

# CWI

## *Adaptive Community Water Initiative:*

Delivering water and sanitation  
to poor communities



SGP The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation

# introduction

Water supply and sanitation is one of the most critical areas in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. MDG Goal 7, target 10 aims at halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Not only is water supply and sanitation a key target itself in MDG, but it also critically determines the success of other MDG goals and targets. It is a precondition for success in the fight against poverty and hunger (Goal 1), primary education (Goal 2), gender equality and women's empowerment (Goal 3), child mortality (Goal 4), maternal health (Goal 5), HIV/AIDS and Malaria (Goal 6), environmental sustainability (Goal 7) and global partnerships (Goal 8).

In response to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Community Water Initiative (CWI) was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2003 in six countries (Ghana,

Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda), and was expanded to three new countries (Mali, Niger and Senegal). While focusing on African countries, one country in Asia and Latin America also piloted the activities. The expansion of the CWI to Mali, Niger and Senegal, through the provision of \$1.95 million funding by Government of Luxembourg, has proved to be a highly successful initiative.

Since 2007, CWI in Mali, Niger and Senegal supported 66 projects in the poor communities and enhanced communities' welfare dramatically. These projects not only improved communities' access to clean water and sanitation services, but also contribute to women's welfare, children's education, and fight against water-borne diseases. CWI gained considerable experiences from a rich and diverse portfolio of innovative projects ranging from integrated watershed management, to rock water harvesting, and to the use of wind mills and solar energy for pumping.



# CWI approach

CWI supports decentralized, demand-driven, innovative, low-cost, and community-based water resource management and water supply and sanitation projects in rural areas. It is rooted in the strong belief that local management and community initiatives play a key role in ensuring and sustaining the success of enhancing water supply and sanitation services to poor communities.

## *Innovative community-based approach*

CWI encourages local innovation and creativity. CWI seeks to maximize local knowledge and capacity, by allowing greater flexibility and enhancing adaptability of projects. Innovation arises when greater degree of

freedom is allowed and local conditions and situations are respected during project development and implementation. CWI is rooted in the belief that local communities have the most knowledge about their living environment and community needs, and should be empowered to find solutions and make decisions while addressing water and sanitation issues. Consequently, such a demand-driven community approach has generated numerous innovations, and CWI projects have received numerous international and national awards.

## *Climate resilient approach*

Water supply and sanitation are affected by climate change and also have an impact on climate change. The carbon footprint of water supply and sanitation - through



energy used in pumping, for example - can be significant. Adaptation measures should take this into account. Single measures, such as demand management and leakage minimization, have considerable potential to contribute to both mitigation of adverse effects and adaptation of technologies and systems to increase resilience. Improved planning procedures and the development and deployment of new technologies will support adaptation and mitigation in response to multiple adverse impacts, not just those from climate change alone.

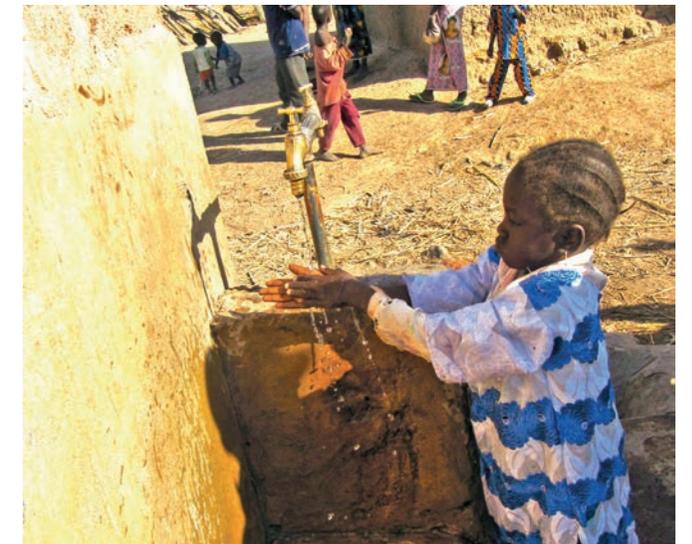
CWI adopted the methodologies of the Community-based Adaptation (CBA) programme, and undertook a Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) analysis to assess climate risks and design climate-resilient projects on water and sanitation. Additional funding from GEF SGP and CBA programmes also help to address climate risks together with CWI activities. In Niger, the CBA programme joined CWI activities and funded 14 projects on climate adaptation in water supply and management.

