



Annual Report 2020

We would like to thank all our partners and donors who supported and collaborated with us in 2020

Partners

ACEPESA
African Development Bank (AfDB)
AfricaAHEAD
Ask for Water
British Geological Survey (BGS)
Caritas Switzerland (CACH)
EcoPartner
EOS International
International Secretariat for Water (ISW)
Jacana Foundation
Southern Highlands Participatory Organisation (SHIPO)
Terre des Hommes Switzerland (TdH)
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Institute for Hydrological Education (IHE)

Donors

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Swiss Cantons, Cities and Communes:

Lotteriefonds Kanton Schaffhausen, Kanton Thurgau Swisslos; Kanton St. Gallen; Gemeinde Maur

Swiss Foundations:

Drink & Donate, Zurich; Solaqua Foundation; Symphysis Stiftung

Swiss Private companies:

Skat Consulting Ltd.

Bi-lateral Organisations:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Austrian Development Aid (ADA) and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government (ex- DFID).

Swiss and International Research Funds and Universities:

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF); UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC);
UK National Environmental Research Council (NERC); Oxford University

Multi-lateral Organisations:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Bank Group;
The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSSC); WHO – World Health Organization

International NGOs:

WaterAid UK; World Vision

Preface

The year 2020 was marked by important changes for Skat Foundation. On the one hand, the Sufosec Alliance (Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities) consolidated its joint programme and will receive the Programme Contribution from SDC. Skat Foundation as strategic partner of the Sufosec Alliance will also receive SDC funding for its international programme. On the other hand, our long-standing cooperation with Skat Consulting Ltd. was re-defined. Changes in the strategic approaches of both organisations led to the termination of our current cooperation agreement. As a result, as of January 2021, Skat Foundation is an autonomous and independent organisation, taking full responsibility for its staff, partners, and programmes. Extraordinary efforts and resources at all levels were necessary for ensuring a successful transition. However, Skat foundation is optimistic that a new form of collaboration among partners will bring new opportunities for both organisations.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused most face-to-face events and courses to be postponed or cancelled. Despite this situation, Skat Foundation continued its activities around the themes of the Rural Water Supply Network. A three-year phase of the RWSN came to an end with a collection of webinars, e-discussion, online workshops, and publications, which are being disseminated and used by the members of the network worldwide. Through the RWSN, an e-discussion on the implications of COVID-19 for Rural Water Supplies was organised and resources relating to COVID-19 and WASH were made available in the network's website.

2020 represented a year of innovation. A prototype tool for sustainable rural advisory services in Burkina Faso was developed and will be tested in 2021. Additionally, with the support of the GIZ, Skat Foundation started developing digital tools using immersive media to disseminate know-how about renewable energies among young professionals in Afghanistan.

In Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, we went on training and coaching artisans in water supply technologies in order to create better market conditions and at the same time serve rural families with access to water. In partnership with Caritas Switzerland, we also provided an online training on waste management in Bolivia, where participants prepared plans for improving the management of waste in their communities. Additionally, with the support of our partners, we were able to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting prevention and response initiatives in Bolivia and in Tanzania.

Four publications are presented in this report. One of them is a book about Self-supply, which brings together many years of work and research on providing alternative access to water in rural areas.

Skat Foundation continues to be committed to strengthening its partnerships with other organisations and finding synergies and complementarities. We thank all partners and donors for their trust and support.



Dr. Rolf Leutert
Chairman of the Board



Bertha Camacho
Managing Director

Introduction

Skat Foundation is a legally independent not-for-profit organisation supervised by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations.



Training of Drillers in Zimbabwe.
Photo courtesy of AfricaAHEAD

Our **vision** is of a world where individuals and organisations can learn and act in collaborative ways to eradicate poverty and contribute to the development of sustainable, diverse, and inclusive societies.

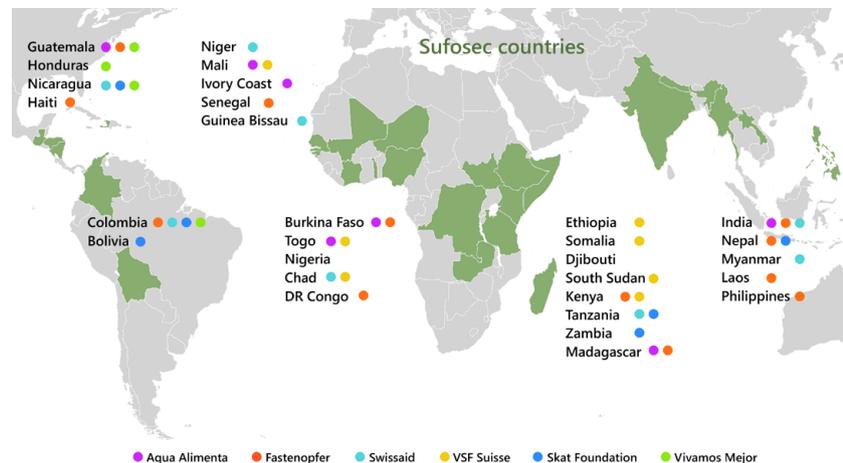
Our **mission** is to be facilitators of change. We enable our partners to learn from each other and to find solutions to the challenges triggered by poverty and climate change by focusing our work on three thematic areas: **Water, Waste Management and Renewable Energy**.

