



UNITED IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT
2021



SHARE THE VACCINE, NOT THE VIRUS!

IN 2021, WE CAMPAIGNED FOR GLOBAL ACCESS TO VACCINES AND OTHER MEANS OF COMBATING THE CORONAVIRUS.



The coronavirus vaccination campaign was in full swing at the beginning of 2021, and the end of the pandemic seemed in sight. But the lesson we learnt is that no-one is safe until everyone is safe. With the slogan «Share the vaccine, not the virus», we put three demands on the agenda: international cooperation, putting the vaccine in the hands of the public, and strengthening public health care.

Through the European Citizens' Initiative «No profit on pandemic», we campaigned for the removal of patents on COVID-19 vaccines and the sharing of knowledge and technology. Through various activities, ranging from demonstrations to a Facebook quiz, we collected more than 32 000 Belgian signatures. From 7 April, World Health Day, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, we drew attention to the issue of vaccines in creative ways. And that had an impact! The Minister of Development Cooperation, Meryame Kitir, supported our demands in her statements and we also found many allies among the other political parties.



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100 PEOPLE MARCHED FOR VACCINE JUSTICE AT THE LIGHTS4LIVES ACTION



28 VOLUNTEERS JOINED US IN ADVOCATING FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF A PUBLIC VACCINE



60 BELGIAN ORGANISATIONS COLLECTED 32 000 SIGNATURES FOR A PATENT-FREE VACCINE

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: ONLY FIGHTERS WIN

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH. IN A CONTEXT OF SHRINKING DEMOCRATIC SPACES, VIVA SALUD HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR THREATENED HEALTH ACTIVISTS.

ONLY
FIGHTERS
WIN

Shatha Odeh, director of Health Work Committees, was arrested on 7 July, 2021. Like many others in Palestine, the Philippines and elsewhere, her organisation

is the target of fierce repression that greatly affects its ability to provide the population with basic health services. Along with other civil society organisations, Viva Salud set up a movement to demand her release.



On 10 December, International Human Rights Day, we shone the spotlight on threatened activists and social movements. Citizens wrote to our politicians and made themselves heard on social networks to demand their protection. International solidarity works! Shatha was released in early June 2022, as was Dr. Naty Castro, a Filipino health activist, released three months earlier after weeks of detention.



173 PEOPLE MADE THE VOICE OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS HEARD BY POSTING A PHOTO WITH A MEGAPHONE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



4 NEWS SITES MENTIONED OUR ACTION AND SHATHA'S CASE IN A PRESS ARTICLE



“Threats at breakfast, harassment at dinner. Just yesterday, a doctor was shot with impunity.”

KAT BERZA from our partner organisation in the Philippines CHD

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS, WE ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON THE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH IN ORDER TO PROMOTE IT WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SECTOR.

With speakers from some 15 countries and approximately 100 participants, we explored the fundamental principles, practices and challenges of this approach in development cooperation and for social movements: the challenge of fragile contexts, the effective application of collective rights, sustainable development, empowerment, the role of social movements, feminism, decolonialism, etc.



FANNY POLET
Viva Salud



“To be able to change things sustainably and in depth, we must see rights as the starting point and not just the satisfaction of needs.”

RESOLUTE IN THE FACE OF REPRESSION

DESPITE POLITICAL REPRESSION, VIVA SALUD PARTNERS HAVE STRENGTHENED CIVIL SOCIETY IN AN EFFORT TO ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS.



As the pandemic revealed the weakness and underfunding of the country's healthcare system, our partners led various campaigns for free, quality healthcare services for all. They consistently called out the government for its inept and militaristic response to COVID-19 and urged it to support the lifting of patents on vaccines. They organised protests through an effective use of social media. They continued to build coalitions and networks to defend human rights and demand a rights-based response from the government to COVID-19.

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



People's organisations have played a vital role in responding to the pandemic by setting up self-help groups, providing food aid, protective equipment, health supplies and distributing information about the coronavirus.

