

Editorial

Dear colleagues

We are happy to present the fourth edition of the SDC Water News under a new concept, which is aligned to the Divisions of the SDC. The first edition focused on the Cooperation in the East (Eastern Europe and Central Asia), the second one on the Global Programme Water, the third on Humanitarian Assistance, and the current one on Cooperation with the South. Geographically, "South" covers a vast and diverse area, from Latin America to Africa and East/Southeast Asia.

The current issue also shows how diverse the SDC's work in the South is in terms of topics and focus: from promoting innovative sanitation systems in Central America to supporting the Rural Water and Sanitation Initiative of the African Development Bank; from improving rural WASH infrastructure in Zimbabwe to improved irrigation management in Nepal - the depth and variety of interventions are impressive. In this newsletter, we actually only provide updates on a few of the interventions – and we look forward to hear from other projects in future editions.

As usual, the articles are short flashlights on selected aspects of a few projects from each region. In the back of this issue you will find a list with a more complete overview of projects in the water domain in the South – if you are aware of projects which were not included, please let us know so that we can keep updating and completing this list. Knowing which projects and programmes SDC currently implements and whom to contact is an important first step to improve networking and internal knowledge exchange, which is a key objective of RésEAU.

Among the members of the Core Group of the RésEAU we are currently discussing the future concept of the newsletter and considering a further development for 2018, which will be based on geographic regions (each issue will focus on one region, including projects/programmes from the Global Programmes and from Humanitarian Assistance).

Please feel free to share your opinion and experiences with the current concept – either by writing to the RésEAU e-mail list (reseau@dgroups.org) or by writing or speaking to me directly. Our goal is to deliver a product which best serves the needs of RésEAU members – therefore, your feedback is crucial.

If you are looking for recently published documents of the SDC and its partners, or for previous blog entries or upcoming events, please refer to our ShareWeb (e.g., news & events, re-sources, blog).

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to this edition of the Water News and we wish you a happy reading.



[Hanna Capeder](#), RésEAU Focal Point

[Matthias Saladin](#), Editor RésEAU Newsletter

Africa/MENA

Mozambique: Final phase of PROGOAS – Governance, Water and Sanitation Program

The final phase of PROGOAS (2015-2018), implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, aims at sustainably improving the living conditions of the rural population in four districts of Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces, through participation of men and women in the local governance system and the provision of responsive and sustainable water and sanitation services of high quality.

In the past eight years, ten thousands of people gained access to safe and affordable drinking water and equitable sanitation and hygiene services through the support of the SDC. This is an important contribution for a country in which 74% of the rural population still do not have access to equitable sanitation services and 45% to safe drinking water, respectively.



Community meeting in Cabo Delgado

Find additional information on this [project description](#) or contact: [Pililao Fernando](#), SDC Maputo

Zimbabwe: Support to rehabilitation and construction of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure

The SDC supported a rural WASH project implemented by UNICEF in three districts of Masvingo Province in Zimbabwe from 2013-2017. This intervention focused on rehabilitation and construction of new WASH infrastructure; promotion of demand-led sanitation and hygiene, Public-Private Partnerships for operation and maintenance of WASH services; and enhancement of WASH sector governance. Through the project more than 350,000 people gained access to improved water sources. Bore-hole down-time for faulty hand pumps was reduced and community based management of WASH infrastructure was strengthened. The 'demand-led sanitation approach' coupled with consistent hygiene messaging led to significantly increased sanitation coverage and reduction in open defecation. Institutionalization of implementation through government structures from grassroots up to national level and the successful uptake of the zero-subsidy approach have great potential to positively impact future interventions

in the sector, with the goal of enhancing and sustaining the gains made through the SDC investment.



Innovation from Zimbabwe: the Bush Pump

For more information, contact [Sharon Murinda](#), SDC Harare

Jordan: Sanitation project (ISSRAR)

Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the SDC launched the first phase (4 years) of a programme entitled “Sanitation Solutions for underserved communities in Jordan”. The project, implemented by BORDA and Seecon, aims to enhance the efficiency of Waste Water Treatment (WWT), to increase sanitation coverage, and to turn waste streams into physical and financial resource streams by ensuring and promoting safe reuse of treated wastewater and faecal sludge. As a result, the project will contribute to reducing environmental risks, creating better living conditions, social cohesion and improved resilience within host communities in Jordan. Access the brochure about innovative sanitation solutions [here](#).



