

# WASH AND WATER GOVERNANCE

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT



©Helvetas/Simon B. Opladen

## ABOUT HELVETAS

Helvetas is committed to a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, sustainably using environmental resources. Helvetas is an independent development organization based in Switzerland with affiliated organizations in Germany and the United States.

Helvetas supports poor and disadvantaged women, men, and communities in about thirty developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

## HOW HELVETAS WORKS

We support women and men in taking charge of improving their livelihoods in a sustainable manner and in working together as partners. The impact of our work is the product of a three-pronged approach: project work, thematic and methodological advice, as well as policy dialogue at local, regional, and international levels.

We are convinced that development can only be effective if the conditions of long-term engagement are met. We have gained a wealth of experience from more than six decades of working in the Global South.

## ABOUT WASH AND WATER GOVERNANCE

The **Water, Food, and Climate practice area** of Helvetas focuses on four interrelated fields, which are *WASH and Water Governance*, *Food and Nutrition*, *Climate and Disaster Resilience*, and *Bridges and Roads*. In the field of WASH and Water Governance, Helvetas' work is aligned to SDG 6: *Clean Water and Sanitation for all* and contributes to *Water Security for all*.

### Our approach

Our work on water comprises sustainable WASH services, water for agriculture, and integrated water resource management, focusing on promoting the disadvantaged's voice and rights and integrating such aspects as disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem services.

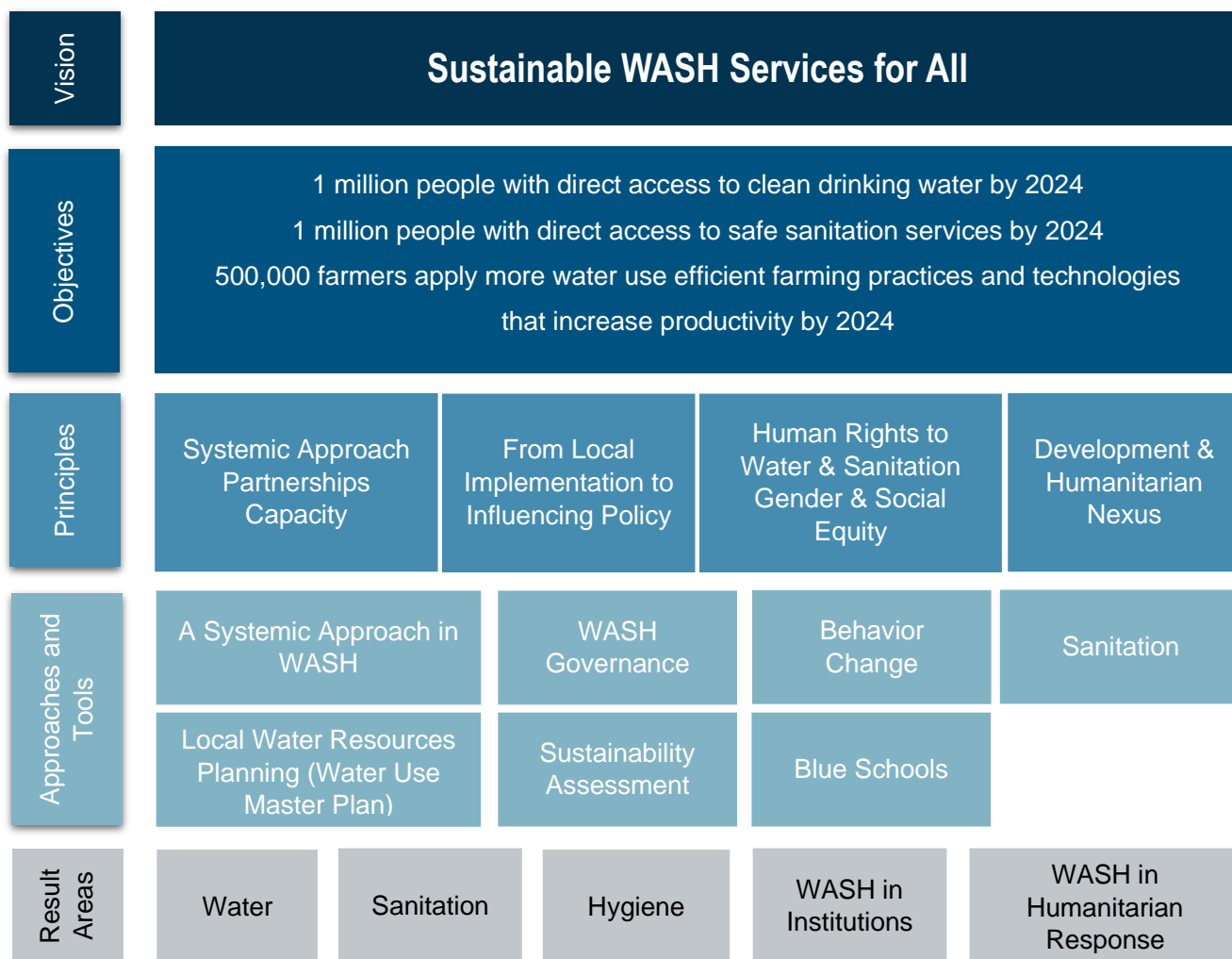
Our overall goal is that public, civic, and private actors have enhanced competences to contribute to sustainable, equitable, accountable WASH and irrigation services and sustainable water resources management that would benefit disadvantaged women and men and ensure that their voices are heard.

