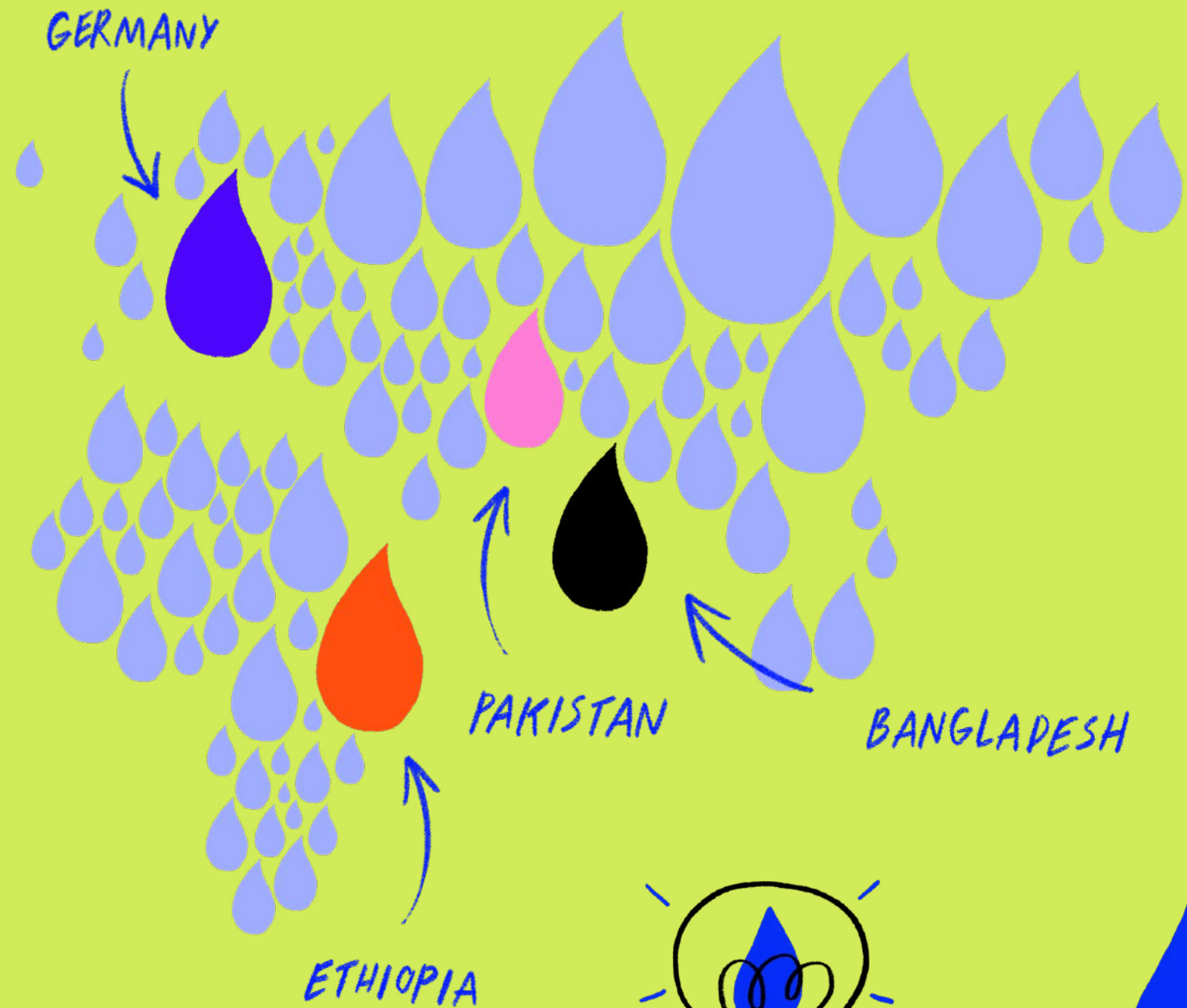


+35

advising and supporting experts

6 YEARS DRIP BY DRIP

in numbers



37

Education projects for different stakeholders developed and completed



