



UNITED IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH

ANNUAL
REPORT 2019



FIGHTING FOR STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH CARE WORLDWIDE



THE FOCUS IN 2019 IS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH CARE, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE 'THIS IS OUR HEALTH CARE' CAMPAIGN.



With our 'manifesto for public health care worldwide', we urged future Belgian ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation to support the implementation of qualitative, transparent and accessible public health care services in other countries, to break the monopoly of pharmaceutical companies and to support social movements that demand the right to health. In our paper 'Why public health care is better', we went further and explained why health care is better in the hands of the public sector rather than the private sector.

Through this campaign, we are also supporting our partners in their fight for strong public health care in their countries. Our Filipino and Palestinian partners shared their experiences on how the campaigns for the right to health were conducted, while our Cuban partner met social movements in Belgium to talk to them about the Cuban approach to this issue.



400 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE NO ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH SERVICES



278 PEOPLE SIGNED THE MANIFESTO FOR STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH CARE



MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE CAME TO LISTEN TO THE TALK GIVEN BY CUBAN DOCTOR AISSA NARAJO

SOCIAL MOVEMENT FOR HEALTH: ONLY FIGHTERS WIN



IN 2019, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, FIGHTING FOR BASIC RIGHTS, HAD TO FACE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND EVEN INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS CONDITIONS. THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE IN SOME OF OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES.

Health is a basic right. And yet, health and social movement workers and activists are faced with difficulties every day in order to assert this right.

They are the victims of deliberate threats whose aim is to make them surrender their fight against injustice. Attacks against social movements are also often the most serious in places where social rights suffer the greatest violations. But people continue to take a stand and join forces for a better health situation for everyone and for a fairer society. It is only by getting organised in social movements that people can claim their rights and achieve change.



Through our 'Only Fighters Win' campaign, we are shining the spotlight on health workers and their social movements. Asrar, a Palestinian human rights activist, came to Belgium to talk about the situation in her country. Our campaign was part of the broader 11.11.11 campaign on 'change-makers', who fight for rights worldwide.

We have campaigned for several colleagues who work in partner organisations in the South, and we have taken initiatives to exert political pressure in favour of support for social movements that demand the right to health.



- **RACHEL MARIANO, A FILIPINO HEALTH WORKER, WAS RELEASED AFTER A YEAR IN PRISON**
- **300 HUNDRED SOCIAL MOVEMENT ACTIVISTS GATHERED IN THE STREET FOR THE 'DEFEND THE DEFENDERS' ACTION IN ANTWERP, BRUSSELS, GHENT, SINT-NIKLAAS AND VERVERS**
- **HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS GOT TO KNOW OUR HEALTH WORKERS AT THE MANIFIESTA FESTIVAL**



- **UBAI AND WALEED, OUR PALESTINIAN COLLEAGUES, WERE ARRESTED**
- **OUR FILIPINO COLLEAGUE, CRISTINA 'TINAY' PALABAY, FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION KARAPATAN, RECEIVED THREATS**
- **THE FIGHT CONTINUES: OUR PARTNERS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ARE STILL UNDER PRESSURE**

HEALTH COMMITTEES FIGHT FOR CLEAN WATER AND AGAINST THE EBOLA VIRUS

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE. ALL THE MORE SO IF WE CAN'T COUNT ON A STRONG HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.



Étoile du Sud's community health committees and CODIC's member organisations play an important role in the prevention of diseases such as malaria and Ebola. Through their cleanliness actions in popular neighbourhoods, and their actions concerning access to clean water and the importance of handwashing, they mobilise people to play an active role in defending their health and that of their community, an approach supported by the authorities.

WE WANT WATER

In Bukavu, South Kivu, the committees raised awareness in the community concerning water scarcity in different neighbourhoods. Groups of women and young people compiled a report on the lack of water and after several protests and negotiations with the national water supply company, these neighbourhoods were given access to drinking water.

THE CLEAN HANDS CHALLENGE

Access to clean water is a crucial stake in the fight against disease and the spread of viruses such as Ebola. Over the space of a month, Étoile du Sud led a wide-scale campaign in different provinces, in neighbourhoods, markets and schools, concerning the importance of washing your hands properly. In a region like North Kivu, where there was a widespread outbreak of Ebola in 2019, this hygiene ritual can be a matter of life or death.