CWI finds its synergies and linkages with GEF SGP activities to ensure that the water supply and sanitation activities are green and environmentally sustainable. For example, through collaboration with GEF SGP activities, CWI promotes the use of solar energy in water pumping, and integrates water supply activities with reforestation and water resource management.

## *Pro-poor approach*

CWI aims to support poor and marginalized populations to acquire one of the most basic human needs—water supply and sanitation. In particular, it has targeted women and children who have been impacted most adversely by the lack of accessible clean water and sanitation. Under the conditions of water scarcity and the lack of water sanitation services, women and

children are susceptible to water-borne diseases, and often spend a long time to fetch water from water sources far away from their communities, reducing the time for other productive work for women and children's schooling. As a result of initial interventions of CWI, distance to fetch clean water has been dramatically reduced, and their health conditions have improved. Capacity development and sustainability. CWI focuses on building local and community capacity and developing community-based management arrangements. It mobilizes local leadership and community participation in developing local water management institutions. Management committees or groups have been established and continue managing water resources beyond the completion of the projects. Local people are trained for the maintenance and repairing of water facilities, and the management of water resources. CWI recognizes that building the management capacity of the communities ensures the sustainability of impacts and benefits achieved.



# results & impacts

UNDP, through the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), provided direct water and sanitation services to poor communities. SGP is the single largest environmental programme providing direct funding to communities and NGOs only. CWI, anchored within SGP, has taken advantage of almost two decades of community working experiences and networking accumulated through SGP's portfolio. In Mali, Niger and Senegal, more than 600 community projects have been implemented, providing rich practical experiences in working with communities.

| Country | No. of Projects | Grant Amount | Co-financing in Cash | Co-financing in Kind |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mali    | 23              | \$479,996    | \$128,218            | \$108,645            |
| Niger   | 22              | \$465,660    | \$35,039             | \$117,396            |
| Senegal | 21              | \$449,854    | \$96,251             | \$351,679            |
| TOTAL   | 66              | \$1,395,510  | \$206,108            | \$577,720            |

Table 1. Summary Table of CWI Portfolio in Mali, Niger and Senegal

Table 1 shows the portfolio of a total of 66 CWI community projects implemented in Mali, Niger and Senegal, with a total community-level cofinancing of about \$1 million dollars. It should be noted that more than 90% of programmable funding flows to countries, and \$1,395,510 (80% of total funding provided by Government of Luxembourg exclusive UNDP and UNOPS fees) reached the poorest communities in the World.

## Access to Water and Sanitation

Through CWI projects, the distance to fetch water has been dramatically reduced. Community people's distance

to drinking water has been reduced by 3,000 meters in Mali, 7,000 meters in Niger, and 2,000 meters in Senegal. According to a recent survey conducted in the three countries, more than 610,000 people have benefited from the 66 projects supported by CWI. In Senegal alone, more than 700 tons of water provided per day. A significant number (507) of facilities were established through the projects (see table 2).

| Country | Wells | Tanks | Towers | Fountains | Microdams | Meter | Pumps | Latrines  |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Senegal | 25    | 1     | 15     | 24        |           | 12    |       | 366       |
| Mali    | 18    |       | 1      | 4         | 2         |       | 4     | 13        |
| Niger   | 12    | 1     |        | 4         |           |       | 1     | 4         |
| TOTAL   | 55    | 2     | 16     | 32        | 2         | 12    | 5     | 383       |
|         |       |       |        |           |           |       |       | TOTAL 507 |

Table 2. Water Infrastructure Built by CWI

## Livelihood Impact

The Community Water Initiative provides immediate and direct services to the poor and marginalized communities and people who lack access to safe water supply and sanitation services. Women in particular have benefited from sustainable income generating activities, since they can have more time to engage in other economic activities. For example, through the Senegal Niodior CWI project co-funded by the SGP for restoration of mangroves, over 400 women earn over \$5,500/year from shellfish beds.

