



Dear donor, interested person,

Thank you for opening this fourth newsletter! A lot has happened since mid-August and we are happy to share that with you!



1) The main event: the November trip to Sierra Leone.

From 6 to 16 November we made an “introductory” trip through Sierra Leone. “We” are the two board members Sibolt and Ben, and two ambassadors/volunteers Lammert Veenstra and Kapri Turay. The main goal was to experience together with our local partner Benson Kandeh whether the Tulip filter system would appeal to various groups of the population. We met the local population during our visits both in large cities (Freetown, Makeni, Kenema) and outside of them. Benson accompanied us to various locations and together with us, he gave the presentations.

To our surprise, there was great interest in the Filter system at every location that we visited.

Photo Impression visit Kenema:



Photo: overview of the open walk-in at a community center in a neighborhood of Kenema.



Photo left: High interest in the filter system. Right: Benson notes down names of interested parties.

Photo impression visit Makeni.



Visit to "[Pepper tribe](#)" and War-handicapped community near Makeni. In the past, Benson has built a water well here, now they also want to be sure of safe water via the Tulip filter.



We have visited even more interesting locations, which we will include in a next newsletter.



What surprised us is the big difference with our “developed Netherlands”: the disabled and their families live and work together in the community, including a primary school for the children of the (grand)parents. In our Netherlands, this is done much more individualistically and “professionally” through all kinds of personal budgets, with some well-known excesses such as the “toeslagen affaire”.

2) Evaluation of the pilot project in Malal Chiefdom.

During our tour through Sierra Leone we also paid an evaluation visit to our first pilot project. Due to various causes the project did not bring what we had hoped for. Illness in the family of the local project leader Osman Orisa Sesay, less than half of the available Filtersets distributed and difficulties in communication between the Netherlands and the local project leader led to the progress and reporting scoring insufficiently in our eyes. As a result we received few practical lessons for a follow-up project.

A positive thing was that the users were happy with the filter system. During the conclusion of this pilot project we donated a Filterset to the primary school, where he taught until his retirement in early September, in consultation with **Osman**. See photos below.



In addition to the experiences of the pilot project users in Malal, we also received valuable input from users of other NGOs, to whom we have already supplied the Tulip filter system.

3) Towards more Impact: so more distribution points for the filters.

As a small foundation, our scope and impact are of course limited, which is why we, together with our partner Benson Kandeh, have chosen to also bring the Tulip filters to the man/woman via other local interested parties. One can become a distributor after training in their use, which also focuses on cleanliness. In English it is called WASH: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene.

That is why Benson's car has been used as a "signboard" with a few magnetic stickers from the start of our tour. And with results: several interested parties have already registered, including a hotel owner who also has a shop selling household items, and a pharmacist who would also like to sell the filter in his shop.



A nice extra opportunity to deliver the Tulip filter to more people with financial resources without donations! And by being able to deliver more (and buy more) we expect to be able to reduce the cost price per filter system in the long term, or at least keep it stable.



Photo left: Benson's car with sticker and potential partners. Right: Ben with pharmacist in Kenema.

4) In the series getting to know our volunteers: Henk Holtslag speaks...

After 8 years of sailing with the Holland America Line, I went to Tanzania and later Nicaragua in 1974 via the SNV organization. A windmill project for irrigation was a big failure; too complicated and too expensive at a price of 4000 Euro each.

With that experience and help from NOVIB and ICCO, I trained companies in the so-called rope pump that was affordable at 100 Euro. 50,000 pumps were installed, especially with farmers who earned yearly an extra 220 Euro income.



Over the past 20 years, these families have earned 100 million Euros, set in motion with only 2 million Euros in development aid:

An example of aid that helps!

Then, as a self-employed person, I went to work with colleagues in Africa, where there are now 40,000 rope pumps, but also household water filters, manually drilled wells and rainwater tanks.

The logic is, "locally produced = locally prepared". Via MetaMeta from Wageningen, I am now working with so-called SMART Centres, who train local companies in 9 countries.

As much local production as possible in Sierra Leone of parts for water filters is the aim of the foundation "Safe Water for Africa" and that is why I like to help with my experiences.

Photo: Henk busy fetching two buckets of water for our Stand during the SLCU Outing last August 😊.



In the coming newsletters other volunteers will introduce themselves.

5) Our plans for 2025.

Based on the experience gained in this first year, we have decided to sharpen our strategy to three main activities:

- 1) Supporting small projects that are initiated by local communities and do not always have sufficient financial capacity to start the project, but are able to continue to manage the safe water project once it has started.
- 2) Facilitate projects of other NGOs by supplying and training in the use of the Tulip filter systems at cost price.
- 3) Supply local distributors with the Tulip filter systems, which they can then distribute themselves in their local environment to individual or groups of users.

For each of the main activities, we have already received requests from potential partners during our trip in November. We are currently translating these into action plans.

For action line 1, we are working on a **Safe drinking water plan for Matam village**, a village with approximately 55 families. See photos below. For this, we hope to obtain donations to carry out water well renovations and to supply safe drinking water filters. **Will you help them? [Donate!](#)**



Photos left: we were warmly welcomed with music, dance and speeches by Matam's village leadership. Photo top right: One of the wells that needs repair. Bottom right: Ben explains how the filter works



6) Resume

The end of the year is the time to look back. Starting a new foundation, we had to overcome several hurdles, such as obtaining a bank account, logistical challenges to get goods to Sierra Leone and, last but not least, coordination and communication with our partner(s) in Sierra Leone. But thanks to the help, advice and donations from all involved, we look back with satisfaction and looking confidentially forward to the new year.

Will you continue to support us in 2025 and contribute to more healthy and safe drinking water in Sierra Leone?

Please donate using [this link](#)

*For your information: A complete Tulip filter set with buckets for approximately 7,000 liters of safe drinking water costs EUR 40,= the annual replacement of the core filter costs approximately EUR 27.50
We appreciate every Euro donation!*

Of course, a deposit directly into our new ING bank account (see header) is welcomed too!

*Thank you very much for your interest and support for our cause;
we appreciate when you share this newsletter in your network!*

Interested to help us?

We warmly welcome new volunteers!

Send us a mail: info@safewater4africa.org

Or just call:

Sibolt van der Wal, chairman +316 2959 3404

Ben Bolland, secretary/treasurer +316 5155 9645



Photo: The promotional banner used during the presentations in Sierra Leone.

PS: Interested in buying a Tulip filter set for your own use? Just send us an email with your request!