Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH) – *Phase 2*

Region
Global: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti and Peru and beyond

Partners
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Young Water Solutions (YWS)

Background information
Despite the significant progress in improving the access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in the past two decades in Latin America countries (LAC), there are still millions of rural people who lack access to safely managed water and basic sanitation.

Project objectives
To strengthen enabling policies, foster innovation and knowledge ecosystems, and build the necessary capacities to deliver sustainable, high-quality water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities, with a particular focus on reaching vulnerable and disadvantaged populations

Beneficiaries
Poor and vulnerable populations from rural and remote communities in the targeted countries.

Costs
SDC Contribution: CHF 2'500'00

Duration
15.06.2025 - 14.06.2027

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

During its first phase, SIRWASH supported rural WASH improvements in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, and Peru, alongside regional activities. It strengthened over US$400 million in IDB rural investment loans and supported key regulatory reforms in Peru and Bolivia. The project trained more than 2,000 professionals through peer exchanges and virtual courses and promoted innovative solutions such as remote water quality monitoring, ecological sanitation, and planning tools. It supported 40 youth-led social enterprises, benefiting 39,000 people, and fostered knowledge exchange through partnerships with the Rural Water Sanitation Network (RWSN), the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), and multilateral banks (such as African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank). Overall, SIRWASH improved rural WASH services for over 250,000 people and laid the groundwork for a second phase.

An external evaluation confirmed SIRWASH's strong alignment with national priorities and recommended the continuation of a new phase including adjustments in the governance, demand-driven and multi-sectorial (climate change and DRR) aspects among others. As the programme has accomplished most of its objectives and is hence set to phase by 2027, this final phase's focus is on scaling key interventions, consolidating policy and regulatory frameworks, strengthening youth-led WASH enterprises and broadening knowledge sharing. SIRWASH is also fostering synergies with other SDC initiatives such as the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium, Social Water Entrepreneurship, El Agua Nos Une, and SECO's water portfolio. The program is fully aligned with Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2025–28, the SDC Water Programme Framework, SDG 6, and the Guidelines on Water 2022–2025, particularly in promoting innovation, private sector engagement, and climate resilience in WASH.

The **overall objective of SIRWASH** is that rural communities in programme countries increase their access to an equitable WASH service due to the implementation of improved rural policies, strengthened capacities, empowered institutions and boosted innovation ecosystems.

Phase 2 outcomes:

1. **Outcome 1: Policy -** The rural WASH sector of each country is improved through better policy implementation and an enhanced regulatory framework.
2. **Outcome 2: Capacities and Knowledge -** Implementation and enhanced regulatory framework. Sectorial entity's capacities are strengthened (including topics such as climate change and disaster risk reduction), knowledge is disseminated and capitalised through South-South collaboration.
3. **Outcome 3: Youth-led WASH businesses** are consolidated, and an existing platform is strengthened to foster and channel exchanges among youths, entrepreneurs, and funders.



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Additional Information:

SIRWASH's closing phase will continue with its thematic components focused on Policy, Knowledge management and Innovation. The programme will be implemented through IDB (Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti and Peru) and YWS (Colombia and Peru).

www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3712
www.youngwatersolutions.org/