Over the last 25 years, considerable progress has been made in improving access to drinking water and sanitation. Yet, some 3 in 10 people, translating to 2.1 billion people worldwide, lack access to safe, readily available water at home; and 6 in 10, or 4.5 billion people, lack safely managed sanitation (JMP, 2017). Many households, healthcare facilities, and schools have no soap and water for handwashing.

### Our impact in 2019

- **497,963** people gained access to clean drinking water and sanitation in 2019 thanks to Helvetas.
- Close to **567,000** people have gained access to sanitary facilities (40% disadvantaged).
- Approximately **178,558** farmers enhanced productivity and income by efficient water use promoted by Water for Food (W4F) projects.
- Almost **19,667** farmers were trained in efficient water use for agriculture (60% disadvantaged).
- Helvetas has successfully supported the capacities of local government WASH units for sustainable service provision in **20 countries**.
- Local WASH governance has been strengthened through coaching local governments in establishing **municipal WASH plans and monitoring processes**.
- More than **90%** of the water supply systems built within Helvetas projects' framework in the last 10 years are functional.
- Around **75%** of households targeted with behavior change messages have water of improved quality.

The **key building blocks** of our WASH and Water Governance strategy are indicated in the graphic below.



## FLAGSHIP APPROACHES

### Gender and Water

Helvetas bases its gender and social inclusion approach is on three pillars: i) increased women and disadvantaged group's voice and leadership (including, recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid care work of women), ii) gender and socially inclusive WASH infrastructure and sector systems (e.g., provision of menstrual hygiene facilities and products in households, schools, and health facilities), and iii) gender and socially inclusive WASH policies and practices (e.g., contributing to national Menstrual Hygiene Management policies).

### Humanitarian Response in WASH

Helvetas provides Humanitarian Responses in the WASH sector, particularly in the regions where long-term development projects are implemented. Our understanding of the local context and existing partnerships with local authorities and other actors is a huge asset. The following [article](#) provides insights on Helvetas WASH interventions in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. We are currently developing a light version of our behavior change approach appropriate to a humanitarian response context.

## FLAGSHIP APPROACHES

### Behavior Change

With USAID funding, Helvetas developed and published a [Behavior Change Manual](#) which is based on "Systematic Behavior Change in Water and Sanitation and Hygiene – practical guide using the RANAS (Risks, Attitudes, Norms, Abilities, Self-regulations) approach" and is the result of extensive pilot projects in different contexts and for various behaviors. The RANAS approach has been validated in 30 countries. It is now being used by key international development actors such as the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Helvetas team has already mainstreamed RANAS in our programs in Mali, Benin, Niger, Madagascar, Mozambique, Bolivia, and Guatemala.

In Mali, the population in the project area practicing handwashing with soap increased from 15% to 40% on the basis of a behavior change campaign that was assessed by RANAS analysis.

Based on the Mozambique RANAS analysis results, Helvetas implemented a post-Open Defecation Free (ODF) strategy resulting in an increase from 27% to 45% of families still having a functional latrine one year after ODF declaration.