Kick-off meeting of the project in Jordan in 2017

For more information contact [Mufleh Alalaween](#), SDC Amman

Regional: Conclusion of the Swiss support to RWSSI



Countries with Bank-Funded RWSSI Projects/Programs and Studies as of 31/12/15

In 2003 the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI) as the leading mechanism to support African governments in their efforts to improve Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and to achieve the MDGs as well as the goals of the African Water Vision. In 2005, a RWSSI Trust Fund (RWSSI TF) was established to mobilize additional funding for RWSSI. The SDC joined the RWSSI TF in

2010 and up to the end of 2016 contributed CHF 41 million to it.

The active role of the SDC in the Steering Committee and its involvement in the strategic planning process allowed to bring in key topics such as fragile states, gender mainstreaming, decentralization of service provision, governance, the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, among others. The SDC provided additional support to AfDB through financing a technical advisor on monitoring and evaluation.



A completed water point in Nacuculo Village, Mogovolas District, Mozambique

Overall, the Swiss support was instrumental for improving governance in the WASH sector through policy dialogue, capacity building, sharing of good practices, monitoring and evaluation, decentralized supply chains, conflict sensitive management approaches and visits of various staff from Swiss

institutions. The outcomes of RWSSI include 133 million people with gained access to water and 90 million people to sanitation.

Find the project description [here](#).

For more information contact: [Ralph Friedländer](#), SDC West Africa

Great Lakes: The PEPP successfully concluded its Rwandan component

Launched in 2013, the Programme Eau Potable pour la Population des Grands Lacs (PEPP) is designed to improve access to safe drinking water and hygiene for the people in Rwanda (districts of Nyamasheke/Rusizi), Burundi (province of Ngozi) and the DR of Congo (province of South-Kivu).

After having been forced to stop its Burundian component in late 2015 due to the prevailing conflict, the Rwandan part of PEPP has been boosted: by mid-2017 eight rehabilitated, extended or new drinking water supply systems serving about 94,000 people (and with a design capacity of 155,000 people in 2035) were successfully handed over to district authorities for their management by the respective private operators. In parallel, surveys have shown that the implementation of the Rwandan Community Based Environmental Health Promotion Program as fostered by

the Programme has an important positive impact on the population's hygiene behaviour and health. By mid-2018 the PEPP is expected to finalize its DR Congo component focusing on water supply and school sanitation of a peripheral district of Bukavu.



Reservoir with pumping station – Rwanda

For more information please find the project description [here](#) or contact: [Wellars Ndutiye](#), SDC Great Lakes

South and South East Asia

Bangladesh: Sanitation Marketing Systems (SanMarkS)

SanMarkS is the name of a project which applies Sanitation Marketing, Market Systems Thinking, and Human Centered Design to reach 450,000

poor and disadvantaged people in six rural districts of Bangladesh with better health and well-being through improved sanitation. Funded by the SDC and UNICEF and implemented by iDE, SanMarkS builds household demand and private sector supply of hygienic latrines. Additionally, the project engages the public and development sectors to create an enabling environment for these market-based activities. At midpoint, the project has



