



First of all: a refresher...

What did we start again?

During a visit to an agricultural project in Sierra Leone in 2023, we experienced **how luxurious our life** in the Netherlands is with clean and safe drinking water from the tap.

In Sierra Leone and many other countries, there is no clean tap water: people simply get drinking water from a water source, well or from a stream or river. Then you can understand that there are all kinds of “dirt” in it, which makes babies and children sick or even die. 8% of children die before their 5th birthday!



That prompted us to start an initiative:

Making clean drinking water accessible to 4,000 families in Sierra Leone.

This is the foundation's first annual report.

We hope you enjoy reading it, and if you have any questions?
please contact us info@safewater4africa.org

Annual overview, from inception December 2023 until December 2024.

1. Establishment and paperwork (January → May)

The foundation was established on December 21, 2023, with enthusiastic support from the Notariaat Westerwolde.

In December, we also received a “kind” donation from a plastic bucket manufacturer who offered us a pallet for free.



In order to be fully operational as a foundation quickly, we already applied for the first applications for a bank account with ABN and ING in December, after first assessing the options with, among others, Triodos (minimum 26-week waiting list), RABO-Bank and Regio-Bank (both did not accept new foundations in December 2023)

Furthermore, we **developed a website**, which was published online mid-February 2024 and the application for **ANBI status** was also issued on March 25! (ANBI status makes your donations tax deductible in NL)

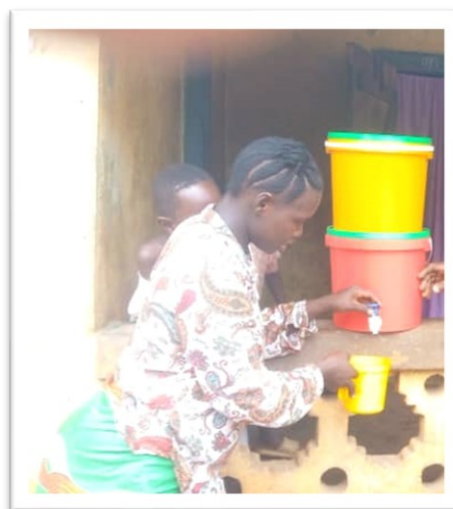
However, obtaining a bank account turned out to be a challenge: The ABN application was rejected after about 6 weeks, and a response from ING was still not forthcoming. Therefore, an application was submitted to BUNQ as a second option, which quickly became available in the course of March.

By mid-May, we finally were granted an **ING bank account**, which was reason to start using the ING account as our primary bank account.

2. Our first practical experiences. (February → May)

The donated Pallet with buckets caused our first learning experience with the “trade” in West Africa: delay techniques (creating higher storage costs) by the logistics service provider in Sierra Leone, and the high costs for import and transport of the buckets to Sierra Leone. This was an important reason to purchase necessary products much as possible in Sierra Leone from that moment on.

After these difficulties, the pilot project in **Malal Chiefdom** could start in early May. Our local project coordinator, Mr Osman Orisa Sesay, a head teacher started distributing the Water filter sets and instructions for 40 farmer families. (See photos below))



3. Building a new relationship network: entire year.

Early in the year we were able to participate in a few **Wilde Ganzen** network meetings, although we are not (yet) a partner. We made useful contacts with foundations that are already working in Sierra Leone. This quickly provided new insights and the opportunity to exchange knowledge. After that we



participated with a stand in two other events: In June the "Planty of Food Festival" in Apeldoorn and in August the Annual **Summer Outing** of the Diaspora of Sierra Leone.

During the Outing (Photo Left) we were able to meet the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, who later after an online presentation turned out to be so enthusiastic about the clean drinking water concept that he and five embassy employees ordered a Filterset set for their own families in Sierra Leone.



