Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC)



Region
12 countries and three regions: Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso, Benin, Madagascar, Mali, Niger), East-Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan) and Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, India,).

Partners
Swiss Water and Sanitation NGO Consortium: Terre des Hommes, Swissaid, Helvetas, Solidar Suisse, Fastenopfer, HEKS-EPER, Caritas, Swiss Red Cross. Affiliate members: Water for Water, Antenna Foundation.

Background information
Despite considerable progress accomplished globally in the last 25 years with regards to access to water and sanitation, it remains a major challenge To achieve universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goal on clean water and sanitation.

Project objectives
The Consortium aims to improve sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, hygiene, promtoeinnovation and knowledge sharing and engage in advocacy and policy influencing.

Beneficiaries
Households in rural areas and small towns, patients of health centers, pupils, farmers, local associations and governments.

Costs & Duration
Total: CHF 36'441'000
SDC: CHF
12'100'000
2023 - 2027

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Reaching universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) remains a major challenge, despite considerable progress accomplished globally in the last 25 years. With 2.1 billion people around the world with no safely managed drinking water and 3.4 billion people without safely managed sanitation services, increased collaboration and coordination amongst invovled actors is needed. To address this, the Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium (SWSC) has been created in 2011 to improve water and sanitation coverage, trigger innovation and knowledge sharing, and engage in advocacy and policy influencing.

Eight Swiss NGOs working together

The eight NGOs and two affiliate members target their know-how and resources to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable population by leveraging sustainable access to WASH. They focus their activities in 12 countries across three regions: Francophone Africa, East and Southern Africa, and Asia.

Achieved Results and expected outputs of the planned phase

In phases I-III, the consortium mainstreamed innovations, facilitated knowledge sharing, and joined forces to advocate and influence policies. The water and sanitation coverage was considerably increased, and approximately 1,000,000 people in communities, 330,000 school pupils, and 1.6 Mio. patients in healthcare facilities were provided with access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.

This fourth phase aims to further improve access to WASH, continuing with its focus on institutions (schools and health care facilities) This includes improving WASH services for people in approximately 269 schools, 150 health care facilities and 228 surrounding communities. Acknowledging that scaling of service delivery and sustaining services can only be reached through a strong enabling environment, the central strategy for phase IV is **a systems-wide approach** that aims at reinforcing systems at local and where appropriate, national levels. Key cross-cutting issues of **gender and social equity**, and, new in phase IV, **climate resilience**, will be mainstreamed into the SWSC projects. Linking different levels (from local to national and beyond), the SWSC continues to work around five interrelated building blocks: i) fostering exchange and learning, ii) building evidence, iii) outreach & dissemination, iv) strengthening partnerships, and v) advocacy. The current phase focuses on reinforcing **the advocacy strategy** started in Phase III. Further, the SWSC member organisations will continue to explore various **innovations** with the Global Innovation Fund and continue to scale up their signature approaches for WASH in institutions, namelyBlue Schools and WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCF). Blue Schools promote good sanitation and hygiene practices, while fostering healthy and environmentally friendly learning environments through WASH, menstrual hygiene, school gardens, waste management, and environmental education, contributing to all SDG 6 targets.

Concerning WASH in healthcare facilities, the SWSC has worked on this issue since its creation in 2011. During phase II, it hleped establish a

WASH in HCF-task team in Bangladesh and strengthened standards, monitoring and health worker capacities in Nepal and Mali. In phase III, the focus shifted to generating evidence and monitoring service quality and sustainability. In phase IV, the SWSC builds on these achievements by adopting a systems strenghtening approach to improve the sustainability and scale of WASH services in HCF. .

Additional information:
waterconsortium.ch/