

YOUR NEWSLETTER - LINKING YOU 4 TIMES A YEAR WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND THE SECTOR

BREAKING NEWS

7th World Water Forum – The Swiss Involvement

The world's biggest water event came to an end on 17 April with the closing ceremony of the 7th WWF in Daegu, South Korea. More than 20,000 experts, political leaders and government officials from 164 countries attended the event. The Swiss delegation was very active at the WWF, promoting **strong messages** on the implementation of the **human right to water & sanitation** and **the post-2015 development framework**. In South Korea, the world water community made clear that it wants a standalone goal on water and a growing number of countries consider trans-boundary water management essential for ensuring water security. Furthermore, the Swiss Pavilion hosted by SDC and the SWP provided a great place to present innovative Swiss solutions to water challenges.



For further information visit: www.eda.admin.ch

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Swiss convoy with water treatment products reached Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine

On 15 May 2015, Switzerland sent a convoy carrying 300 tonnes of chemical water treatment products to eastern Ukraine to supply approximately 3.5 million people in urgent need in the Donetsk region with clean drinking water. This is the first humanitarian convoy of its size to have crossed the contact line between the government-controlled area and that under the control of non-government forces since the armed conflict began in the region. The convoy was accompanied by Manuel Bessler, the Federal Council Delegate for humanitarian aid together with four experts of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit.



For further information visit:

Press release - www.eda.admin.ch

The SDC's response to the Ukraine crisis - <http://www.news.admin.ch>

Video report on the Swiss TV: www.srf.ch/sendungen/10vor10

Video report on the German TV: www.zdf.de

HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES

New Staff for the Global Programme Water Initiatives (GPWI)

The Global Programme Water Initiatives is happy and proud to announce that new staff members joined/will join the team in Bern.

Valérie Sturm joined the team as a Junior Water Specialist in May 2015. Valérie holds an MSc in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark. Before joining SDC, she worked as an engineer in the capacity of project manager with *BG Ingénieurs Conseils SA* in Lausanne, with the OECD in Paris, and the Technical University of Denmark.

Hanna Capeder will be promoted to Programme Manager in July 2015. Hanna has been part of the GPWI team, as a Junior Water Specialist, since 2013. During that time she worked at the headquarters in Bern, and abroad in Uzbekistan (with SDC) and Costa Rica (with IUCN). Hanna holds an MA in Development from The Hague and Dublin Universities and a CAS in management of development projects in Switzerland (EPFL). Before joining SDC, she worked with NGOs on various projects in Benin, Costa Rica and Mozambique, especially in the rural water sector.

Markus Bürli will join the team in August 2015 as a Programme Manager. Markus has been engaged with the Global Programme Food Security (GPFS) as programme manager and vice-head of GPFS. He holds a BSc in International Agriculture and MSc in Management for development. Before joining SDC headquarters in 2007, Markus worked for the *International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas* (ICARDA), one of the 15 centres supported by the CGIAR.

The New RésEAU Shareweb provides much more now

Members of RésEAU may have noticed the **RésEAU website** has been reshaped! Among others the new page features a wide range of **resources** about the Swiss Water Sector. The **news** section is updated regularly, not only with recent publications, but also with upcoming events and trainings. The general content will evolve in the next few months as many collaborative tools are provided and for the moment there is still work in progress. The discussion forum will allow you to ask specific questions to other members of the RésEAU. Members will also be able to write longer blog articles to share for example an idea, a concept, a project or an important event, on which colleagues can comment. The website will also allow creating working groups with collaborative tools such as shared calendars and the possibility to easily and safely drop documents to the attention of your colleagues. All these elements will evolve in the coming

weeks. We however, encourage you to already go and **have a look at the new website** to discover it. We will keep you posted of major changes and activities on our website.

Visit the Share-web here: www.sdc-water.ch

For comments & suggestions contact: andreas.steiner@eda.admin.ch

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Gender specific WASH in health care facilities in Uganda and India

This interdisciplinary research project (2014-2016), combining social anthropology and gender studies with sanitary engineering, aims to provide solid information about users' needs for WASH infrastructure in public health care facilities in Uganda and India. Project focus is to deepen our understanding on how to respond to women's special needs during special times (menstruation, pregnancy, and childbirth). Expected research outcomes are a WASH indicators checklist for health care facilities, supplemented with a gender perspective, allowing for the assessment of the infrastructure, as well as providing practical guidance on necessary improvements. The data will provide evidence for possible interventions that are *needs-based, technically appropriate and socially acceptable*.