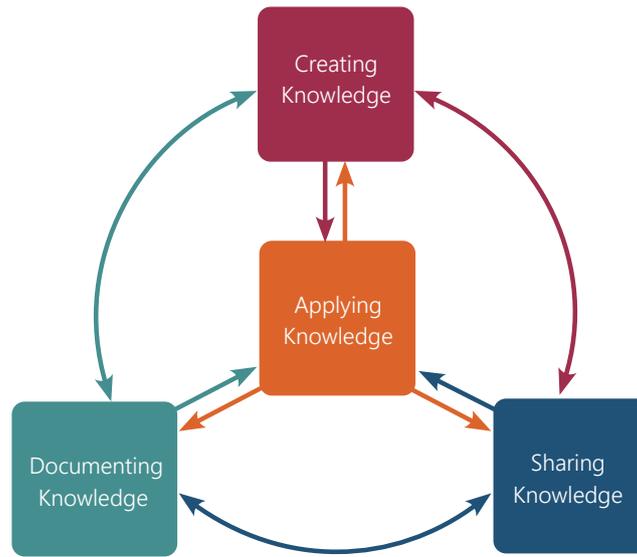
We support our partners to **find and adapt fit-for-purpose technological solutions** that respond to their needs and context. We **strengthen their capacities** by developing and facilitating online and in-person courses, trainings, knowledge-sharing workshops, and events, and through the **development and uptake of knowledge products**.

Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities (Sufosec)

Skat Foundation is member of the Sufosec Alliance since 2019 and together with the other 5 members - Swissaid, Fastenopfer, Vivamos Mejor, VSF-Switzerland and Aqua Alimentata - will receive the SDC Programme Contribution in 2021. As one of the strategic partners of the Sufosec Alliance, Skat Foundation seeks to contribute to the Alliance Programme through its experience in water and waste management projects but also in knowledge sharing, learning and the professionalisation of development actors.

Responding to the fact that at least 690 million people still suffer from hunger, the Sufosec Alliance will implement its programme in partnership with NGOs and CSOs in 27 countries. The Alliance member organisations are to pool resources to create and share knowledge and to explore and use synergies both in Switzerland and in the programme countries. Sufosec will also launch learning projects around the alliance's key learning topics agroecology, local ownership, and the triple nexus.





Strategic Objectives

Skat Foundation supports the **application of existing knowledge** and skills by promoting the creation, sharing and documentation of knowledge.

Creation of Knowledge:

Skat Foundation supports the creation of new knowledge with the purpose of generating new concepts, methodologies and approaches in all its areas of expertise through the piloting of new ideas, technologies and approaches, and by undertaking applied research and action-research.

Sharing Knowledge:

Skat Foundation supports and enables knowledge, experience and expertise-sharing and learning among practitioners, academic researchers, funders, policy-makers and leaders working in the development cooperation through knowledge and innovation Brokering, on- and offline training and through technology transfer.

Documentation of practices and experiences:

In co-operation with other institutions or on behalf of partners, government agencies or donors, Skat Foundation documents good practice and evidence-based lessons learned through the curation and creation of synthesis knowledge products, publications, websites and blogs.

Expected Outcome:

Professionals, practitioners and researchers in development cooperation improve their knowledge and skills and apply them explicitly.

Expected Outcome:

Professionals, practitioners and researchers in development cooperation generate new concepts, methodologies, technologies and approaches in order to improve policy and practice.

Expected Output:

Knowledge, experience and expertise shared among practitioners, academic researchers, funders, policy-makers and leaders working in development cooperation.

Expected Output:

Good practice and evidence-based lessons learned in development cooperation documented by supporting the creation of synthesis knowledge products and publications.

The Rural Water Supply Network – a three-year contribution to information and knowledge in the rural water sector

In these three years, RWSN has proved to be a dynamic, innovative, adaptive, and responsive Global Network.

Dynamic

The webinar series were highly successful. Linked to the ten-year anniversary of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, the topic of the series was “Human Right to Water – achievable by 2030?”. 2020 was the first year of explicitly offering “Sponsored Webinar” packages and co-convening webinars with the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Innovative

The RWSN guideline on empowering women through rural water supply by means of an e-discussion and interactive online workshops and open peer-review brought rural water supply and gender specialists together and will be released in early 2021.

Adaptive

By the end of 2020, a mid-term review of the 2018-2023 strategy was completed. Some elements were simplified and streamlined, Multiple use of Water Services (MUS) was added as a sixth theme, and the context was updated to reflect the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

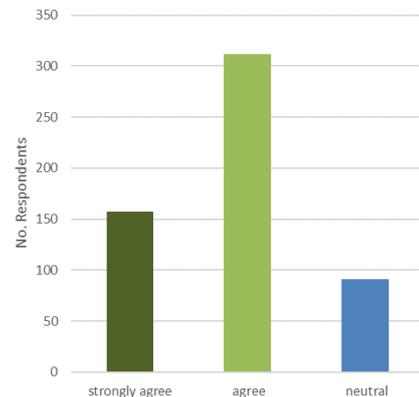
Impactful

RWSN has helped to advance the work in the rural water supply sector through promoting better use of knowledge and improving professionalism.

