

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, smiling and drinking from a clear glass. She is wearing a teal shirt with a white and pink floral pattern. The background is a dense, green forest.

# WITH WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

Entire communities now have  
healthier lives and brighter futures



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





Surge works hand-in-hand with communities to provide safe water, sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health solutions to help end the cycle of poverty.

## OUR MODEL

### **Community Driven:**

People know what they need – we work with them to make it a reality.

### **Women Led, Women Centered:**

Women bear the heaviest burden of the water crisis, so we help them advocate for themselves.

### **Scaling Partnerships:**

We strengthen the capacity of our field partners so they can achieve their vision.



Dear Surge for Water Family,

We are deeply grateful for the love and support you showed us in 2022!

Working hand in hand with our field partners, sponsors, volunteers and you, **we had our MOST SUCCESSFUL year, breaking a record on annual funds raised to date!**

**More importantly, we reached over 76,000 people** via wells, rainwater harvesters, water filters, safe toilets, and education on hygiene & menstrual health.

Anabo Harriet, a Ugandan student, shared, **"Now, I do not have to go far to collect water... I spend less time at the well and more time in class studying. I now find school more enjoyable."** Improved water access means that more children like Harriet can go to school and stay healthy while attending. It means that she can go on to achieve her dreams and that entire communities have a chance at a better future!

2022 was also a year where, **at every level of Surge, we strengthened our women-led and women-centered model.** While the water crisis disproportionately impacts women and girls, they are least represented in advocating for their own solutions. At Surge, we ensure that women's voices are heard and that they play an active role in the leadership and implementation of their solutions.

As we look forward to 2023 and beyond, we're excited to share that we continue to grow steadily and have a clear path to becoming a million dollar organization in the next couple of years.

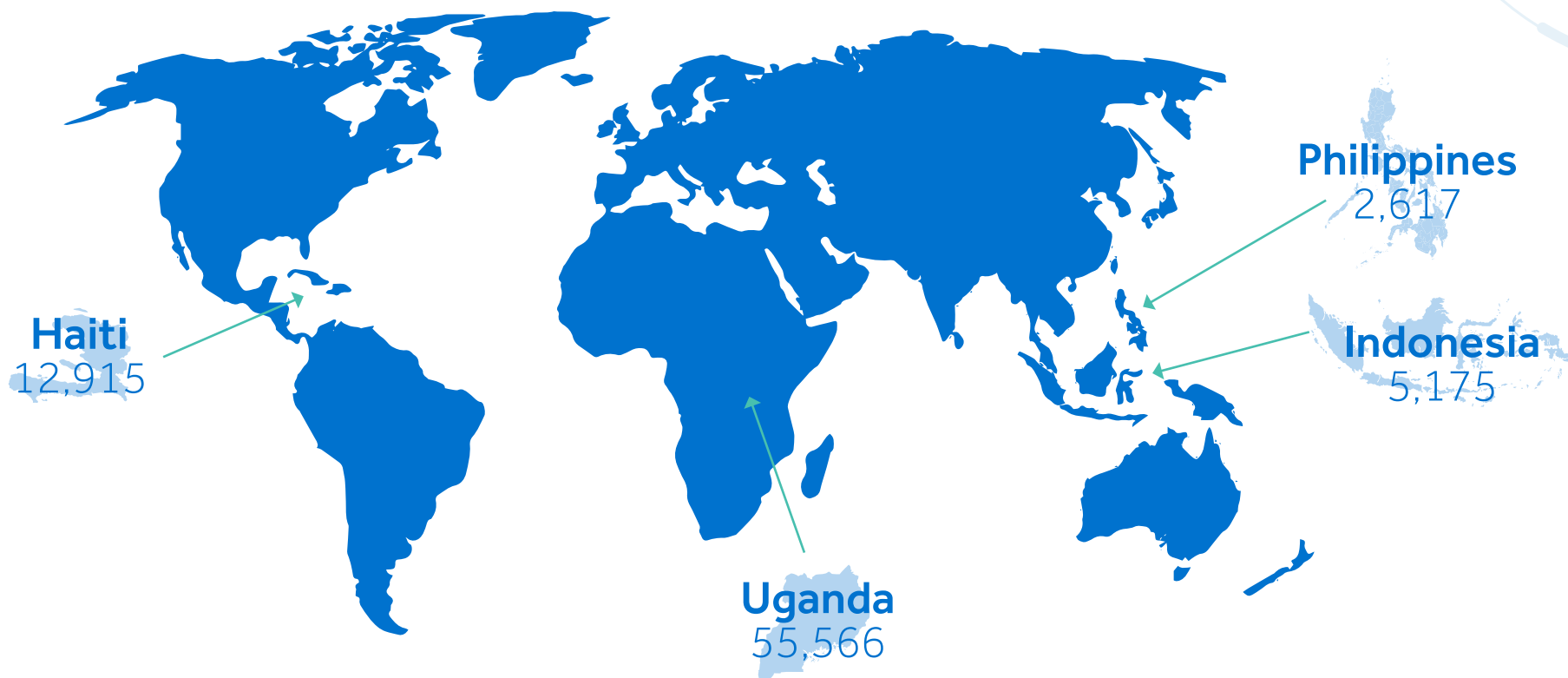
As always, thank you for joining us in the fight for justice in its most basic form – **access to safe water for every person for generations to come.**

