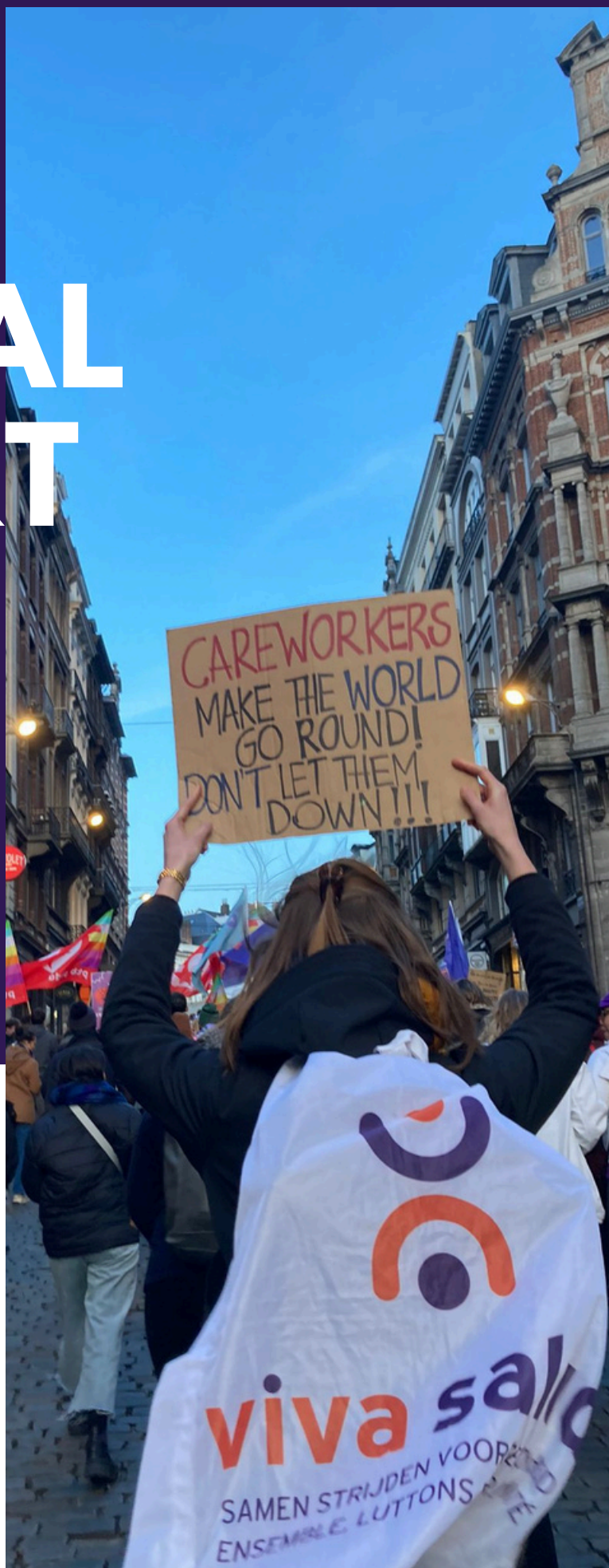


# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# viva salud

SAMEN STRIJDEN VOOR GEZONDHEID  
ENSEMBLE, LUTTONS POUR LA SANTÉ

# FOREWORD BY OUR DIRECTOR

**L**ooking back at 2023, it is difficult for us at Viva Salud to see anything other than the Palestinian genocide and its terrible consequences for the health system. As does the war in Eastern Congo, which has meant a further deterioration of the population's right to health. In the face of these massacres and associated horrors, our organization has mobilized as never before to contribute to the victory of humanity, solidarity and the right to health for all people everywhere.

To respond to the unprecedented disaster in Palestine, we launched an emergency appeal in October to assist our partner AWDA in Gaza with their needs:

medicines, fuel to run electricity generators, medical equipment, mattresses and blankets to accommodate refugees, etc. Many of you have participated in a fundraising activity and/or made a contribution yourself.

Our counters have never registered such a wave of solidarity in light of what is still happening in Gaza.

**“YOU ARE OUR  
INAUDIBLE VOICE,”  
OUR PARTNER  
TELLS US**

This money is transferred to our partner on a regular basis. The AWDA team thanks you for this!

In addition to this financial support, through our participation in demonstrations and meetings and the organization of conferences, we have not stopped denouncing this dramatic situation and demanding measures for an immediate ceasefire, a military embargo and sanctions against Israel. “You are our inaudible voice,” our partner tells us again and again.

In addition to this emergency fundraising, we must also continue to finance our general activities to achieve political and social victories and lasting structural change. We do this by organizing fundraising activities and by regularly calling on you to donate by post and email. In addition to our traditional participation with a team of runners in the 20 km through Brussels in May, we also organized a new fundraising campaign in April:

a solidarity closet sale for the benefit of our partners. In September we attended the ManiFiesta solidarity festival with a debate on the privatization of healthcare, an information stand and a cup collection to benefit the work of our partners.

## FROM HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO MOVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY LIFE

The above actions allow us to finance our activities in Belgium, Palestine, DR Congo and the Philippines.

In Belgium we campaigned for a Royal Decree that endorsed the cessation of the export of pesticides that are banned in Belgium.

In the Philippines, Viva Salud's work with our partner organizations has helped, among other things, to halt health budget cuts. It is thanks to strong mobilization that our partners have managed to reverse this trend.