Results from the period 2018 - 2020

- ▶ RWSN comprises more than 13,000 professionals in 168 countries
- ▶ 72 webinars in three languages:
 - 7,300+ attendees.
 - Average attendance (English)
 - 2015: 62 (112 highest)
 - 2020: 231 (487 highest)
 - 235 Speakers and discussants
 - 43% women
 - 37% from the Global South
 - 18% Young Professionals
- ▶ 30 RWSN publications released, and hundreds of rural water/WASH guidelines, reports and research papers shared:
 - 51,900 document downloads from the RWSN website
- ▶ Young Professionals
 - Online community built from zero to 681 in 91 countries (47% women)
 - 739 mentoring scheme participants
- ▶ Online and face-to-face courses run on drilling professionalisation, self-supply enterprise, solar pumping

Do you think that RWSN has helped to advance your work in the rural water supply sector through promoting better use of knowledge and improving professionalism? (575 responses)



Responsive

COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for Rural Water and WASH professionals

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that access to safe water and improved sanitation is still not enough, without good hygiene behaviour. While a lot of information is available on the Internet, not so much of it is directly relevant for those working in rural areas of low/middle-income countries. In response to this gap, the RWSN compiled a set of resources that can be useful for Rural Water and WASH professionals to better respond to the challenges of the pandemic. These resources were shared in the RWSN Newsletter and in a dedicated page on the Website: [\[Link\]](#).



Trainees well cover. Photo courtesy of SHIPO.

RWSN's response in times of COVID-19

RWSN had to adapt its activities to the COVID-19 pandemic, with no face-to-face events and increased online interactions. RWSN organised online thematic knowledge-sharing and networking activities, including a webinar series and E-Discussions. A three-week e-discussion on COVID-19 and its implications for Rural Water Supply at the Operational Level received contributions by 42 participants. The outcomes of the e-discussion were recorded in a [Summary of RWSN E-discussion Responding to the Current COVID-19 Crisis: Questions, Resources, and Implications for Rural Water Supply at the Operational Level](#).



UPGRO Study Tour. Photo courtesy of Isaiah Espisu.



Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor (UPGro)

Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor (UPGro) was a seven-year international research programme (2013–2020), which was jointly funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It focused on improving the evidence base around groundwater availability and management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For Skat Foundation, this programme was a natural fit because of the close connection between the research and the strengths of the RWSN, which takes a lead on the Sustainable Groundwater Development theme, and is strongest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Skat Foundation, as a knowledge-broker, has been able to use existing tools and links to run webinars, develop a bespoke website, leaflets, banners and other promotional materials, and organise and run face-to-face workshops and events.

Highlighting Results

- The African Minister's Council on Water launched a Pan-Africa Groundwater Programme.
- UPGro work was used by Skat Foundation in the preparation of guidelines on drilling professionalisation for UNICEF and online training courses for UNICEF, UNHCR and WaterAid staff.
- UPGro researchers discovered previously unknown groundwater resources in Kwale County, Kenya, but also identified previously unknown groundwater depletion around Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia.
- The Ministry of Water & Environment in Uganda issued a new directive and guidance on handpump materials and suppliers' response.
- The Kenya Water Act 2016 sets the framework for national scaling up.



UPGRO Study Tour. Photos courtesy of Isaiah Espisu.



UPGRO Study Tour. Photos courtesy of Isaiah Esipisu.

In addition to the communication and knowledge management expertise, the technical expertise in the team of Skat Foundation was used to translate and synthesise the work of the academics so that its content and importance can be understood by a broad audience of practitioners and also by well-defined audiences in governments.

In 2020, the final outputs included a legacy website: [[UPGro](#)] and a short film, which was split into bite-sized junks for use across social media: [[Link](#)].



For the Sustainable Groundwater Development theme it was the culmination of 7 years of the UPGro programme. In 2020, RWSN and partners, led by Skat Foundation, organised a Study Tour and co-convened a stream of sessions with the [African Ministers' Council on Water \(AMCOW\) and their Pan-African Groundwater Programme](#).

Skat Foundation, through RWSN, will carry on maintaining the [UPGro website](#) so that it continues to provide a knowledge portal for African groundwater. Research that is directly relevant to rural water supply will be cross-linked with RWSN platforms and communities.



INNOVATION

Designing people-centred, sustainable rural advisory services for small-scale farmers in Burkina Faso

With the aim of supporting small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to have access to people-centred, inclusive, and scalable rural advisory services, in 2020, Skat Foundation, in collaboration with Skat Consulting, launched a pilot project in Burkina Faso to identify and understand the current challenges of digital rural advisory services. In this pilot phase (2020 – 2021), a practical, easy-to-use tool for extension agents will be developed.

To guarantee that such a tool is useful and user-friendly for the target group, the project has adopted a human-centred approach directly addressing the needs of users (local extension agents, project managers) and of beneficiaries (small-scale farmers) through:

- **A situation analysis** to better understand the needs and common challenges of the target groups through interviews with small-scale farmers, extension agents and their institutions, including farmer cooperatives in Burkina Faso.
- **Benchmarking** by identifying up-to-date available, promising tools and approaches through online meetings with partner organisations.
- **Prototype development** through virtual team workshops with local consultants in Burkina Faso, based on human-centred design thinking models and methods.



First results from 2020 activities

First Prototype Tool for Rural Extension Advisory Services

An initial rough design of functionalities for a one-stop-all mobile application, which intends to link digital tools and in-field extension services as a hybrid model, has been developed. The user-friendly functionalities shall include asynchronous features to allow extension agents to learn about:

- 1) a systematic rural advisory approach and up-to-date extension and agricultural methods,
- 2) participatory and visual methods to reach different, multi-lingual farmers in different social groups,
- 3) improving e-literacy, and
- 4) peer-to-peer learning.

Available promising tools of partners will serve as a basis to develop these functionalities more efficiently and effectively.

In the second year of the pilot phase (2021), the team will further develop the prototype templates and test them in the field together with a selected group of small-scale farmers and extension agents in Burkina Faso.