## Health Impact

Awareness-raising activities have been incorporated into all projects to improve people's awareness of human waste management and water uses. With the establishment of latrines, the cleanliness has improved greatly. Local people reported a decreased rate of diarrhea incidences. Below is an old village woman's account of the health benefit of a CWI project:

*"My current living conditions are the greatest evidence of the change that the CWI sanitation project has made in the village of Mar Sulu: indeed I am 70 years old and it's only now I just have a latrine in my house for my family and myself, which makes us happy, helps make the village cleaner and reduces children diarrheal diseases"*

An old villager from the village of Mar Sulu, District of Fimela, Senegal

## Environmental Impact: Enhanced local capacity to adapt to Climate Change

Water is a key sector in climate adaptation, and its sources and natural recycling are embedded in the overall ecosystem. Water and sanitation projects, without incorporating environmental perspectives, cannot be sustained. SGP, as the implementation party of CWI, has gained tremendous experiences, human capacity and networking working in the environment and climate change area. In Niger, CWI activities have been joined by the UNDP Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) programme to focus in particular on water supply and sanitation activities facing global climate change challenges. CWI activities not only meet direct local water and sanitation needs, but also enhance local people's resilience and capacity to address climate change problems. This will in the long run ensure CWI's sustainability and impact. In 2010, Ms Amy Ndour, president of FELOGIE Niodior (Senegal), beneficiary of a SGP mangrove protection project and a CWI project, won the Equator Initiative Prize in the field of "Special Recognition: Ecosystem-based Adaptation."



## Social Impact

Social cohesion has been strengthened through solidarity and mutual assistance manifested in human investment activities involving all the villagers digging trenches for water and septic latrines. Time savings resulting from reduced distances for fetching water have enabled women to engage in other activities in several areas: health and safety (houses and villages are cleaner), child education, and income generating activities. At least 10 hectares of land have been utilized by women in the production of the rice and vegetables.

In Bolo Fouta, Mali, a micro dam was constructed for water access by local communities. With the construction of this micro dam, conflicts over water access have been reduced and capacity has been developed in the village for the water resources management through the establishment of a management committee.

| Country | No. of water committee established | No. of women-led committees | Total members | No. of people trained | No. of women trained |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Mali    | 69                                 | 36                          | 438           | 483                   | 276                  |
| Niger   | 20                                 | 18                          | 120           | 108                   | 80                   |
| Senegal | 13                                 | 12                          | 60            | 550                   | 510                  |
|         | 102                                | 66                          | 618           | 1141                  | 866                  |

Table 3. Indicators of Enhanced Water Governance Capacity

## Capacity Development

CWI emphasizes the approach to develop local community capacity in managing water and sanitation activities, and ensures that women are empowered through governance structure as well as training activities.



# replication, upscaling and sustainability



## Global Influence

Small-scale community projects will have local and limited impacts if they are not scaled-up or replicated. CWI projects experiences and lessons, through SGP's global networking in 132 countries, have been shared globally at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009. Award winning projects particularly have played a key role in promoting CWI's approach and experiences. There have been six award winning projects in the CWI: one Equator Initiative Award (2010), three Kyoto Grand Prize finalists (2009), and two Wisions Award projects (2008). These Award winning projects have been globally published and disseminated through awarding organizations.

Below is a quotation from an NGO leader:

*"The SGP mangrove restoration project and CWI sanitation project in the Niodior village enabled the empowerment of women of the village. I say my sincere gratitude to these two projects because they enabled me to travel to New York where I was one of five winners of the 2010 Equator Initiative, with a grant of USD 20,000."*

**Amy Ndour**  
President of the FELOGIE Niodior, Fatick Region,  
Senegal

## Replication and Upscaling

In Niger, the CWI experiences have been upscaled by two other programmes: the UNDP's CBA Programme and the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP), with a total funding of \$550,000. In a recent UNDP Water and Adaptation study, CWI projects has been highlighted as very successful models for future replication by the UNDP Water Governance Programme. Furthermore, GEF SGP global funding will encourage the development of water and sanitation activities in small island states in the Pacific and the Caribbeans. CWI experiences and lessons learnt will be replicated in these countries.



## Sustainability

SGP's community-based approach and in-the-country institutional settings have in the past two decades proved extremely successful in ensuring project outcome sustainability. In an independent evaluation conducted in 2007, 80% of SGP projects have had their outcomes sustained over two decades of operation. CWI builds on the strong history and experiences of SGP, and has incorporated the following elements in their project design and implementation to ensure sustainability:

- > Involvement of local governance authorities and actors
- > Participation of beneficiaries in the management of water resources
- > Capacity building of beneficiaries
- > Involvement of women in managing village-public drinking fountains
- > Revenue generation for mechanic maintenance activities
- > Establishment of credit revolving facilities.