PARTNERS: Etoile du Sud (EDS) and Collectif de Développement Intégré au Congo (CODIC)
REGIONS: Kinshasa, Katanga, North and South Kivu, Maniema, Tshopo

22.751 people have participated in initiatives for the right to health

42 local authority representatives were present when the 'Clean Hands Challenge' ended in Tshopo

23 schools took part in the actions to fight Ebola within the framework of the #cleanhandschallenge campaign



MAMAN MASALE ANNE
 municipality of N'sele, Kinshasa



"Thanks to the project I set up with others in my neighbourhood, all the inhabitants have access to drinking water again. Today, many people are also involved in cleanliness actions."

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

IN THE PHILIPPINES, WE WORK WITH HEALTH ORGANISATIONS, WOMEN AND CLIMATE MOVEMENTS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. TOGETHER THEY FORM A FRONT FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH. WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HIGHLIGHT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT BATTLES OF 2019.

In 2019, the public health care system in the Philippines suffered a number of heavy blows. The government made drastic cuts in hospitals and public services at a time when the country was experiencing a new epidemic of dengue fever and, for the first time in 20 years, the return of polio. Our partners sounded the alarm.

The year appeared to get off to a good start. In February, the president passed a law on universal health care. Thanks to this law, all Filipinos are supposed to benefit from national health insurance, known as Philhealth. But the law offers no solution for chronic health problems. Major investments in prevention, infrastructure and public health services are what

is needed, rather than paying for health insurance that increases the profits of private commercial stakeholders who, to make matters worse, have been accused of outright fraud.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

With the help of several organisations and networks, our partners have put forward bills against the privatisation of public hospitals, for affordable medication, and for better working conditions for health workers. There is also widespread disarray among the population. Owing to various scandals, many have joined protests and created community-based committees. Together they form a growing coalition for the people's right to health.



56 new members and rights activists were trained by CHD to campaign

5259 organised members of CHD are active in the campaigns

11 local and national decision-makers reacted to policy documents and research



NELEÑA BALTAR
volunteer for CHD



“When we ask the government to ban the privatisation of public hospitals, we aren’t only doing it for ourselves but also for all the poor people who don’t benefit from any health care from the authorities.”

PARTNERS: Council for Health and Development (CHD), Gabriela, Karapatan, Climate Change Network for Community Initiatives (CCNCI)
REGIONS: national

FIGHTING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL

IN PALESTINE WE STRENGTHEN YOUTH MOVEMENTS THAT PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH THROUGH LOCAL ACTIONS, NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND NETWORKING. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CAMPAIGNS IN 2019 WAS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL.



The health situation of the Palestinians is heavily impacted by the Israeli occupation, by the physical and psychological violence and all its economic and social effects. Health care is also under pressure, especially owing to delays at checkpoints, the ban on building hospitals in certain regions or the difficulty of importing medication and essential medical supplies. Hence, many Palestinians rely on Israeli health care but can't always acquire permission to travel.

NATIONAL SURVEY

That said, the Palestinian Authorities can also do something to improve the health system. This is why our Palestinian partners organised a massive survey on national health insurance. They wanted to know if it met international standards and to what extent Palestinians are satisfied with this insurance and public health care. Bisan, one of our local partners, focused especially on young people, through group discussions in five towns in the West Bank. Hence, they are taking the initiative by creating a bridge between the population and the authorities through actions within local communities and initiatives such as this national survey.

4 PARTNERS

REGIONS: the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza

86 youth movements played an active role in local campaigns in order to improve the health situation within their community

60% of Palestinians benefit from national health insurance but half of them find it too expensive

More than **50%** of people benefiting from this insurance go to private hospitals and 75% go to private doctors even if this is more expensive

A STUDENT

who participated in this survey



"I didn't realise the importance of a public health care system and the importance of fighting for it. I didn't know that our health care system allowed companies to play with our lives and our health."

CUBA

ACTING TOGETHER AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

CUBA IS MORE EXPOSED TO CLIMATE CHANGE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS IS WHY THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SET UP A PLAN TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, CALLED 'TAREA VIDA', WHICH MEANS 'PLAN FOR LIFE'.



