



WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite considerable progress in improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the world is not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation. The Water and Infrastructure team provides advisory services to HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation programmes and external clients. The team contributes to improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by strengthening the capacity of the key sector actors in HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation's partner countries (local communities, civil society, private sector, local and national government), by establishing effective coordination and communication mechanisms between them and by shaping appropriate framework conditions (national policies, norms and standards, financial mechanisms, etc.). We offer particular competence in sustainability assessment, strategic sanitation planning, management models of rural water and sanitation schemes, policy analysis and development, advocacy, institution and capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects in the field of water and environmental sanitation. Based on the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management the team promotes the efficient use of water for agriculture including water saving technologies, drip irrigation and transboundary water management. Besides water, the team aims at developing reliable rural all-weather long distance trails including trail-bridges, tracks and motorable road infrastructure providing access to basic services and markets.



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COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM

Our team consists of senior advisors based in Switzerland and a Regional Advisor in West-Africa all of whom have long standing experience in water and sanitation. We offer services in French, English and Spanish. In order to complement our capacities we partner with the SODIS competence centre of the EAWAG (www.sodis.ch) for household water treatment and for other aspects of rural infrastructure development with SKAT, the Swiss Resource Center and Consultancies for Development (www.skat.ch). The trail-bridge programme is supported through the Nepal based South-South Collaboration Unit.

WHAT WE OFFER

Design & Planning

Project and programme planning; strategic planning; feasibility studies; assessments

Capacity Development & Backstopping

Project and programme backstopping; development of training manuals and material; development of innovative tools; facilitation of thematic workshops; coaching; trainings; capitalisation of experiences; knowledge management tools and platforms

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring systems; mid-term reviews; end-evaluations; impact assessments



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THEMATIC COMPETENCES

- Integrated water resources management
- Water for food
- Water use master plans
- Sustainable drinking water and sanitation programmes
- Governance of water and other resources
- Household water treatment, in particular Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS)
- Community led total sanitation
- Policy dialogue related to water
- International advocacy for water
- Trail-bridges programmes—from constructing a single bridge to a sector-wide approach
- Labour intensive and ecologically sound construction of rural access roads and trails

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES RENDERED

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): Thematic backstopping on water for food

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Haiti: Planning of the Programme d'Appui au Développement Local (PADL)

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, strategic advice and thematic support to the water and sanitation projects in Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin

Consortium of Swiss NGOs in the water sector: Thematic support for the implementation; knowledge sharing among the NGOs

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: Representing Swiss NGOs on a public hearing for Swiss parliament members on "water & development"

End Water Poverty: Representation of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in the governing board of the global "End Water Poverty" campaign (www.endwaterpoverty.org)

African Development Bank: Planning and support of the implementation of a new trail-bridge programme in Burundi; service delivered by the South-South Collaboration Unit, Nepal

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

Guidelines:

Water-use Master Plan (WUMP) A concept to equally share water resources within and amongst communities.

Empower Farmers – Build Capacity of Service Providers. Helvetas' experience with agricultural extension on three continents.

Project capitalisation:

Food Security – every drop counts. Helvetas' approaches and experiences in water management

Social Processes and Drinking Water Systems - Insights from a Learning Society in Cameroon

Brochures:

25 steps to safe water and sanitation. Helvetas 2000

Trail bridge building in the Himalayas. Enhanced Access, Improved Livelihoods. Helvetas 2007

Good Governance in Bridge Building. Suspension Bridge Programme. Rosenberg, 2009

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