

## Water, sanitation and irrigation services in Africa and Asia

# Eight Swiss NGOs working together to better respond to the global water and sanitation crisis



### Region

Africa, Asia

### Partners

Caritas, Fastenopfer, HEKS-EPER, Helvetas, Solidar Suisse, Swissaid, Swiss Red Cross, Terre des hommes

### Background information

The water and sanitation situation is still dramatic in many regions of the world. The Consortium targets these countries and provides access to water, sanitation and water for family farming.

### Project objectives

Increased and sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, improved hygiene, and water for family farming. Increased knowledge and expertise of NGOs and partner organisations as well as strengthening Swiss profile in Advocacy and Policy Dialogue.

### Beneficiaries

Households in rural areas and small towns, patients of health centres, pupils, farmers, local associations and governments.

### Costs

Total: CHF 19,750,000  
SDC: CHF 14,335,000

### Duration

07.2014 – 09.2017

### Contact

Global Programme Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

In spite of the considerable progress accomplished globally in the last 20 years concerning access to water and sanitation, the situation is still dramatic in many regions of the world. The Swiss Water & Sanitation NGO Consortium was created as a new form of cooperation in 2011 as a mechanism to massively improve water and sanitation coverage and to trigger innovation and knowledge sharing as well as strengthening Swiss profile in advocacy and policy dialogue.

### Starting point and specificity of this project

The Consortium organisations - HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Caritas Switzerland, Terre des hommes, Swiss Red Cross, HEKS-EPER, Solidar Suisse, Swissaid, and Fastenopfer – have been working together since 2011. They target their know-how and resources to the most off-track countries and the most marginalised populations with the aim to make a significant difference in the living conditions of those groups by improving access to drinking water supply, sanitation and water for family farming.

The Consortium programme achieved significant results in the first phase; even exceeding the expected results. Moreover, it also proved to be an appropriate vehicle for mainstreaming innovations, replicating and scaling up promising approaches and facilitating knowledge sharing.

In order to reach a critical mass per country and increase opportunities for country-level collaboration in the second Phase, the consortium decided to reduce the number of project countries from 16 to 10. Structured around three regions: French-speaking Africa (Benin, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Togo), Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan) and Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal), the Consortium initiative is implemented through 20 operational projects.

The added value of the consortium is the sharing of resources and know-how between the NGOs as well as synergies contributing to the scaling up of innovative approaches and best practices.



### Expected output

The second phase allows to further extend access to water, sanitation and hygiene to approximately 300'000 people in communities, 40'000 school pupils, 300'000 health centre patients and 10'000 small-scale farmers, exceeding several indicators. Additionally, the second phase puts a particular weight on quality, accompanying for instance local government partners to strengthen their monitoring of coverage and functionality, and promoting good practices to improve handwashing and water quality at point of use. This enhances the sustainability and health impact of the Consortium interventions.

In the second phase, the Consortium puts a stronger emphasis on policy development as a way to scale up promising approaches. This means among others creating the evidence base for shaping policies promoting in particular the realisation of the human right to water and sanitation and the development of local capacities as well as strengthening the civil society voice. The Consortium's policy work particularly aims at linking local level implementation with national and regional/global policy development, e.g. policy changes for Menstrual Hygiene Management at district and national level (Nepal) or leading a working group for the revision of the manual for waste management in health care facilities (Mali).

