



2016 WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION BAROMETER

An inventory of access to a vital resource #02 MARCH 2016

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF DAVID BLANCHON | CÉLINE HERVÉ BAZIN | BRICE LALONDE | GÉRARD PAYEN | DOMINIQUE PORTEAUD | THIERRY VANDELDELDE

DEVELOPMENT

If the fight against the spread of diarrhoeal diseases passes first through an emergency response, only major programmes aimed at a sustainable improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation allow to eliminate diseases. Despite a crisis context, when the security, economic and political conditions, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE therefore rolls out longer term projects.

ACTIVITIES

- » Water purification station (production, distribution)
- » Construction of drinking water networks
- » Construction of water taps
- » Community-led infrastructure maintenance



A WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO COMBAT CHOLERA
KALEMIE, DRC

To contain outbreaks of cholera in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE is implementing durable solutions, adapted to the context. In urban areas, only complex and lengthy interventions (5-15 years), can reduce the risk of epidemics. In Kalemie, in partnership with Regideso, our teams rehabilitate the drinking water supply network. Dating from the Belgian colonisation, it covered only very partially the needs of 250,000 people.

Why do toilets save lives?

Interview with Jean-Marc Leblanc, Water, sanitation and hygiene Advisor at SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE.

What is the current state of access to toilets in the world?

Today, 2.4 billion people do not have access to an improved sanitation facility, i.e. toilets. If this number has slightly dropped compared to last year (2.6 billion), it is still much too important. Barely more than half the population (51%) uses toilets in rural areas and nearly a billion people still practice open defecation.

What are the consequences of the lack of toilets?

They are multiple. In terms of health, having toilets that work correctly help prevent the spread of diseases. Take the example of cholera. In Haiti, if toilets contaminated by vibrio cholerae are clogged and overflow, they contaminate rivers. This causes outbreaks of cholera. Beyond cholera, you should know that more than 375,000 tonnes of faeces are deposited daily in nature and that 1.8

billion people drink water contaminated with faeces. However, a single gram of fecal matter contains up to 10 million viruses such as polio and 1 million bacteria that cause dysentery or diarrhoea.

The lack of toilets also strikes in a less visible way...

The lack of toilets indeed has consequences on education, especially of young girls. Lack of health infrastructure is one of the major causes of girls dropping out of school worldwide, millions no longer dare to go to school as soon as they begin menstruation. 272 million school days are missed because of the lack of toilets, according to Unicef. We can also mention the safety of women who lack health infrastructure, and therefore have to walk, hide, and wait for night time to relieve themselves outdoors. Hundreds of thousands of them prefer to deprive themselves of meals and avoid drinking to not go to the toilet, because the lack of latrines would

force them to share those of men.

What are the solutions implemented by SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE?

Depending on the situation, we are putting in place 4 types of latrines: defecation trenches in the acute emergency phase, classic single-pit emergency latrines, semi-permanent pit latrines that can be drained by a tanker, and lastly sustainable toilets connected to a network or that enable the implementation of the composting process. Access to latrines reduces one-third of diseases related to diarrhoea. Our teams are also implementing hygiene kit distribution programmes (soap, toothbrush, chlorine...) coupled with hygiene awareness sessions aimed at improving hygiene conditions in order to reduce the risk of disease: washing hands with soap halves the risk of diarrhoea.

Finance: A Sustainable Solution



BY GARY WHITE
CEO and Co-founder
Water.org

What would happen if the world saw people living in poverty not merely as recipients of aid but as potential customers with financial power to define their own futures? Water.org believes this perspective is the solution, and our successful financial approach known as WaterCredit is proving it.

At first the water crisis seemed simple to solve - spend money to provide water for one village and raise more money to provide it for the next. Carrying out our mission one well at a time, it quickly became evident that charity alone would not solve the crisis. We needed something we could scale quickly to meet the urgency of the need. While working within communities on the ground, we witnessed people living at the base of the economic pyramid taking out and repaying loans for things like housing and to start small businesses. So I thought, why not water and toilets? Including water and sanitation loan products in the portfolios of lending institutions to finance safe water and sanitation access seemed logical. We worked closely with select microfinance partners and used smart subsidies to help them build out water and sanitation loan portfolios. We helped them explore the market and found that when given a choice and an opportunity to pay for water and sanitation improvements over a reasonable period, families preferred to finance long-term solutions versus struggle day-to-day to find that next liter of drinking water, use a pay-per-use community toilet, or risk the danger of unexpected physical violence when defecating in the open.

So, for the last six years we have partnered with more than 50 micro-finance institutions (MFIs) and local nonprofits to jumpstart WaterCredit for the purposes of installing or constructing needed water connections, rainwater-harvesting tanks, toilets, and full bathrooms.

Now women like Nureni in Indonesia have access to safe water at home allowing her the ability to recover the lost time and

money she once spent in excess just to buy or find water for her family. Eliminating those coping costs gives back to Nureni the time and resources to earn income for her family. Nureni uses fresh water from her kitchen tap to cook coconut rice pudding,

“We will not end poverty without first ending the water and sanitation crisis”

MATT DAMON
Spokesperson



a dish she sells each morning to others in her village. With her earnings, she has been able to put her son through school. Nureni's story reveals to us that through WaterCredit there is a potential for people living in poverty to re-capture the coping costs of securing water and unleash their economic

power in a number of ways. We begin to show that people living in informal communities are not a drain upon the system, but can be and often are the source of systemic improvement.

WaterCredit works by providing funding to NGOs and microfinance providers for capacity building and technical assistance. These partners then leverage funding from banks and capital markets to disburse loans to people like Nureni. Borrowers pay water and sanitation service providers for products and services, like water connections at their homes or construction of toilets. With a repayment rate of 99% WaterCredit has facilitated close to 700,000 water and sanitation loans, impacting more than 3 million people. Over that time, Water.org has leveraged \$13 million in smart subsidies to attract \$139 million in commercial and social capital.

Through finance, we have found a solution to improve water and sanitation access by helping millions of people living in poverty to become customers, leaving traditional charity for the absolute poor. Going forward, this approach has the potential to scale through various institutions, including small banks, regional rural banks, and cooperative banks, among others - increasing the opportunity for lending within the base of the pyramid and freeing up charitable dollars for the remainder. Poor people are not a problem to be solved; they are a resource and a powerful part of the solution. Mobilizing resources within developing countries is a critical component in achieving Sustainable Development Goal #6, bringing safe water and toilets to all