

WATER & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



**THE WATER AGENCIES
WORKING TOWARDS
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
WATER AND SANITATION**

25%

of the world's population still does not have
access to drinking water⁽²⁾

**OVER 3.2
MILLION**

deaths due to waterborne disease⁽¹⁾

15 TO 18 MILLION

euros set aside in the French Water
Agencies' annual budgets for
international solidarity



THE ISSUES

In 2010, the United Nations recognized “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation” as a fundamental right. However, over 2 billion people around the world do not have reliable access to safe drinking water and 1,000 children die every day from waterborne disease.

It is based on this observation that the UN’s 6th Sustainable Development Goal for 2030 intends to “ensure access to water and sanitation for all.”

In line with France’s foreign policy guidelines and thanks to the framework for action put in place by the “Oudin-Santini” law in 2005, the French water agencies appoint 1% of their budget for international solidarity programs related to water, putting them among the leading contributors under this law. The goal is to increase **access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene through official development assistance for the populations of the world who need it most.**

THE NUMBERS

SINCE 2005 THE FRENCH WATER AGENCIES’ INTERNATIONAL AID...



THE WATER AGENCIES’ VISION

PROMOTE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The water agencies’ international cooperation policy aligns with a tried-and-tested original model. It thus aims to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) with a view to sustainable and equitable management of resources. This policy has been created at a coherent spatial scale - the river basin. It also takes into account the great variety of issues (human, environmental, socioeconomic) and uses (agricultural, industrial, energy, domestic needs, etc.) based on a coordinated and participatory approach of all stakeholders.

INCUBATE AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIPS

The support the water agencies provide to international solidarity projects fosters partnerships between French and foreign players. It emphasizes the importance of getting local authorities involved and relies on the local presence of NGOs. Over the decades, the water agencies have established a network of partners in France and abroad. They provide bespoke support to French local authorities based on this framework, and these authorities are involved in this movement on their end via a contract-based approach.

ACT EFFICIENTLY AND SUSTAINABLY

To ensure the selected international solidarity projects line up with these goals, they must meet these long-term success factors: they take into account how the local population can help define needs and identify solutions; they create and train local management teams; and they take into account issues related to management, monitoring and evaluation. Another factor for longevity is the implementation of nature-based solutions and responses that can resist climate change.

ACT QUICKLY WITH THE CHANGING CLIMATE

Climate change means more droughts, flooding, violent meteorological phenomena, and more, which all render countries that usually receive international aid, mainly those of the Global South, more vulnerable. So the measures being deployed must be done so quicker and in a way that is adapted to this context. The challenge facing the water agencies is to **successfully launch projects in line with the green transition that can grow and have a truly multiplier-like effect.** This manifests as:

A link between institutional and integrated water resources management systems and the operational implementation of concrete projects for the population

Looking for ambitious ways to cooperate that can be boosted by aid programs from major international donors

Openness to innovative technical and governance solutions, in particular through support for operations related to essential water services and closer ties with new players (major groups, start-ups, etc.)

LEVERS FOR ACTION

Decentralized cooperation and international solidarity

The water agencies provide financial and technical support to projects aimed at providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation in developing countries that are carried out by local authorities and associations in their area.

Institutional cooperation

Institutional, technical, and scientific discussions with basin organizations and foreign governments focus on integrated water resources management and adapting to climate change. They capitalize on the expertise the water agencies have acquired over several decades in their own river basins.

Urgent action

When a major natural catastrophe occurs, the water agencies can sometimes provide quick financial support to NGOs specialized in helping people on a one-off basis.

Participation in major international meetings

World Water Forums, Conferences of the Parties (COP) on the climate, biodiversity, and more, as well as organizing networks of players.