Finally, solid waste handling such as separation and recycling is being improved by using RANAS in 20 towns of Bolivia. This already resulted in an increase in waste composted and a decrease in the waste volume to be disposed of in landfills. The approach has been adapted to a humanitarian response context.

### Blue Schools

Improving access to WASH in schools is key to improving learning conditions and inspiring children to become agents of change. Helvetas promotes the Blue School concept as a way to operationalize the SDG Water and its interlinkages with other sectors at the school level.

We also promote the development of synergies between WASH and nutrition by integrating nutrition-related hygiene messages in our hygiene behavior change campaigns and linking WASH and nutrition projects in our project areas.

A Blue School goes beyond activities related to WASH. It promotes a school garden as a practical place to demonstrate the relationship between food production and efficient management of water, as well as a demonstrative place for watershed and land management practices. It offers a healthy learning environment and exposes students to environmentally-friendly technologies and practices that can be replicated in their communities. This makes the students the change agents and helps build the next generation of WASH and environment sector champions.

Since 2011, members of the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium, incl. Helvetas have piloted and implemented the Blue School concept in more than 200 schools in Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Nepal.

The Blue School Kit can be downloaded [here](#).

## FLAGSHIP APPROACHES

### WASH Governance / Social Accountability in WASH

Helvetas WASH projects are often designed as an entry point to strengthen local governance. Our approach consists of training the local governments through the entire project cycle (e.g. preparing an inclusive WASH plan, annual budgeting and investment plan, procurement for detailed design and construction, monitoring coverage and functionality). We also develop and promote the implementation of tools that help improve participation, transparency, and accountability and reduce corruption such as public audit, traceability of funds, and self-assessment.

### Water Use Master Plan (WUMP)

Pioneered by Helvetas, the Water Use Master Plan (WUMP) helps operationalize the Integrated Water Resources Management principles. WUMP is participatory and inclusive planning process that facilitates the assessment of available water resources and water needs and the prioritization of water allocation for different uses and communities. It enables marginalized groups claim their rights to an equitable share of water within and between communities. It includes consideration of climate change (e.g. long-term water availability) and risk management (e.g. measures against flooding, landslides, droughts) with a focus on 3R (Recharge, Retention, Reuse) measures, aiming to enhance water availability and reduce risks. The WUMP process results in a 5-year water management plan at district/municipal level. Hence, it helps local governments with annual and periodic planning and project prioritization. The approach has been initially introduced by Helvetas in Nepal where it has been adopted by the Government (national WUMP guideline) and is now being replicated in a number of countries. More information can be found [here](#).

### A systemic approach for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Helvetas promotes a systemic approach towards WASH service delivery as a way to enhance scale and sustainability of WASH systems. Our approach is based on principles from the market systems sector. The following [article illustrates](#) how we apply those principles to the WASH sector based on the example of our WASH project in Haiti.

Take a look at this [blog](#) to get familiar with some elements of strengthening a system approach in the WASH sector based on the example of promoting water filters in Nepal through entrepreneurs. Finally, we use a [sustainability assessment tool](#) to guide our project planning and evaluation processes and to contribute to sector reviews in our partner countries.

### Private Sector Engagement in WASH

The local private sector always plays a key role in the WASH sector in our partner countries. They are an important actor to enhance demand and provide supplies, for instance, for latrine slabs or water treatment products. They design, build, and operate water supply systems and participate in the maintenance and supply of spare parts.

Our role is to strengthen the private sector participation and capacity in the sector and ensure that clear roles and responsibilities, and transparent, accountable and inclusive procedures are operationalized in the relationship between local authorities, private operators, and citizens (user's association).

The following [video](#) and RWSN Forum [paper](#) highlight our experience with private operators-investors in Madagascar.