Participants: 40 (heads of) extension agents, farmer cooperatives and small-scale farmers in Burkina Faso

Small-scale farmers often benefit from advise and technical support from extension agents or farmers' cooperatives.
Photo by Marc Meda

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Knowledge transfer through immersive media: Mobilising students and young professionals of Afghanistan for renewable energies

In Afghanistan, only 28% of the population has access to basic energy services. With this project, with a grant from the GIZ, Skat Foundation aims at raising awareness and knowledge of students and young professionals in Afghanistan of the tremendous potential that renewable energy (RE) sources have in clean, stable and climate-friendly electrification. By using immersive media to disseminate know-how about renewable energies, the project will reach young generations in a country that has been affected not only by the COVID-19 pandemic but also by many years of conflict.

The project started in 2020 with the development of five digital applications accessible as an interactive website, as well as an offline solution. These applications have been developed with the participation through online workshops of the GIZ “Energy Sector Improvement Programme Afghanistan” staff together with Afghan Renewable Energy professionals and experts.

In 2021, the focus will be on implementing the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme with at least 20 Afghan Renewable Energy experts “RE Scouts”, who will act as multipliers by applying the digital tools in their own universities and other training courses. At the end of the project, around 200 young professionals (20% women) from academia and the private sector in Afghanistan will be better equipped to respond to the challenges of the Afghan energy sector, by receiving specialised training based on immersive media applications.

Products

The five digital applications are

- “Solar Home System” in Augmented Reality (AR)
- A web-based and interactive browser-tool for “Solar Cooling”
- A web-based and interactive browser-tool for “Micro Hydropower (MHP)”
- A web-based and interactive browser-tool for “Mini-Grids”
- A desktop game about “RE integration into the national grid”



Model of immersive media application set up in Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of die wegmeister.



Self-supply: from niche to mainstream, but still a long way to go

The beginning

The topic of water supply has been important for Skat Foundation since its very beginnings. Within the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN), a new topic was created in 2005, focusing on the needs of the individual households. The topic was referred to as “Self-supply”, to emphasise the fact that most households in dispersed settlements only have one way to obtain higher levels of service provision than surface water: by investing themselves. These incremental upgrades in many countries outpace public, communal and international funds in the water sector, but for a long time, they have been overlooked by most stakeholders in the sector.

From projects to a programme

To address this challenge, Skat Foundation developed an international programme consisting of two main pillars. One is to build evidence on the ground through small-scale projects in the three countries of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in South Saharan Africa and in Nicaragua, while the other is to raise awareness on the topic with key players in the sector.

By supporting local actors to train and coach artisans and to create better market conditions for them to thrive, Skat Foundation is helping thousands of people every year to not only upgrade their water service levels but also to develop a model that can be replicated and scaled by others – including government entities. Grassroot initiatives have been supported in several countries over the past years.

In 2020, and with the financial support of Drink and Donate, additional artisans were trained in manual drilling, pump construction and maintenance, as well as in other technologies related to water in the following three countries.



Country	Number of artisans trained and coached	Number of water points installed by these artisans	Number of people served by the water points installed
Tanzania	26	110	3,100
Zambia	24	68	1,850
Zimbabwe	15	45	1,400
Total	65	223	6,350

Due to the **COVID-19** pandemic, different prevention measures were taken during the trainings. As recommended by Medical Officers, cloth cotton masks were provided, and regular handwashing was promoted. Clean water and soap were present outside and inside the premises.

Training of Drillers in Tanzania.
Photo courtesy of Shipo.

Pushing the Theme out of its niche into mainstream

To create more awareness about the topic of Self-supply, Skat Foundation is implementing a comprehensive communication strategy, including the development of a Community of Practice on this topic (implemented as a Theme under the umbrella of the RWSN). Within this community, the collection of data and creation of evidence as well as the use of high-profile events for showcasing evidence are part of the activities.

Also in 2020, a webinar was launched on the topic of household investments in the water sector. With speakers from the WHO and the OECD and a presentation focusing on Dr Kerstin Danert's research on this topic, the session clearly illustrated the importance and size of household investment in the water sector. At the same time, stakeholders are increasingly aware of how important supporting and facilitating these investments is to generate a more positive impact. Skat Foundation will keep promoting this discussion at international level by bringing the topic to events like the Stockholm World Water Week 2021.

Self-supply of water: a practical response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Self-supply water projects in Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe also responded to the challenges of COVID-19 by supporting local health posts in establishing handwashing facilities, speeding up local production of soap, installing water points at health care facilities, running mass media campaigns and developing training materials specifically for COVID-19. In the SMART Center in Tanzania, apart from the technical training on drilling and rope pump fabrication, the trainees also had a chance to learn to produce two advanced "foot press" handwashing facilities, as a response to the COVID-19 situation.

In Nicaragua, project partners supported scaling up supply chains for chlorine products, installing in-line chlorinators at schools, health posts and houses in some rural communities.



Participants of the Course. Photo courtesy of SHIPO.



Self-supply in Zambia. Photo courtesy of Jacana Foundation.



Water is Life – Training and Capacity Building of Professionals

Bolivia

Water management is still a challenge in Bolivia, especially in rural areas. The country lacks an integrated approach to water management and faces an absence of institutional and legal frameworks to regulate water use. Additionally, the management of Solid Waste is still a problem in the communities. Capacity building of experts and staff at the community level is therefore essential to ensure sustainable water resource management, sanitation and environmental protection in the communities.