80%

of this aid has gone to Africa

French water agencies support

220 to 240

solidarity programs each year on average



1.4 MILLION

people on average per year benefit from water and/or sanitation systems

WATER AGENCIES AT THE HEART OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION POLICIES ON WATER

International involvement based on founding principles

UN RESOLUTION
"Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights"

THE UN'S 2030 AGENDA
Sustainable Development Goal No. 6: "Ensure access to water and sanitation for all"

101,2 MILLION EUROS
That's the total cumulative amount available to the water agencies for the entire 11th Intervention Program

2005

2010

2012

2015

2018

2019-2024

French commitments leading the way

LOUDIN-SANTINI LAW authorized local authorities and water agencies to use up to 1% of their "water and sanitation" budget for international cooperation projects

WATER FORUM IN MARSEILLE
The Chairs of the Basin Committees committed to attributing 1% of their resources to international cooperation

PARIS PACT ON WATER AFTER THE COP21 for climate change adaptation at the basin level

INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Increase in resources dedicated to international solidarity (target of 0.55% of GNI in 2022)

AGENCIES UP THEIR EFFORTS
The water agencies' collective commitment to international solidarity went from €15.8M to €18M in 2021

THE WATER AGENCIES' ACTIONS MAKING HISTORY THROUGH VARIOUS EFFORTS

INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

Stung Sen Basin in Cambodia

Rhin-Meuse and Loire-Bretagne Water Agencies

The Stung Sen Basin is a tributary that flows into Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in all of Southeast Asia. The Rhin-Meuse and Loire-Bretagne Water Agencies have been working in the Stung Sen Basin in Cambodia since 2012. They provide technical support for the implementa-

tion of an integrated water resources management system. This translates into the creation of a Basin Committee, training activities, and the development of a water management plan and an action plan. It was linked to the implementation of international solidarity projects via the fitting out of the first eight villages, along with setting up the initial frameworks for a local intermunicipal body.

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY

Trans-Mad'développement in southern Madagascar

Loire-Bretagne Water Agency

The Loire-Brittany Water Agency has been providing Trans-Mad'développement (Loire-Atlantique Department [44]) with financial support since 2019. The association is deploying a project called "Apporteurs d'eau" ["Water bringers"] in the Atsimo-Andrefana Region in southern Madagascar together with the Regional Water Directorate and the municipalities concerned. Thousands of people benefit from the equipment, which includes deep groundwater boreholes with solar pumps, linear connections to a network of standpipes and private homes, and family latrines. The creation of a water service at the same time as the infrastructure construction is another of this program's key challenges.

Greater Lyon Water Fund

Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse Water Agency

Greater Lyon (Rhône Department [69]) is getting involved to help improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation around the world, particularly via a metropolitan solidarity fund, the "Fonds Eau" ["Water Fund"]. It was created in 2004 and provides financial assistance to associations and local authorities heading up projects in 24 developing countries. From 2013 to 2018, the Fonds Eau helped support 110 projects, benefiting over 750,000 people in 16 different countries, with the support of the water agency.

Cooperation between AIMF, SIAAP, and Vientiane in Laos

Seine-Normandie Water Agency

Faced with the lack of sanitation infrastructure in the capital of Laos, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), the Greater Paris Sanitation Authority (SIAAP, Paris Department [75]) and the municipality of Vientiane signed a cooperation protocol in 2016. It has contributed to structuring the fecal sludge management sector, constructing a sludge treatment plant, supporting local players at the facilities, and municipal regulations being adopted. There have been several benefits, including better sanitary conditions for the people, environmental protection, and being able to leverage end products for agriculture.

MOSIS project on the Senegal River Basin

Adour-Garonne Water Agency

Since 2017, the Adour-Garonne Water Agency has provided support to the Compagnie d'Aménagement des Coteaux de Gascogne (Lot-et-Garonne Department), which launched the MOSIS project (MOnitoring and Survey of Irrigated Systems) on the Senegal River Basin. This area spans four countries (Mali, Mauritania, Guinea, and Senegal) and is an agricultural hotspot. The project has three objectives: to identify the volumes withdrawn; to produce a sustainable service based on satellite information; and to develop a shared online mapping platform that provides spatial information and indicators. The availability of fresh water is what is at stake here.

Les Perles du Faso in Burkina Faso

Artois-Picardie Water Agency

The "Les Perles du Faso" association (Pas-de-Calais Department [62]) assists vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso. In 2017, it reached out to the Artois-Picardie Water Agency for help in undertaking a program that would provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation in Logoubou. The agency received support from the Pas-de-Calais Department and the municipality of Liévin and was able to cover 80% of the project's costs. Consequently, boreholes and latrines were installed in Logoubou. In France, there was an initiative aimed at the inhabitants and children of Liévin intended to raise their awareness of the challenges related to safe drinking water and sanitation.



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