

Connecting people's capacities for sustainable and equitable access to improved **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**



SNV

Connecting people's capacities

Netherlands
Development
Organisation

Why Water, Sanitation and Hygiene ?

The effects of inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene go far beyond thirst and dirty hands. They also have a direct impact on people's livelihood, education and economic development in general.

Many national governments, development partners and civil society acknowledged these effects and have thus made substantial resources available to cover investment requirements for additional water and sanitation services. Statistics show an encouraging trend with regards to water coverage.

However operation and maintenance (O&M) of facilities remains one of the biggest challenges : in spite of all the approaches that aim at strengthening O&M, between 30 and 40% of facilities are still not functional.



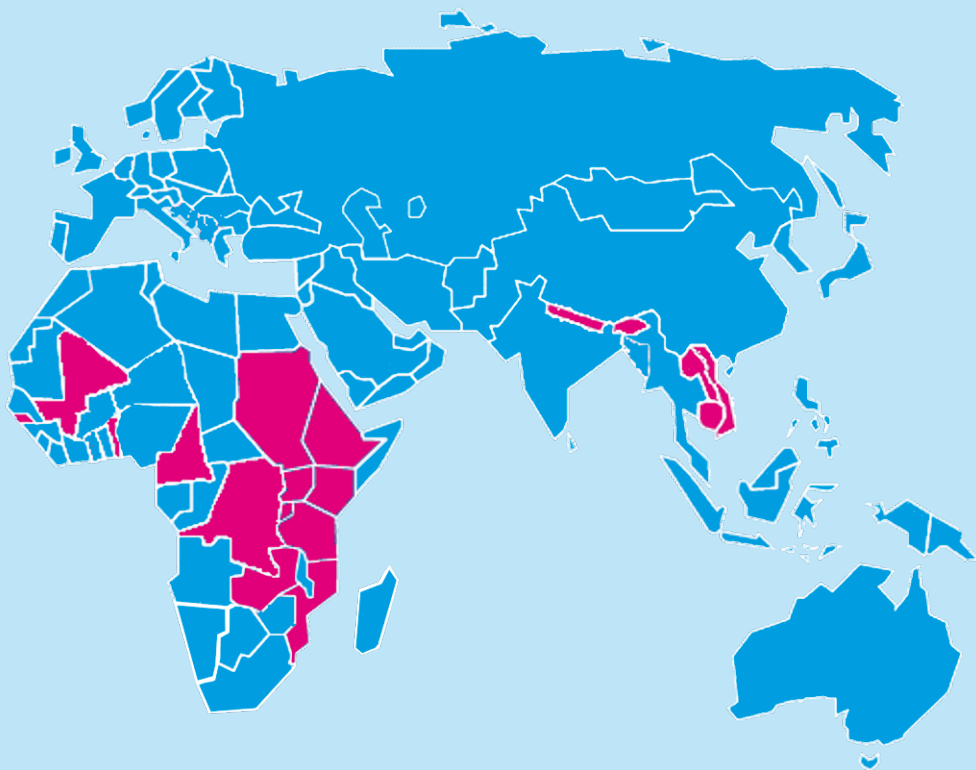
SNV believes that the water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) crisis is not a crisis of physical water availability. Nor is it a question of an inability to provide poor people with adequate sanitation facilities. Rather, it is a reflection of distorted power relations, poverty and related inequalities – in other words, a crisis of governance.

The sector is very broad and we can only add value to specific areas. We therefore focus on those areas that have a significant impact on sustainable service delivery.

Where are we active in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene?

We are active in 17 countries :

- **Asia:** Nepal, Bhutan, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia
(9 sub-national offices + 5 national offices).
- **Sub-Saharan Africa :** Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, D.R. Congo, Benin, Mali, Cameroon
(34 sub-national offices + 12 national offices).





How do we work ?

SNV provides technical and capacity building support to local clients from the public, private and NGO sectors with the objective of increasing sustainable and equitable access to improved WaSH in rural and peri-urban areas.