In DR Congo, our two partner organizations have strengthened their cooperation with trade unions in the medical sector, but also in the mining sector. This has made it possible to better take into account the working conditions of the population and to demand changes that, thanks to social pressure, are heard!

In Palestine, whether in the West Bank or Gaza, our partners have demonstrated strong adaptability in crisis situations. They have managed to continue working with the population to facilitate access to healthcare, which remains blocked by the Israeli occupation.

Some of you support us through a monthly donation. The trust you give us in this way enables us to expand our work in the long term and thus achieve results that have a real



will have an impact on people's lives. The organized activities are always aimed at sustainable change and also enable our partner organizations to deal with crisis situations.

My colleagues will tell you about this and much more on the following pages. I hope that what we have achieved in 2023 will make you want to continue to follow and support us. Because together we can make this world more dignified and human. Thank you for joining us in fighting for the right to health, everywhere and for everyone! It's not just precious. It's fundamental.

Best regards,

**Fanny Polet**

VIVA SALUD DIRECTOR



# PRIORITIES

## STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

We demand that international solidarity institutions, such as international cooperation organizations, the World Health Organization, the European Commission and the World Bank, put the right to health first. Our health should be in public hands.

In the coming years we will campaign against the global healthcare crisis, the impact of global trade policies on the privatization of healthcare and the importance of strong primary care to improving public health.

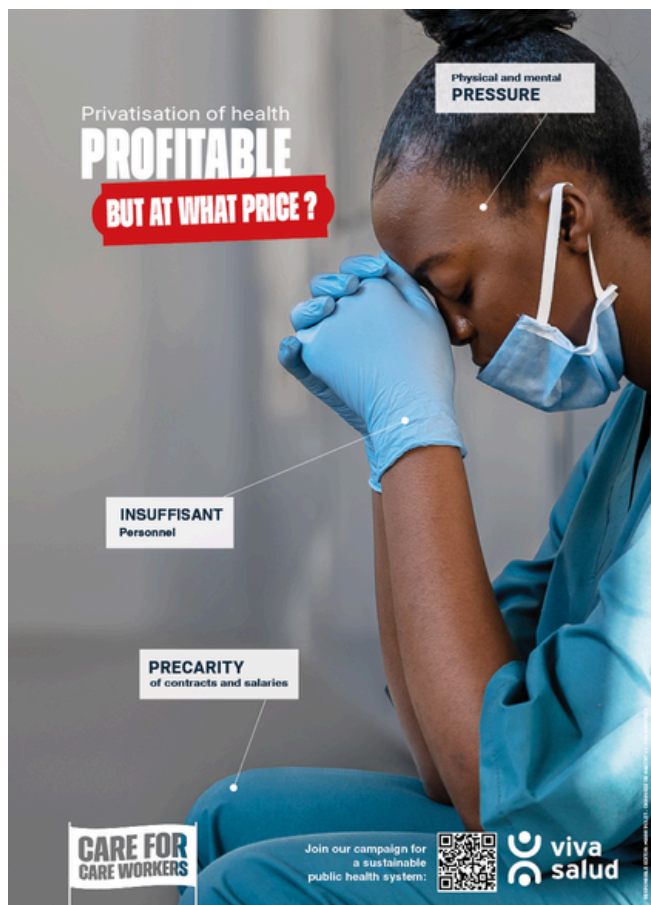
## HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS

Since 2022, Viva Salud has been campaigning for healthy working conditions for everyone: from healthcare workers with insufficient protective equipment in the Philippines, Palestinian farmers forced to work with dangerous pesticides, to Congolese miners exploited by big companies. Belgium and the European Union are often involved. We want other organizations and networks to include the right to health in their fight for decent work. Together we mobilize social movements and the general public, influence policy and stimulate change.

## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

We defend the essential role of social movements for the right to health. Together with our partners, sympathizers and volunteers, we campaign to strengthen the influence of social movements in the implementation of public health policy.

We demand measures to protect social movements so that they can contribute, within open and transparent democratic spaces, to the development of fair and accessible public health systems for all.



# TRANSVERSAL THEMES

## ■ DECOLONIZATION

In 2023, Viva Salud's decolonization process continued. We developed a vision text, which will be published in 2024. Here we try to view the history, the different themes and the values of Viva Salud through a decolonial lens. Based on the text, we want to position ourselves better in relation to the current and political discussions surrounding decolonization. The text also offers us the opportunity to evaluate our lexicon and investigate the origins and applications of certain concepts in order to critically reflect on their further use.

Together with our partners, we reflected on our relationship, which is inevitably influenced by financial imbalance and colonial history. A new working method was created to burden our partners as little as possible, but still offer space to draw inspiration from the work of other partners without obligation. We also examined our network in Belgium.

Viva Salud is also an active member of the decolonization working group of NGO federation and a working group with our consortium with Quinoa, FIAN and Solidagro where we exchange information about the different processes of each organization. The process will continue in the coming years, because there remains work to be done!

## ■ GENDER

Viva Salud is committed to be an inclusive organization where the rights and well-being of everyone are guaranteed. This means that Viva Salud takes sexual and gender diversity into account within its organization and programs, and is also committed to the LGBTI+ community. This is done in an intersectional way, where other aspects of a person's personality and identity are also taken into account.

As an inclusive organization, Viva Salud strives for an organizational culture where the diversity of employees, target groups and partners is valued. In its programs and actions, Viva Salud takes gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation into account.