The rights-based approach has enabled more people's organisations and individuals to become actively involved in actions to assert their rights and hold accountable those in charge.

160 organizations have joined our partners' activities related to the rights-based approach

710 leaders and rights advocates have developed their knowledge and skills in rights advocacy and campaigns

37 400 individuals have joined our partners' campaigns and activities



"We now know how to fight for our rights. We have learned how to work together to face the challenges and issues confronting us."

ROSELIE ESCOREL
 people's organization leader



ACCESS TO WATER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS, THE POPULATION TOOK ACTION REGARDING ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER, A KEY ISSUE FOR ITS HEALTH.



The lack of drinking water supply in the outskirts of the cities of Goma and Bukavu is a source of insalubrity, death and social tensions. Our partner organisations Étoile du Sud (EDS) and Collectif de Développement Intégré au Congo (CODIC) helped the Comités de Santé Populaire (CSP) to mobilise the population.

A water committee was created to raise awareness of the right to water. Following a people's march, representatives of the CSP were received by Regideso, the company in charge of drinking water distribution. A commission, including members of the CSP, was established to follow up on the recommendations. A water fountain was installed that is managed in partnership with the water committee and Regideso. The water here costs five times less than in the shops. This successful experience is being replicated in other neighbourhoods where access to water is still a problem.

In addition to gaining access to water, the population has thus strengthened its organisational skills.

PARTNERS: Étoile du Sud (EDS) and Collectif de Développement Intégré au Congo (CODIC)
PROVINCES: High-Katanga, Kinshasa, North and South Kivu, Tshopo

15 300 people were mobilised, including more than **9 000 women**

Residents of the neighbourhoods concerned have access to drinking water that costs **5 times less**

More than **56 500 people** now have better access to drinking water



“We now know how to claim our rights. We won't give up until the entire population has access to drinking water.”



GRACIA KASOKI

Vice Chairperson of the health professionals' dynamic in Goma, EDS

PALESTINE

PALESTINIAN YOUTH FIGHT WITH RESILIENCE

IN PALESTINE, WE ARE STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENTS THAT DEFEND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS.



7 national campaigns were conducted by youth groups in Palestine

38 youth organisations and movements played an active role in right to health campaigns

512 young people participated in training events and contributed to publications on the right to health

2021 was another difficult year for Palestinians. Attacks on Palestinian civil society organisations have complicated the work of our partners. Structural inequality in access to healthcare between Israelis and Palestinians has exacerbated the consequences of the global vaccine shortage. Our partners took a stand against this injustice.

Several training sessions were organised for young people, especially on social protection. Groups were introduced to concepts such as human rights, labour rights and gender justice. They were then able to put their knowledge into practice and contribute to local campaigns and actions.

A hundred or so young people from all over Palestine gathered during the summer camp to discuss the political, social, economic and cultural challenges facing Palestine.

4 PARTNERS
REGIONS: West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza



“Even though we are young and don’t have a lot of resources, by working together, we are making a difference in our community today and we could be the leaders of change tomorrow.”

FARAH
member of a Palestinian youth movement



SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

CUBA EXPORTS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY DURING THE COVID CRISIS WHILE THE ISLAND ITSELF SUFFERS FROM A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.



3 containers filled with medical equipment were sent to Cuba

65 volunteers and **28 collection points** distributed **4 400 bags** of Easter eggs

The pandemic revealed how Cuba managed to protect its population with a well-thought-out plan. Compared with many European countries, there weren't many coronavirus-related deaths on the island. Cuba developed three vaccines which it used to protect 90 % of its population in a short time: the fastest vaccination rate in the world!

However, the fight against the virus wasn't easy for a country with few resources. This is why we supported Cuban health professionals with the sale of Easter eggs, in collaboration with the Belgian solidarity organisation Cubanismo.be. As travel still wasn't possible, we relied heavily on collection points and enthusiastic volunteers who ensured that everyone received their eggs before Easter.

With the proceeds of the campaign, three containers filled with medical equipment were shipped to Cuba. Even the Cuban press talked about our campaign!

