It is estimated that 565 million people in Sub Saharan Africa have no access to sanitation, and 330 million people live without access to safe water. The poverty link to water, sanitation and hygiene is well proven; addressing these issues leads to improved livelihoods and increased productivity. (UNICEF/WHO JMP report 2010)

Finding sustainable solutions

Through our work and contributions to the efforts of other organisations, SNV has provided services which have contributed to improved access to Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) for two million people annually. We are aiming at increasing the number of beneficiaries to five million people annually by 2015. SNV realizes that this result can only be achieved through firm partnerships and unlocking local capacities to increase implementation rates and to ensure the gains made with accessing water and sanitation services are being sustained.

SNV is working to improve:
1. Access to safe, sufficient and reliable drinking water supply;
2. Access to improved sanitation;
3. Sustainable positive change in hygiene behaviour.
4. And develop and share knowledge products

Approach

Within the broad sector of water, sanitation and hygiene, SNV approach is in whole systems (service delivery) and Sanitation for ALL. Our approach is 'services and solutions' with aspects of governance, social and gender inclusion and multi-party interventions. We utilise a holistic approach by working at national and local levels and across the beneficiary spheres. Over the years we have learned that four factors are key to success:

Inclusive development
Most of the progress towards WASH over the past years has been made in the wealthier and middle classes in society and only a minor part of global aid is targeted on basic services that reach all. SNV works with governments and other partners to develop WASH investment and service delivery solutions, tailored to the needs and preferences of different consumer segments.

Systemic change
In order to contribute to inclusive and sustained development at scale it is not sufficient to strengthen the capacity of single actors. By bringing relevant parties together, we can address structural constraints like fragmentation, unclear roles and responsibilities, or a lack of proper checks and balances. SNV strives to develop a joint agenda for change.

Local ownership
Lasting change in WASH can only be achieved if local actors shape and drive their own agendas. SNV supports governments, line agencies and other (local) partners to develop water and sanitation infrastructure and services so that sustainable and equitable solutions are found and implemented.

Contextualised solutions
SNV's long-term presence on the ground and our local network of professionals allow us to develop and test approaches in practice. We take effective solutions and work with local stakeholders and support them to adapt to challenges in their contexts, enabling effective, economical answers to development problems. Specific attention is given to behavioural change, contributing to the sustainability of our initiatives.
Sector scope

**Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSHA)**
The programme creates demand for sanitation, strengthens sanitation supply chain development, improves governance for sanitation and strengthens local capacities communication for behavioural change for hygiene. Strengthening planning for proper waste water and septic effluent disposal is also a priority in small towns. SNV is known for its adaptation of the Community Led Total Sanitation approach to different local contexts.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools**
The programme advocates for adequate resource allocation, improved local capacity for the management and maintenance of school water, sanitation and hygiene services, hygiene promotion, and development of market-based solutions for menstrual hygiene for school girls. School WASH programmes are currently running in Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and South Sudan.

**Functionality of Rural Water Supply Services**
The focus of the programme is on keeping systems working while ensuring equity of access and investments. It addresses the development of spare parts supply chains, private sector engagement in operations and maintenance and self-supply. Priority is also given to support national and local multi-stakeholder planning, monitoring, evaluations, learning and targeting on the basis of reliable information (such as water point mapping), and on improving the quality of implementation and management. This product is offered in all SNV East and Southern Africa countries and in four West and Central Africa countries (Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Mali).

**Sustainable Water Supply Services in Small Towns (and Peri-Urban areas).**
The objective of the programme is to enable both public and private entrepreneurs to be accountable to consumers, provide sustainable water supply services, and improve management of water utilities. This programme is running in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and local implementers in 10 towns around Lake Victoria. Zambia and Mozambique started work in this area in 2011. In SNV WCA, our target populations are rural communities, small towns/peri-urban populations, and schools. In Benin SNV actively involves the private sector to make operation and maintenance services more effective in both rural and peri-urban areas. We offer our services at both the national (macro) and district (meso) levels. We advocate for the poor in WASH and deliberately focus on engaging all actors – private sector, public sector, households, and community.
Intervention areas

**West & Central Africa**
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroun
- DR Congo
- Ghana
- Guinea Bissau
- Mali
- Niger

**East & Southern Africa**
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Some Achievements

In **Cameroon** SNV is training councils and water service providers to improve operation and maintenance of water services. To date, over 200,000 people benefit from the improved operation and maintenance of existing water systems with water loss reduced by 35% allowing water fee decrease by 15%. SNV in Cameroon supervises the sensitisation on good hygiene practices and acceptable sanitation facilities with a particular focus on accountability and social inclusion of women and minority groups.