To put our commitments into practice, we have taken several actions in 2023:

- Inclusive language in all our written and digital publications.
- Mixed panels during conferences, training, speeches, etc.
- Mobilization and participation of our social base for the demonstration on March 8.
- Visit from Sylvie, employee of our Congolese partner Etoile du Sud, to discuss, among other things, the feminist struggle in the DRC.
- Campaign by our partner Gabriela in the Philippines about the vulnerability of women in the workplace.
- Awareness-raising actions on sexual and gender diversity by our Congolese partner Si Jeunesse Savait.

# TRANSVERSAL THEMES

## ENVIRONMENT

Environmental issues and the climate crisis are inextricably linked to an unsustainable economic system based on resource depletion and profit maximization. Viva Salud emphasizes systems change, where the well-being of people and the planet comes before profit. The fight for the right to health also contributes to the fight against climate change. We do this through campaigns and other actions for awareness, mobilization and policy advocacy. In 2023, we also campaigned for a ban on the export of pesticides banned in Belgium, which resulted in a political success with the approval of a Royal Decree!

Viva Salud also wants to minimize the impact of its own activities on the environment and recognizes that as an NGO it has an exemplary role for its target groups and donors. We strive to put into practice the changes we want to introduce in our policy as much as possible. Some examples:

- Through choices in food (local, organic and/or fair trade), waste and energy management, we encourage target groups to do the same within their organization or private life.
- We provide participants in our activities with clear information about accessibility by public transport and otherwise we encourage carpooling.
- We encourage staff and target groups to participate in activities and events to combat climate change (e.g. annual climate demonstrations).
- We use more online contact with our partners and limit our air travel as much as possible.

## EMPOWERMENT (RIGHTS BASED APPROACH)

Empowerment, in its original meaning, is the way our partners work: jointly building a counterforce through the SOM strategy (sensitize, organize, mobilize), which makes organizations combative for social change. Viva Salud works with the same strategy within its campaigns.

Empowerment places power change at the center, in contrast to classical development cooperation that focuses on fulfilling people's needs. People are taking matters into their own hands instead of waiting for external help. Empowerment connects collective struggle for change with individual improvement in quality of life. It also shows that collective struggle for rights transcends other differences, such as religion or origin.

In 2023, Viva Salud decided to restore the meaning of the term “empowerment”, which had been pushed aside in the NGO sector for the wrong reasons. The problem lies with the depoliticization and individualization of the term, not with its use, which is decolonial in its original sense.





# BELGIUM

# BELGIUM



## CAMPAIGN AND POLICY

The year 2023 was an emotionally intense year, both positive and negative. We achieved great political victories, such as the Royal Decree following our campaign against the export of pesticides banned in Belgium. But the year was also heavily influenced by the genocide in Gaza. Fortunately, a huge wave of solidarity and mobilization emerged.

### PALESTINE MARATHON AND MOBILIZATION AGAINST THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA

A group of 11 sympathizers spent a week with our partners in Palestine and on March 10 participated in the Bethlehem Marathon, which highlights Palestinian culture and the quest for freedom of movement of the Palestinian people. Prior to this trip, the participants received various training courses to improve their political insight and better understand the context of the country. They took up the challenge of making a vlog to share their experiences with those around them. In the first semester we organized several performance evenings.

In the second semester, the Hamas attack and the unprecedented Israeli attack on Gaza caused a shock wave and historic mass demonstrations in Brussels. We responded immediately by raising the voices of our partners, sharing testimonials and videos, and launching an emergency response campaign for our partner AWDA. Viva Salud systematically signed calls for a ceasefire. We raised the voice of our partners in Gaza as much as possible in the press, at events, activities and conferences.

This significantly improved our visibility and reputation. Many organizations asked us to testify about the health crisis in Palestine and the work of our partners.



# TIMELINE

## **#NotATarget: a podcast about the repression of activists in Palestine**

The year started with the broadcast of a new episode of the podcast #NotATarget. This was a powerful representation of a conversation between Islah Jad, director of the Palestinian research center BISAN (partner of Viva Salud), and Marc Botenga, Member of Parliament for the PVDA.

**JANUARY**



“After you die in prison, they hold your body until the end of your sentence [...] The executioners hold the bodies to torment the communities and prevent you from having a respectful and dignified burial.”  
ISLAH JAD

**FEBRUARY**



### **Marathon van Bethlehem**

Eleven athletes joined the Viva Salud team for a week with our partners in Palestine, ending with the famous Bethlehem Marathon! A very intense experience, where they saw Israeli repression every day and experienced the incredible hospitality of the Palestinians! Jenny Lemaire, one of the runners, turned this experience into a beautiful film, "Running for Freedom", which is available for free on our website.

**MARCH**

### **Visit from Congo**

In June we received a visit from Sylvie Luzala, employee of our Congolese partner organization Etoile du Sud. During various activities, she told us more about EDS' important work around access to health and healthy working conditions.



**JUNE**

**APRIL**

### **World Health Day**

April 7 was World Health Day. For this occasion, we took to the streets of Brussels to say NO to the increasing commercialization of healthcare. In addition, together with the People's Health Movement and many other activist organizations, we organized a poster campaign to draw attention to the global shortage of healthcare personnel.



**MAY**



### **20 km of Brussels**

With 31 runners and 5,200 euros raised, this was another successful day supporting the work of our partners. It was another very beautiful and sunny edition!