REGIONS: National



**Dr Tania
Crombet Ramos**
Cuban
immunologist

“Human beings must be at the core of health policies. We must work together: research isn't private property, we must disseminate it as widely as possible.”

THE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH JUSTICE

2021 WAS THE YEAR OF THE GLOBAL VACCINATION GAP. BUT ALSO AN IMPRESSIVE FIGHT FOR HEALTH JUSTICE.



In 2021, rich countries put Big Pharma's profits ahead of the health of the world's population. But social movements and activists didn't accept this in silence. In 2021, they led a global fight for health justice that garnered an impressive amount of support.

Viva Salud strengthened the European Citizens' Initiative «No Profit on Pandemic». Through opinion pieces, parliamentary questions, publications, and webinars, we gave a voice to our partners in Belgium and around the world.

Our active role in the People's Health Movement, the Consortium Against the Commercialisation of Health Care, the Geneva Global Health Hub and the European Network Against Privatisation and Commercialisation of Health Care, has allowed us to get our message across to international organisations such as the World Health Organization and the World Bank. Because if we join forces, we are stronger.



On World Health Day, we spearheaded international action against the privatisation of health

8 international webinars with **594 participants**

4 international networks,
10 international policy initiatives



“Big Pharma's interests shouldn't be placed above our health. The pandemic must be solved through global solidarity and cooperation.”

Extract from a PHM statement for World Health Day 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT

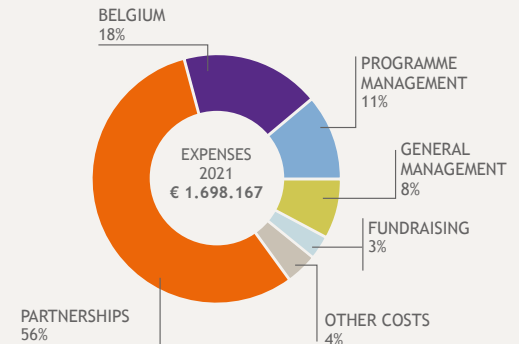
	2020	2021	
EXPENSES	1.569.345	1.698.167	
PARTNERSHIPS	806.143	953.714	56%
> partnerships Congo	137.480	133.327	
> partnerships Philippines	210.578	325.519	
> partnerships Palestine	187.058	197.465	
> partnership Cuba	6.917	2.055	
> emergency aid	6.091	10.000	
> small projects	26.282	23.477	
> People's Health Movement	159.713	169.438	
personnel - expatriates and headquarters	72.024	92.433	
BELGIUM	335.498	316.191	18%
operational expenses	60.120	41.771	
personnel	275.378	274.420	
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	160.831	181.615	11%
operational expenses	59.085	45.705	
personnel	101.746	135.910	
GENERAL MANAGEMENT	131.129	131.098	8%
office rent and general expenses	39.650	46.466	
communication	17.215	5.683	
personnel (general operations)	74.264	78.949	
FUNDRAISING	50.544	42.930	3%
personnel	26.000	26.693	
operational expenses	13.059	5.683	
purchases	11.485	10.554	
OTHER COSTS	85.200	72.619	4%
provision	42.728	10.939	
common programme	18.000	43.680	
contribution CNCD-11.11.11		18.000	

Our total expenditure increased from just under 1.6 million to almost 1.7 million euros.

This increase is mainly due to the catching up of activities by our partners following the 2020 covid-19 year, and mainly in the Philippines where lockdown was particularly harsh in 2020.

As in the last 3 quarters of 2020, operational costs continued to decrease for Belgium. This is mainly due to the increase in webinars (less expensive) and the travel ban (health reasons) for partners invited to some of our events.

We see an increase in staff costs, this is mainly due to the fact that we were at the end of the five year programme and had evaluation costs.



