

YOUR NEWSLETTER - LINKING YOU 4 TIMES A YEAR WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND THE SECTOR

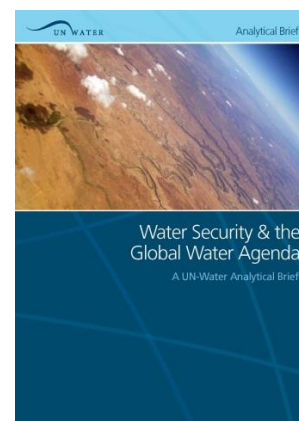
BREAKING NEWS**UN-Water Brief defines water security**

The UN-Water Task Force on Water Security has released an analytical brief, titled "Water Security and the Global Water Agenda," to mark World Water Day 2013. The brief defines water security to clarify agreement on the concept and to facilitate progress on water security in international fora, including on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and at the UN Security Council. It underscores the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation across levels, sectors and political borders to address water security and ensure transboundary water security.

UN-Water proposes the following definition for water security: **"The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability."** The definition was developed by the UN and experts from around the world.

[Download brief](#)

[Press release](#)

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Summary of the high-level meeting of the global thematic consultation on water in the post-2015 development agenda

A High-Level Meeting of the Global Thematic Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place 21-22 March 2013, in The Hague, the Netherlands. The meeting consisted of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, also called "Wings for Water," and the celebration of International World Water Day 2013 on the theme of water cooperation. The conference was launched with an impressive opening ceremony and four key note speakers: Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO and Chair of UN-Water, and Prince Hassan of Jordan.



As the final meeting of the Global Thematic Consultation on Water, the High-Level Meeting convened to discuss and endorse the outcomes of the process, as presented in the "Advance Summary of the Consultation's Synthesis Report," for submission to the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The Synthesis Report brings together outcomes from "The World We Want" web-platform consultations and two meetings, one held in Monrovia, Liberia, and the other in Geneva, Switzerland.

Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, highlighted his country's role in water diplomacy, noting that water challenges can fuel social tensions and further weaken fragile states and regions. He called for water to be a priority issue in both the post-2015 process and the global security agenda. Supporting calls for a standalone water goal in the post-2015 framework, he stressed that it should be a comprehensive goal that addresses the three pillars of a water-secure world: i) water supply, sanitation and hygiene; ii) water resources management; and iii) wastewater management and water quality. The same day in New York, Ambassador Paul Seger, permanent representative of Switzerland to the UN participated in a high-level interactive dialogue of the UN General Assembly on water cooperation where his 3-minute speech with a special emphasis on the Blue Peace approach was highly appreciated.

[Advanced Summary of Synthesis Report](#)

[Wake up Call on Water](#)

[Summary of the high-level meeting](#)

[Recognition of the Outcomes](#)

Contact: [Manuel Thurnhofer](#), Global Programme Water Initiatives, SDC

Launching of the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013

150 paying guests (250 CHF/seat) from the federal / cantonal / communal administrations, private sector and universities found their way into the Stade de Suisse in Bern to officially launch the International Year of Water Cooperation on March 22. The focus of this event, jointly organized by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and Wasseragenda 21, was on cooperation in the field of water policy in Switzerland and neighbouring countries. SDC Director-General Martin Dahinden emphasized the importance of cooperation in the water sector within Swiss development cooperation, complemented by a presentation of the partnership on water supply between Lausanne and Nouakchott. Promoted at the event were also the different Swiss water networks and platforms supported by SDC: [Swiss Water Partnership](#), [Swiss Bluetec Bridge](#), [CEWAS](#) and [Solidarit'eau suisse](#).

[Speech of Martin Dahinden \(de/fr\)](#)

[All inputs of the event](#)

Launch of the TV series “H₂O la la” on RTS and TV5 Monde

The 3-minute episodes of this SDC-supported TV series on various water related issues are broadcasted daily (5 days a week) in French on the Swiss TV channels RTS 1 (18:00) and RTS 2 (23:00) and on the French broadcasting network TV5. 70 episodes are already shot with many more still to come. This program on RTS reaches an average of 426,000 viewers per week and together with the slots on TV5, “H₂O la la” will have an enormous outreach.

