

Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)



Region
Global

Partners

Skat Foundation, World Bank, WSP, Unicef, WaterAid, IRC, WaterAid, African Development Bank

Background information

650 million rural dwellers do not have access to an improved water supply.

Project objectives

1. Appropriate balance between capital expenditure to extend access and recurrent expenditure to maintain services.
2. Standards of design, construction, operation and maintenance are continuously improved.
3. Scaling up promising practices in terms of delivering sustainable rural water services through national programmes.

Beneficiaries

Rural Water Users, Government Rural Water Departments, NGOs, private sector service providers, Academia and research

Costs

Total: USD 3,396,982
SDC: CHF 540,000

Duration

2015-2017

Contact

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The Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) is a global network of professionals and practitioners. It works to raise standards of knowledge as well as technical and professional competence in rural water supplies and thus fulfil the vision of sustainable rural water services for all.

Vision: RWSN’s vision is of a world in which all rural people have access to a sustainable and reliable water supply which can be effectively managed to provide sufficient, affordable and safe water within a reasonable distance of the home.

Mission: RWSN is a global network of professionals and practitioners working to raise standards of knowledge and evidence, technical and professional competence, practice and policy in rural water supply and so fulfil the vision of sustainable rural water services for all.

RWSN activities focus on four themes in the current strategy period:

Theme	Objective
Equality, Non-discrimination and Inclusion	Targeting of service provision at all levels is inclusive of the needs and rights of all, with special attention being given to those who are frequently excluded from access to services.
Sustainable groundwater development for rural water supplies	Groundwater resources are properly considered and sustainably used for developing drinking water supply sources.
Sustainable Services	Rural water supply services are adequately financed, meet country norms and standards and are managed by defined service providers with adequate support.
Accelerating Self-supply	Self-supply is an accepted option for drinking water supply in rural areas by government, development partners and water users themselves.

Plus the cross-cutting topic – Mapping and Monitoring, which facilitates exchange on issues from the use of mobile phone technology for water point mapping and ‘smart’ handpump monitoring, to broader issues such as country-led monitoring.



Planned Activities and Priorities during 2015-2017

- Promoting the uptake and use of the Handbook on the Human Right to Water, and working with the UN Special Rapporteur.
- Overcoming barriers to Universal Access.
- Inclusive design for water services.
- Promoting exchange and collaboration between academics, practitioners and governments on cutting-edge groundwater research in Africa.
- Promoting the exchange of knowledge and uptake of good practices in rainwater harvesting for water supply and food security worldwide.
- Promoting the sustainability of rural water services through the use of approaches such as life cycle costing, business skills and the Technology Applicability Framework.
- Maintaining international standards on public-domain handpump designs, and focus on tackling the widespread problem of corrosion due to poor procurement, quality control and installation.
- Continuing the professionalisation of manual and mechanised water well drilling through adaptation and uptake in countries and in organisations of the Code of Practice for Cost Effective Boreholes.
- Acting as a focal point for exchange and collaboration on rural water mapping and monitoring technologies and management.
- Developing online and in-country learning resources to increase the level of professionalism of rural water practitioners.
- Organising webinars, e-discussions and publications in multiple languages on key topics and to highlight innovation and lessons learned.
- Organising the 7th RWSN Forum in 2016.
- Continuing to grow and strengthen the network to foster useful knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The network has over 9,750 members in 150 countries. The Secretariat is hosted by Skat Foundation, St Gallen.

Additional information:
www.rural-water-supply.net