With love and gratitude,

**Channa North Hoffstaed - Board Chair**  
**Shilpa Alva - Founder & Executive Director**



# OUR 2022 IMPACT



76,273  
people

## Water

Wells: 26  
Springs: 1  
Rainwater Tanks: 9  
Water Filters: 564

## Sanitation

School Toilets: 9

## Hygiene

Hygiene Classes: 2,187  
Soap Making Classes: 176  
Handwashing Stations: 66

## Menstrual Health

MH Classes: 121  
MH & Pad Making Classes: 94  
Pad Making Classes: 32



# Uganda

Hand-in-hand with our community partner POPOW, in 2022 we made a tremendous impact on the lives of over 55,000 people in Kaberamaido and Kalaki, Uganda. We drilled and fixed wells, built toilets in schools, and delivered education on hygiene and menstrual health – ensuring improved health and brighter futures.

Ajapo Lydia, a 17 year-old student from Okuku Community, explained that “before this borehole, we would be late to school everyday because we would go a long way in search of water for bathing. It was worse when we were menstruating and we couldn’t do without water. But now that we have a nearby water source, we go [to school] clean and assertive to compete with boys who say they can beat girls in math.”

Our success in Uganda is largely due to our local team that’s 60% women and led by Country Director Florence Ringe. Florence explains a woman’s critical role in this sector best:



A woman’s survival depends on water. She will walk or go anywhere – no matter the distance or circumstances – to look for water just so she can properly care for her family. In African tradition our role to care for our family and homes is clearly spelt out. For women, leadership roles are natural and also socially constructed – making us natural leaders of WASH. This puts us at the forefront of both family and community development.



Looking ahead, we’re excited to expand into neighboring districts with critical water, sanitation, and hygiene needs. Applying the lessons learned from our time in Kaberamaido and Kalaki, we’re confident in our ability to scale and make a difference where it matters most.





# Haiti



After freeing themselves from French control and slavery in the early 19th century, Haiti became the world's first Black-led republic. After independence, however, Haiti was crippled by reparations to France; decades of foreign meddling; US occupation; failed assistance programs; dictatorships; natural disasters; and many more struggles. In the past few years, the political and economic instability has escalated once again with instances of gang occupations, kidnappings and violence.

To help the economic situation in Haiti's Cayes-Jacmel region, together with our local partner ASSLHA we set up a training program on liquid soap production – a product widely used for washing clothes.

In 2022, aligned with our women-centered model, 535 people, 90% women, learned to produce liquid soap. A subset of 300 people set up small businesses producing soap for sale. Among these entrepreneurs, 270 were single mothers with no jobs. **With newfound income opportunities, these women are now able to provide for their families, access healthcare, and even send their children to school.** By providing women with the tools and resources needed to succeed, they are well on their way to building more prosperous futures for themselves and their families.