See the videos [here](#)

Contact: [Elisabeth Pitteloud](#), Global Programme Water Initiatives, SDC

UNECE Water Convention goes global

17 years after its entry into force, the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is turning into a global convention. Having received the necessary number of ratifications, the amendments to the UNECE Water Convention opening it for accession to all UN Member States entered into force on February 6, 2013. This is a ground-breaking development as the Convention was originally negotiated as a regional instrument by countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It is also a major milestone of the International Year of Water Cooperation celebrated in 2013. It is expected that countries outside the UNECE region will be able to accede to the Convention by the end of 2013, when all countries which were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003 will have ratified the amendments.

[Press release](#)

HEADQUARTER FLAGSHIP ACTIVITIES

Middle East: Blue Peace Meeting in Istanbul

Michel Mordasini, Johan Gely and Mario Carrera participated in a meeting of publishers (along with senior journalists) of Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Turkey, as well as in a meeting of the High Level Group (HLG) (chaired by Princess Sumaya of Jordan) of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative, held on 18/19 March in Istanbul. Parliamentarians, policy makers and experts were also invited. The debate confirmed that the Blue Peace arrived in



Photo: Cihan, Remzi Samar

the heart of political debate in the region. The constructive role of the Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) is recognized in the region and has been emphasized many times officially. This very positive image is also linked to the fact that the SFG is from the South, avoiding the pitfalls of traditional western-driven top/down approaches on topics related to peace and security in the region. It was decided to create a Blue Peace Middle East Media Network which consists of a core group of journalists in order to capitalize on the high-quality exchanges that took place. On the recommendation of the Princess Sumaya, the next meeting of the HLG will take place in August in Amman. The role of Switzerland was highly valued as a committed partner but also discreet, leaving the responsibility to the players in the region.

Research on Urban Sanitation – The Urban Affordable Clean Toilets (U-ACT) Project at ETH Zurich

The “Urban Affordable Clean Toilet” (U-ACT) project studies the sanitation situation and demand of urban slum dwellers from an economic and social perspective, to design and empirically evaluate economic and

social interventions to improve sanitation access and sanitation maintenance in urban slums. Project activities are concentrated in 50 slum communities in Uganda's capital, Kampala. The implementation of innovative sanitation financing schemes in collaboration with a local NGO has already led to the construction of over 150 VIP latrines, directly reaching over 1,500 poor households. The project is funded by the [EUWI ERA-net](#), co-funded by SDC. More information about U-ACT, policy briefs, detailed results of the baseline household survey, and a video relating to the project can be found on the [U-ACT project website](#).



Photo: Alexandra C. Horst

Contact: [Isabel Guenther](#), NADEL, ETH Zurich

February 27th 2013: Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) celebrated its 1st anniversary!

As introduction, the SWP co-chairs highlighted what has been achieved so far and gave an overview of the 2013 flagships. Cross-sector projects looking for partners were presented and two working groups were organized: one to reflect on the on-going Swiss consultation on "a global water goal in the post-2015 development agenda", and the other on "water for food



in Asia: best practices & expertise to be shared with the Asian Development Bank". The ceremonial part brought the event to a close: it was anchored in the framework of the International Year of Water Cooperation, which celebrates innovative cooperation mechanisms such as the SWP.

[Homepage of SWP](#)

Contact: [SWP's Secretariat](#)

Swiss Bluetec Bridge: Winner of the first round and 2nd call

Swiss Fresh Water is the first winner of the Swiss Bluetec Bridge support. The company's low-cost method for desalinating salty or brackish water allows the production of about 4,000 litres of drinking water a day. It is designed to be easy to use, simple to maintain and energy efficient. Local operators in the Sine Saloum Delta in Senegal use the system now to produce water on-site and sell it for 1.5t €/litre, creating local jobs and fostering entrepreneurship. The 2nd call for proposals of the Swiss Bluetec Bridge has recently been launched. Deadline for submissions is May 3, 2013.