With the aim of strengthening the capacities of local organisations and institutions in water resources management, O&M of water systems and in environmental protection, in 2020, and with the financial contribution of Swisslos St. Gallen, Skat Foundation and Caritas Switzerland implemented the component “Training and Capacity Building of Professionals” of the programme ‘Water is Life’, which is being carried out by Caritas Switzerland in five municipalities of the Department of La Paz, Bolivia.

Project “Agua es Vida” - Bolivia. Photo courtesy of Caritas Switzerland - Bolivia.



Activities

The project focused on two main activities:

- Training workshops on water source protection and the administration, operation, and maintenance of drinking water systems carried out by the partners of Caritas Switzerland partners in Bolivia
- Online training on “Sustainable management of solid waste” for staff members of various partner organisations and institutions carried out by Skat Foundation

With the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to clean water in compliance with hygiene standards became an urgent matter in the communities. Local actors were required to be prepared to provide effective prevention measures as well as response to lockdown measures in the communities. The project responded quickly to the unexpected situation, and local authorities were also trained to support the local population with prevention measures.

Results of the Training workshops on water source protection and in the administration, operation and maintenance of drinking water systems

- 269 people were trained. All trainings were carried out taking into consideration bio-security measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the communities.
- The 15 technical experts of the “Local Sanitation and Environment Units” became key actors in supporting and monitoring the good functioning of the Water Committees in the communities, where they were able to replicate the training.
- New “Local Sanitation and Environment Units” were established in three new municipalities of the Department of La Paz.

Together with the technical experts of the Local Sanitation and Environment Units of three municipalities, the project staff presented a law proposal for the protection of water sources to the municipal authorities for review, analysis and approval. The municipal authorities of Sapahaqui, Luribay and Mocomochi signed an agreement to undergo a consultation process of this Law Proposal to be approved in 2021.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Water is Life - Online training “Sustainable management of solid waste”

The experience of Caritas Switzerland and its partners in Bolivia revealed the need to improve practices in solid waste management. Burning waste in the open spaces or dumping it in public areas such as parks, streets or riverbanks cause the contamination of water, soil and ecosystems in general, as well as public health problems.

To address this problem, the main objective of the course was to strengthen the capacities of the 21 participants in integrated and sustainable management of solid waste in the municipalities of Sapahaqui, Coroico, Umala, El Alto, Patacamaya, Mocomoco and La Paz.

The distinctive feature of this training is the systemic approach applied to waste management. This approach is expected to enable decision-makers to gain a holistic understanding of the situation and learn to plan sustainable solutions in their municipalities.

Project “Agua es Vida” - Bolivia. Photos courtesy of Caritas Switzerland - Bolivia.



Results

As a result of the course, **participants under the guidance of the Trainer developed baselines for their municipalities and a tangible roadmap that will help them address the identified problems in the future.**

In addition, participants learned in depth about the national waste management law as well as other official planning documents at the departmental or regional levels that include budgets for actions at the municipal level.

Officials from municipalities had the opportunity to highlight the most important shortcomings in terms of management and planning as well as the options for improvement in the actions that have already been undertaken by their municipalities.

Content of the course:

Content adaptation based on a survey conducted with participants. This survey allowed to prepare context-specific content and to validate the current and required level of knowledge among participants.

3 real-time virtual modules of 3 hours each.

Inspiration in solutions arising from the Bolivian and Latin American context: some recycling and composting, circular economy and environmental education programmes were presented. With the same objective in mind, some of the selective collection and treatment programmes for various materials and products in Switzerland were shared.

2 practical activities between modules aiming at going deep into the concepts studied and at generating a preliminary baseline of the context.

“The knowledge shared allowed me to identify problems in Integrated Solid Waste Management in my Municipality. By identifying its deficiencies in the operational and administrative area, which I can now implement a strategy of source separation of waste which would bring several benefits to my community. I also understood the importance of the participation of operators and recyclers, as this would allow for a more sustainable waste management.”

Participant from one municipality

YOUTH

Swiss Junior Water Prize – First insights into microplastic pollution in the alpine waters of the Upper Engadine

The Swiss Junior Water Prize (Swiss-JWP) is awarded to Swiss students between 15 and 20 years of age who have conducted projects related to water and sanitation with proven environmental, scientific, social or technological significance. The award is jointly granted by the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) and the Swiss Toilet Organisation (STO) and aims to be an incentive for young students to grow an interest in water and sustainability issues and create interaction opportunities between promising young talents and professionals in the Swiss water sector.

The Swiss-JWP 2020 was granted to Anna Sidonia Marugg, who investigated the occurrence of microplastics in surface waters of the Upper Engadine, Switzerland. Her motivation was to raise awareness and contribute to the prevention of plastic pollution in Swiss alpine waters. Skat Foundation, together with Skat Consulting Ltd., sponsored the Swiss-JWP and prepared Anna Sidonia Marugg for her participation as Swiss representative in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). A hybrid meeting was organised and hosted by Skat, in which the student presented her project to a panel of water experts who provided valuable feedback and advice for improvement.

As part of her research, Anna Sidonia Marugg constructed a wooden, low-cost, light and easily transportable LADI-trawl for plastic sampling in alpine waters. As a result of her research, 22 types of plastics were identified in the 8 sampling locations, indicating that remote regions and sparsely populated areas are also affected by aquatic microplastic pollution.

Anna Sidonia Marugg represented Switzerland in the SJWP 2020, which was attended by 44 finalists from 29 countries. She was also invited to become Youth Ambassador of the first Swiss Water and Climate Forum 2021.