At Surge, we are often asked if we're still actively working in Haiti. We can proudly respond with a resounding YES! Our commitment to our communities is stronger than ever. With the right support, programs like this can help shape a brighter future for Haiti!





# Indonesia

The most recent country we have expanded into, our work in Indonesia continues to strengthen and grow in reach and impact.

With our local partner YLRA in Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara, we have been working with the remote, rural village of Holur Kombata to improve their water situation. From walking long distances in search of water to paying exorbitant amounts of money, the struggle was dire – especially for women. To add to it, there's no easily accessible groundwater, nor nearby rivers and springs, making it complex to provide water for over 800 people.

Since this was our first infrastructure project on the island, we took extra steps to ensure that the community was fully engaged. Intentionally moving at a slow pace, we completed the school rainwater harvesting project impacting 106 people and started work on a 33,000 gallon community rainwater harvesting system.

Additionally, in its second year, our Menstrual Health program in Sumba continued to be a great success. We even introduced pad making and provided employment for 5 female trainers!

In Seraya, Bali, with our community partner Tri Hita Karana, we built on previous work and utilized local expertise to build a total of 3 rainwater harvesting systems, each around 25,000 gallons. To ensure the water collected from rain was safe to drink, we also distributed 233 water purification filters to impact 1,165 people in these villages.

While our work in Indonesia is still new, we see incredible possibilities to scale our impact. We will use our learnings and success to strengthen our relationships, build trust and credibility, and help inform our future actions in this country.





# Philippines

In 2022, our work in the Philippines was a 3-phased approach in partnership with Clean Water International - Philippines (CWIP) to bring safe water to the 2,298 people in the remote, rural community of Barangay Bantol, Marilog District, Davao City.

Phase 1: A village biosand filter was constructed to serve 1,052 people at Bantol Elementary School and the 150 surrounding homes. This filtration system not only provides safe water but brings financial savings and reduces water-borne illnesses. This system also comes with handwashing stations, improving hygiene at the school.

Phase 2 & 3: The goal was to expand safe water access to homes further from the school. We installed locally manufactured ceramic filters in 310 homes, impacting 1,555 people.

**This filter program also provides livelihood opportunities to Community Health Agents (CHA). The CHAs are primarily women who are responsible for the distribution, training and monitoring of the filters. For each filter the CHA receives a one-time counterpart of 500 pesos – money that adds up to give them and their families improved well-being.**

Looking forward, our plan is to continue this phased approach of meeting the water needs of entire communities via community and household solutions.





A majority of Surge's work is focused on this basic life need. What started with small-scale household water purification filters has grown to community-wide solutions, such as well drills and fixes, rainwater harvesting systems, and filtration systems.

Our solutions are customized to meet the unique needs of each community, which range from poor water quality to no access. In the past few years, we have also experienced the impacts of climate change more noticeably, with unpredictable rain patterns causing fluctuations between droughts and floods. The reality of climate change reinforces our commitment to working with nature-based solutions, managing water consumption, and building climate resilient infrastructure.

Implementation is only the beginning – as with all infrastructure solutions, the key to long term sustainability is community ownership and ongoing maintenance.

**At the center of this success are water user committees composed of individuals from the community, particularly women, who we train to manage and lead water projects in their area. This highly effective, community-led model places the wellbeing and long term sustainability of water sources as its top priority, ensuring the longevity of our solutions.**





Toilets in schools are an integral part of education. In many areas where Surge works, school toilets are aging and failing. This leads to poor enrollment, attendance and performance – disproportionately affecting schoolgirls. In Kaberamaido and Kalaki, Uganda, this lack of decent toilets means that girls often have difficulty accessing safe, dignified spaces during menstruation – a time when they need it the most.

It is essential that proper toilets, safe handwashing stations, and adequate hygiene supplies are available to all students at schools. This ensures that every girl can access their right to an education equal to boys – without any discrimination based on her gender or menstrual cycle. To meet this objective, we build toilets in schools for both girls and boys – prioritizing the girls.