[Swiss Bluetec Bridge](#)

[Swiss Fresh Water](#)

4th Peer Review Meetings of GPWI's IWRM and Water Diplomacy Strategic Pillar

On February 6/7, 2013, SDC's Global Programme Water Initiatives (GPWI) convened the 4th peer review meeting bringing together all partners involved in the implementation of programs belonging to the first pillar of the SDC/Wis 2010-2015 strategy that looks at influencing the global policy dialogue on integrated water resources management (IWRM). The participants had the opportunity to review together the key

programmatic progress and challenges, to discuss the key emerging issues in the field of IWRM and water diplomacy, to learn from each other and to plan for the upcoming months of their programs.

[Agenda, participants and presentations held](#)

Contact: [Johan Gély](#), Global Programme Water Initiatives, SDC

Create livelihoods by turning waste into gold – A research project aiming at Resource, Recovery and Reuse

A team of international researchers is currently looking into the opportunities of replication and up-scaling of viable business models within the solid and liquid waste sector. More than 150 viable business cases have been analyzed in Africa, Asia and Latin America to derive generic business models that will be tested in the local context of Kampala/Uganda, Hanoi/Vietnam, Bangalore/India and Lima/Peru. Feasibility studies will serve the purpose of analyzing the local context with the approach of a multi-criteria assessment based on 7 different components. On the one hand are financial, market demand and socio-economic analysis an important part of the feasibility studies, while waste supply, technical, environmental and health impact analysis complete the picture from an engineering and safety perspective. The feasibility studies are currently ongoing and the international team of IWMI, Swiss TPH, WHO, Sandec/Eawag and cewas aim at developing investment plans for a second 3-year implementation phase. Another aspect of the project is the development of Sanitation Safety Plans (SSP) which are giving a practical guidance related to the WHO Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater.

Find more information on the [RRR-homepage](#)

Contacts: [Miriam Otoo](#), IWMI
[Kate Medlicott](#), WHO
[Linda Strande](#), Sandec

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Restoring hope in the future for Prespa Lake, FYR Macedonia

Farming practices in the environmentally vulnerable region of Prespa Lake, FYR Macedonia have been identified as a major cause of pollution to the ancient freshwater lakes. Over the years, many thousands of tons of rotten apples have been dumped along the shores. And excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers has been common practice for decades. UNDP, with funding from the GEF, has been working closely with the local Municipality of Resen for many years to restore the health of the Prespa ecosystem - helping farmers to adopt more sustainable farming practices, raising public awareness of environmental concerns, researching solutions to the complex pollution problems in the water bodies and developing a comprehensive plan for the future management of the watershed. With funding from SDC for over five million USD, the project is introducing a Lake Monitoring System and Management System with a state-of-the-art laboratory to ensure local capacities are sufficient to maintain the long-term health of the ecosystem.

More information including [Video](#)

Contact: [Stanislava Dodeva](#), SDC Macedonia

Condominial sewerage: Nicaragua, Brazil and CH team up for technology transfer

Despite of several years of public investments in the sanitation sector Nicaragua is still facing a huge challenge; official data show that around 3 million Nicaraguan have no access to any sanitation facilities yet. In order to find out a more adequate solution, to increase access to sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas of the country, the SDC office in Central America, the government of Nicaragua and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) have established a trilateral alliance to develop at least two condominial sewerage

projects in the north of Nicaragua. More than 11'000 people will get access to sewerage facilities between 2013 and 2014. The trilateral alliance aims to increase interest in condominial sewerage within the region.

Download more information [here](#) (es)

[SDC Aguasan Central America homepage](#)

Contact: [SDC Aguasan Central America](#)

Central America: WASH specialists join forces to reduce risks from disasters

Drinking water infrastructure in Central America is fragile due to the natural events such as hurricanes or earthquakes that constantly threaten the region. Prevention is essential to ensure continued and sustainable access of people to clean water supply and sanitation. Central American Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water and Sanitation specialists and technicians have now joined forces to encourage governments of the region to accelerate implementing the DRR approach in WASH projects.