## **Manifesta**

During ManiFiesta we organized a debate on the health square about the privatization of healthcare and showed the film "Running for Freedom" about the marathon in Palestine.



**SEPTEMBER**

## **Emergency aid campaign and mobilization for Gaza**

After October 7, Viva Salud mobilized to support AWDA, a long-standing partner that runs hospitals and health centers in Gaza. As of December 31, the amount raised was EUR 180,000. The fundraising continues in 2024.

**OCTOBER**



**JULY - AUGUSTUS**

## **Victory! Ban on export of dangerous pesticides outside the EU**

Pressure works! Together with several organizations, we exerted pressure for months, and eventually the Belgian government imposed a ban on the export of dangerous pesticides that are banned in the EU to countries in the South.



**NOVEMBER**

## **Mobilization for the Palestinian health system**

Viva Salud (co-)organized dozens of information evenings in Belgium to point out the genocide and the poor state of the health system in Gaza, based on information from our partners.



**DECEMBER**

## **Campaign for the release of AWDA personnel. #FreeAhmedMuhanna**

Ahmed Muhanna, director of Al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia, was kidnapped by the Israeli army along with six other staff members on December 17. With the help of an open letter, mobilizations, flyers and a petition, Viva Salud is conducting a major campaign for their release, which will continue in 2024.



# BELGIUM

From the start, Viva Salud supported the large national demonstrations for Palestine in Brussels and was also involved in local demonstrations for a ceasefire in Gaza. Together with organizations such as ABP, Broederlijk Delen and 11.11.11, we contributed to the preparation of opinion pieces, demands and the practical organization of the manifestations. We also helped prepare the program for the speeches, introducing potential speakers and highlighting the importance of healthcare in Gaza. Through this, many people learned about our partners in Palestine and the health crisis of the Palestinian people.

**In this context, the vlog was transformed into a documentary called "Running for Freedom, a week of resistance".** This documentary was edited several times to become a powerful awareness tool. It shows the impact of apartheid, the resilience of the Palestinian people and the work of our partners. Since October 7, these images have conveyed the message even more powerfully. It is a powerful tool with which we have been able to reach many people and raise awareness of the underlying problems in the war between Palestine and Israel.



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“ *During the solidarity trip we met the doctors there who showed us their working conditions. These people are great. We were very touched by this trip. It's devastating not to have access to care. The documentary, which started small, became something big. Every night we had to protect the images we made. Jennifer, who walked with us, worked on it in the evening. She finished it completely after returning home. I cry every time I see the images.*

- **Marc Boutet, participant in the solidarity trip**

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# BELGIUM

## CAMPAIGN "CARE FOR HEALTHCARE"

We developed our campaign "Care for healthcare" to make as many people as possible aware of the impact of privatization on the working conditions of healthcare providers. We developed several eye-catching posters that, with the help of volunteers, were hung in various cultural and medical centers and other public places. We launched the campaign at ManiFiesta, the solidarity festival that brings together thousands of people.

At our stand, with the help of hundreds of "sactivists", we raised awareness about the consequences of the privatization of healthcare. We also organized a debate on privatization and commercialization of healthcare that brought together 90 people. A big success!

The campaign made the theme known and strengthened various movements in various ways. We gave various training courses on the subject within the medical centers of MPLP (Medicine for the People) and the student movement BeMSA (Belgian Medical Students' Association). Also in the European network "Our health is not for sale" and in the Health Coalition, we raised this issue so that it was included in the demands of their campaigns.

In the context of the 2024 federal elections, we collaborated on a memorandum with seven other health organizations in 2023. Our memorandum was also included in the full memorandum of the umbrella organizations 11.11.11 and CNCD-11.11.11. We incorporated our demands from the "Care for Care" campaign, reinforcing the vision and political demands of other health organizations in this area. We also developed a concrete instrument to start political processes together and approach our politicians in 2024 with the memorandum.



## VICTORY: CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE EXPORT OF BANNED PESTICIDES

In 2023, under the leadership of Humundi and in collaboration with FIAN, Broederlijk Delen, Entraide et Fraternité, Iles de Paix and FOS, we organized the campaign “Prohibited here, exported there, deadly everywhere” to get Belgium to stop the export of pesticides banned within the EU. We won a political victory! On Friday, June 23, 2023, Belgium decided to stop the export of dangerous pesticides that are banned within the EU. The online petition on [stop-pesticides.be](https://stop-pesticides.be) was an important factor of support.

Good contacts with various political decision makers were a crucial strategy for this political victory. From the start we had good contact with Zakia Khattabi, the Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal, from the Ecolo party. She supported our demand. We maintained good contacts with her cabinet throughout the campaign. We also had to convince other ministers involved. For example, we managed to convince the Minister of Health, Frank Vandenbroucke of Vooruit, to submit the Royal Decree proposal to the Council of Ministers together with Minister Khattabi. For this we used our campaign file and research from our partner organizations in the Philippines, Palestine and Peru, among others.

We also approached the offices of other responsible ministers: Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, Minister of Finance Vincent van Peteghem, Minister of Public Works Pierre-Yves Dermagne and Minister of Agriculture David Clarinval. At the beginning and end of the campaign we managed to enter into discussions with their cabinets.



In addition, public involvement and pressure on political decision makers through a petition with 8,000 signatures also contributed to this victory. We also reached many Belgian media, which contributed to raising public awareness about the bill and putting pressure on politicians. Articles appeared in several major French-language and Dutch-language media such as RTBF, Le Soir, Knack and De Morgen. On Instagram, Ecolo MP Séverine De Laveleye emphasized in a video the importance of the initiative and the pressure from our coalition for this victory.