“The winning project of the Swiss-JWP 2020 was the very first study to generate quantitative and qualitative information on aquatic microplastic pollution in the alpine region of the Upper Engadine. Thanks to the creative and innovative approach of the project, and its sound scientific execution, the study will be integrated into a scientific publication”.

Karla Schlie – Swiss Toilet Association



Anna Sidonia Marugg. Photo courtesy of Karla Schlie.



Unlocking the potential of youth through mentoring: the RWSN Mentoring Programme

Safeguarding water resources and providing sustainable water and sanitation services for all depends on attracting young talent, potential innovators, inspiring visionaries and transformational leaders to the water sector.

Mentoring is a way to ignite the spark. Bringing about transformational change between generations has the potential to inspire successful young entrepreneurs by learning from role models working as researchers and practitioners in the water sector around the world.

In 2020, and for the second year in a row, RWSN launched its mentoring scheme, aimed at matching young professionals under the age of 35 with more senior professionals in the water sector. Matchmaking was done by the RWSN Secretariat based on language, interests and country. With this project, RWSN is filling a gap not just in the rural water sector but in the water/ environmental sector and the broader development sector.

Results

In May 2020, a webinar was organised in English and French for participants of the mentoring programme to help foster discussions around how to make the most of mentoring for professional development in the water sector. 234 participants attended the webinar. As a result, several mentees took the initiative to start national E-mail discussions dedicated to participants of the RWSN mentoring programme. Additionally, several mentees took the initiative to start national group discussions dedicated to participants of the RWSN mentoring programme, in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, DRC/ Congo, Zambia and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, the online group has spun off into a Telegram chat for rural water professionals more broadly.

Many of the women who participated in the Webinar identified the need to provide more specific mentoring to women of all ages in the water sector.

Thanks to the mentoring programme, participants were able to:

- transition from studies to employment in the water sector
- develop companies of their own
- develop sector knowledge: WASH/Sanitation/Climate adaptation/ Freshwater habitat/water resource management/ Environmental Impact Assessments/Emergency sector
- improve writing and communication, interview, leadership/ management skills
- develop their personal network

Results

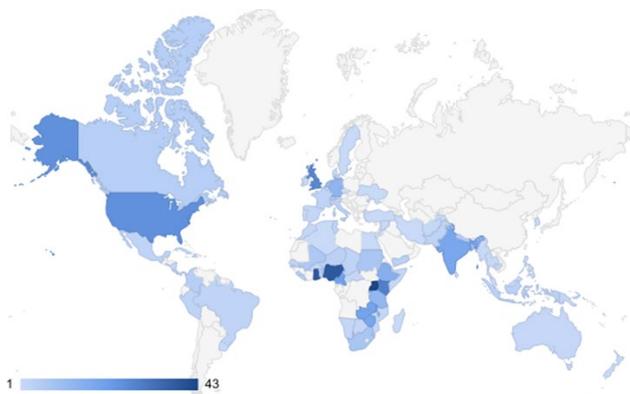
700 registered participants

339 matches

94 countries

62% of participants from Sub-Saharan Africa

28% women participants (36% as mentees and 21% as mentors)



Number of participants in the RWSN mentoring programme per country



Benson Kandeh, winner of the RWSN competition for YP to attend SIWI (2019) with Kenneth Alfaro from Red de Jovenes para el Agua CentroAmerica (RWSN Member Org) Photo: Meleesa Naughton

Skat Foundation's actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Humanitarian aid for people vulnerable to the coronavirus pandemic in Bolivia

The coronavirus pandemic hit Bolivia in March 2020. The Bolivian government took several measures based on the experience of other countries, including the declaration of a national health emergency, which was extended and tightened beyond April 2020. These measures have slowed down the country's economy, mainly affecting people working in the informal sector and those who live in extreme poverty. Because of this critical situation, the most vulnerable population in three Andean regions in Bolivia needed accommodation and food, as well as access to health facilities for people suffering from COVID-19. Also, prevention and COVID-19-related information sessions were necessary to avoid the further spread of the disease.

Skat Foundation, with the financial support of Canton Schaffhausen, Canton Thurgau and the Commune Maur, made a contribution to the humanitarian support project prepared by Caritas Switzerland and its partners in Bolivia. The aim of this project was to provide humanitarian aid, prevention and protection measures against the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic to the most vulnerable population living in the highlands of La Paz.

Results:

- A total of 3,369 people (665 families) from 10 municipalities in the Department of La Paz received food supplies and hygiene kits to cope with the effects of lock-down measures in their communities. The project targeted the most vulnerable people (elderly and single-headed households) as well as people living in homeless shelters through the city council of El Alto.
- Around 700 people, including local authorities and community leaders, received information and education materials about the dangers of the corona virus and learned about preventive and protective measures, such as the importance of handwashing and the use of masks in personal interactions. Participants were encouraged to disseminate further information materials in their communities taking into consideration bio-security measures and targeting vulnerable population groups. Additionally, a prevention campaign was launched via radio and social media.



Recipients of food supplies and hygiene kits in the highlands of La Paz - Bolivia. Photo courtesy of Caritas Switzerland - Bolivia.



Dealing with complexity in research for development: Experience capitalisation (CapEx) in the r4d programme

The Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme) is a joint funding scheme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The r4d programme is organised around five thematic modules: employment, ecosystems, food security, social conflicts, and public health, and one thematically open module. The 57 projects funded in the r4d programme focus on reducing poverty and global risks as well as on contributing to global sustainable development [[Link](#)].