During two workshops in Managua, organized by the SDC funded Aguasan Programme in December 2012, experts from public and donor sector developed a joint work plan that foresees an intense lobbying with governments, regional institutions, such as the [SICA](#) and other platforms.



Download more information [here](#) (es)

More recent [news](#) from SDC's Aguasan Central America programme

Contact: [SDC Aguasan Central America](#)

NGOs from Una–Sana region gathered to implement activities on waste management improvement

The campaign „Citizens' and Public Involvement in the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in the area of Una–Sana Region" (Northwest Bosnia and Herzegovina) is a crucial project in the overall process of integrated waste management in Una–Sana region. It aims to contribute to an effective and environment friendly, well accepted and supported sustainable regional ISWM system through increased civil society involvement. The campaign is supported by the SDC in B&H. The implementation agency is UNA Consulting LLC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction, Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection and five NGOs from Una–Sana Canton.



NGOs involved in this campaign shall transfer information and knowledge in the field of waste management and environmental protection, and activate citizens during the implementation of this campaign. In order to achieve these results, NGOs' capacities have been strengthened through the first training on ISWM system, regional concept, financial aspects and public involvement tools which was organized on 21st and 22nd of March. It will be followed by additional activities necessary to increase the level of knowledge of involved NGOs on the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in the ISWM process, as well as of the other relevant aspects of integrated waste management.

More [news](#) of UNA Consulting

Contact: [UNA Consulting LLC](#)

CURRENT TOPICS**Spring Protection within water supply projects of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Haiti (HELVETAS)**

The drinking water sector in Haiti is characterized by a serious paradox. The country receives large quantities of water (40 billion m³/year) every year but still a large proportion of the population does not have access to drinking water. In fact, in 2010, only 63% of the people in Haiti had access to drinking water (OMS/UNICEF, 2010).

In 2009, HELVETAS in Haiti introduced the protection of springs as an important element in their water supply construction projects as an effort to combat drainage and contamination of water sources which are linked to more than 90% of water supply systems in rural areas. As of now, there are about 15 harnessed springs by HELVETAS which are protected and about 20 others are going to be protected soon.

Find more about the strategy and experience [here](#)

Contact: [Amisial Ledix](#), HELVETAS Haiti

Learning from failure in sanitation

What do we mean when we talk about 'failure'? How can NGOs in the development sector and in particular in the field of sanitation, use 'failure' as a learning mechanism? Is it prudent to 'market failure' and if so is there a right way of doing it?

These were just a few of the questions the 11th SanCoP, which was held on 14th of November 2012 at WEDC (Loughborough University), strived to answer. 'Strive' appears undoubtedly to be the right word, since after considerable debate a number of issues still remained unanswered.

Read more in the [BPD Blog by Alik Zeri](#)

Top 10 Finalists of the Sanitation Hackathon App Challenge announced

On World Water Day, 22 March, the World Bank announced the Top 10 Finalists of the Sanitation Hackathon App Challenge. The challenge is a follow-up to the Sanitation Hackathon, which attracted over 1,100 developers in December 2012 to solve sanitation problems. The **Top 10 Finalists apps** are:



- [Empowering Girls](#) monitors girls' school attendance to track appropriate sanitation facilities.
- [LION Sync](#) provides decision-makers with access to real-time data online and offline.
- [LooRewards](#) promotes sanitary behaviour by rewarding safe sanitation practices.
- [mSchool](#) monitors the status of water and sanitation infrastructure in schools.
- [mSewage](#) crowdsources the identification of open defecation sites and sewage outflows.
- [San-Trac](#) reminds users about hygienic practices and gathers real-time data for trend analysis.
- [Sanitation Investment Tracker](#) tracks investment and expenditure in sanitation at the household level.
- [SunClean](#) teaches sanitary and hygienic behaviour through games for children.
- [Taarifa](#) enables citizen reporting and tracks decision-makers' feedback.
- [Toilight](#) finds toilets in a smart and easy way.