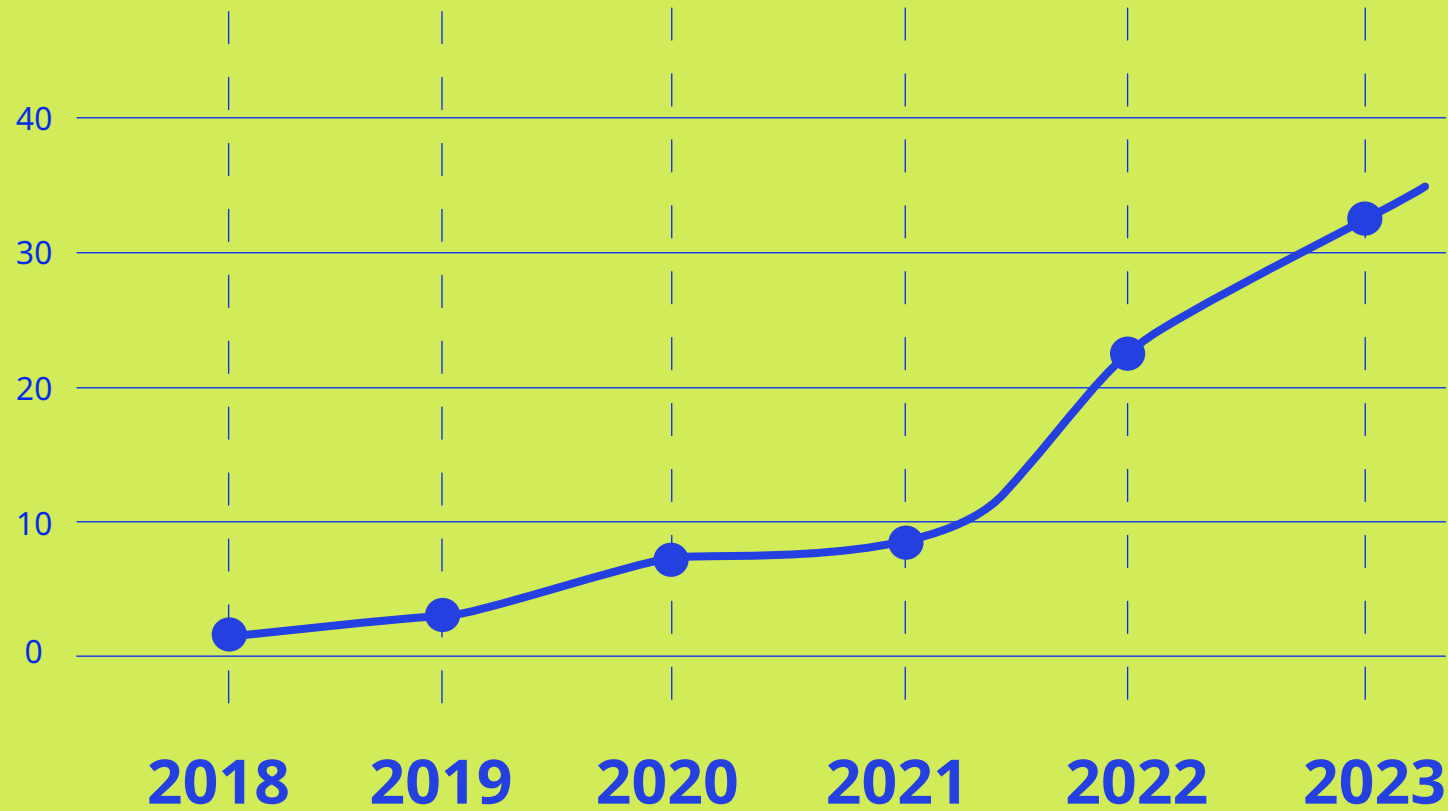
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Community Projects implemented in the Global South