# WHERE WE WORK IN WASH AND WATER GOVERNANCE



## OUR PROJECT EXPERIENCE IN ASIA

### 1) INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (IWRM-P) – NEPAL

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Charity: water and Helvetas

**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Nepal

**DURATION:** 2017-2021 (Phase 2)

**VOLUME:** \$4,700,000

#### A fair share of the water

The [Integrated Water Resources Management Program](#) (IWRM-P, 2017-2021) aims at supporting women and men in rural and urban settlements to maintain adequate and sustained access and management of water for WASH and irrigation services. The economically poor and socially marginalized people are the primary stakeholders of IWRM-P. The program encompasses various aspects of integrated water resources management through the following four components:

1. WASH
2. Small irrigation & multiple use schemes
3. Water governance and advocacy
4. Water conservation & 3R (Recharge, Retention, Reuse) measures

It implements various water schemes, provides advisory services, advocates for realizing the right to water and sanitation, and promotes wider replication of its proven approaches and technologies.

The program facilitates municipalities for the preparation of [Water Use Master Plan](#) (WUMP). Concretely, before Helvetas helps a village build a new water supply system, the community gets together to negotiate and plan the fair sharing of the water. Women and Dalits («Untouchables») have the same say in these matters as local men of influence.



Sand filter: WUSC Chair Dil Badadur Tiwari, ©Helvetas

#### Results (2020)

Our IWRM program, in collaboration with its local partners, achieved the following results in 2020:

- **75 water systems developed** (vs. 70 planned)
- **25,515 daily water users served** (vs. 20,640 planned)
- **36,769 community members supported** with COVID-19 prevention measures

#### Program learnings (2020)

- In water-scarce areas, family members have a higher tendency to conserve water coming from their private household connection.
- Private connection schemes have better functionality as users take better care of its repair and maintenance.
- Providing a basic handwashing bucket within the COVID response was effective in promoting hand hygiene.

## 2) HOUSEHOLD WATER TREATMENT AND SAFE STORAGE PROJECT (WARMP HWTS - NEPAL)

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Nepal  
**DURATION:** 2018-2020  
**VOLUME:** \$310,000

### Innovating in water safety

The [Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Project](#) (WARMP HWTS, phase IV 2018-2020) is linked to the above IWRM Program. It aimed at:

1. increased equitable access to and use of safe drinking water by applying household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) and proper hygiene behavior
2. key actors at local level plan and implement total sanitation campaigns including HWTS, and the private sector develop the supply chain for HWTS products
3. increased knowledge and expertise to advocate for the replication of HWTS approaches/ technologies

Like the IWRM program, the economically poor and socially marginalized people are the primary stakeholders. Within the framework of this project, innovative water safety strategies incl. promoting supply chains for ceramic water filters and decentralized water quality monitoring have been developed in partnership with the eawag.

## 3) MULTI-COUNTRY WATER INTEGRITY PROJECT – NEPAL, MOZAMBIQUE, AND GUATEMALA

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC, Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Nepal, Mozambique, and Guatemala  
**DURATION:** 2015-2019 (Phase 3)  
**VOLUME:** \$1,300,000

### Tackling corruption in the water sector

The [Multi-Country Water Integrity Project](#) was implemented jointly by the Water Integrity Network

(WIN) and Helvetas in three countries (Guatemala, Nepal and Mozambique). It aimed to build local authorities and public/private service providers' capacities to set up water management systems and improve water service delivery while influencing national government policies, strategies, and plans. The project empowered drivers of change like local communities and civil societies to enter into dialogue with government institutions, influence national policies and local development plans, and claim their right to quality water and sanitation services.

## 4) WATER IS LIFE (PANII JIBON) – BANGLADESH

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Climate Justice Resilience Fund, City of Zurich and Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Bangladesh  
**DURATION:** 2017-2020 (Phase 2)  
**VOLUME:** \$1,500,000

4

### Clean drinking water from the skies above

The [Panii Jibon](#) project's objective was to build resilience and reduce well-being loss of climate change affected disadvantaged communities, and particularly vulnerable women and youth, in the disaster-prone areas of South-West Bangladesh. The overall objective has been achieved through sets of interrelated and mutually reinforcing results. The water and food security-related results areas were leveraged in terms of impact, scale, and sustainability by enhancing the diversity of livelihoods transformative actions participative and accountable governance structures and mechanisms.

From 2017-2020, a total of 61,761 people from 15,402 households have increased access to resilient water supplies all the year through construction and rehabilitation of water facilities, reducing the risk of climate change impacts and frequent disasters.

The projects' innovative mothers parliaments approach won the [Water ChangeMaker People's Choice Award 2021](#) at CAS2021, organized by the Global Water Partnership.