Our local partner, Centro Felix Varela, plays an active role in this programme. It develops the means to involve the population and raise awareness about the risks of global warming, and to increase their general knowledge on the subject. This is done through 'Green Mapping', a unique method by which the inhabitants themselves map the natural resources within their living environment.

In 2019, with the help of Cubanismo.be, we sold chocolate eggs during our annual Easter campaign, for the benefit of a project to replant mangroves by volunteer groups in Cuba. More than 100 coastal communities are right on the front line if a cyclone hits. If this happens, they will have to move elsewhere. The mangroves allow them to better protect themselves against the severe impact of cyclones.

ALIUSKA BLANKO

volunteer at Centro Felix Varela



"We managed to restore this mangrove, which is a precious ecosystem, through environmental rehabilitation actions in El Rincón. This is the work of an entire community, coordinated by the Centro Felix Varela."

14 335 euro
collected
during our Easter campaign

122 coastal communities
must be moved

1.3 metres a year: this is how far
the water penetrates inland to the
Cuban south coast due to rising sea levels.

INTERNATIONAL

FROM EXPERIENCE TO KNOWLEDGE: A PARTICIPATORY SURVEY

ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, WE ARE STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH MOVEMENT THROUGH OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH MOVEMENT. WE SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND TRAINING. IN 2019, WE WERE PROUD TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF A STUDY CONDUCTED OVER FOUR YEARS.



What is there in common between the occupation of a hospital in Colombia, a community health committee in Congo and a patients movement in South Africa fighting for access to medication? To answer this question, Viva Salud participated in a People's Health Movement survey for four years, in order to see how activism could be made more efficient and to build a global social movement for health for all.

This survey highlights what we do and the way we do it, for instance, as regards organising a campaign, the way of defending our ideas and recruiting new activists. The opinions and experiences of activists play a central role. The cycles of actions and collective reflection have allowed us to share our experiences on our way of organising ourselves to act, and to reach a common view of what works in a given context.

Within the framework of this survey, Viva Salud organised workshops in Congo with our partners Étoile du Sud and Codic, among other things. The study led to an academic article published in 2019 entitled 'Methodological challenges in researching activism in action: civil society engagement towards health for all'.

130 researchers
in 10 countries

6 cases in Brazil,
Colombia, RD
Congo, India, Italy and
South Africa

50 research
reports



CHIARA BODINI
management officer
at Viva Salud



"I was impressed by the richness of the different experiences of struggle in different fields related to health (environment, food sovereignty, human rights, etc.) and by the possible links offered by this survey."

FINANCIAL REPORT

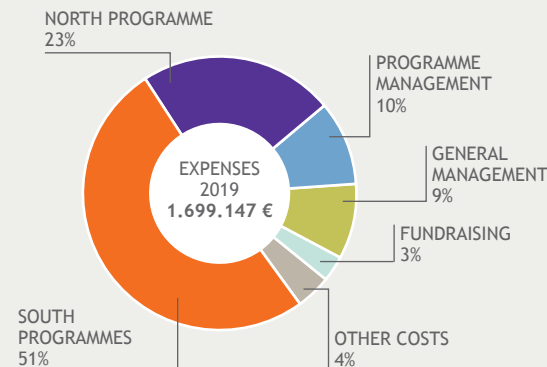
	2018	2019	
EXPENSES	2.147.231	1.699.147	
SOUTH PROGRAMMES	1.321.720	865.150	51%
Partnerships			
- partnerships Congo	139.114	118.518	
- partnerships Philippines	221.577	225.750	
- partnerships Palestine	178.654	171.091	
- partnership Cuba	17.879	12.000	
- emergency aid	16.098	5.000	
- small projects	60.258	28.617	
- People's Health Movement	568.692	233.467	
personnel - expatriates and headquarters	119.448	70.707	
NORTH PROGRAMME	395.295	391.217	23%
operational expenses	59.981	99.488	
personnel	335.314	291.729	
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	158.322	173.123	10%
operational expenses	47.026	56.406	
personnel	111.297	116.717	
GENERAL MANAGEMENT	156.360	151.645	9%
office rent and general expenses	44.687	49.514	
communication	19.368	23.604	
personnel (general operations)	92.305	78.527	
FUNDRAISING	57.953	54.430	3%
personnel	31.025	30.675	
operational expenses	16.219	12.315	
purchases	10.709	11.440	
OTHER COSTS	57.580	63.583	4%
provision	13.085	-10.766	
common programme	44.495	74.348	

In 2019, our turnover was approximately EUR 1.7 million.

