



UNITED IN THE  
STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020



# THE WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS



THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CAUSED AN UNPRECEDENTED HEALTH CRISIS IN 2020. HEALTH WORKERS HAVE GIVEN THEIR BEST, WHILE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS THE WORLD OVER HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

*Thanks to 6 webinars, 228 participants were able to share their experiences and learn from activists in Palestine, Congo, the Philippines, Cuba, Belgium and elsewhere.*



A virus that is supposed to isolate us from each other has also brought us closer together. Volunteers have been getting involved in helping the elderly and people in vulnerable situations. This solidarity has spread beyond borders. Cuba has sent medical teams all over the world. Social movements have created new digital spaces to organise and support each other.

Under the slogan ‘Support the worldwide struggle against the coronavirus’, we highlighted the fight against the coronavirus in our partners countries: Congo, the Philippines, Palestine and Cuba. Together with numerous organisations and social movements, we asked the government to help make the COVID-19 vaccine a global common good. Because everyone deserves protection. We also stressed the importance of a strong public health system that doesn’t discriminate between rich and poor. Public health services are the best guarantee of an effective response to a health crisis such as the one caused by the coronavirus.



*August 31, 2020: 150 people demonstrated, in line with the health measures, against the Israeli bombings in Gaza.*



**WITH 2 WHITE PAPERS AND 10 OPINION ARTICLES, IN COLLABORATION WITH 18 NGOS, TRADE UNIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS, WE PUT THE UNEQUAL ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES ON THE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL AGENDA.**



**WE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN 4 NATIONAL NETWORKS, 11.11.11, CNCD-11.11.11, THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION ON HEALTH AND SOLIDARITY AND BE-CAUSE HEALTH, IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR VISION OF HEALTH RESONATE ON A BROADER LEVEL**

**MICHELINE BRUYNINCKX**  
volunteer at Viva Salud



**“All governments should invest in health care. Even ‘rich’ countries with so-called qualitative health care haven’t managed to keep up with this pandemic.”**

# ALL HEROES FOR HEALTH

GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE TAKEN DRASTIC MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. AS A RESULT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE BEEN UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE. WE HAVE DEFENDED THEM THROUGH THE 'ONLY FIGHTERS WIN' CAMPAIGN.

The work done by social movements is more than ever necessary, now that the right to health of so many people is threatened. Nevertheless, it is clear that their work is under pressure, also in our partners countries. In the Philippines, the police and the army have used excessive force to enforce the lockdown. The government

has adopted a new anti-terror law that allows it to target social movements that criticise the management of the health crisis. In Palestine too, the Israeli occupier continues to arrest human rights activists.

Throughout the 'Only Fighters Win' campaign, we have brought these defenders of human rights and these social movements to the fore during webinars and solidarity campaigns online and offline. With 'Defend the Defenders', we demanded that our government protect social movements and develop a foreign policy that respects human rights, through a video and an open letter. The ministers of foreign affairs and development cooperation reacted by promising to give human rights a prominent place in their policies.



ONLY FIGHTERS WIN



*The heroines and heroes of the health sector aren't alone. Social movements active in different sectors are supporting them. All heroes and heroines for health!*



**ON 10 DECEMBER, TOGETHER WITH MORE THAN 50 ORGANISATIONS, WE CALLED FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE: DEFEND THE DEFENDERS!**



**340 SUPPORTERS WORE A MASK WITH THE CAMPAIGN'S EFFIGY - STAY SAFE, SPEAK UP! - IN ORDER NOT TO BE REDUCED TO SILENCE.**



**THANKS TO 6 WEBINARS, 229 PARTICIPANTS LEARNT ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE CONCERNING THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH.**



# STRUGGLING AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS, DOOR TO DOOR

DESPITE THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AIMED AT FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS, OUR PARTNERS SUCCEEDED IN STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH MOVEMENT IN CONGO AND IN INVOLVING MANY NEW PEOPLE IN THEIR ACTIONS.



Etoile du Sud and CODIC's response to the health crisis was particularly rapid and effective, thanks to their presence in many neighbourhoods in different provinces and their power to organise and mobilise. Our partners' popular health committees immediately put to good use the experience they have acquired from the struggle against the Ebola virus to combat COVID-19.

They informed their members and the population about this new virus through different communication channels, i.e. social media and in the street. They collected funds to buy masks and hygiene kits and debunked the rumours circulating about the coronavirus. Thanks to numerous initiatives and cooperation with the local authorities and other organisations, they managed to recruit new members in the right to health movement.

The struggle against the coronavirus also gave our partners the opportunity to put the struggle for access to drinking water, social justice and a healthy living environment on the agenda of local authorities.