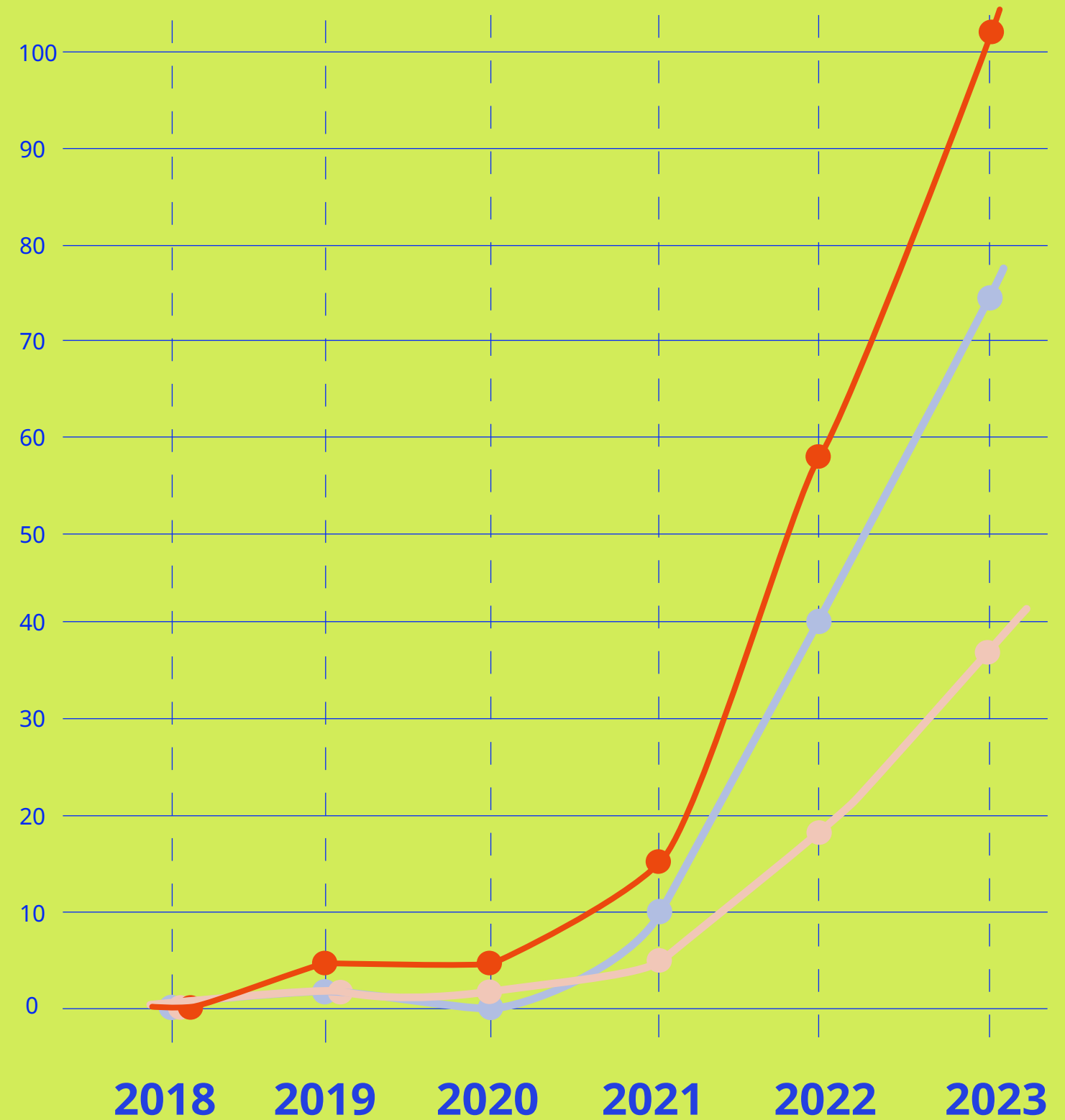
GROWTH OF IMPACT

To exemplify the growth of our impact over the past 6 years, we chose to illustrate the impact that we made with our very first activity - installing water filter solutions in communities that lack access to clean water in Bangladesh (see

graph on the right side). The visible increase has only been achievable through a constant increase of our annual budget that you can see in the graph below.



● budget total in 10k



● water filters/deep tube wells

● people with access to clean water in k

● liters of filtered water in mio

activities	outputs	impacts	SDG
<p>33</p> <p>installed Water Filters / Deep Tube Wells</p>	<p>18,500</p> <p>people with access to clean water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduces waterborne diseases → Decreases child mortality → Improves school attendance and performance → Empowers women and girls redirecting time from water collection to education 	
<p>2</p> <p>mobile hospital trucks delivering free medical care on 5 days a week</p>	<p>61,000</p> <p>health treatments in rural communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Prevention of serious conditions through regular medical attention → Reduces mortality and morbidity rates → Prevention through accompanying health education → Increases income through better health → Focusses on vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly and pregnant women 	
<p>5</p> <p>WASH interventions installed</p>	<p>2,400</p> <p>people with access to clean water</p> <p>720</p> <p>people with access to sanitation and WASH workshops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduces waterborne diseases → Increases school attendance, especially for girls → Empowers women and girls by reducing water collection burden and providing safe sanitation → Prevents environmental contamination through proper sanitation facilities 	

