What Is the SWIFT Consortium?

Since 2014, the Sustainable WASH In Fragile Contexts (SWIFT) Consortium has been working to provide access to water and sanitation and to encourage the adoption of basic hygiene practices in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Kenya.

**Water**  
SWIFT is implementing activities ranging from the construction and rehabilitation of gravity systems, the drilling of boreholes and the installation of solar pump systems, the rehabilitation of water sources and the construction of surface wells, and the empowerment of management committees and of “Associations des usagers d’Eau Potable” (ASUREP).

**Sanitation**  
SWIFT is taking a range of approaches to sanitation, including implementing the ‘Healthy Villages and Schools’ approach (VEA) in rural and semi-urban areas in DRC, and in Kenya rolling out “Community-Led Total Sanitation” and installing “Fresh Life Toilets” in the informal settlements of Nairobi.

**Hygiène**  
SWIFT works to promote better hygiene behaviours and/or practices through community relays, community outreach units or health clubs, as well as through collaboration with theatre groups and radio stations to disseminate as many public health messages as possible.

Various partners implement SWIFT’s actions in both target countries, in collaboration with governments as well as water providers, including utilities. The consortium is led by Oxfam, and includes Tearfund and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) as global members.
Payment by Results

The SWIFT programme is funded by UK aid from the UK government under a Payment by Results (PbR) contract. Instead of a grant, payment is tied to output and outcome targets that were identified and agreed by SWIFT’s partners and DFID. The work undertaken to achieve these targets is monitored, verified and evaluated on DFID’s behalf by a third-party organisation: the e-Pact consortium.

SWIFT had to deliver the results agreed by its March 2016 deadline in order to receive payment for the first part of the programme. For the second part, results will have to be delivered by December 2018. Results must also be sustainable if the consortium is to receive payment in full. After the implementation deadline, the consortium has two years to monitor projects and maintain links with local communities and governments to ensure sustainability. Non-sustainability will result in reduced payment.

Long-term WASH Infrastructures in fragile contexts

SWIFT aims to bridge the gap between short-term emergency responses and longer-term development programmes.

Indeed, few fragile states have reached their millennium development goals for water and sanitation. When the context is fragile, the provision of WASH services presents specific challenges.

The SWIFT consortium is working in North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema Province in eastern DRC, and in Wajir, Marsabit and Turkana in northern Kenya, two regions that have experienced a resurgence of violence.

To ensure the sustainability of its activities, SWIFT works to build capacity with local implementing partners, local and national governments, communities and private sector companies in the WASH sector, including public sector companies.

Results

Since 2014, the SWIFT consortium has already helped nearly 850,000 people in DRC and Kenya. In March 2017, SWIFT initiated a second phase of the DRC programme targeting more than 700,000 people to be reached by December 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRC 2014-2018</th>
<th>People with improved water supply</th>
<th>People with improved sanitation</th>
<th>People reached with hygiene promotion messages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>631 203</td>
<td>368 550</td>
<td>681 393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached by the end of the Output phase</td>
<td>647 067</td>
<td>428 914</td>
<td>697 257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached by the end of the programme</td>
<td>858 973</td>
<td>698 740</td>
<td>718 969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The highlight of the SWIFT programme: sanitation in semi-urban contexts

In DRC, the SWIFT team had to adapt their sanitation approach to the semi-urban context. Indeed, in the East of the country, a large part of the population that benefited from the SWIFT programme lives in what are called "semi-urban environments". This designation refers to settlements of more than 5,000 people, urbanized to a certain extent, that are not officially recognized as cities and whose governance capacities are not sufficient to ensure sustainable water, hygiene and sanitation services.

Unlike rural areas (villages), where the SWIFT programme is implemented through the standardized ‘Healthy Villages and Schools’ approach, in semi-urban environments, which can be very diverse, the programme had to be adapted to suit different contexts.

With the ‘Healthy Villages and Schools’ approach, the step-by-step process of villages supported by the DRC government adopted by SWIFT, the villages are mobilized to build latrines and benefit from technical support. In rural areas where strong solidarity exists within the community and where families have access to local materials, this approach works well. However, Oxfam's partners have noticed that it does not always work with the more individualistic lifestyle of families living in semi-urban environments.

In Kanyabayonga, for example, in North Kivu, Oxfam's partner CEPROSSAN noticed that households did not build the superstructures of their latrines. In this region, building requires different materials and techniques and families there would not or could not provide the necessary investment. The SWIFT programme had to take into account the challenges and opportunities encountered in this type of settlement, using context-specific communication methods and techniques with the involvement of local authorities and leaders.

For water structures, the approach that has been used is that of the ASUREP model (Associations des usagers d’Eau Potable) in semi-urban areas or for the management of large water supply systems. It is a hybrid model combining community and private management, which seeks to formalize and professionalize existing community management organisations, and which requires water user associations to have at both legal and institutional representation.

In Sake, for example, the ASUREP set up by SWIFT has demonstrated to the community the interest of paying for quality water that is professionally managed. The ASUREP and its paid staff ensure proper management and maintenance of the water works. The success is such that new standpipes and new collection pipes were installed with the revenues generated.

Pasteur Muhima Kaviri, one of the water point managers of the Sake ASUREP, oversees the opening times of his water point.
In ten years, there will still be a sustainable system. All the faucets will work, and the population will still benefit from this water system.

Juma Idi, plumber in Katungulu (DRC), trained by SWIFT, where the Consortium set up a water system.

I have eight children and I would always bring them to the clinic because they had diarrhoea. Now I don’t need to anymore, we all feel better.

Faila Angelani, Katungulu (DRC) resident

Thanks to club meetings and Sunday trainings, the community contracts fewer and fewer illnesses.

Mwajuma Kiza, member of the Katchungwe community health club (DRC)

SWIFT provided us with a lot of information and training. For example, we have learned how to inform and mobilize others. And we also learned a lot about hygiene. We follow the participation of the inhabitants and deal with any problem that may arise.

Pasteur Jean Kambale, member of the Soya management comitee (DRC)

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