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

Health activists make **62,700 home visits** to inform and mobilise people.

**19,097 people** participated in actions throughout the year, culminating in a clean-up action involving 9,595 participants in 6 provinces.

Thanks to our partners and the network in which they operate, **153 local authorities** supported initiatives, for the first time, aimed at tackling the health situation in their neighbourhood.



**ROGER KAKULA**  
Étoile du Sud



“The government doesn't inform the population about basic hygiene measures. That's why we go from door to door with our community activists.”



## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS REFUSE TO BE SILENCED

IN THE PHILIPPINES, COVID-19 BEGAN AS A HEALTH CRISIS BUT QUICKLY TURNED INTO A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS. OUR FILIPINO PARTNERS HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING AGAINST THE VIRUS AND AGAINST REPRESSION.



The pandemic has shown to what extent the economy and the health system are failing in the Philippines. The lockdown there has been one of the longest and strictest in the world, and with no social safety net. The government has done nothing to help the population, and no food or protective equipment has been handed out. On the contrary, the police and the army have gone after people who have had no other choice than to go out on the streets to survive. There have been arrests and even assassinations.

Social movements have also come under fire from a new anti-terror law aimed at silencing any criticism. And this, at

a time, when their work is more necessary than ever. Our partners have done everything to protect human rights and help many families in a vulnerable situation, especially in the slums of major cities. They have realised, more than ever, how important their work is in these neighbourhoods in terms of health, including preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

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

**Through participation in 721 activities** (debates, webinars, actions, opinion articles, consultations with the government) our partners exerted pressure to obtain investments in public health and humanitarian aid.

Despite the lockdown and in consultation with the local authorities, the women's movement Gabriela was able to set up preventive and humanitarian actions. They helped **2,490 people and 5,050 families**.

**85 legislators and civil servants as well as 92 local policymakers** integrated our partners' recommendations in a bill providing for free COVID-19 tests for at-risk groups and health workers, food aid and emergency relief for communities affected by the typhoons.

"In the fight against COVID-19, the role of community health workers is very important because we know what people need and what they can do against the virus. It's a shame the government doesn't recognise the importance of our contribution."

**VALENTINA LOMBRES**  
volunteer at CHD

## STRUGGLING TOGETHER FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC DOMINATED 2020 IN PALESTINE TOO. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR PALESTINIANS - WHICH IS ALREADY VERY LIMITED - WAS BROUGHT TO A COMPLETE STANDSTILL BY THE LOCKDOWN. IN THIS DIFFICULT CONTEXT, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND YOUTH MOVEMENTS TURNED TO SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL TIES.



The health crisis exacerbated inequalities in terms of the right to health. Fighting a pandemic under military occupation, a blockade and a weakened socio-economic situation has been a huge challenge. Nevertheless, the Palestinian social movement has managed to set a strong example of solidarity for the rest of the world.

The youth movement our partners work with joined forces with emergency relief committees to offer protective equipment and psychosocial support to the elderly and people in a vulnerable situation. At the same time, our partners continued to promote a strong public health system. The movement for people with disabilities achieved a great victory. With the support of our partners and youth movements, it successfully campaigned for comprehensive health insurance.

### 4 PARTNERS

REGIONS: West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza

**93,000 people with a disability** now benefit from full health insurance thanks to the action of our partner organisation and youth movements.

Partners coordinated alliances around **5 national campaigns** to promote Palestinians' right to health. Among other things, this includes the struggle for decent public health insurance and the right to health for Palestinian refugees.

**8 online events**, during which our partners defended the right to health in Palestine and brought together speakers from several countries.



“This pandemic has taught me about solidarity in our community, but also about the laxity in the management of the pandemic. That’s why I’m involved in Bisan’s campaign to increase the health budget.”

### WALID

volunteer in a youth movement



CUBA

## UNITED AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS: SÍ SE PUEDE!

THE COVID-19 CRISIS HAS SHOWN HOW CUBA HAS MANAGED TO PROTECT ITS POPULATION THANKS TO A POLICY THAT FOCUSES ON PREVENTION, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND COOPERATION WITH THE POPULATION. THE NUMBER OF INFECTIONS HAS STAYED UNDER CONTROL AND THE COUNTRY HAS DEVELOPED SEVERAL VACCINES.



Besides medical staff, civil society organisations play an important role in the Cuban health system. One of these organisations is the Centro Felix Varela. This centre has a lot of experience in working-class neighbourhoods and schools.

In 2020, volunteers from Cubanismo.be and Viva Salud sold Easter eggs for the benefit of Proyecto Akokán, a social, cultural and ecological neighbourhood project that is part of the Centro Felix Varela network. When the first coronavirus infections were confirmed, they set to work with unbridled determination: “Sí se puede!” or “Yes we can!”