## OUR PROJECT EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA

### 5) WATER WELL GOVERNED PROGRAM (RATSANTANANA) – MADAGASCAR

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Charity: water and Helvetas

**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Madagascar

**DURATION:** 2015-2022 (Phase 1)

**VOLUME:** \$7,300,000

#### Long-term Public-Private Partnerships

The [Ratsantanana](#) Project improves water resources management, access to WASH services, and good hygiene practices to improve the quality of life and health of the population and reduce their vulnerabilities in the face of economic shocks. The project combines a range of approaches such as WUMP, strengthening the local WASH governance (incl. setting up municipal WASH teams), and building private operators-investors' capacity for enhanced sustainability. In 2020, the project built 13 new solar-pumped piped systems serving 28,549 daily water users through 349 water points. Twelve municipal WASH technicians trained in water code and construction site supervision.



Water reservoir for a piped system in Madagascar, © charity: water

### 6) AMHARA INTEGRATED RURAL WASH INITIATIVE – ETHIOPIA

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC, Helvetas, Rain Foundation

**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Ethiopia

**DURATION:** 2014-2017

**VOLUME:** \$1,147,000

#### Reaching the most remote villages

The [Amhara Integrated Rural WASH Initiative](#) aimed to improve the living conditions of the economically poor and socially disadvantaged women and men in three districts of the Amhara regional state by providing increased and sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate and improved hygiene, water for family farming, and integrated water resources management practices.

The intent was to enhance local sector actors' knowledge and expertise to facilitate the replication of good practices and their reflection in the appropriate sector policy framework. Collaboration with the local Government enabled the project to reach the most disadvantaged, vulnerable (and remote) communities.

At the end of the project, 81 water supply schemes and 3,167 latrines had been completed and had reached 15,091 people through hygiene promotion.

### 7) WASH SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM (PHRASEA) – NIGER

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC

**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Niger

**DURATION:** 2017-2021 (Phase 2)

**VOLUME:** \$7,847,000

#### Serving pastoralist communities

The [WASH sector Support Program](#) (Phase 2) aims to contribute to equitable access to WASH services for the rural population and access to water for pastoralist communities and their livestock while contributing to conflict prevention. The program focuses on strengthening local actors, including municipalities, decentralized State services, local private sector, and communities.

It also supports the local ministry in its Integrated Water Resources Management strategy and in developing methods and tools (e.g., mechanized construction of pastoralist wells). The project supports 136,500 people and 67,400 livestock units in three regions (Dosso, Maradi, and Tillabéri).

## 8) IMPROVEMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES PROJECT (NIMDORA) – BENIN

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Benin  
**DURATION:** 2020-2022 (Phase 3)  
**VOLUME:** \$2,000,000

### Clean water from the pipes to the bowl

In its previous phase, [QualiEau 2](#) (2016-2019) improved access to drinking water by installing water points and developing local capacities to maintain water points and improve sanitation. Since Phase 1 (2011-2016), the project has improved drinking water access for over 65,000 people in northern Benin, installing 195 hand pumps and forming nine local associations to maintain them. In Phase 3 (2020-2022), the project uses an innovative approach to behavior change. Helvetas Benin is one of the Blue School pioneers, forming the next generation of WASH and environment sector champions.

## 9) HEALTH FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROJECT (LAAFIA) – BURKINA FASO

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Burkina Faso  
**DURATION:** 2019-2022 (Phase 4)  
**VOLUME:** \$1,000,000

### Children bring hygiene home

The [LAAFIA](#) project (phase 4) promotes hygiene and household sanitation in Manni and Coalla in Burkina Faso. Phase 3 focused on hygiene and sanitation behavior change and reached about 2,000 school pupils (Blue Schools) and 15,000 people in communities. The project combines interventions in schools and at the community level with a strong capacity development component to improve the population's living and health conditions in the participating communities and municipalities.