During the period from 2018 to 2022, the r4d programme has been conducting a synthesis process that facilitates learning beyond individual projects. One of the synthesis streams is the capitalisation of experiences in dealing with complexity (CapEx).

Since May 2020, Skat Foundation has been mandated to document the r4d programme synthesis stream -CapEx, under the leadership of the project co-leaders: Dr. Manuel Flury and Dr. Carmenza Robledo.

This mandate is composed of four sequential phases, as well as a cross-cutting dissemination phase:

- Phase 1: Preparation of learning cases.
- Phase 2: Regional workshops aimed at sharing experiences from the learning cases and eliciting promising practices, methods and tools for dealing with complexity in research for development. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional workshops in Phase 2 will be held online.
- Phase 3: Validation of the results from regional capitalisation workshops.
- Phase 4: Dissemination of the products of the CapEx to a wide community; and After Action Review.

The main activities in 2020 were related to Phase 1, namely the selection of 5 projects of the r4d programme to elicit and document ways of dealing with complexity in their projects: Woody Weeds, HIA4SD, One Health Guatemala, FATE and FoodSAF.

A series of online workshops and resulted in 5 Learning Cases for each of the projects. In parallel, the CapEx team also created an online Community of Practice for researchers and practitioners in the r4d programme. This CoP is a space to share updates and encourage exchange across r4d projects on the topic of complexity in research for development.

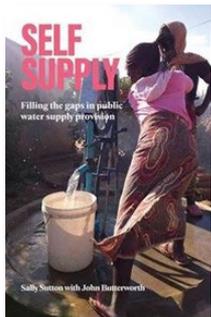


CapEx Learning Case Publication.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Carmenza Robledo

There is increasing recognition that complexity-aware projects and interventions are essential for sustainability transformations. However, dealing with complexity is challenging because:

- capacities and competences needed for tackling complex problems are distributed across disciplines and stakeholders acting at different scales,
- projects and interventions dealing with complexity need flexibility to adapt to and use emerging insights, and
- complex problems can involve conflicting goals.

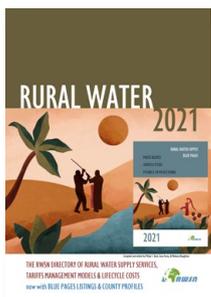
Publications:



Self-Supply Book – Filling the gaps in public water supply provision

The main authors are: Dr. Sally Sutton and Dr. John Butterworth. This is the first book on the topic of Self-supply. It was prepared in 2019 and 2020 and published in 2021. It is now available for download and purchase at the bookshop of Practical Action [[Link](#)].

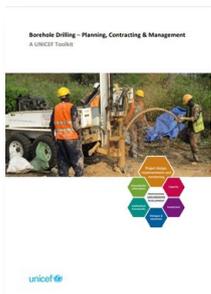
2020 was dedicated to support the preparation of the first book on Self-supply. Skat Foundation contributed with a case study on rainwater harvesting in Thailand and has been actively involved in the preparation of another chapter on training and coaching artisans for drilling and pump construction in Tanzania. Skat Foundation was also tasked by IRC to support the dissemination of the book, which will include an international launch event, and a series of blogs and webinars.



Rural Water 2021 and Blue Pages

The second edition of the RWSN Directory of rural water supply services, tariffs, management models and lifecycle costs and the first edition of the RWSN Blue Pages (in English and French) are available online [[Link](#)].

The RWSN Directory of Rural Water Supply Services, Tariffs, Management Models, and Lifecycle Costs was first published in 2019. The RWSN Secretariat plans to make this a regular publication and, in 2020, a business directory (the Blue Pages) was added at the back of this publication. The RWSN Blue Pages is an initiative to list rural water supply service providers, be they vendors and service companies, or drilling, engineering, or consulting services. The RWSN Blue Pages is composed of basic listings (free) and paid adverts (1/4 page, 1/2 page and full page) for rural WASH service providers (individuals and companies).



Borehole Drilling – Planning, Contracting & Management: A UNICEF Toolkit now available in French

A UNICEF Toolkit has been developed to bring uniformity to practices and to guide UNICEF staff involved in borehole procurement and the supply of equipment, as well as contracting consultancy services for borehole siting and supervision. The document is based on a review of good practices within UNICEF, lessons from previous projects; the principles in the RWSN Code of Practice for Cost Effective Boreholes and the UNICEF Guidance Note on Professional Water Well Drilling.

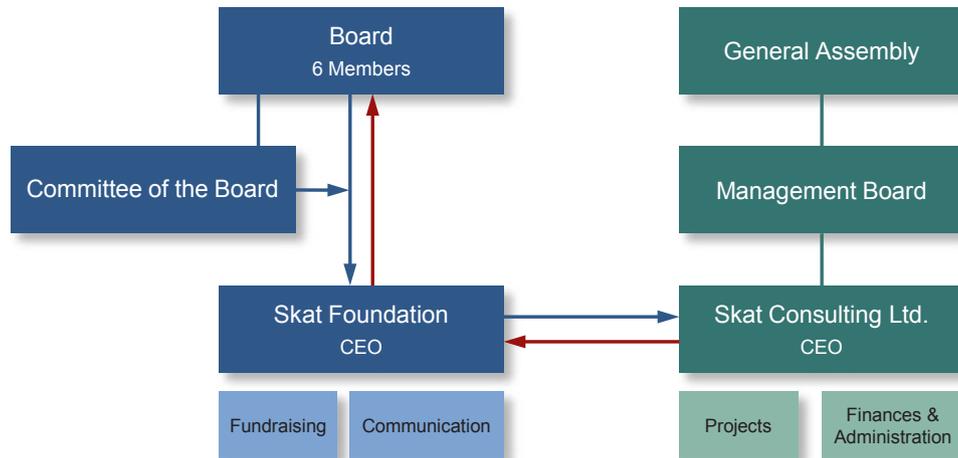
You can download the Toolkit in French and English [[Link](#)].