In collaboration with community health workers, local authorities and social sector staff, they drew up a contamination risk map with information on people in a vulnerable situation, and people and organisations likely to help them, such as an agricultural cooperative, restaurants and neighbourhood committee coordinators, as well as artists.



“In our quest for resources, we have to look beyond the financial aspect. I’m thinking of a sort of ‘time bank’, because the commitment of volunteers in terms of time is just as valuable.”

Proyecto Akokán coordinator



**VOLUNTEERS SOLD 3,138 BAGS OF EASTER EGGS FOR THE BENEFIT OF CENTRO FELIX VARELA AND PROYECTO AKOKÁN IN CUBA, AND THE CUBANISMO.BE’S CAMPAIGN WORK IN BELGIUM.**

**FURTHERMORE, MANY CHOSE TO GIVE THEIR EASTER EGGS TO HEALTH WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN HOMES IN BELGIUM AS ENCOURAGEMENT.**



## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED THE WHOLE WORLD. FURTHERMORE, THE WEAKEST HAVE BEEN THE HARDEST HIT. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE JOINED FORCES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.



Viva Salud is one of the organisations in the People's Health Movement, the global movement for the right to health. Thanks to our active role in this network, we can share experiences and knowledge with many social movements worldwide on strategies to struggle for the right to health for everyone. This also strengthens our efforts to pass on our message to international organisations such as the World Health Organization.

During the COVID-19 crisis, this international work has become more relevant than ever. Through the People's Health Movement and thanks to the Geneva Global Health Hub, we have been able to

bring the concerns of our partner organisations to the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Since the beginning, we have also been involved in a campaign to collect 1 million signatures at European level to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to everyone worldwide. Doctors from our sister organisation Doctors for the People (Médecine pour le Peuple) have helped to elaborate the European Citizens' Initiative 'No Profit on Pandemic'. We immediately helped them to launch the initiative internationally. The campaign will continue in 2021.



**4 INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS, 8 CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL POLICY INITIATIVES.**



**ON 7 APRIL, WORLD HEALTH DAY, WE TOOK PART IN AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PRIVATISATION OF HEALTH CARE.**



**LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN 'NO PROFIT ON PANDEMIC' CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT 1 MILLION SIGNATURES FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CORONAVIRUS VACCINES.**



**DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS**

Director-General of the World Health Organization (in answer to a question from Viva Salud on human rights during the coronavirus pandemic)



**"We cannot stifle human rights to get rid of the pandemic, it will even delay the fight. We need to raise our voice together to be more powerful."**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

	2019	2020	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>1.699.147</b>	<b>1.583.309</b>	

<b>PARTNERSHIPS</b>	<b>865.150</b>	<b>818.300</b>	<b>52%</b>
> partnerships Congo	118.518	137.480	
> partnerships Philippines	225.750	210.578	
> partnerships Palestine	171.091	187.058	
> partnership Cuba	12.000	6.917	
> emergency aid	5.000	6.091	
> small projects	28.617	26.282	
> People's Health Movement	233.467	171.870	
personnel - expatriates and headquarters	<b>70.707</b>	<b>72.024</b>	

<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>391.217</b>	<b>335.498</b>	<b>21%</b>
operational expenses	99.488	60.120	
personnel	291.729	275.378	

<b>PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>173.123</b>	<b>160.831</b>	<b>10%</b>
operational expenses	56.406	59.085	
personnel	116.717	101.746	

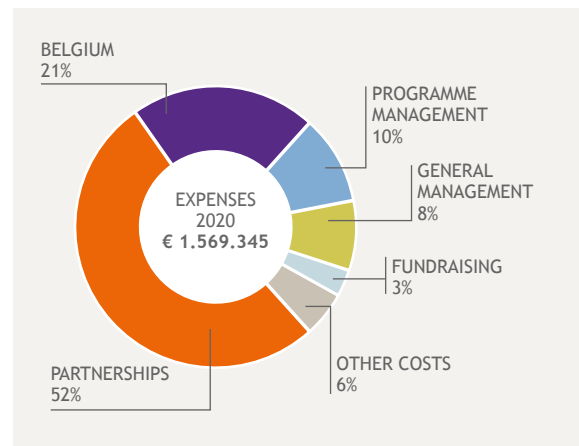
<b>GENERAL MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>151.645</b>	<b>132.936</b>	<b>8%</b>
office rent and general expenses	49.514	41.457	
communication	23.604	17.215	
personnel (general operations)	78.527	74.264	

<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>54.430</b>	<b>50.544</b>	<b>3%</b>
personnel	30.675	26.000	
operational expenses	12.315	13.059	
purchases	11.440	11.485	

<b>OTHER COSTS</b>	<b>63.583</b>	<b>85.200</b>	<b>6%</b>
provision	-10.766	24.472	
common programme	74.348	60.728	

Our total expenditure fell from EUR 1.7 million to less than EUR 1.6 million, which comes as no surprise considering the past year's coronavirus crisis.