## 10) GOVERNANCE, WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAM (PROGOAS) – MOZAMBIQUE

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC and Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Mozambique  
**DURATION:** 2009-2018 (Phases 1-3)  
**VOLUME:** \$15,750,000

### Promoting effective behavior change

Launched in 2009, the project was implemented over nine years in Nampula and Cabo Delgado, involving eight districts. In these districts, [PROGOAS](#) supported the local governments in effective and participative development planning and accountability, and in the water and sanitation sector oriented towards improved service delivery. PROGOAS has created access to potable water for more than 200,000 people by building and rehabilitating 465 boreholes and two small piped systems. Around 460,000 people gained access to improved sanitation via individual and institutional latrines. Lessons learned are documented [here](#).

## 11) WATER FOR THE LONG TERM (KALAI) – MOZAMBIQUE

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Charity: water and Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Mozambique  
**DURATION:** 2018-2021 (Phase 1)  
**VOLUME:** \$4,608,000

### Engaging the private sector

Kalai focuses on the construction and rehabilitation of hand water pumps and capacity building of water and sanitation committees. The project is implemented in collaboration with district-level governments, artisans, water and sanitation committees, and local communities. To date, the project has helped create or train 135 water and sanitation committees, with 50% of committee members being women. The project has benefited 41,013 men and women through improved water supply and hygiene & sanitation promotion.

## 12) RECOVERY FROM CYCLONE KENNETH (RECOVKENNETH) – MOZAMBIQUE

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Mozambique  
**DURATION:** 2020-2021  
**VOLUME:** \$1,000,000

### Building back better

Four months after Cyclone Kenneth in northern Mozambique, the Government and various international partners, including Helvetas, collaborated to reach more than 250,000 people with vital, life-saving humanitarian response and assistance. RecovKenneth was set up to return services to pre-cyclone levels and then improve them to build preparedness. To date, the project has cleaned, disinfected, and repaired 45 affected wells and 74 damaged water points, reestablishing access to clean water to about 24,000 primary stakeholders.

## 13) HEALTH & WASH PROMOTION IN CABO DELGADO – MOZAMBIQUE

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Mozambique  
**DURATION:** 2018-2020  
**VOLUME:** \$1,000,000

### Lowering women and children's mortality

Helvetas was responsible for the overall coordination and implemented the demand side involving the local communities. The supply side of the project was implemented by different government provincial and district departments. Overall, the project aimed to reduce the mortality of women and children below 5 years of age in the target districts of Ancuabe, Chiure and Montepuez. It fostered improved efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery of integrated health, water and sanitation in 32 health centres. The project and partners strongly focused on hygiene behavior change, including Menstrual Hygiene Management.

## 14) SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN RURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT – BENIN

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** World Bank GPSA and Water Partnership Program (WPP)  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Benin  
**DURATION:** 2016-2017  
**VOLUME:** \$300,000

### Improving social accountability processes

The [project](#) contributed to three specific outcomes: 1) the system for managing water service fees at the municipal level is functional and transparent (traceability of funds); 2) the Potable Water Users' Association (ACEP) represents the interests of water users (women and men), and 3) experiences gained through the project are documented, shared and contribute to policy dialogue. This has translated into increased financial resources and faster repairs of infrastructure, thereby increasing the water service's sustainability and coverage in the longer run.

## 15) CLEAN WATER AND HYGIENE PROJECT (JIKURA) – MALI

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** Charity: water and Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Mali  
**DURATION:** 2018-2021 (Phase 3)  
**VOLUME:** \$2,450,000

### Supporting local management capacity

The [JIKURA](#) project (Phase 3, 2018 - 2021) covers the Sikasso region of Mali that badly need water supply facilities and measures to improve hygiene. It involves municipal authorities, village councils, the local private sector, and water management committees to plan, design, construct, maintain, and monitor water supply systems. As a result of Jikura, the municipal authorities received an annual budget to launch prioritized drinking water and basic sanitation projects. Each community receives support and advice from local specialists to take full responsibility for its water facilities eventually. So far, 4,000 people have gained access to drinking water and hygiene promotion.

## OUR PROJECT EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 16) COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION PROJECT (SAHTOSO) – GUATEMALA

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** UNICEF and Helvetas  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Guatemala  
**DURATION:** 2019-2020 (Phase 3)  
**VOLUME:** \$570,000

#### Reducing chronic malnutrition in children

The [SAHTOSO project](#) (phase 3) aimed to reduce chronic malnutrition for children under the age of 5 and harmonize actions with the national strategy to prevent chronic malnutrition. It was oriented to generate behavioral changes to eliminate open defecation (institutionalization of the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach). It also promoted sanitation marketing by providing access to goods and services in hygiene and sanitation in accordance with the socio-economic conditions of the population. The project supported 629 municipalities, of which 461 remain open-defecation free.

