

# Swiss communes improve access to water in countries of the South



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
BHP - Brugger and Partners

**Background information**  
3 in 10 people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 6 in 10 people lack access to safely managed sanitation facilities.

**Project objectives**  
Increase public awareness in Switzerland of drinking water and sanitation challenges in poorer countries, resulting in contributions to projects that address the problem effectively.

**Beneficiaries**  
People without or with limited access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities

**Costs**  
Total approximately CHF 3 million.  
SDC: CHF 710,000 (the annual total cost amount to CHF 140,000)

**Duration**  
2016 - 2019

**Contact**  
Global Programme Water  
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 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Promote knowledge exchange and expertise among municipalities and water utilities. In developing countries, municipalities and water utilities can play a key role in mobilising know-how and additional finance for improved water supply and sanitation services through decentralised cooperation and solidarity mechanisms. By strengthening the platform solidarit'eau suisse, this project enables municipalities and other local authorities in Switzerland to consult a list of projects and, if they want to become more involved, make contact with partners abroad. This contributes to the acceleration of the implementation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation.

Despite being recognised as a valid solution, decentralised solidarity mechanisms are not used on a large scale and perform well below their potential. solidarit'eau suisse is helping to remedy this situation. Swiss non-governmental organisations present their projects on the solidarit'eau suisse website so that partners interested in funding them can get an overall picture of the work being done, with ongoing updates. All the projects presented online have first been assessed through a quality assurance lens by independent experts. The NGOs responsible for implementing the projects cover all the administrative costs. This means that every franc invested by a solidarit'eau sponsor in Switzerland is spent directly to help the project beneficiaries.

### Goals

- Leverage additional funds, capacity and know-how in the water and sanitation sector to contribute to the global achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all".

- Focus on longer-term and alternative engagements of the participating municipalities and water utilities through the introduction of a set of measures:
  - Public-Public Partnerships between municipalities and water utilities in Switzerland and abroad.
  - Introduction of a secondment programme for water experts from Swiss water utilities
  - Introduction of a new label policy, with a label specifying the year of commitment and another label for engagement through an expert secondment
  - Exploring mechanisms of establishing a voluntary solidarity water cent on the water bill
- Promote synergies with other Swiss platforms (e.g. Swiss Water Partnership, Swiss Association of Water Works and Utilities etc.) to join forces towards the successful achievement of SDG 6, both in Switzerland and abroad.

### Results from previous phases

Since its foundation in 2007, solidarit'eau suisse has raised almost CHF 7 million in contributions from over 195 municipalities and water utilities. This has allowed close to 1 million people to gain access to improved drinking water and sanitation services over the past 12 years.

Additional information:  
[www.solidariteausuisse.ch](http://www.solidariteausuisse.ch)