It is especially in this the area that expenditure fell as a result of the pandemic. Some activities were postponed or were conducted differently.



These are partly provisions for future risks and partly costs associated with cooperation, which are therefore offset by income.

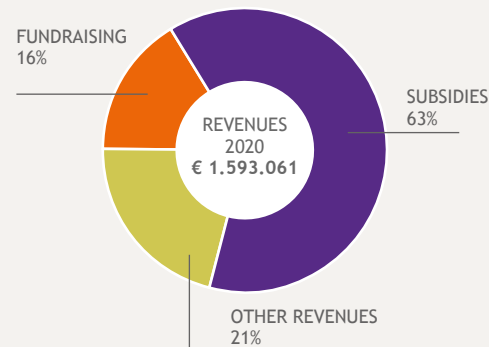
# FINANCIAL REPORT

	2019	2020	
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>1.658.679</b>	<b>1.593.061</b>	
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>241.955</b>	<b>248.784</b>	<b>16%</b>
donations and bequests	211.291	235.489	
sales campaigns	25.765	13.295	
companies	4.899		
<b>SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>999.457</b>	<b>1.003.766</b>	<b>63%</b>
subsidies federal government DGD	884.783	886.184	
subsidies communities, provinces and municipalities	57.436	58.082	
subsidies for personnel	57.238	59.500	
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>	<b>417.268</b>	<b>340.511</b>	<b>21%</b>
contributions from other organisations	30.679	5.445	
contributions from 11.11.11	65.035	62.282	
contributions from CNCDC-11.11.11	25.025	23.370	
contributions from PHM member organizations	163.933	57.289	
contributions from fondations	69.354	131.314	
recovery of expenses	3.928	4.402	
miscellaneous revenues (interest)	4.915	16.349	
recovery of common programme costs	54.399	40.060	
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>-40.468</b>	<b>23.716</b>	
addition or withdrawal from the reserves	-40.468	9.752	

Our revenue amounts to EUR 1.6 million. We therefore have a positive result of almost EUR 10,000, which we have added to our reserves. Careful financial management has allowed us to keep our organisation's financial situation afloat, despite the pandemic.

We were able to count on the generosity of our donors and succeeded in raising more donations. Sales were disappointing owing to the pandemic.

The funding of the People's Health Movement by member organisations and foundations has been particularly affected by the pandemic. At the same time, there was also less expenditure concerning this item.



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 NGO)
- ngo-federatie (Flemish federation of cooperation development NGO)
- Association for Ethics in Fundraising (VEF-AERF)
- Be-cause health (Belgian Platform for International Health)
- Santé et Solidarité action platform
- Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)
- Coalition climat
- People's Health Movement
- 'Stop the Killings' platform
- European Citizens' Initiative 'No profit on pandemic'



We would like to thank the governments, federations and organisations that co-funded our activities in 2020:

- Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- WBI (Wallonie-Bruxelles International)
- 11.11.11 (umbrella of the Flemish North-South Movement)
- CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre national de coopération au développement)
- Towns and municipalities: Antwerp, Genk, Ghent, Hoeilaart, Lille, Lommel and Menen
- Open Society Foundations Public Health Program



Viva Salud subscribes to the code of ethics of the Association for Ethics in Fundraising. You have the right to information. This means that donors, volunteers and staff members are informed, at least once a year, about how the funds raised are used.

## INTEGRITY

In 2019, we organised a participatory process with the whole team to improve our integrity policy. One of the results was the appointment of a complaints office and a code of conduct that was discussed with our partners abroad. In 2020, our board of directors approved this code of conduct. This document is available on our website.

If you have any complaints concerning our organisation or our staff, you can contact our complaints officer at: [safeguarding@vivasalud.be](mailto:safeguarding@vivasalud.be). No complaints were lodged in 2020.



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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## UNITED AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS

2020 was a special year. Unfortunately, many of the activities where we meet physically couldn't take place. And yet, it was an incredible boost to see how many volunteers and supporters made themselves heard and seen! Thanks to your commitment, social movements have proven stronger in their struggle against the coronavirus and for a strong public health system!



- 🕒 **134 volunteers** actively participated in Viva Salud campaigns
- 🕒 **44 supporters** organised fundraising actions for the right to health
- 🕒 nearly **600 people** participated in our activities
- 🕒 **1,672 donors** and **521 allies** supported our work financially

A big thank you to you all!