## IN NUMBERS



AWARENESS INCREASES AMONG **893 PEOPLE** DURING OUR ACTIVITIES.



**158 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS** THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



**8,000 SIGNATURES** COLLECTED FOR THE PETITION "FORBIDDEN HERE, EXPORTED THERE, DEADLY EVERYWHERE".



**71 POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS** APPROACHED AND **13 POLITICAL DIALOGUES** INITIATED.



**17 ACCOMPANYING TRAJECTS** TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.



**42 ARTICLES** APPEARED IN THE BELGIAN AND EUROPEAN PRESS.



**7 MAJOR MOBILIZATIONS** WERE ORGANIZED BY VARIOUS NETWORKS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF WHICH VIVA SALUD IS A PART.





**PHILIPPINES**

## PHILIPPINES

### ■ CONTEXT IN 2023

Like his predecessors, under President Marcos Jr. no serious steps were taken to address the country's failing public health system. Healthcare remains inaccessible and unaffordable for ordinary Filipinos. Moreover, the current government has not taken concrete measures to stop the mass emigration of medical workers, who suffer from low wages and poor working conditions.



The much-vaunted **universal health insurance (CSU)** has only led to further **privatization of healthcare**. The budget for PhilHealth (Philippines Health Insurance Corporation) continues to rise every year, at the expense of funding for public health programs that are undergoing severe budget cuts. Instead of ensuring affordable healthcare for all, PhilHealth is failing to reduce costs for patients. They must always pay up to 60% of their healthcare costs themselves.

Although the Philippines already has one of the lowest health expenditures in Southeast Asia, the Marcos administration is seeking to **reduce the 2024 national health budget in favor of military spending and intelligence funds**.

**In the field of human rights, the situation remains dire:** criminalization, killings and kidnappings of activists continue, reinforced by the practice of "red-tagging". Under the guise of anti-terrorism laws and alleged support for communist guerrillas, many organizations that stand up for indigenous rights, the environment and human rights have been criminalized in 2023. Their funding has been cut off and their members are persecuted, often convicted and sometimes murdered. Many have been forced to leave the country. Viva Salud's partner organizations, which are committed to human rights and access to healthcare, have experienced high pressure in 2023.



## IN NUMBERS



**3,841 INDIVIDUALS AND 219 ORGANIZATIONS** TOOK PART IN CAMPAIGNS FOR A STRONGER PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.



**1,283 EMPLOYEES** FROM FACTORIES, CALL CENTERS AND HOSPITALS PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS.



**44 UNION REQUESTS** FOR SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PROTECTION AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE, DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT, ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED.



**3,637 INDIVIDUALS** AND 100 ORGANIZATIONS CAMPAIGNED AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS BY HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS.



**165 AGREEMENTS** WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON DEMOCRATIC SPACE FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR HEALTH RIGHTS.

# PHILIPPINES

## GABRIELA

Gabriela spearheaded the campaign for the adoption of ILO Convention 190, which addresses violence and harassment in the workplace, with a special focus on gender issues. In this context, Gabriela, in collaboration with Women Workers United, presented cases of violation of

trade union rights and freedom of association, focusing on women's vulnerability in the workplace. The campaign helped expand alliances and networks to highlight the issues facing working women. Strong pressure from social movements led to a unanimous approval of this convention by the Senate in December, making the Philippines the first Asian country to adopt this mechanism. This was an important step for human rights and recognition of gender-based violence and harassment at national level.



## COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (CHD)

CHD led the campaign against the proposed 10 billion Philippine pesos cut in the 2024 national health budget in favor of defense and intelligence. CHD organized a series of protests with various sectors and organizations during the national budget negotiations in Congress.

Together they also called on lawmakers to reverse cuts to other social services. They reiterated their call for the government to allocate 10% of gross domestic product to the healthcare budget to build a free, comprehensive and progressive healthcare system. These protests ultimately increased the health budget and reduced or eliminated some secret funds for government agencies.



# PARTNERS

## **KARAPATAN**

Karapatan continued his engagement with international organizations and UN agencies to promote human rights and raise awareness about violations.

The UN Universal Periodic Review, served as an important platform to pressure the Philippine government to address human rights issues.

Several international organizations, including Amnesty International, Front-Line Defenders, FORUM-Asia, the International Federation for Human Rights and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, worked together on a joint statement. In it, they condemn the judicial harassment by the Philippine government of Karapatan and its affiliates, the abuse of anti-terrorism legislation against activists and the shrinking of democratic space in the country.



## **IBON FOUNDATION**

IBON continues to provide research and socio-economic analyzes to Viva Salud and its partners. Through training, IBON contributes to strengthening the capacities of grassroots organizations in the areas of research, education, information and policy advocacy.

IBON will soon publish two research papers on the right to health: “The Price of Privatized Healthcare” and “Fail(Phil)Health”, which examine the negative effects of neoliberal reforms in the healthcare sector.





**PALESTINE**

Awdaa

# PALESTINE

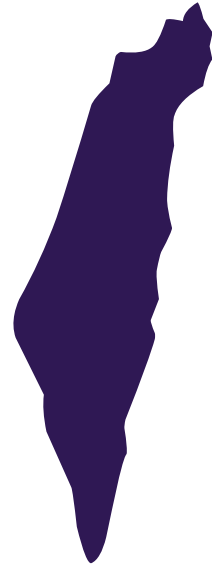
## ■ CONTEXT IN 2023

2023 was an even deadlier year for Palestinians than the previous year, which was already very violent. The Israeli occupation has a major impact on the health and well-being of the Palestinian population.