Creating demand for sanitation solutions

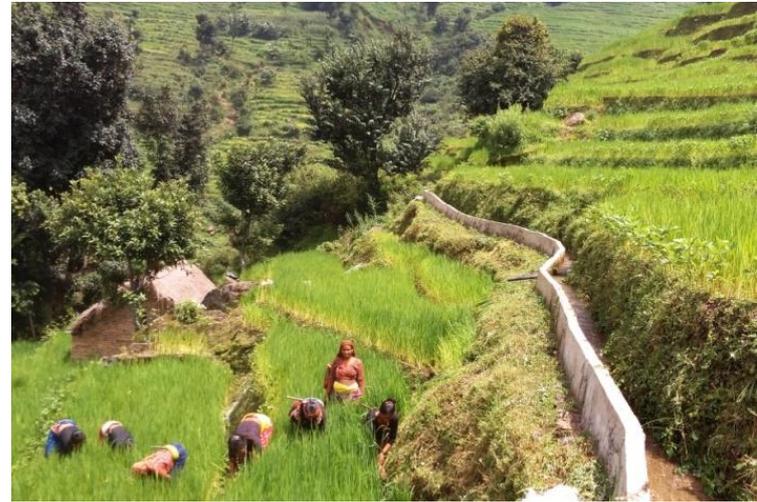
achieved 49,104 improved hygienic latrine sales reaching 203,292 people. SanMarkS was also awarded the 2017 P3 Impact Award for its exemplary work with public-private partnerships. Find

the [project brief](#) and further information about the project on the website of the [University of Virginia](#).

For more information please contact [George Derek](#), SDC Dhaka

Nepal: Small Irrigation Programme (SIP) for small holder farmers

In spite of agriculture making up about 30 per-cent of Nepal's GDP and absorbing two thirds of the labour force, agricultural production has barely kept up with the demands of its growing population over the past decade. Only 40 per-cent of the irrigated land receives year-round irrigation, which is one of the major reasons why the agriculture sector so far has not reached its full potential. With an objective to increase agricultural income of rural poor, especially the dis-advantaged groups, the SDC in collaboration with the Government of Nepal is implementing the Small Irrigation Programme (SIP) in nine districts of Nepal. The programme aims to increase the yield of major crops and the cropping intensity by at least 30 percent.



Small holder farmers are the backbone of agriculture

For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact [Binaya-Raj Shrestha](#), SDC Kathmandu

Latin America and the Caribbean

Nicaragua, Brazil and Switzerland make a splash for the condominial sewerage system

The Small Towns and Schools programme (PCE) has been implemented in Nicaragua and Honduras between 2010 and 2017. Throughout the project more than 30,000 people gained access to sanitation services in small cities of Nicaragua and Honduras by implementing the so-called *condominial* sewerage systems, which are very common in Brazil. The process initiated by the programme is even more relevant than the numbers because the technology opens a range of options to deliver better sanitation services for this region. Most importantly, *condominial* sewerage systems reduce the costs by about 40% compared to conventional sanitation systems, according to the Brazilian experts involved in the project implementation. Switzerland is helping the up-take of this technology in other contexts, in this case by fostering cooperation between actors from Brazil and Central America.



Expertise from Brazil and Switzerland may make latrines a thing of the past in Central America

Please find the project report [here](#). For more information, please contact [José Francisco Toruño](#) or [Alfonso Flores](#), SDC Managua

Bolivia: Harvesting water through the Integrated Water Management Project

Watershed management is central to the conservation and use of water resources. Such management means working with the flow of natural ecosystem processes, cultural values and social norms and governance to maintain the availability, distribution, access and use of water resources for different activities. The Integrated Water Management project, funded by the SDC and implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, has been contributing for years to the country national policy on watershed and water management through the National Watershed Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Water. Water harvesting for different uses is central to the strategy of improving the wellbeing of rural populations and their agricultural activities. Thanks to the Swiss support, since 2013, 44,000 families inhabiting an area of more than 88,000 hectares in Bolivia apply now better land and water management practices, thus improving their ecological resilience.



Building structure to harvest water in the landscape

Feel free to check out this [video](#) about the project and to visit the [virtual library](#). For more information please contact [Rodrigo Villavicencio](#), SDC La Paz.

Honduras: Gulf of Fonseca, an opportunity to set the foundations of a water governance model in Honduras

The Southern Region of Honduras faces serious problems of water scarcity, due to over exploitation and inadequate management of natural resources. Gaps in human, institutional and financial capital limit access to water. The resulting water insecurity is generally an effect of the absence of coordination between political, social and environmental issues at different territorial levels.

The Territorial Water Governance Program in Region 13 of the Gulf of Fonseca aims to contribute to the development of an Integrated Water Resource Management System in a gradual manner by empowering the Watershed Councils. These councils are platforms for public-private agreements that can ensure water management is done in an integrated, sustainable and equitable manner.