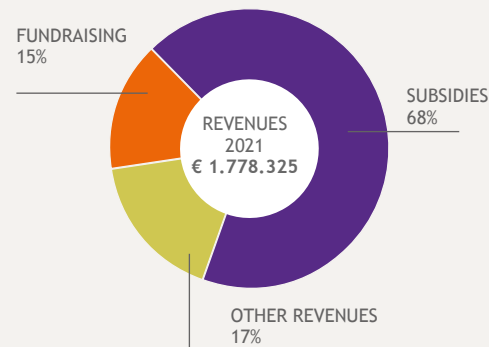
FINANCIAL REPORT

	2020	2021	
REVENUES	1.593.061	1.778.325	
FUNDRAISING	248.784	260.916	15%
donations and bequests	235.489	237.902	
sales campaigns	13.295	23.014	
companies			
SUBSIDIES	1.003.766	1.208.961	68%
subsidies federal government DGD	886.184	1.093.920	
subsidies communities, provinces and municipalities	58.082	36.597	
subsidies for personnel	59.500	78.443	
	340.511	308.448	17%
OTHER REVENUES	5.445		
contributions from other organisations	62.282	50.519	
contributions from 11.11.11	23.370	27.448	
contributions from CNCDC-11.11.11	57.289	37.685	
contributions from PHM member organizations	31.314	134.207	
contributions from foundations	4.402	5.764	
recovery of expenses	16.349	9.156	
miscellaneous revenues (interest)	40.060	43.669	
recovery of common programme costs			
	23.716	80.158	
RESULT	9.752	80.158	
addition or withdrawal from the reserves			

Our income amounts to 1,7 million euros. We therefore have a positive result of some 80,000 euros, which we have added to our reserves. This money will enable us to finance our actions in 2022.

The subsidy granted by the DGD has increased significantly in 2021 compared to 2020. This is a correction to the cuts imposed on the NGO sector in 2018 and 2019 as a precautionary measure, which were eventually returned to us.

The difference here is explained by the fact that the subsidy granted by the 11.11.11 dome has decreased as well as by the fact that contributions from PHM members have decreased. This varies greatly from year to year.



Viva Salud is a member of:

- 11.11.11 (umbrella for international solidarity)
- 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 pour une Éthique dans les Récolte de Fonds (VEF-AERF)
- Be-cause health (Belgian Platform for International Health)
- Santé et Solidarité action platform
- Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)
- Climate coalition
- Defend the defenders platform
- People's Health Movement (PHM)
- European Citizens' Initiative 'No profit on pandemic'
- European Network Against the Commercialisation and Privatisation of Health and Social Protection
- Consortium Against the Commercialisation of Health



In terms of integrity, our complaints management system is functional and transparent.

In 2021, we acknowledged one complaint. A supporter shared her dissatisfaction that we were at BNP Paribas Fortis, which, according to FairFin, is helping to invest in the occupied Palestinian territories. Our accounts at BNP Paribas Fortis will soon be closed.

We would like to thank the governments, federations and organisations that co-funded our activities in 2021:

- Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)
- 11.11.11 (umbrella for international solidarity)
- CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre national de coopération au développement)
- Towns and municipalities: Brussels, Genk, Gent, Hoeilaart, Ieper Lille, Lommel and Poperinge
- Open Society Foundations Public Health Program
- The province of West Flanders



Viva Salud adheres to the AERF code of ethics. 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.

If you have any complaints concerning our organisation or our staff, you can contact our complaints officer at: safeguarding@vivasalud.be.



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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Behind the two words Viva Salud are many people who are taking action for the right to health: a motivated team, committed General Assembly members and Board members, and numerous partnerships (national and international). In 2021, Viva Salud was able to count on the valuable support of:

- ➔ **41 volunteers** who actively participated in Viva Salud campaigns
- ➔ our supporters who organised **37 fundraising actions** for the right to health
- ➔ **1,696 donors** and **538 allies** who financially supported our work

That's Viva Salud!
Thank you!

Fanny Polet,
director of Viva Salud

This annual report presents highlights of our work in 2021, not an exhaustive list of our activities over the year. If you would like to know more, contact us at: info@vivasalud.be.