**2023
IMPACT**

**IN THE
GLOBAL SOUTH**

WASH INTERVENTIONS AT SCHOOLS

Malir, Karachi

Malir, an industrial area in Karachi, is home to numerous textile factories, some of which discharge untreated water into open sources, polluting the local water supply. This situation necessitates providing safe drinking water to the surrounding communities through our community WASH interventions in schools. We rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure at government schools, providing functional drinking

and provide villagers with protected spaces, illuminated by solar panels. Each school is equipped with a solar-powered water filtration system and water cooler to convert contaminated water into safe drinking water. Sanitation facilities, including toilets with septic tanks, and an excavated wetland for safe discharge disposal, were constructed. A community hand-washing facility is established at each school to promote better hygiene practices

and serves as a water source for residents. We also create WASH clubs at schools and provide training on water conservation and management. Regular advocacy and awareness-raising sessions are conducted to reinforce these practices.

[Learn more.](#)

Children learn in a dignified environment

king water and toilet facilities. This initiative allows children to learn in a dignified and healthy environment. Additionally, in rural areas, improved sanitation systems help eliminate open defecation practices



3,324

people provided with clean drinking water



6

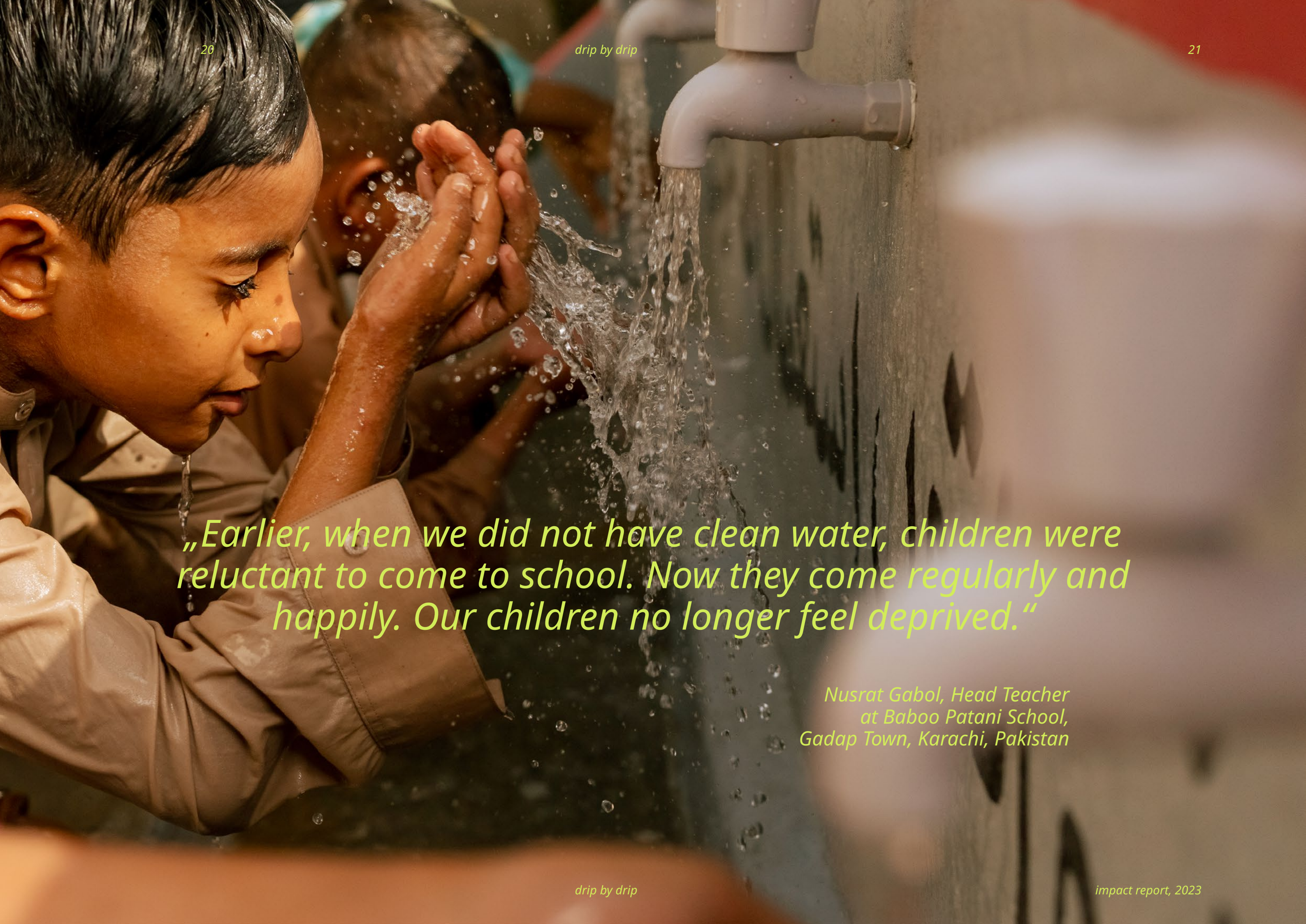
schools equipped with WASH interventions