We have a group of 119 highly qualified WaSH advisors, both national and international, committed to working in disadvantaged and remote areas in order to support organisations at their own pace of development.

SNV’s approach to development in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector is to facilitate multi-actors processes that involve stakeholders across the sector, generate and broker knowledge, identify opportunities for intervention and foster learning and joint action.

SNV promotes evidence-based learning and practices for our clients. In countries across the regions, SNV has gained recognition and has been able to position itself among the key national and international actors in the sector. In order to contribute to the water and sanitation issues the following focus areas are emerging as part of SNVs approach (see table) :

Region	Focus areas			
Asia	Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for all	Functionality of Water services for changing communities		
Sub-Saharan Africa	Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for all	Sustainable Water Resource Base	Water and Sanitation Operation and Maintenance	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools

SNV's services are based on :

- Long term engagement with strategic clients that influence change within their own sector, area or country ;
- Facilitation of sector-wide collaboration between relevant stakeholders ;
- The engagement of local capacity builders to upscale our work ; and
- Tight collaboration at country level with WaSH-linked authorities and Ministries.

What services do we provide ?

Combining international expertise and local knowledge, our WASH advisory teams bring in a wealth of experience in capacity development of national and sub-national organisations, bridging the micro and macro divide. Our advisors :

- Provide advisory services and knowledge brokering, networking & development services for national and sub-national organisations working in WASH ;
- Promote multi-stakeholder processes at communal, district, national and regional level, catalysing joint action and learning to address water and sanitation issues ;
- Promote fair and equitable distribution of resources and access to services, with a special attention to the needs of the poor, women, children and marginalised groups.



Our objectives

SNV activities in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are aimed at :

- Ensuring that increasing numbers of poor households and vulnerable groups are able to enjoy the benefits of safe drinking water and improved sanitation ;
- Improve the health of targeted population so that they can engage productively in local economies ;
- Increasing the financial sustainability of services through the involvement of the private sector and promoting the economic value of water ;
- Supporting sound water resource management of river basins and watersheds in order to ensure that today's water resources will also benefit future generations ; and
- Promoting integration between water resource management and efficiency of water use to avoid violent conflict in places where there is scarcity.

« Access to improved and well-used sanitation facilities »

« Access to improved and well-used drinking water facilities »



Who are our clients and partners ?

SNV works with a range of organizations in support of sustainable and equitable access to improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Our partners and clients include :

- National governments and institutions : water and sanitation agencies ;
- Local authorities, NGOs, civil and community-based organisations ;
- Private sector organisations and representative bodies ;
- National and international networks working in WASH ; and
- Universities, training institutions and research organisations.

So far, SNV collaborates to address WaSH issues with UNICEF (School WASH programs), UN-Habitat, WaterAid, CREPA, WWF, IRC Netherlands, Helvetas, RNE and UNESCO-IHE.

SNV is also member of SuSaNa (Sustainable Sanitation Alliance) and of the WIN Water Integrity Network.

Our networks

Last year we set up WASH Knowledge Networks in our three WASH-active regions : Asia, East & South Africa and West & Central Africa. At the beginning of the year 2009, a corporate WASH Knowledge Network was also created, in order to “connect people’s capacities” even more.

The main objectives of these networks are :

- To boost the quality of advisory and knowledge development and brokering network (KDBN) services ;
- To increase our research and cross country/regional learning ;
- To link, support and coordinate regional product development ;
- To support linkage with key WASH actors ; and
- To profile SNV as an international WASH advisory actor.



SNV Netherlands Development Organisation delivers advisory services to over 2,000 clients in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Balkans.

Our support is aimed at promoting sustainable development by means of : generating production, income and employment opportunities, and improving access to basic needs services, like education, health, water and sanitation.

For more information, please visit our website or contact Thea Bongertman, WASH Network Leader : tabongertman@snvworld.org

<http://www.snvworld.org>