**When girls have a chance to go to school they can reach their full potential, make changes in their communities, and actively participate in creating a better future.**

“The sanitation conditions for our girl pupils are now standardized. It had been so difficult here for us to retain the girl child at school due to the unfavorable sanitation facilities. With this modern sanitation facility, our girls’ comfort at school is now guaranteed.” - Madam Iluco Santa, Bugoi Primary School





In the remote, rural communities in Uganda and Haiti where Surge works, soap is expensive. Families often forgo soap so they can purchase essentials like food or pay school fees. However, soap is the most important part of proper hand washing as it helps combat germs – reducing diarrhea, a leading cause of death in children under five, by up to 50%. Without access to soap, it's more likely that children will be sick, diseases will spread, and community health will suffer.

In 2022, in partnership with Soapbox Soaps, we set an ambitious goal – to make and distribute the liquid equivalent of 500,000 bars of soap in Haiti and Uganda. Hand in hand with our local partners, we reached 100% of our soap making goal and trained 2,153 people – 430% of our goal!



"We have been challenged so much by a lack of soap, but now with these skills we can make our own. This will greatly improve the hygiene of the school."

- Headmistress of Kakuya Primary School



In addition to providing resources for soap production and distribution, our work also includes hygiene training and the installation of handwashing systems. Hygiene access is a key component of our holistic initiatives to stop the spread of germs and keep communities healthy.





Our Menstrual Health program helps remove barriers to girls' education by providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to safely manage their cycles. We work with communities to identify taboos and stigmas and we support the community as they work to address these constraints. This year, we continued to build toilets in schools and provide education on hygiene, body and cycle management, period products, body agency, reducing stigma, strengthening sisterhood, and reusable pad-making.

The girls who participated in our highly interactive program shared their experiences:

In Uganda, we are also piloting a more formal "Big Sister" program to better support the deployment of our menstrual health (MH) training and ongoing grassroots support. We have identified that for true sustainability, it is important to provide follow-up support and guidance once the initial Menstrual Health training has been deployed.



"I now know that menstruation is a normal change for every girl. I have learned how to better manage my periods..and pain. I am a normal girl and I now feel free to talk about it to other girls in my community."

- Amuso Priscilla, age 16, Uganda

"Always be confident. Even though we are menstruating women, we can be and do anything."

- Martha Resnadia Ranu,  
Indonesia, age 14,





# Featured Partners

**Acoulite** is the Middle East's leading Lighting and Acoustic supplier and a longtime supporter of Surge. As a returning Headline sponsor of Dubai's 'Design, Dine, make a Difference' they once again helped us make the world brighter! Terry Woodley, Acoulite's CEO shared, "Acoulite has a very high level of corporate social responsibility, it is part of our DNA to support causes that are worthwhile. Access to water is a basic human right, and we are so grateful to support Surge in creating a world where everyone has access to safe water."

**Sedus Stoll AG** is one of the leading suppliers of complete office furniture and workplace concepts. Joelle Nader, Managing Director of Sedus UAE shared, "Sedus & Surge have a lot in common when it comes to making our world a better place. The core of Sedus mission is – We really care: we care about the Environment, the Future of new generations, the People, their Wellbeing & health. Promoting the health of people is as important as breathing clean air or drinking clean water for daily survival and leading a healthy life. At Sedus, we surely develop and produce high-quality office furniture to ensure people are motivated in a healthy office environment. We also ensure our profits go to foundations of similar purpose."

**MVP Tech** – a Convergent Company, is specialized in delivering innovative Security System Integration, IT Infrastructure, Data Centres and AI Software engineering solutions across the Middle East North Africa region. Jurgen Herre, Director shared, "Driven by our sustainability values in supporting communities, we have partnered with Surge for the past two years to empower communities in Haiti, Uganda, and the Philippines by funding water access and critical hygiene programs. At MVP Tech we believe it is extremely crucial to give back to the community in ways that have a significant impact on those most in need. It gives so much pride and happiness to be involved in Surge's meaningful initiatives."

**Soapbox** has a mission to empower consumers to change the world through everyday, quality purchases. For each thoughtfully crafted Soapbox product that is purchased, the company donates a bar of soap to someone in need, either in the United States or abroad.