Through new constructions and rehabilitations in **Zambia**, access to safe water supply has been increased to an additional 140,500 people in communities. An estimated 13,160 pupils have access to safe water and improved sanitation in schools in the 11 Districts that SNV focused on. This work was supported through our engagement with local capacity builders.

A partnership with UNICEF in **Niger** has enabled SNV to implement a programme promoting Essential Family Practices in health, hygiene and child nutrition. The intervention covers 180 villages and focuses on the reduction of child mortality through the adoption of good practices in key sectors of children survival and development at family and community level.

Through a collaborative effort of UNICEF, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, and SNV in **Kenya**, 457,716 people benefited from a rural sanitation programme that saw 976 villages in the country declared Open Defecation Free.

In **Benin** SNV support to local authorities to ensure that water and sanitation services are more cost-effective, includes sharing of staff and equipment. The collaboration resulted into capacity building of 500 actors of private sector and NGOs through whom, 520,000 peoples got access to drinking water and 38,600 additional people to sanitation services.
Partnerships for sustainability

SNV’s approach consciously tackles some of the most long-standing and basic issues in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector and have multiple target groups in the sector:

**Capacity development partners:** Government WASH sector offices at the national and sub-national levels, including their multi-stakeholder platforms are being supported. These institutions hold the mandate for WASH development and have the capacity (human and financial resources) for wide coverage and up-scaling of service delivery for impact. Local capacity builders are also targeted as clients, partners and/or sub-contractors.

**Knowledge and skills development institutions:** To increase the required WASH technical, functional and entrepreneurial knowledge and skills required we target Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions, local universities, and other training institutions. Strengthening the capacity of these institutions will produce the required quantity and quality of labour skills for the market.

**Financing institutions & donors:** To strengthen financial investments in the WASH sector, SNV partners with financing institutions and donors such as: Netherland Ministry for Cooperation, Ambassades World Bank, ADB, DFID, USAID, Gates, Nordic-Bilaterals, AusAID, IIED and the EU Water facility.

Our work and expertise

**Advisory services – Creating effective solutions with local impact**
Advisory services are at the core of SNV’s work. We provide advice on the use of innovative approaches in water and sanitation service provision. We support local actors (government, private organisations and communities) in formulating their needs into clear demands and jointly develop effective solutions. Our interventions demand for responsive WASH infrastructure and services. They increase the availability and quality of sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure and services, and ensure affordable operation and maintenance solutions. We support the improvement of sanitation practices and encourage people to sustain their hygiene behaviour change. We work for an improved learning environment for children by increasing the access of children (with a special focus on girls) to child-friendly WASH facilities at schools.

**Knowledge networking: developing, sharing and leveraging knowledge**
SNV’s long track record in the WASH sector, collaboration with over 300 organisations and long-term in-country presence have given us a thorough understanding of WASH issues. Our expertise as a knowledge based development organisation enable us to create an environment that enhances knowledge development, management and application. Our services and decisions are knowledge-based in the WASH sector.

**Evidence-based advocacy: enabling environments for effective solutions with local impact**
SNV joins forces with governments, the private sector and civil society for an effective operationalization of national WASH policies and strategies. We locally trigger WASH development by supporting decentralisation and reform processes and structures. We support the up-scaling of interventions by increasing WASH coverage through developing local capacity and establish public/private partnerships.

www.snvworld.org

SNV is an international not-for-profit development organisation that works in 36 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and The Balkans. We help empower local communities, businesses and organisations to break the cycle of poverty by providing them with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services. We do this by providing advisory services, knowledge networking and supporting advocacy in the agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, and renewable energy sectors.

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