924

students & teachers provided with access to sanitation systems





„Earlier, when we did not have clean water, children were reluctant to come to school. Now they come regularly and happily. Our children no longer feel deprived.“

*Nusrat Gabol, Head Teacher
at Baboo Patani School,
Gadap Town, Karachi, Pakistan*

MOBILE HOSPITAL

Providing free healthcare in Bangladesh



2

mobile hospital trucks



60,968

beneficiaries in the second half of 2023

In Bangladesh, access to adequate healthcare is very limited, especially in rural areas where many textile workers live and work.

To address this issue, we provide free regular medical examinations and treatments, including necessary medications and materials, for

but also promotes health education, disease prevention, and community engagement, significantly improving the well-being of the beneficiaries.

One mobile hospital truck typically serves 20-25 villages and treats between 5,500 and 6,000 people per month.

5,500-6,000 people are treated per month

[Learn more.](#)

textile workers and their communities. The Mobile Hospital trucks visit the villages 5 days a week. Each village is serviced once per month. During one day more than 100 people can be treated by 2 doctors and 2 medical nurses.

This comprehensive approach not only delivers crucial medical services



Munnu Mia, male, 46 years old,
Eidberdi, Araihasar,
Narayanganj, Bangladesh

“I work as a Rickshaw-puller and I do not get much time to visit hospitals. Also, hospitals and private clinics are very costly and I cannot afford to pay that much. Thus, I and my family members always visit the mobile hospital for treatment and even for minor infections, which previously we would have neglected. The hospital and its staff have enhanced the awareness about health and hygiene in the community to a large extent.”

IMPACT 2023

IN THE GLOBAL NORTH

activities

outputs

impacts

SDG

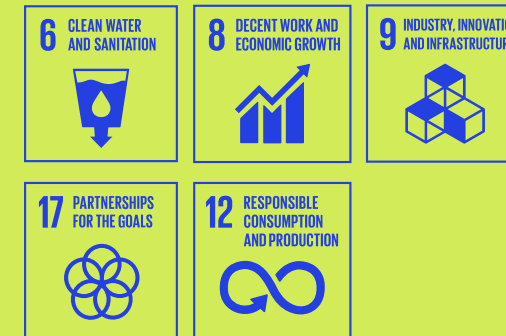
10

expert workshops at universities

165

providing 165 university students and teachers with hands-on solutions to minimize the effect of their design & production decisions on water resources

- Increases awareness that leads to sustainable choices
- Equips future fashion designers with skills to reduce water usage and pollution
- Inspires research and innovation in sustainable fashion
- Creates a ripple effect beyond the initial participants creates advocates for sustainable practices in fashion



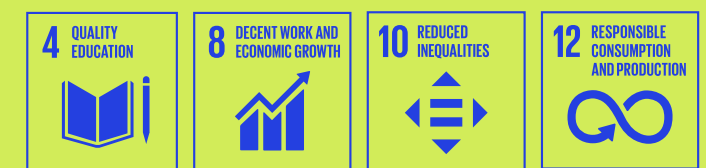
5

school workshops

150

sensitizing 150 students about the connection between water x fashion

- Increases awareness
- Promotes understanding of water conservation in fashion
- Promotes community action