Responding to the Current COVID-19 Crisis: Questions, Resources, and Implications for Rural Water Supply at the Operational Level

From 6 to 26 April 2020, RWSN and the Water Institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, ran an e-discussion on Responding to the Current COVID-19 Crisis: Questions, Resources, and Implications for Rural Water Supply at the Operational Level. This document summarises the contributions by 42 participants received during this e-discussion. The spread of COVID-19 is a global pandemic with global consequences. Measures to mitigate its effects, such as lockdowns and containment strategies, have profound implications for WASH service delivery in rural and urban settings [[Link](#)].

Management Bodies



Board

- Rolf Leutert, Chairman of the Board, Neuhausen
- Xaver Edelmann, former Director EMPA St. Gallen
- Frank Wiederkehr, Deputy CEO Skat Consulting Ltd.
- Brigitte Häberli-Koller, Member of the Council of States, Bichelsee TG
- Esther Haldimann, Director Advisory Services / Senior Advisor Sustainable agriculture, Helvetas, Zurich
- Georg von Krogh, Professor and Chair of Strategic Management and Innovations, ETH Zurich

Managing Director

- Bertha Camacho

External Auditor (Accounts)

- Treviso Revisions AG

In 2020 Skat Foundation commissioned Skat Consulting Ltd. with the implementation of projects and with the administration of the Foundation.

Finances

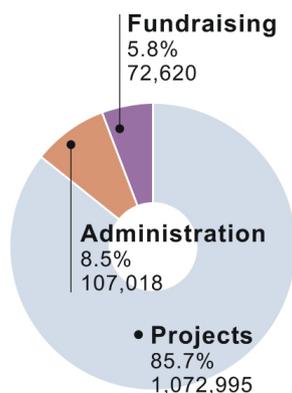
Balance Sheet as of 31.12.2020

Description	(CHF) 2020	(CHF) 2019
Assets		
Cash and marketable securities	2,191,039	957,704
Receivables third parties	0	27,779
Receivables related organisations	258,455	0
Receivables government	6,766	19,599
Work in progress	124,179	304,640
Total current assets	2,580,439	1,309,721
Fixed assets	2	2
Total non-current assets	2	2
Total assets	2,580,441	1,309,723
Liabilities		
Liabilities third parties	18,044	58,697
Liabilities from prepayments	1,229,783	123,658
Liabilities to associated organizations	644,276	560,082
Deferred income/accrued charges	7,000	4,445
Covid Credit	180,000	0
Total liabilities	2,079,103	746,881
Restricted funds	348,616	339,643
Total restricted funds	348,616	339,643
Free capital	215,000	215,613
Internally generated unrestricted operating funds	8,198	7,586
Loss	-70,476	0
Total capital of the organisation	152,722	223,198
Total liabilities	2,580,441	1,309,723

In 2020, various projects were delayed or postpone due to the COVID19 pandemic. This led to significantly lower income and to lower project expenses, whereby certain fixed costs were inevitable. Additionally, expected donations were cancelled and the process of separation from Skat Consulting AG led to additional costs. The total capital of the organisation changed from CHF 223,198 to CHF 152,722.19.

Profit & Loss Account from 1.1.2020 – 31.12.2020

Description	(CHF) 2020	(CHF) 2019
Income		
Earmarked Donations	344,333	363,509
Donations without earmarking	100,000	35,000
Income from fundraising	444,333	398,509
Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN 2018 - 2020)	217,494	350,000
RWSN related Projects	165,712	207,785
UNEP Solar Chill	144,131	915,619
Knowledge Management Projects	96,642	1,000
Income from services rendered	623,980	1,474,403
Operating revenue	1,068,312	1,872,913
Expenses		
Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN 2018 - 2020)	-184,826	-238,644
UNEP Solar Chill	-103,893	-841,727
RWSN related Projects	-621,418	-444,618
Knowledge Management and other related Projects	-162,857	-95,465
Total direct project expenditures	-1,072,995	-1,620,454
Fundraising and general advertising expenses	-72,620	-108,658
Administration	-107,019	-131,204
Expenses for services rendered	-1,252,634	-1,860,316
Operating surplus	-184,322	12,596
Financial result	-1,182	8,249
Extraordinary result	124,000	-103
Net surplus for the year	-61,504	20,743
Change in fund capital	-8,973	-13,157
Net surplus / deficit for the year after allocations	-70,476	7,586
Withdrawals / Allocations		
Free capital	-70,476	7,586



The full report of the Auditor is also available for download on our Website [\[Link\]](#)

CONTACT

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Web: www.skat-foundation.ch

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Bank accounts: St. Galler Kantonalbank, CH-9001 St. Gallen, Switzerland

SWIFT / BIC Code: KBSGCH22

CHF IBAN: CH81 0078 1608 6366 8200 0

Euro IBAN: CH27 0078 1608 6366 8200 2

US-Dollar IBAN: CH54 0078 1608 6366 8200 1

IMPRINT

Skat Foundation Annual Report 2020

Layout and photographs: Skat / Skat Foundation

St. Gallen, May 2021