The Grand Prize Award winners will be announced on April 19, on the eve of the WB's Spring Meetings.

[Sanitation Hackathon website](#)

Scaling up a chlorine distribution programme in Guinea Conakry

Since 2008, Antenna Technologies has been working with Tinkisso, a Guinean NGO. Tinkisso has been recognised by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health for its successful economic model that combines social marketing campaigns and sale of chlorine.

Tinkisso staff produces chlorine in the centralised locations of Dabola and Conakry, using 20 [Maxi-WATA](#) devices. The NGO has established a reliable production and distribution system where chlorine flasks are now reaching 560,000 beneficiaries who regularly use chlorine to treat their drinking water.

The Antenna-sponsored programme is set for nation-wide scaling up. Antenna and Tinkisso are currently working with the Guinean Ministry of Health to extend the programme throughout the national territory.



[Read more here](#)

Contact: [Pierre-Gilles Duvernay](#), Antenna Technologies, Geneva

BRAC WASH offers to help half a million Indian imams promote hygiene

On [WaterCouch.tv](#), Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp shares a practical example of international water cooperation that emerged during the 2013 World Water Day celebrations in The Hague, the Netherlands. In one of the sessions, BRAC WASH programme director Dr Babar Kabir explained that his programme had trained 18,000 imams in Bangladesh to include hygiene messages in their Friday prayers.



Also present in The Hague was Iman Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Chief Imam of the All India Organization of Imams of Mosques, "the largest and oldest imam organization of the world". Dr Kabir and the Chief Imam "agreed to cooperate on education for water and sanitation". This cooperation has the potential to create "five hundred thousand new teachers" to spread hygiene messages all over India.

Kabir, 2010: [The role of imams in hygiene promotion](#)

Peepoole – Successful large-scale project in Pakistan

In February 2013, UN-Habitat and Peepoole concluded a joint intervention, following the Pakistan monsoon floods, that successfully provided sanitation to nearly 5,000 people. The collaboration, with funding support from the Swedish Postcode Lottery, delivered Peepoo toilets and hygiene promotion to 786 families. The overall conclusions from the project are very positive. User adoption was very high; 91% of beneficiaries used Peepoo every time for defecation.

[Download the evaluation report](#)

[See a short video from the project](#)

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

New WEDC online course: Rural Sanitation at Scale

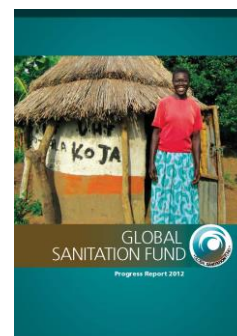
This WEDC self-paced online course has been designed in partnership with the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) of the World Bank to address important global challenges facing the water and sanitation

sector. It features as a unit in the WEDC MSc programme 'Management of Water and Sanitation', but is also available free of charge here as a non-accredited professional development unit for WSP staff and others faced with the issues of scaling-up sanitation in rural areas throughout the developing world.

[Information and registration](#)

SDC-supported GSF helps 1.4 million people gain improved sanitation

The Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), a UN Trust Fund, was established by the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in 2008 to inject finances into countries with high sanitation needs. The Progress Report 2012 details programmatic results, reporting methodology and financial data from programmes in Africa and Asia and reveals that 2012 was the most vigorous year of implementation to date, with more than 100 organizations and thousands of individuals involved in the work. In 10 countries - Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda – GSF sub-grantees have implemented sanitation and hygiene awareness-raising and promotion activities resulting in:



- 1.4 million people with improved toilets.
- > 1 million people in nearly 4,000 communities now live in open defecation free environments.
- Almost 10,000 communities have participated in demand-creation activities.
- 3.8 million people have heard about the importance of good hygiene through community activities and communications campaigns.