4. The first (pilot) project in Malal. (May → November)

From the first deliveries of goods from the Netherlands, **Murphy's law** has always played tricks on us: *what CAN go wrong, almost always has gone wrong*. Starting with the delay in the deliveries of the purchased Tulip Filters and the free buckets, up to and including the illness of our project coordinator and an accident of his wife, which naturally temporarily gave the project lower priority.

In the end, during the pilot project from May to November, only a small 20 of the locally available 40 Tulip filter sets were delivered to families. A disappointingly low number. Fortunately, the users were very satisfied with the clean drinking water!

During our November visit to Sierra Leone, in addition to visits to Freetown and other cities and villages in the country, we also visited the pilot project area in **Malal Chiefdom** and jointly evaluated the objectives and results. The most important lessons for us were: the lack of sufficient progress information and ownership from the local project management.

Reason for us to end this project and to take up new, more promising initiatives with a more critical eye. This decision was partly determined by visits to the other local drinking water development projects that we visited in November.

As a thank you for the pilot project in Malal, the Foundation offered a Tulip water filter set to the primary school (Photo right), where our project coordinator worked until his retirement.



Preparations for a new project for 2025 have already started with one of the locations visited in November: a combination of clean drinking water and repair of a water well: the village of Matam, with 50 families, is taking ownership of the structural acquisition of clean and sufficient drinking water and household water with our help. The families save a small contribution every week, sufficient to be able to maintain both the water well and periodically replace the Tulip water filters in the future.

5. Acknowledgements

We would like to sincerely thank all those involved with the foundation for their support, whether in the form of donations, services and/or volunteer work, in particular:

[Notariaat Westerwolde](#) (Foundations Act), [RD-Plastics](#) (Pallet with buckets and lids), [Guifi](#) (Website support & hosting), [Breustedt Chemie](#) (Donation for filtersets), [Puramed](#) (Donation for filtersets), [Refitech Composites](#) (Donation for filtersets), [SeedsforGrowth Foundation](#) (for their logistic support) and various private donations and purchases of our drinking bottles.

And special thanks to our advisors and ambassadors:

- **Henk Holtslag**, our support and confidant in the field of water management in rural Africa
- **Kapri Turay**, Ambassador with a strong network of relationships in Sierra Leone and diaspora
- **Lammert Veenstra**, Ambassador with special agricultural expertise in the field of bees
- **Benson Kande**, water management expert and rural well builder in Sierra Leone



6. A brief look at the plans in 2025:

- Start up and implement new drinking water projects, such as in Matam (central Sierra Leone).
- Focus on strengthening local distribution and increasing impact through collaborations with local entrepreneurs and NGOs.
- Continue learning from initial experiences and improving logistical processes.

7. Closing words

Despite the somewhat difficult first steps in the field of drinking water supply, we are grateful for the first successes and all the support received. We have full confidence in a successful continuation in 2025.

Apeldoorn / Finsterwolde, june 2025

Sibolt van der Wal, chairman

Ben Bolland, secretary/treasurer

Addendum: Financial overview of 2024

Description	Amounts	Comments
Results (Profit/Loss)		
Income		
Donations & gifts	3969	Corporate and private donations
Sales of filter sets and water bottles	633	Sold on events and on delivery request
TOTAL INCOME	4602	
Expenses		
Malal-pilotproject	700	Filters gedonated to families
Purchase of goods and services	3887	for filters sold in 2024 and for 2025 projects
General expenses	190	Bankcosts, website, CoC, etc.
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4777	
Result:	-175	
BALANCE as of 31-12-2024		
Assets		
Stocks Filters etc.	3422	Partly in NL, partly in Sierra Leone
Liquid assets	1400	Bank balance as of 31-12-2024
TOTAAL ACTIVA	4822	
Liabilities		
Provision/Reserve	3322	For e.g. MATAM project in 2025
Current liabilities *)	1500	0% Loan
TOTAL Liabilities	4822	
*) In addition to an initial donation, two founders have also provided an interest-free loan totaling EUR 1,500 for a smooth start of activities.		