Following the **violent escalation in Gaza**, which culminated in a heartbreaking **genocide**, violence continued to increase in the West Bank. Israeli occupation forces carried out daily raids, made arbitrary arrests and disrupted the lives and freedom of movement of civilians.

In Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, 2 million people live on 365 km<sup>2</sup>, with very high poverty and unemployment rates. The lives of the residents changed forever with the new escalation of violence on October 7, 2023.

The number of Palestinian **deaths is estimated at 37,877** (June 30, 2024), with more victims likely still under the rubble of bombings. 72% of the victims are women and children. More than **87,000 Palestinians have been injured**, including many children. More than 8,000 people are missing and are believed to be buried under the rubble. 62% of the houses have been destroyed and 26 of the 36 hospitals have been completely destroyed. 85% of Gaza's population had to flee. There is a huge shortage of food, water and medicine, and a famine broke out.





## IN NUMBERS



BY THE END OF 2023, MORE THAN **222,600 EUROS** HAD BEEN RAISED FOR AWDA THANKS TO INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS.



BY THE END OF 2023, **42 INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS** WERE ORGANIZED FOR AWDA. A TOTAL OF 5,728 EUROS.



**1 DOCUMENTARY** "RUNNING FOR FREEDOM" MADE BY OUR PARTNERS AND **FIVE SCREENINGS** ORGANIZED FOR THE BELGIAN PUBLIC.



BETWEEN OCTOBER 7 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023, **141,199 PEOPLE** RECEIVED MEDICAL CARE FROM AWDA TEAMS IN GAZA.



**359 PALESTINIANS** WERE STRENGTHENED, THROUGH TRAINING BY HWC & BISAN, TO STAND UP FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF GOOD QUALITY



DURING THE WAR BETWEEN OCTOBER 2023 AND JUNE 2024, **723 HEALTHCARE WORKERS WERE KILLED** AND **900 INJURED** IN ATTACKS ON MEDICAL FACILITIES AND AMBULANCES.



## **BISAN CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Bisan, based in the West Bank, conducted several studies in 2023 on access to care for cancer patients in the West Bank and on workers who lost their jobs in the Israeli economy. They published many studies on serious violations against Palestinians and organized training for trade unions on health rights.



These workshops were aimed at increasing awareness of the right to social security among the target group and demanding their rights.

## **Health Work Committees (HWC)**

HWC led a campaign to boycott Israeli medicines in Palestinian pharmacies, resulting in a boycott by 50 pharmacies in the northern West Bank. HWC also established an "ambulance and emergency response team" to serve in the ancient city of Nablus. This idea came from the needs of the youth in Nablus due to the escalating attacks by the Israeli occupation forces.



First aid training was provided to youth groups for 6 days, which later led to the creation of the "ambulance and emergency response" team. Thanks to these trainings, one of the students was able to provide assistance to a young man during one of the Israeli attacks. The responder was able to stabilize the injuries until they arrived at the hospital. Finally, like Bisan, HWC produced a documentary at the end of 2023 on the health situation in the occupied territories, based on studies of the attacks on Palestinian health workers.

# PARTNERS

## AWDA

AWDA helps more than 600,000 Gazans every year. Since October 7, they have been on the front line with their hospitals and health centers. Several AWDA buildings were severely damaged and many ambulances were destroyed. 14 employees lost their lives and dozens were injured. Jabalia hospital was



besieged twice and the damage to the hospitals is extensive. Entire health centers were destroyed. The solar panels and water tanks were destroyed everywhere.

Before the war, AWDA had:

- 2 hospitals: in Jabalia (in the north of the Gaza Strip) and in Al Nusseirat (central in the Gaza Strip)
- 6 community health centers throughout the Gaza Strip
- more than 600 health workers

During the first siege of Jabalia Hospital, on December 17, 2023, Dr. Muhanna, the director, captured. He is still being held illegally. Viva Salud started a petition for his release, which collected almost 75,000 signatures.





**DR CONGO**

# DR CONGO



## CONTEXT IN 2023

The year 2023 was all about **elections**. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi was re-elected as president. At the time of writing, the new government has just been formed and sworn in. This is a good time for our partners to think about how they will call on the authorities to take greater account of the population's right to health. The **partners continue to denounce the precarious state of the Congolese health system**. The allocated budget for health remains far too low compared to the needs of the population.

Nevertheless, **free access to maternity care** has been introduced in several provinces in 2023, as a first step towards "universal healthcare". However, the country is still far from achieving its ambitions to improve the health system and working conditions of healthcare workers.

An **investigation into these working conditions**, carried out by Viva Salud and its partners, further brought these problems to light. In particular, a significant "**brain drain**" emerged, with qualified healthcare workers choosing to leave the underfunded public sector for jobs at international NGOs and private hospitals, in the hope of better working conditions. This has disastrous consequences for the accessibility and quality of healthcare for the Congolese population.

In 2023, the mass strike that started in September 2022 drove doctors and unions to demonstrate in Kinshasa. Viva Salud and its partners have actively supported these mobilizations. The strike resulted in talks with the Ministry of Health, which led to new commitments for frontline workers and additional social benefits for public health workers, such as housing and transport allowances and equal risk premiums.