Water is a vital resource used for many purposes

For more information please visit the website [here](#) or contact [Mayra Espinoza](#), SDC Tegucigalpa.

Haiti: Improved access to water and sanitation through better local governance

In Haiti, where access to water and sanitation is very low (57% and 28%, respectively), the involvement of local authorities and the participation of citizens in planning, implementing and managing WASH services are generally perceived as key ingredients to solve the inherent problems in the sector.

The Program for Reinforcement of Local Management of Water and Sanitation (REGLEAU) wants to address these challenges by strengthening the local authorities and civil society organizations, and ensure community governance. This will result in WASH services that are accessible, sustainable, affordable, culturally acceptable and inclusive. Incentives will encourage active participation of citizens, private sector involvement and a stronger political and financial commitment from the central government. Moreover, the REGLEAU program will address important topics at stake: citizenship, transparency, accountability, and mechanisms for participative planning, among others. The program

will last 12 years (2017-2028) and the planned SDC contribution is 30 million CHF.



Women play an important role in the management of water kiosks in Haiti (picture courtesy Ernest Schaltegger)

For more information please visit the website [here](#) or contact [Gentilé Senat](#), SDC Port-au-Prince

Regional: SDC and SECO joint collaboration with IDB and other donors for water in Latin America and the Caribbean

Despite the good progress in most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on access to water and sanitation, there are still 34 million people lacking access to safe water and 170 million lacking access to improved sanitation. To tackle this problem, SDC and SECO are supporting a strategic partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through contributing to AquaFund, IDB's thematic trust fund. This collaboration allows the Swiss Cooperation to reinforce its support to governments in the LAC Region in progressing towards achieving universal access to sustainable, high-quality water and sanitation services, especially in rural areas and lower-income countries. It also enables SDC to exchange best practices with IDB and identify concrete collaboration opportunities, not only in the WASH sector but overall on management of water resources and water security, in alignment with SDG#6. A recent evaluation of AquaFund showed that its impressive

leveraging of IDB loans makes AquaFund a very efficient tool for the water sector development.



Rural schools were supported as part of AquaFund's pilot project on WASH in rural areas of Colombia, Peru, Honduras and Mexico (Picture Credit: [Give to Colombia](#))

For more information please visit the website [here](#) or contact, [Sergio Pérez León](#), SDC Berne

From a personal point of view

In this section we present a personal point of view on one of the projects – in this case Denise Staubli talks about her experience within the Mekong River Commission (MRC), which is supported both by South Cooperation and the Global Programme Water. The text is the result of a paraphrased interview conducted in German by Isabelle Kaufmann, Responsible for Web-communication at the Global Programme Water.

“My name is Denise Staubli. I’m part of SDC’s Trainee Program and work for the Mekong River Commission. After working at the SDC Global Programme Water headquarters in Switzerland for a year I was seconded to the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane next to the beautiful Mekong.

The countries of the lower Mekong basin Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam established the intergovernmental organisation in 1995 in order to manage the precious resources of the river together – sustainably and peacefully. The river originates in China, flows through Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand before it ends in Vietnam into the sea. The stream constitutes an important basis for the livelihood of millions of people.

In my position at the office of the CEO, I am fully integrated into the organisation’s structure. One of my main tasks is to support the current reform

process of the commission. To monitor the progress, I introduced the “traffic light system” in our reports. Processes which are on track are marked green, the ones that need a follow up are marked yellow and red is where a reassessment and actions are needed. Indeed, it is a very simple instrument. However, people reacted very positively to the colours and it triggered important discussions about MRC’s decentralization. The secondment allows me to gain full insight into the Mekong River Commission and experience transboundary water management on all levels. I would absolutely recommend my position.”