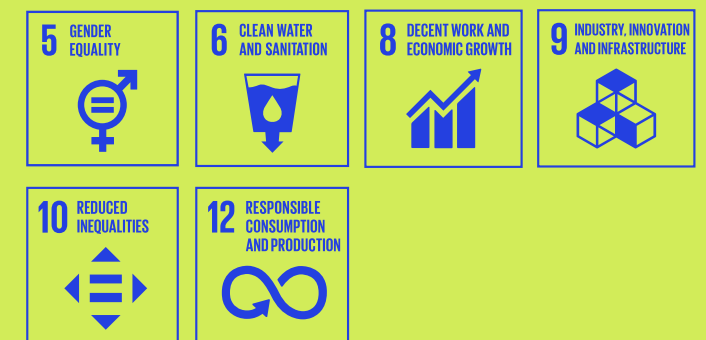
3

part-roundtable

50,300+

clicks learning from conversations on the overconsumption of water in the fashion industry and the implications on women in the producing countries

- Encourages informed discussions and actions on sustainable fashion and water conservation
- Raises awareness of gender-specific challenges in the fashion supply chain, boosting advocacy
- Provides an educational resource



1

exhibition & event

100+

getting 100+ visitors in touch with the water issues caused by the fashion & textile industry

- Educates the visitors to make sustainable choices
- Turns visitors into advocates that spread awareness
- Promotes long-term changes in addressing water issues in fashion



SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

The workshop educates students about the environmental damage caused by the fashion and textile industry. In small groups, they empathize with workers in production countries, fostering understanding of economic, social, and ecological interrelations. A discussion follows to exchange experiences and improvement ideas, leading to reflection



5

workshops

They are the decision-makers of tomorrow



145+

sensitized students about the connection between water x fashion

on purchasing decisions and potential demands on political leaders. Our analog or virtual workshops are designed for students in grades 8-12 and are free of charge. Students learn playfully about the textile value chain and its impact on water systems, from cotton cultivation in India to shipping textile waste to Africa. They explore the

current problems in the fashion industry from a multidimensional perspective within a global context.

The workshops cover topics such as the water cycle, water footprint, the link between production decisions and fashion consumption, water pollution, and global water issues.

Different solutions along the textile value chain and actions students can implement in their lives are also discussed.

Watch the video here





6

experts



+50,000

views



211

minutes of experts sharing their knowledge

WOMAN WATER WARDROBE

We hosted a series of three Roundtables featuring activists and experts who explored the textile industry's water practices and their significant environmental and social impacts across the supply chain.

The discussions included insights from experts and activists such as Kalpona Akter, Prof. Claudia Schwarz, Aditi Rajagopal, Lara Severa, Olga Nowikow and Lisa Jaspers.

They emphasized the need to support women in production countries, guard our common water resources, and rethink our own wardrobes.

EP.1

Water is feminist.

An analysis of the fashion industry & its impact on women and water.

EP.2

Water in fashion.

A deep dive conversation on water in the fashion industry hosted World Water Day with special guest Olga Nowikow.

EP.3

Create change.

How to create change in the fashion industry. Brands, Politics and Consumer Habits with special guest Lisa Jaspers



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Our Deputy Chairwoman, Marie Welkel, was invited to the Africa Water Conference 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Pan-African Stakeholder Conference and Collaborative Strategy Workshop, titled „Putting Water to Work for Africa: Accelerating Water Stewardship for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Economic Growth,“ gathered 84 water professionals from eight African countries.