In addition to healthcare, **democratic space has been reduced** by various human rights violations and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. There were several arrests of opposition activists and journalists, as well as the ban on media outlets from distributing content related to LGBTQ+ themes, which is considered derogatory and unconstitutional by the Higher Council of Audiovisual Media.

**A war has been raging in the east of the country for more than three decades**. In 2023, the rebel movement M23 intensified the violence. Since March 2022, according to the UN Migration Organization (IOM), 1.5 million new displaced persons have been counted in the Goma region, as a direct result of the M23 offensive. Etoile Du Sud, one of our Congolese partners, is active in the region and tries to help the many refugees and local populations exercise their right to health through health committees.



## IN NUMBERS



**40 HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS** FROM HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS, AND 13 SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN A WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.



**4,000 HEALTHCARE WORKERS** TOOK PART IN PROTESTS TO DEMAND SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS.



**SEVEN MOBILE CLINICS** WERE SET UP AROUND THE TOWN OF BUTEMBO IN NORTH KIVU, PROVIDING CARE TO **1,114 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE**.



AN ONLINE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE REACHED **218,047 PEOPLE**, MAINLY IN THE HEALTHCARE AND MINING SECTORS.



**15 MEDICAL FACILITIES** AND **5 REFUGEE CAMPS** IN EASTERN CONGO WERE INVOLVED IN AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES ON HYGIENE, DISEASES AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH. A TOTAL OF **5,820 PEOPLE** WERE REACHED

## **ETOILE DU SUD (EDS)**

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The protracted wars and armed conflicts in North Kivu, especially in Beni-Lubero and the towns of Butembo-Beni, as well as the occupation of rural areas by militias, have destroyed the socio-economic infrastructure and caused systematic poverty. In response, EDS launched a project to improve the health of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Butembo. Due to their collaboration with various communities, they are well anchored and can act quickly. Women from the EDS health committees provided cooking demonstrations and food supplies to combat malnutrition among children and pregnant women in the camps. Mobile clinics were also set up to provide physical and psychosocial support to IDPs.



## **SI JEUNESSE SAVAIT (SJS)**

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SJS organized exchange workshops on healthy working conditions in the mining and health sectors with trade unions and women miners. Based on collected information, SJS held a workshop with representatives from relevant ministries, which made them local and national gave legitimacy.

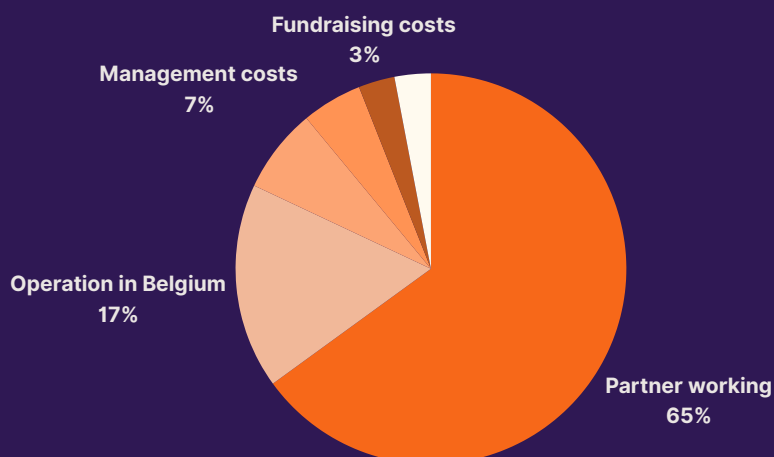


The workshop provided opportunities for dialogue with authorities about improved working conditions, especially for women. Thanks to SJS's recommendations to the National Adolescent Health Policy (PNSA) and the National Program Against HIV/AIDS (PNLS), the health problems of adolescents with disabilities are now recognized. Additionally, LGBTQ+ individuals are included in the PNLS strategic plan, contributing to inclusive health services.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE	2022	2023	
	1 918 515	2 328 968	
<b>OPERATION IN PARTNER COUNTRIES</b>	<b>1 145 508</b>	<b>1 519 688</b>	<b>65%</b>
PARTNERSHIP DR CONGO	115 021	114 038	
PARTNERSHIP PHILIPPINES	206 930	213 218	
PARTNERSHIP PALESTINE	205 437	298 575	
EMERGENCY SUPPORT	0	199 856	
SMALL PROJECTS	46 230	27 263	
PHM (PEOPLE'S HEALTH MOVEMENT)	429 514	517 577	
PERSONNEL COSTS FOR COOPERANTS	55 165	55 658	
PERSONNEL COSTS OFFICE	43 196	48 270	
PERSONNEL COSTS PHM	44 016	45 232	
<b>FUNCTIONING IN BELGIUM</b>	<b>374 955</b>	<b>402 325</b>	<b>17%</b>
OPERATING FUNDS	44 076	64 204	
STAFF COSTS	330 880	338 121	
<b>MANAGEMENT COSTS</b>	<b>149 486</b>	<b>165 969</b>	<b>7%</b>
OPERATING FUNDS	12 679	32 917	
STAFF COSTS	136 807	133 052	
<b>GENERAL MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>131 558</b>	<b>121 790</b>	<b>5%</b>
RENT OFFICES AND GENERAL COSTS	60 380	56 195	
COMMUNICATION	3 664	3 969	
PERSONNEL COSTS (GENERAL OPERATION)	67 514	61 626	
<b>FUNDRAISING COSTS</b>	<b>41 482</b>	<b>65 391</b>	<b>3%</b>
STAFF COSTS	33 695	46 889	
OPERATING COSTS	7 788	18 502	
PURCHASE SALES MATERIALS	0	-	
<b>EXCEPTIONAL COSTS</b>	<b>75 525</b>	<b>53 805</b>	<b>3%</b>
COMMISSION	-9 634	0	
OTHER/ CONSORTIUM	50 678	31 805	
CONTRIBUTION CNCD-11.11.11	20 000	22 000	
ADDITION TO THE RESERVES	14 481	-	