Denise Staubli: Portrait of a JPO seconded to a partner organization, in this case the Mekong River Commission

Contact: [Denise Staubli](#), [Isabella Kaufmann](#)

Overview of water projects in South Cooperation

Country/Region	Project name	Donor
South Asia / East Asia		
Asia	ICIMOD: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development – Core Contribution	SDC South Asia
Mekong Region	Mekong River Commission (MRC) – Strategic Plan 2016-2020	SDC East Asia Division and Global Programme Water
Pakistan/India, Kyrgyzstan/ Tadschikistan	Water Efficiency in Rice and Cotton	SDC Global Programme Food Security
Afghanistan	Sustainable Livelihoods and Social Development Project (SLSD)	SDC South Asia
Afghanistan	Livelihood Improvement Programme Takhar (LIPT) – Bridging Phase	SDC South Asia
Bangladesh	Sanitation Marketing	SDC Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Fund	SDC South Asia
Bangladesh	Integrated Water Resource Management in the Barind tract	SDC South Asia
China	China: Groundwater Rehabilitation under a changing climate	SDC Global Programme Climate Change and Environment
China	Jinsha River Basin (JRB): Integrated Water Resources and Risk Management under Changing Climate	SDC Global Programme Climate Change and Environment
Nepal	"Small Irrigation Programme (SIP)	SDC South Asia
Vietnam	Can Tho Urban Development and Resilience Project	SECO
Vietnam	Mekong Urban Flood Proofing and Drainage Program	SECO
Pakistan	Water 4 Livelihoods	SDC South Asia
Pakistan	Water and Energy Security through Microhydel in the Hindukush	SDC South Asia
Pakistan	Improving Water Governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	SDC South Asia
Pakistan	Water governance in FATA (WGF)	SDC South Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean		
Latin America	Contribution to IDB AquaFund II	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Central America	Regional Aguasan Programme	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Central America	Water and Sanitation in Small Towns and Schools	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Bolivia	Gestion Integral del Agua (GIA II)	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Bolivia	Gestion Ambiental Municipal (GAM)	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Bolivia	Biocultura	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Colombia	Integral Development of Urban Water and Sanitation Utilities in Colombia	SECO

Haiti	Programme de Renforcement de la Gestion Locale de l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement - REGLEAU	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Honduras	Territorial Water Governance in the Gulf of Fonseca	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Honduras	Nuestra Cuenca Goascarán	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Nicaragua	Community Driven Watershed Management for Climate Change Adaptation in Nicaragua (Rio Dipilto)	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Nicaragua	Cosecha del agua	Global Programme Climate Change
Nicaragua	Aguasan Nicaragua	SDC Latin America and the Caribbean Division
Peru	Water Utility Reform Support Program	SECO
Peru	Piura Water and Sewerage Project	SECO

Africa/Middle East		
Africa	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative	SDC West Africa Division
Great Lakes Region	Programme Eau Potable pour la Population des Grands Lacs (PEPP)	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Chad	Gestion des eaux de ruissellement dans le Tchad sahélien	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Chad	Cartographie des Ressources en Eau	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Chad	Renforcement de l'élevage pastoral	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Egypt	Potable Water Management Programme (PWMP) in Upper Egypt	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Ethiopia	Sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) for Enhanced Pastoralist Food Security in the Borana Zone, Ethiopia.	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Jordan	Innovative Sanitation Solutions and Reuse in Arid Regions (ISSRAR)	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Kenya	Kenya resilient arid lands partnerships for integrated development (Kenya RAPID)	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Mozambique	Transparent Governance for Water, Sanitation and Health - GoTAS	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Mozambique	Programa Nacional de Abastecimento de Água e Saneamento (PRONASAR) - PRONASAR	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Mozambique	Programme for Local Governance and Water & Sanitation in Mozambique (ProGoAS III)	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Mozambique	Health Promotion Cabo Delgado	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Niger	Programme d'Hydraulique Rurale – Appui Au Secteur Eau et Assainissement (PHRASEA) Phase 2	SDC West Africa Division
Tanzania	MKAJI – Maji kwa Afya ya Jamii: Upgrading Water Supply in Health Facilities of Dodoma Region	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division
Zimbabwe	Rehabilitation of Small Irrigation Schemes	SDC Southern Africa, East and North Africa, Occupied Palestinian Territory Division