For further information visit: www.sandec.ch/sesp & www.snis.ch

For further information contact Christoph.Luethi@eawag.ch

Multi-network thematic online forum for Latin America and the Caribbean held in May – June 2015

A Multi-Network Regional Thematic online meeting on "Rethinking best practices in integrated water and soil management at multiple scales at basin level, integrating climate risks and financial mechanisms for scaling up" was organised in May-June 2015. This event is part of a learning process which aims at sharing lessons learnt from good practices and innovations in integrated water, soil and ecosystem management in river basins, to be held in Nicaragua in July 2015. It addresses multiple scales and focuses on the management and transfer of climate risks and on the adaptation to climate change. It intends to improve the effectiveness of SDC's poverty reduction programs in various countries.

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Improved hygiene programme in health centres and household water treatment workshop in Burkina Faso

Antenna Technologies organized a press conference along with its partners Antenna Baobab and Burkina CEAS with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation in Ouagadougou last April. The press conference was briefed with the promising results of the preparatory stage of a hygiene programme, which will see WATA electro-chlorinators distributed in 63 Health Districts and 9 Regional Hospital Centers. An Antenna workshop on HWT led



to the creation of a working group and enthusiasm was expressed for “school” programmes. Antenna plans to promote HWT with the aim of embedding it in Burkina Faso's safe water policy.

For more information visit: www.antenna.ch/medias/pdf
& <http://www.antenna.ch/recherche/eau-potable/burkina-faso>
For further information contact: pgduvernay@antenna.ch

Regional Framework Law for Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Central America

The Central American countries will incorporate the general obligations and principles of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation's within its national legislation. The official commitment was made in Managua, this May, in a meeting with national congress representatives. The debate on the Human Right Approach in Central America, have been facilitated by SDC's Regional WASH Program since last two years. This framework on regional law is the main outcome of a joint work between both; the legislative (FOPREL) and the executive of water and sanitation (FOCARD-APS) branches of the Central American Integration System (SICA, by its Spanish translation). It is expected that by adopting this framework law, the national governments of the Central American countries will improve its water and sanitation policies.



For further information contact: carmen.pong@cosudeni.org

ApaSan in Moldova goes into Third Phase

The Water and Sanitation Project in Moldova (ApaSan) started its third phase in June 2015. In the coming four years, the project will aim at transfer of know-how on rural water supply and sanitation generated by ApaSan in the past project phases to Moldovan institutions, so that these institutions are able to improve their performance in responding to the needs of the rural population for water supply and sanitation services. The project will support national level institutions for better planning and monitoring of investments, small local and larger regional operators in providing water and sanitation services of adequate quality to rural communities, and promote innovation in the sector. The project is funded with 8 Million CHF by SDC and the Austrian Agency for Development Cooperation and is implemented by Skat Consulting Ltd.

For further information contact andrei.cantemir@eda.admin.ch
or florian.klingel@skat.ch.

The Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium goes online

The Water & Sanitation Consortium is thrilled to share its newly created homepage waterconsortium.ch. The Consortium was formed in 2011 in order to pool knowhow and resources to accelerate progress in water and sanitation coverage and to trigger innovation and knowledge sharing. The 8 member organisations are currently implementing 21 projects in 10 countries.



For further information contact daya.moser@waterconsortium.ch

A Guinean National WASH Recovery Plan

The Ebola outbreak that began in 2014 has been the widest spread and most destructive Ebola outbreak in history. The good news is that Liberia has been declared Ebola-free by WHO and only a few cases each week are being reported in Sierra Leone. One major cause of this crisis in Guinea, where the outbreak continues, is a lack of investment in the health system. In order to respond to the outbreak and mitigate future risks, a national WASH recovery plan has been prepared. It recommends strategies such as support for WASH in health structures, general hygiene promotion including the promotion of hand-washing with soap and strengthening WASH coordination.