# GEF SGP: Effective Delivery Mechanism

CWI is implemented through the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), a well-established infrastructure for communities and a proven effective mechanism in reaching communities. CWI, as implemented by SGP, benefits from the effectiveness and efficiency of the SGP. It has channeled more than \$340 million to communities through more than 14,000 projects around the world. SGP has created direct global environmental benefits, and influenced the formulation of national and local policies on sustainable environmental management. Currently SGP is operational in 126 countries, and will receive more than \$200 million from GEF for community-based environmental projects during 2011-2014. The extensive community-based experience and networking of GEF/SGP have provided an effective delivery mechanism for CWI's activities.

## *Strong country-drivenness*

Each country programme has a volunteer National Steering Committee (NSC) or National Focal Group (NFG), hereafter referred to as NSC, comprising a majority of non-governmental members. The NSC is the final decision-making body of country programme operations, as long as decisions fall within the global Operational Guidelines, which allow adequate innovation and flexibility for specific country contexts. The NSC not only reviews and approves projects, but also provides strategic direction and technical guidance as well as ensures strategic distribution and utilization of SGP knowledge and experiences.

## *Strategic global connectivity*

SGP supports poor and vulnerable communities to implement global environment policies at the local level as well as provide local lessons learned and knowledge to influence global, national and local policy development and implementation. SGP is a primary mechanism for the GEF to sequence its financing by first piloting new methods and project models. Unlike other programs that work mainly with high level government agencies to develop and implement national policies and reforms, SGP opens a unique window for communities and civil society organizations to provide direct inputs and experiences to international policy development and programming processes. In this sense, SGP's communities are not merely individual stand-alone, but in fact active "global" communities.



## *SGP: a fast and effective delivery mechanism*

The flexibility of small-sized projects, together with innovation, lower-risk piloting, and concrete on-the-ground demonstrations, provides a unique SGP mechanism to pilot and test novel techniques, modalities and practices which can be later upscaled through larger projects and interventions. Through its first 18 years, SGP has supported 13,776 community-level projects with over \$300.3 million in GEF funding, leveraging over \$414.2 million in cash and in-kind financing.

In addition to delivering GEF funding, SGP has proved its success to work with various donors meeting different requirements. SGP has successfully leveraged co-financing from a large number of bilateral donor programmes such as SIDA, AusAID, NZAID, and DANIDA. GEF full-sized projects have utilized SGP to implement their community components, e.g. Nile Basin Initiative and the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project. Governments have also tested SGP's effectiveness in some SGP countries (e.g. Pakistan energy-efficient housing project). More and more donors are becoming aware of SGP's effectiveness and use SGP to deliver benefits to poor communities.



# Partnerships

CWI developed and fostered cooperation with numerous partners at global, national, and local levels. These partnerships are key to the success of CWI activities. The following are the main partners that CWI has worked with:

- > Global Environment Facility (GEF): \$3.5 million parallel funding on environmental projects
- > UNDP: in-kind contribution through oversight and technical support by UNDP country offices and SGP staff
- > Community-based Adaptation (CBA) Programme: \$350,000
- > 66 Communities/NGOs: \$1 million
- > H2O Africa Foundation: \$35,000
- > CREPA: in kind technical support and knowledge exchange



## Looking beyond 2012

CWI is highly popular programme in the three countries. Community demands have far exceeded funding availability. A total of more than 1,000 proposals were received in the three countries, but only 66 projects have been selected. In GEF-5 (2011-2014), SGP will promote to use its global funding to support water and sanitation activities in the small island developing states (SIDS), as these can be considered as international waters projects in alignment with GEF policies. SGP will develop climate-resilient water and sanitation activities in the SIDS countries. However, many sub-Saharan countries will only depend on non-GEF funding to continue their water and sanitation activities. SGP will continue its work on water and sanitation and explore future funding possibilities to expand results and impacts of CWI.

The SGP and CWI are committed to helping countries and poor communities to achieve the MDG goals, while addressing climate change challenges. As shown in the previous section, a solid foundation has been laid with good pilot practices and experiences of developing climate resilient activities to meet local communities' water and sanitation needs. Future funding will have great opportunities to upscale and have transformative impact locally, nationally and globally.

The clock is ticking towards 2015 when the MDG Goals are set against. Communities cannot wait one more day to have access to clean water and sanitation. UNDP welcomes opportunities to work with partners to expand the success of CWI and deliver the basic human needs to poor communities.

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