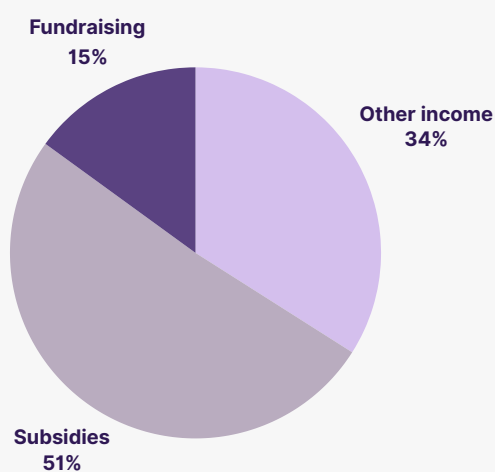
## Expenditure

In 2023, our expenses exceeded 2,320,000 euros. An increase of nearly 400,000 euros compared to 2022, explained by our response to the war in Gaza with an emergency campaign for our partner AWDA. This was made possible by a large-scale fundraising campaign that required investment in fundraising tools.

We spent approximately 213,000 euros on our program in the Philippines, 114,000 euros on our work in the DRC, and 298,000 euros on the program in Palestine. The expenses for our program in Belgium amounted to 402,000 euros.



REVENUES	2022	2023	
	1 895 932	2 428 592	
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>229 695</b>	<b>356 004</b>	<b>15%</b>
DONATIONS	180 326	311 655	
SALES CAMPAIGNS	2 901	4 172	
LEGACIES	46 468	40 177	
<b>SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>1 060 819</b>	<b>1 244 608</b>	<b>51%</b>
GRANTS FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DGD	939 643	1 043 072	
GRANTS FROM MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, COMMUNITIES	49 358	105 694	
SUBSIDIES FOR STAFF	71 818	95 843	
<b>OTHER INCOMES</b>	<b>605 418</b>	<b>827 979</b>	<b>34%</b>
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS	34 500	104 964	
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 11.11.11	53 049	37 934	
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CNCD-11.11.11	49 007	28 573	
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS PHM	101 481	74 492	
CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PHM	326 815	475 663	
RECOVERY OF COSTS	9 692	13 364	
VARIOUS REVENUES (INTEREST,...)	537	61 184	
CONSORTIUM	25 038	31 805	
EXCEPTIONAL REVENUES	5 298	0	
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>-22 583</b>	<b>99 624</b>	
ADDITION TO THE RESERVES	-22 583	99 624	



## REVENUES

Our revenues in 2023 amounted to more than 2,420,000 euros. This result can be explained by an increase in fundraising, subsidies, and other incomes. The rise in fundraising is due to the enormous enthusiasm generated by our emergency campaign for Palestine. The increase in subsidies is partly thanks to an exceptional grant from the outgoing government. In other income, we mention the additional funding we secured for our work with the People's Health Movement in preparation for an international meeting that took place in 2024.

The year 2023 ends with a positive result of 99,624 euros. A significant portion of this amount consists of funds raised in 2023 but to be used in 2024 for organizing the People's Health Assembly. Moreover, the fundraising was successful enough to cover the expenses, and we also received a legacy. This allowed us to set aside the final amount for our future work.

## VIVA SALUD IS LID VAN

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- 11.11.11
- CNCD -11.11.11
- ACODEV (Federation of development cooperation NGOs)
- NGO federation (Flemish federation of NGOs for development cooperation)
- Association for Ethics in Fundraising (VEF)
- Be-cause health (Belgian Platform for International Health)
- BeterLeven (Health Coalition)
- European network - our health is not for sale
- Genève Global Health Hub (G2H2)
- Platform Defend the Defenders
- European Network against the Commercialization and Privatization of Health and Social Protection
- People's Health Movement (PHM)
- Consortium against the Commercialization of Healthcare

## WE THANK THE GOVERNMENTS, FEDERATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT CO-FINANCED OUR OPERATION IN 2023:

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- Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
- Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI)
- 11.11.11 (Flemish Dome of International Solidarity)
- CNCD-11.11.11 (National Center for Development Cooperation)
- Cities and municipalities: Genk, Hoeilaart, Lille, Lommel.
- Open Society Foundations Public Health Program
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- MWB-FGTB
- Vivaqua
- Ford Foundation
- Medico International
- Province of West Flanders

***Viva Salud endorses the VEF Code of Ethics. You have a right to information. This means that donors, volunteers and staff members are informed at least annually about what has been done with the acquired funds.***

*In terms of integrity, our complaints management system is functional and transparent. In 2023 we received a complaint that was investigated and handled, but did not involve an integrity problem.*

*If you have any complaints about our organization or our employees, you can contact our complaints manager at the email address: [safeguarding@vivasalud.be](mailto:safeguarding@vivasalud.be).*





