



## Our Union Program 2025–2026

### Safe Water from Woman to Woman with Solvatten

#### What problem do we want to address?

Water is essential for all life. Yet more than two billion people lack access to clean water. The lack of clean water causes one of the most serious crises in the world, bringing with it both disease and death. It is estimated that every year, 3.4 million people die from water-related diseases caused by water scarcity or contamination. In Africa, almost 40% of the population lacks access to clean water. More than half of global child mortality can be linked to malnutrition, lack of clean water, and poor sanitation.

In countries where clean water is scarce, it is mainly the women and girls in the family who are responsible for water supply. To fetch water, they often have to walk long and risky distances. Managing water consumes a significant amount of time, hindering girls' schooling and women's ability to work to support their families.

#### Vision

Solvatten not only improves family health but also enhances the opportunities for women and girls to receive education. They become involved and can contribute to the family's income. Through our work, we provide these women with improved opportunities.

#### Goals

- Raise 200,000 SEK per year through our clubs and from individual donors and businesses.
- Send at least two pallets, that is, 144 Solvatten units, each year to our recognized recipients in Africa. This will provide 700–1000 people with clean water daily for at least seven years.
- Actively spread knowledge about Solvatten and its positive impact in developing countries through at least ten presentations in various forums, such as club meetings, Union meetings, and digital program leader meetings.
- Contribute to achieving several of the goals in the UN's Agenda 2030 for global sustainable development. Solvatten can also help advance gender equality, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action.



## This is Solvatten

The inventor and entrepreneur Petra Wadström developed the first prototype of Solvatten in 2003. The aim was to use the sun's energy to purify water. The container holds ten liters of water, which, after just a couple of hours in the sun, becomes clean and reaches a temperature of about 70°C. Given the long lifespan of a Solvatten unit, this is both a long-term and cost-effective solution in countries where the sun is abundant, but clean water is scarce. Users have reported immediate health benefits: diarrhea stops, eye diseases disappear, child mortality decreases, and less firewood and other fuels are needed to boil water for cooking.

We Soroptimists purchased and delivered our first Solvatten units in 2012. Birgitta Hansson, Union President from 2012–14, chose Solvatten as her project, and the work continued to find recipients and new users. By December 2024, we had raised over 2.8 million SEK and delivered more than 2.700 Solvatten units to carefully selected recipients.

Solvatten is manufactured in Sweden by Solvatten AB. The easy-to-use water purifier is distributed to aid organizations such as UNHCR, Plan, and others. Additionally, companies purchase Solvatten units as part of their environmental initiatives through the Solvatten Foundation, which also operates in the USA.

## Funds Raised

The operation is considered a program within SI Sweden, and fundraising occurs continuously through donations from clubs and individuals. The funds are held in a separate account, distinct from the other bank accounts of the Sweden Union. The program is currently active primarily in Africa and could be expanded to new countries after a thorough analysis of the possibilities for achieving the desired results.

## Program Group

There is a program group consisting of seven people, active since 2012. The group meets at least twice a year and holds digital meetings in between. A reference group of five people also assists in spreading knowledge.

## Program Group's Responsibilities

- Financial oversight of the funds raised, which go directly to the purchase and delivery of Solvatten units.



- Budgeting for administrative costs covered by the Union.
- Identifying and deciding on projects and the allocation of funds based on the following criteria:
  - A clear project plan that aligns with the program's vision.
  - A reliable partner in the recipient countries.
  - Ensuring the conditions for training and follow-up.
- Drafting agreements once a project has been approved, specifying the target group, the project leader on-site, training for receiving women, and follow-up actions.
- In collaboration with Solvatten AB, taking all necessary administrative actions regarding transport, customs, import fees, etc.
- Maintaining contact with our Reference Group, Union Board, and Program Leaders:
  - Via meeting minutes from program group meetings.
  - Utilizing digital communication methods.
- Keeping information about Solvatten up to date on the Sweden Union website.
- Contributing to the Union's newsletter.
- Providing informational materials about the Solvatten program in both Swedish and English.
- Actively using all opportunities to spread knowledge about the Solvatten program, such as at Union meetings, international Soroptimist Congresses, UN days, social gatherings, and through other NGO organizations.

### **Reference Group's Responsibilities**

- Reviewing the program group's meeting minutes and other information.
- Ensuring that knowledge of the operation is disseminated to all clubs.
- Inspiring and motivating clubs to work on the project.
- Engaging in dialogue with the program group so that ideas and feedback from clubs are considered to make the operation more successful.