For more information visit: apps.who.int/ebola/
www.worldbank.org
sites.google.com/site/washguinee/

For further information contact: thassan@unicef.org or tarik@romandie.com

Breaking the silence surrounding menstruation

May 28th marks Menstrual Hygiene Day. The Mkaji project funded by SDC and managed by Simavi joined hands with HPSS (also SDC funded) and UMATA (GSF funded) to host an event in Dodoma Region in Tanzania. These 3 projects are working towards better health impacts in this region. A radio play on Menstrual Hygiene was broadcast through 3 local radios and a local tailor taught woman how to make menstrual pads from locally available materials. Women at the health facility and girls in schools were informed and made aware on various aspects of menstrual hygiene management (MHM).



For further information visit: simavi.org

Sustainable Rural Wash Communities Boards (RWCBs) in Peru

Rosa Vero Yanag is one of the RWCB in Peru commonly called JASS with a long history of rural WASH program management in the central part of Peru. It has successfully managed delivery of WASH service to 100 families since 1991. There are almost 30,000 JASS in Peru who manage their rural WASH with different performance levels. In Latin America, it is estimated that there are 80,000 RWCBs and all need good examples such as Rosa Vero Yanag JASS in order to improve their capacities for a better quality delivery of WASH service.

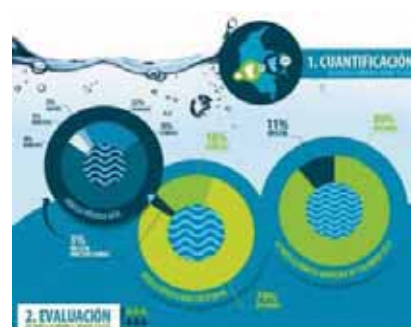
In the past before Rosa Vero Yanag entered into WASH services, they had worked as a small agriculture production cooperative, and this background helped them to understand the importance to have an entrepreneurial approach to WASH.



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Multi-sector water footprint assessment within Colombia's National Water Study

This analysis contributes to the reflection on the anthropic use of fresh water. This is a joint effort of the National Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the Centre for Science and Technology, Good Stuff International and SDC, as part of the project *SuizAgua Colombia*. For the first time, green water is taken into account in a national study. 97% of the water used by the agricultural and livestock sector is green water. Water transfers between sub-water basins account for the second largest water consumption in the country (22%). The picture shows the distribution of the blue and green water footprint in Colombia.



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Blue School Model succeeds in Honduras

The Education Ministry officially adopted the Blue School Model as a strategy to enhance public education quality in Honduras. Initially implemented by the SDC's Small Cities and Schools WASH Program in Nicaragua, the Blue School Model appealed to Honduran authorities as soon as they knew about its innovative approaches. A Blue School not only improves water and sanitation facilities but also updates the scholar curriculum by including environment and hygiene education. By 2015 more than 11,000 students have benefit by this program in the poorest regions of Honduras. The education authority is planning to scale up the model to national level.



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Rural WASH commitments and synergies between Peru and Colombian governments

A learning visit by the ASIR Saba Colombia project and the authorities from the Colombian Ministry of Housing, City and Territory was held in Lima on 7-8 May. The visit's purpose was to exchange with SABA Plus project and find complementarity in policies, strategies and methodologies to tackle and reduce the gaps in rural WASH in both countries. Colombia and Peru are middle income countries with good performance of their economies but with great challenges to reduce their WASH gaps. The visit was a successful opportunity for knowledge transfer and sharing of experiences from SABA to ASIR, as part of the dissemination and lessons learned process of SABA PLUS to the Andean region. The next learning visit between both projects and WASH ministries will be held in August this year.