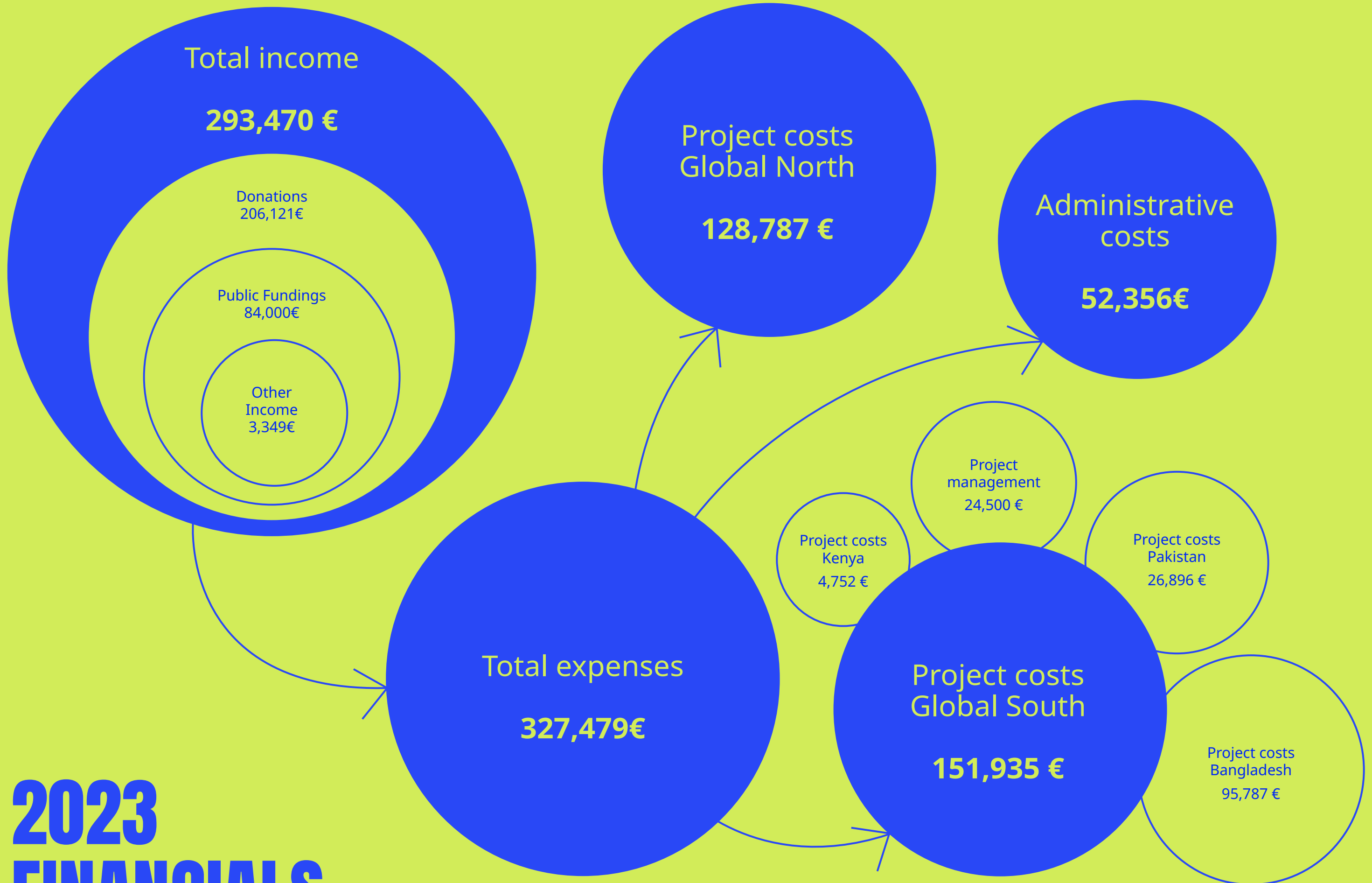
Water stewardship offers a vital framework for governments, businesses, investors, and civil society to address water and climate change risks and improve water security. Over two days, the different stakeholders discussed Sub-Saharan-African water risks and resilience, shared lessons on water stewardship, and strategized a path forward.

Key topics included water security risks, Fair Water Footprints, integrity in water stewardship, and sector-specific applications in fashion, horticulture, mining, cotton production, and smallholder farming.

To accelerate water stewardship, the conference identified several strategic priorities: evidence generation, policy reform, financial incentives, and community coherence. Attendees committed to maintaining contact with Water Witness International, enhancing water stewardship plans, advocating for Fair Water Footprints, and establishing a 'Fair Water Footprints for Africa' advisory group.

This collaborative effort underscores the need for local, regional, and global changes to trigger collective action, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for Africa.





2023 FINANCIALS

WHAT'S NEXT

Drip by Drip has exciting projects planned for 2024.

Global South

In the Global South, we will expand our activities to India and develop rainwater harvesting projects. In Bangladesh, we will install more deep tube wells and maintain operating the two mobile hospital trucks. In Pakistan, we will expand our WASH interventions to more schools, including some in cotton-growing areas.

Global North

In the Global North, we will launch our first podcast featuring experts from different fields and host an art exhibition to highlight the connection between water and fashion. We will engage with younger students through school workshops and university students through specialized programs. Additionally, we will expand our network of brands and industry partners along the supply chain and work along legislations such as the CSRD and the upcoming CSDDD.

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to addressing water issues and supporting communities under water-stress worldwide.

Our valued

PARTNERS, DONORS & FUNDERS

Beechfield Brands



ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

Hisaar Foundation
a foundation for water, food and livelihood security



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