Thank you for working  
hand in hand with us to help  
create a happier world.





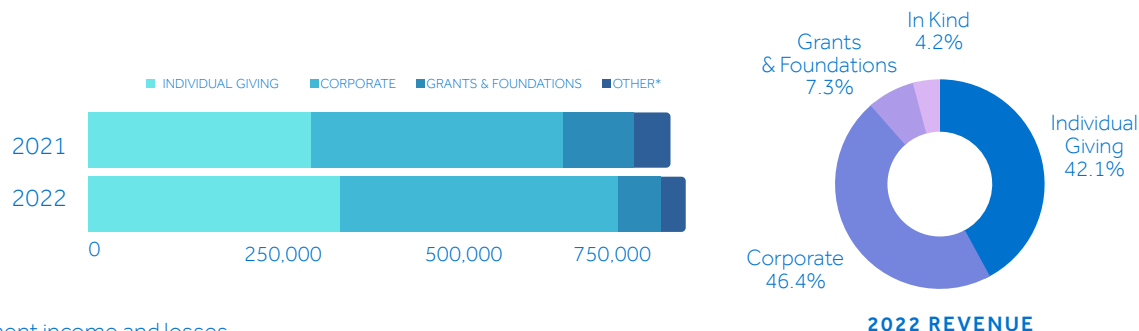
# Financials

2022, was our most successful year to date with a 7% growth over 2021.

## REVENUES\* (USD)

### TOTAL REVENUES

<b>2021</b>
780,252
<b>2022</b>
831,219

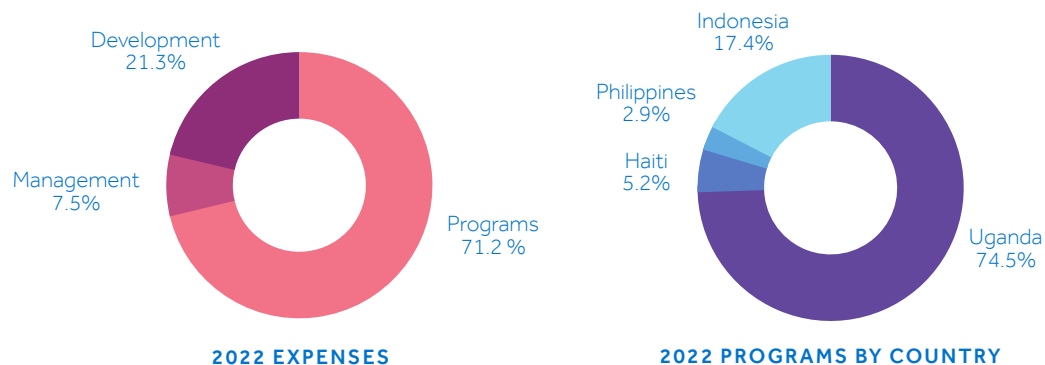


\*Does not include investment income and losses.

## EXPENSES (USD)

### TOTAL EXPENSES

<b>2021</b>
720,428
<b>2022</b>
803,894



## NET ASSETS 2022

<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Ending</b>
391,387	401,947

For more details refer to our [990 Form and Audit Report](#)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Suvai Gunasekaran  
 Mary Hall  
 Emily Lawrence  
 Sarah Odde Lynch - *Vice Chair*  
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 Marita Peters - *Country Executive Director*  
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 Mitali Shah  
 Begench Amangeldiev

### Surge Leadership Team

Shilpa Alva, *Founder and Executive Director*  
 Ashley Quinlan, *Operations & Development Manager*



# SUPPORT OUR WORK

Your tax-deductible donation helps support communities with safe water, sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health solutions – fighting extreme poverty.

Visit our website to make a gift: [surgeforwater.org](https://surgeforwater.org)

## Other Ways to Give

- Donate Stock or Crypto
- Peer-to-Peer Campaigns
- Attend Events
- Volunteer

For more information or to speak with a team member about investing in Surge. Contact: [friends@surgeforwater.org](mailto:friends@surgeforwater.org)

## Follow Us:

@surgeforwater

