

Swiss communes improve access to water in countries of the South



Region
Global

Partners
BHP - Brugger and Partners Ltd.

Background information
Around 660 million people do not have access to an improved drinking water source and 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation.

- Project target**
1. Increase public awareness in Switzerland of drinking water and sanitation challenges in poorer countries, resulting in contributions to projects that address the problem effectively.
 2. Solidarit'eau suisse is evaluated by an external agency and its structure realigned to lower its financial dependence on the SDC.

Beneficiaries
People without access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities or with access to only unimproved drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Costs
Total: approx. CHF 3,000,000
SDC: CHF 565,000

Duration
01.2016 – 12.2018

Contact
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In developing countries, municipalities and water utilities can play a key role in mobilizing additional finance and know-how for improved water supply and sanitation services through decentralized solidarity mechanisms. By strengthening the platform *Solidarit'eau suisse*, this project enables communes 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.

Decentralized solidarity mechanisms are not used on a large scale and perform way below their potential. Solidarit'eau suisse is helping to remedy this situation in the case of Switzerland. 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 for quality 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 partner in Switzerland is spent directly in helping the project beneficiaries.

Goals

- Leverage additional funds, capacity and know-how into the water and sanitation sector to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 6.
- Focus on longer-term and alternative engagements of the participating municipalities and waterworks through the introduction of a set of measures:
 - Establish a voluntary solidarity coin on the water bill
 - Introduction of a secondment programme for water experts from Swiss water utilities
 - Introduction of a new label policy, including a label for longer-term commitments and engagements through expert secondment

Results from previous phases

- Since its foundation in 2007, Solidarit'eau suisse has raised CHF 5.8 million in contributions from over 180 municipalities and water utilities.
- About 1 million people have gained access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation thanks to project contributions via Solidarit'eau Suisse.

Additional information:
www.solidariteausuisse.ch