For more information contact: cesarina.quintana@eda.admin.ch
or visit: www.flickr.com/photos/cosude_en_peru/sets/72157653530304672

CURRENT TOPICS**Low hanging fruits: hydropower in existing water infrastructure**

What would you think if water infrastructure was designed to waste energy? Strangely, this is common practice, particularly in hilly and mountainous areas where water is stored or captured at high elevation. When water pressure gets too high it can burst pipes or cause leaks in valves and joints. To stop this, water systems often have 'pressure reducers', like the one in the photo, from Tunisia. However, the available energy could instead be used to generate electricity, an approach which has already been successfully applied in Switzerland for more than 50 years. A



recent study prepared by Skat Consulting Ltd. (www.skat.ch), revealed an overall potential of about 35 GWh per year in the water supply system of SONEDE, the Tunisian water supply utility.

For more information visit: www.skat.ch

For further information contact: hedi.feibel@skat.ch or martin.boelli@skat.ch

For more information visit: www.swisswaterpartnership.ch

Seminar/Workshop on Base-of-the-Pyramid Markets on July 2nd, 2015

"Base-of-the-Pyramid" refers to the several billion people in the world living close to the poverty line. Because of their large number, these people represent an attractive opportunity for market-based solutions, and a few initiatives globally have managed to tap into this potential. In order to highlight some of the opportunities and challenges in serving these markets and customers, a seminar/workshop will take place on 2 July in Dübendorf (close to Zurich). A keynote will be delivered by serial social entrepreneur and author of several books **Paul Polak**. Other initiatives from different sectors (water-energy-food ecosystem) and regions will also be showcased. The Swiss Bluetec Bridge, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) and the Swiss Water Partnership jointly invite you to participate in this event.



For more information visit: www.swisswaterpartnership.ch/events/bop/

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS**New short animated films on Drilling and Boreholes from WaterAid, UNICEF and Skat Foundation**

Water supply systems fail for a number of reasons. One reason is that the borehole was not properly sited, designed or constructed in the first place. WaterAid, UNICEF and Skat Foundation have just launched two short animated films on siting and drilling supervision to raise understanding of decision-makers who may not have a technical background:

Drilling: the importance of good borehole siting explains that groundwater cannot be found everywhere. If properly located, a borehole can provide a good supply of water. If it is not, it will fail resulting in wasted investment. Good borehole siting is essential. vimeo.com/126795160

A borehole that lasts for a lifetime explains the procedures needed to provide a good drilled water supply that can last for many years. Construction needs to be carried out by a reputable driller and there is need for independent and professional supervision. vimeo.com/128478995

For further information contact kerstin.danert@skat.ch

New Movie and Flyer on RésEAU website

The Global Programme Water Initiative has two brand-new communication products, namely (1), [Animated movie "The Global Programme Water Initiatives - Swiss Development Cooperation on Water"](#), and (2), [Flyer Global Programme Water Initiatives](#).

For more information visit: www.sdc-water.ch

CALENDAR

MOOC: Introduction to Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) series "WASH in Developing Countries" is a full-fledged e-learning program covering key topics of the WASH-sector. Sandec/Eawag offers the series as WHO Collaborating Centre and in partnership with EPFL. The MOOC on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage is running for the second time from 1st June to 12th July.

For more information visit: www.coursera.org/course/hwts

Webinar: "Ask CAWST: Scaling-up Household Water Treatment on 23rd June

CAWST has been delivering technical, educational and research training and consulting services for 14 years, and has a global network of over 2,000 client organizations in 100+ countries. This Q&A webinar will provide the opportunity for you to gain multiple perspectives on household water treatment project implementation, from start-up to troubleshooting to scale-up. Bring your questions on June 23rd, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM MDT, Calgary time. If you have never used the GoToTraining system by Citrix, please download the software and test your connection in advance to make sure you are ready for the session: Join a test session: www3.gotomeeting.com/join/406552062

For further information contact: support@kawst.org

Water Team Days 2015: Live Blog

The annual face-to-face event of the RésEAU, the Water Team Days 2015, will take place on 29th and 30th June in Bern. Those who can't come in person can follow the event on the live blog. All information on the blog and the Water Team Days 2015 will be available on the link below:

www.shareweb.ch/site/Water/about-the-reseau/water-team-days

Swiss in Stockholm from 23-28 August, 2015

The Swiss Water Partnership, RWSN (Skat Foundation), Water Integrity Network and Nestle provisionally have stands at the Stockholm International Water Week (23-28 August). In the programme are the following sessions involving Swiss convenors:

- A sustainable approach to scale-up safe water (SDC, Swiss Water Partnership, IRC, Aqua for All)
- Liveable Cities for All: Integrated Sanitation and Water Services (Gates Foundation, Eawag, The World Bank/WSP)
- Co-operative water governance: catalyst for sustainable development and comprehensive security (Gov. of Serbia, Gov. of Switzerland, OECD)
- Integrating WASH and watershed management to meet Sustainable Development Goals (Conservation International; HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; The Coca-Cola Company; World Vision and World Wide Fund for Nature)
- Understanding Humanitarian and Development WASH Approaches to Improve Service Delivery (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Federal Foreign Office, Germany; German WASH Network; Sustainable Sanitation Alliance and UNICEF)
- SFD – a tool to foster sustainable urban sanitation programming (Gates Foundation, Eawag, GIZ)
- LAC Focus: Understanding Human Right to Water and Sanitation (IADB, IWA, SDC)
- Building trust and sustainability through integrity: Focus on citizens and communities (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; IRC; Water Integrity Network)

For more information visit: <http://programme.worldwaterweek.org>

Swiss Bluetec Bridge: 5th (and last) call for proposals under pilot

The 5th and last call for proposals under the pilot phase of the Swiss Bluetec Bridge was launched at the end of May, inviting Swiss SME and start-ups active in the following areas and intending to supply base-of-the pyramid customers to submit their projects:

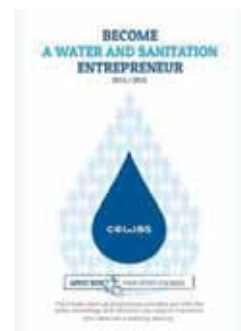
- purifying water for human consumption or agriculture
- providing clean drinking water (extract, ship, store, etc.) and
- preserving water quality (sanitation – liquid wastes only)

Join the likes of [Swiss Fresh Water](#), [NVTerra](#) and [Trunz Water Systems](#) and get your project co-funded (up to CHF 250'000) by the Swiss Bluetec Bridge! Find out whether your company is eligible for support and how to [apply](#). The deadline for submitting complete proposals is **31 August 2015** (postmark).

For further information visit: www.swissbluetecbridge.ch

Cewas is looking for motivated water & sanitation entrepreneurs

Do you know graduates who have a great business idea in the sanitation or water management sector and want to become an entrepreneur? Then spread the word! The fifth cewas Start-Up Programme starts on **August 31st 2015**. It provides you with the skills, knowledge and networks you need to transform your idea into a working start-up. Scholarships for a participant from developing countries are available upon request. The *My Water, My Business* events are initiated by the JICA-funded WAS-RoPSS Project, Millennium Water Alliance, IRC, Aqua for All and the Global Water Initiative.



For more information visit www.cewas.org
or contact: judith.koeller@cewas.org

Technical Training in Water and Sanitation Infrastructure, 14-19 September 2015, Madagascar

This BushProof training is a broad, intense 6-day course with a heavy practical bias, providing a rare opportunity to learn through both theoretical and hands-on practical sessions. The training is invaluable to both those who need more technical input for their work, as well as for those in management who find they have become more and more involved in water and/or sanitation programmes, but lack the basic technical and theoretical background. It will cost 1,500 Euros, which includes tuition, handouts, resource USB, coffee breaks, lunch on training days and field visits. Any organization booking 5 places can get a 6th place for free. Places are only guaranteed upon full payment.



For further information visit: www.bushproof.com

ABOUT

“SDC Water News” is the electronic news bulletin of SDC’s Global Program Water Initiatives sent out to Swiss international cooperation people who are loosely organised in the water network “Réseau”.

Réseau aims at assuring the sector knowledge management within SDC and with its partners. It’s anchored in the Global Programme Water Initiatives and the network’s focal point is Manuel Thurnhofer.

“SDC Water News” lives through interaction and active involvement and you are invited to send – at any time – your contributions, feedbacks, as well as subscription issues to the editor. The news team is grateful for any input received.

[SDC’s Global Programme Water Initiatives](#)

[Réseau Shareweb](#)

[SDC Water News Archive](#)

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