WSSCC gratefully acknowledges the donors that make the GSF work possible: the Governments of Australia, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

[Press release and report download](#)

Contact: [Amanda Marlin](#) and [Katherine Anderson](#), WSSCC

CALENDAR

LATINOSAN III, Panama City, Panama

May 29-31, 2013

"**Universal Sanitation: new challenges, new opportunities**". 3rd international conference on sanitation, organized by LATINOSAN Panama committee members, as part of the commitments made by the country, under the agreements reached at the last two meetings made of the group (2007 in Colombia; 2010 in Brazil). The objective of the conference is to raise awareness and commitment of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and their respective governments and authorities, to position the issue of sanitation as a priority in the political and social agendas of the countries and the region, which will contribute to the improvement of health conditions of the area and as an essential contribution to achieve the MDGs.

[LATINOSAN III website](#)

DIALOGUE SDC-IADB-WSP-AECID, Panama City, Panama

June 1, 2013

SDC organizes a dialogue with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque. Each institution will present its vision on the subject, followed by an open conversation enabling to improve these visions, share best practices and explore potentials of joint work.

Contact: [Sergio Pérez](#), Latin America division, SDC

Costing Sustainable Services Online Course Schedule 2013**June 3, 2013**

WASHCost offers a free online course for WASH sector professionals. The "Costing Sustainable Services" online course was developed to assist governments, NGOs, donors, and individuals to plan and budget for sustainable and equitable WASH services, using a life-cycle cost approach. Every other month 150 participants can start the course by registering online. Next course starts June 3, 2013.

[More information](#)

AGUASAN Workshop 2013, Sigriswil, Switzerland**June 17-21, 2013**

"Meeting the challenge of WASH in Health Facilities – fostering synergies between the health sector and community care". This workshop for water and health sector specialists will tackle the following key question of "How to strengthen WASH interventions in health facilities so that they guarantee the wellbeing of staff, patients and visitors and interact favourably with the surrounding communities?"

[AGUASAN CoP website](#)

Contact: [Roger Schmid](#), Skat

SDC Water Team Days 2013, Bern Switzerland**June 24-25, 2013**

The annual face2face event of SDC's Water Network [RéseEAU](#). By the end of April, SDC will come up with proposals for themes to be discussed and ask you for themes you would like to bring to the meeting

Contact: [Manuel Thurnhofer](#), RéseEAU focal point, SDC

36th WEDC International Conference, Nakuru, Kenya**July 1-5, 2013**

"Delivering Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in an Uncertain Environment". Following an extensive strategic review and consultation with international stakeholders during 2012, the 36th WEDC conference will incorporate innovations designed to optimise the learning experience of the event both sharing knowledge and development of sector capacity. The conference sessions will run over the first three days, followed by optional sessions which include a careers compass event, for early career WASH professionals, and capacity development workshops on a range of hot topics, including field-based learning opportunities in and around Nakuru.

[Conference webpage](#)

Training course for WatSan engineers, Neuchâtel, Switzerland August 24-31, 2013

This course of the University of Neuchâtel focuses on the specific technology used in emergency work, on the implications of emergency actions in the medium- and long-term development of vulnerable populations and on the role and responsibilities of the WatSan engineer within a humanitarian organisation.

[More information](#)

Contact: [Ellen Miles](#), University of Neuchâtel

ABOUT

"SDC Water News" is the electronic news bulletin of SDC's Global Program Water Initiatives sent out to Swiss international cooperation people who are loosely organised in the water network "RéseEAU".

RéseEAU aims at assuring the sector knowledge management within SDC and with its partners. It's anchored in the Global Programme Water Initiatives and the network's focal point is Manuel Thurnhofer.

“SDC Water News” lives through interaction and active involvement and you are invited to send – at any time – your contributions, feedbacks, as well as subscription issues to the editor. The news team is grateful for any input received.

[SDC's Global Programme Water Initiatives](#)

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Send articles and comments to [Stefan Diener](#)