### 17) STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN WASH PROGRAM (REGLEAU) – HAITI

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Haïti  
**DURATION:** 2017-2022  
**VOLUME:** \$10,000,000

#### Reducing women and children's mortality

The [REGLEAU](#) Program aims to improve the living conditions of the population in four municipalities in the South-East Region (35,000 direct beneficiaries and 350,000 indirect beneficiaries) by supporting the municipalities in providing access to drinking water sanitation services. This will be achieved by (1) strengthening local governance to ensure that water and sanitation services are delivered in an effective, sustainable, equitable, transparent and participatory manner and (2) improving the regulatory framework, sharing experiences and coordination mechanisms in the water and sanitation sector.

### 18) MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT (GAM) – BOLIVIA

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**IMPLEMENTED BY:** HELVETAS Bolivia  
**DURATION:** 2011-2023  
**VOLUME:** \$8,800,000

#### Improving social accountability processes

The [Municipal Environmental Management Project \(GAM\)](#) aims at achieving the sustainable provision of environmental management services that reduce environmental pollution in medium-sized Bolivian cities.

The ongoing project enables 1) improving the quality of wastewater treatment and solid waste management services, 2) strengthening the population's capacity to engage in the management of solid waste and wastewater effectively, and 3) strengthening local institutions in providing environmental management services.

The project has already benefitted 180,000 women, children and men, mainly people vulnerable to environmental pollution (population with less education, low incomes, and living near final disposal sites of solid waste or wastewater treatment plants).



Supporting municipal authorities in their efforts to ensure efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment and solid waste management services. ©Helvetas

## OUR EXPERIENCE WITH GLOBAL PROGRAMS

### 19) SWISS WATER AND SANITATION CONSORTIUM (SWSC)

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**COORDINATED BY:** HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation  
**DURATION:** 2014-2023 (in Phase 5)  
**VOLUME:** \$16,500,000

#### Together for a better world

The [Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium](#) (SWSC) has worked in several phases, two of which have been supported by SDC and two financed by its members. The current phase V started in 2020. It is SDC co-funded and will end on Sep 30, 2023. Eight Swiss NGOs take part in the SWSC, coordinated by Helvetas, to target their know-how and resources to the most off-track countries and the most marginalized populations. The aim is to make a significant difference in those stakeholders' living conditions by improving access to drinking water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and water for family farming. The Consortium program achieved significant results in the first phase and proved to be an appropriate vehicle for mainstreaming innovations, scaling up promising approaches and facilitating knowledge sharing. The second phase extended access to WASH to approximately 300,000 people in communities, 40,000 students, and 300,000 health center patients. It emphasized quality, accompanying local government partners to strengthen their monitoring of coverage and functionality, and promoting good practices to improve handwashing and water quality at the point of use. Annual regional workshops, exchange visits, peer-reviews, backstopping support by regional advisors, documentation, and presentation of good practices at national, regional, and global level are key knowledge and learning components of the Consortium. Innovative concepts such as Blue School, WUMP, Multiple-Use Systems, Life Cycle Cost approach, Smart-phone based water point monitoring have been further developed and documented. Moreover, the Consortium also explored the potential of online reporting.

### 20) WATER PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM (WAPRO)

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**COORDINATED BY:** HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation  
**DURATION:** 2015-2021  
**VOLUME:** \$18,000,000

#### Multi-stakeholders join forces to enhance water productivity

To contribute to improved income and food and nutrition security for small-holder farmers, Helvetas has started and/or expanded several public-private development partnership (PPDP) projects in close collaboration with Swiss, international and local private sector partners. One such example is the [WAPRO](#) - a multi-stakeholder initiative to address water efficiency issues in agriculture. The project was first implemented between 2015 and 2018 in four countries in Asia by a consortium of nine partners with a budget of about \$7 million. It involved 23,600 farmers. By 2019, the project had grown to 16 countries in Asia and Africa, 22 partners, and a budget of about \$16 million, aspiring to improve the lives of 60,000 farmers. Diverse stakeholders – from farmers and local NGOs to corporations and governments – take joint responsibility for the precious resource from which we all benefit. In 2019, the project started its second phase, engaging private companies such as Mars, Coop, IKEA, etc., in several Asian countries and Madagascar.