In 2018, we organised a major assembly of the People's Health Movement. It was a unique activity, which explains the significant difference between the two years.

We said goodbye to Hans, our local coordinator in the Philippines, who retired. Today, we only have one cooperative in Kinshasa.

In 2019, we conducted a mid-term assessment of our five-year programme. This explains the increase in management costs.



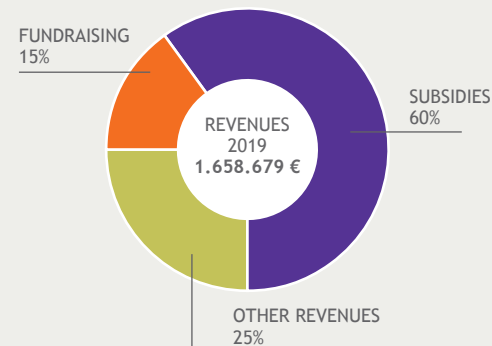
FINANCIAL REPORT

	2018	2019	
REVENUES	2.165.573	1.658.679	
FUNDRAISING	251.152	241.955	15%
donations and bequests	228.630	211.291	
sales campaigns	22.522	25.765	
companies		4.899	
SUBSIDIES	1.209.917	999.457	60%
subsidies federal government DGD	961.104	884.783	
subsidies communities, provinces and municipalities	47.099	57.436	
subsidies IDRC Canada	142.742		
subsidies for personnel	58.972	57.238	
OTHER REVENUES	704.504	417.268	25%
contributions from other organisations	66.030	30.679	
contributions from 11.11.11	72.945	65.035	
contributions from CNCD-11.11.11	557	25.025	
contributions from PHM member organizations	186.772	163.933	
contributions from foundations	316.022	69.354	
recovery of expenses	10.023	3.928	
miscellaneous revenues (interest)	7.661	4.915	
recovery of common programme costs	44.495	54.399	
RESULT	18.341	-40.468	
addition or withdrawal from the reserves	18.341	-40.468	

We didn't manage to reach our fundraising objectives and experienced a slight drop in donations.

Significant cuts were made to our subsidies.

We ended the year with a loss of EUR 40,000 owing to cuts to the governmental subsidies and we raised less funds than initially forecast. We have taken this amount out of our reserves so that we can continue to work on our programmes. The reduction in other revenues did not affect the result.



Viva Salud is a member of:

- 11.11.11 (umbrella of the Flemish North-South movement)
- CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre national de coopération au développement)
- ACODEV (federation of development cooperation NGOs)
- ngo-federatie (Flemish federation of development cooperation NGOs)
- Association for Ethics in Fundraising
- Be-cause health (Belgian Platform for International Health)
- Platform for Action on Health and Solidarity
- Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)
- Climate Coalition
- People's Health Movement
- 'Stop the Killings' platform



Thank you to our donors, volunteers and sympathisers.

Besides our donors, volunteers and sympathisers, we would also like to thank the authorities, federations and organisations who co-funded our action in 2019:

- Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- 11.11.11 (umbrella of the Flemish North-South movement)
- CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre national de coopération au développement)
- Wallonie-Bruxelles International
- Towns and municipalities: Antwerp, Aalst, Genk, Lille, Menin
- Open Society Foundations



Viva Salud abides by the Code of Ethics of the Association for Ethics in Fundraising. You have the right to information. This means that donors, volunteers and members of staff are informed at least once a year about the use of the funds raised.



Viva Salud Fights for the right to health worldwide. To achieve this, we adhere to our key values: social justice, solidarity, activism and sovereignty.



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YOU WERE FANTASTIC!

In 2019, we were able to count on the commitment and enthusiastic support of no less than 173 volunteers during our campaigns and activities, with fundraising events, sports events, administrative work, translations, layout, logistical tasks and the organisation of activities in municipalities. Thanks to this much-needed support, we can take stock together of our successful campaigns in favour of strong public health care and support for social movements fighting for the right to health.