### 21) SWISS WATER PARTNERSHIP (SWP)

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**COORDINATED BY:** HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation  
**DURATION:** 2019-2021 (Phase 3)  
**VOLUME:** \$1,335,000

#### Swiss expertise for a water secure world

The [Swiss Water Partnership](#) is a multi-stakeholder platform launched in 2012, that brings together over 70 Swiss organizations from the academic, civil society, public and private sector to develop, share,

and promote innovative solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries.

Driven by its values of solidarity and integrity, the Swiss Water Partnership's vision is to be recognized globally as a brand of high-quality water security solutions and serve as the platform for water in Switzerland.

The platform aims at contributing to the broader international water dialogue, strengthening the international profile of the Swiss water sector, and creating synergies between its members and international actors.

Helvetas acts as the SWP's secretariat (coordination, conceptual development, facilitation of events, etc.).

## 22) BACKSTOPPING & TECHNICAL ADVISORY CONTRACT IN SUPPORT OF SDC'S WATER INITIATIVES DIVISION (WI)

**CLIENT/ FUNDING SOURCE:** SDC  
**COORDINATED BY:** Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development (skat)  
**DURATION:** 2018-ongoing (in Phase 9)  
**VOLUME:** \$158,000

### Advisory services to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The [SDC Backstopping Mandate for Water](#) (phase 9) aims at supporting the SDC Global Program Water in the following areas:

- 1) Main sector knowledge management mechanism, where the backstopper fosters adequate knowledge management and lessons learned from the GPW and its network to be used for planning and nourishing the policy dialogue at national, regional and global levels;
- 2) Sector experts and competencies pool, where the backstopping contract contributes to strengthening the key SDC Water Network (ResEAU) members' water-related capacities while ensuring that water themes are adequately reflected in the SDC strategies, programs, projects, and initiatives. Helvetas is a sub-contractor of Skat within the framework of this contract.

## VOICES FROM OUR PROJECTS



*« At first, they wouldn't give me – as a Dalit ("Untouchable") and widow – any access to water. But I stood up and made my case. Before I was given a tap and an irrigation basin, I had to beg for vegetables. This year I even sold vegetables myself for the first time. »*

**Dil Sara Bishwakarma, (45), a widowed Dalit, Nepal**



*« As a child I had to set out to the watering hole with my mother at four o'clock in the morning. Now the sun pumps the water for us. »*

**Mamou Sangaré, stay-at-home mom and small business owner, Mali**

## MORE INFORMATION

[HELVETAS USA](#)

[HELVETAS Advisory Services | Water](#)

## OUR TECHNICAL EXPERT/S



**Bernita Doornbos**  
Head, Water, Food & Climate  
[bernita.doornbos@helvetas.org](mailto:bernita.doornbos@helvetas.org)



**Marisa Ruoss**  
Advisor, Coordinator SWP  
[marisa.ruoss@helvetas.org](mailto:marisa.ruoss@helvetas.org)



**Alexandra Kappeler**  
Advisor, WASH  
[alexandra.kappeler@helvetas.org](mailto:alexandra.kappeler@helvetas.org)



**John Brogan**  
Advisor, WASH  
[john.brogan@helvetas.org](mailto:john.brogan@helvetas.org)



**Jacques Louvat**  
Regional Advisor West Africa  
[jacques.louvat@helvetas.org](mailto:jacques.louvat@helvetas.org)



**Sophie Nguyen Khoa Man**  
Senior Advisor, Water for Food  
[sophie.nguyenkhoa@helvetas.org](mailto:sophie.nguyenkhoa@helvetas.org)

## PARTNERSHIPS, ALLIANCES, AND NETWORKS



[Millennium Water Alliance](#)



[WASH Agenda for Change](#)



[InterAction](#)



[Society for International  
Development – Washington](#)



[Swiss Water  
Partnership](#)

Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium

[Swiss Water & Sanitation  
Consortium](#)