

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE ACTIONS



To better meet the WaSH needs of populations affected by a crisis, the answer must be broken down from the emergency to reconstruction by integrating elements of a sustainable response. As crises are very rarely linear, the contiguuum approach incorporates the coexistence of long and short-term activities as well as geographical specificities into SI's projects.

For 30 years, SI has worked in the field among the populations most vulnerable to waterborne diseases. SI's activities contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In 15 countries where SI is currently engaged, our local and international teams are recognized for their professionalism, as well as the quality of their technical and social expertise, which they adapt to each situation.

SI utilizes a quality method according to a set of guidelines and seeks to implement a genuine quality approach to humanitarian projects. This quality approach aims to accredit our actions and establish a trusting relationship with our beneficiaries, donors and partners.

This quality approach includes:

- The assessment and identification of different kinds of vulnerabilities (ex. geographical, disabilities, gender, age, poverty) through community mapping and profiling;
- A participative approach;
- The Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM);
- Monitoring, quality of the programs and Institutional Knowledge Building (IKB);
- Value for Money.

During operations, our programs are also checked and monitored at various levels:

- Technical verification by our head office (validation of proposed solutions);
- Health studies among beneficiary populations and satisfaction surveys;
- Internal and external audits (administrative and operational);
- Compliance with 'standards' outlined in national and international intervention procedures.

Moreover SI puts in place field monitoring at different levels including water testing and the use of mobile collection data through Kobo technology.

High quality is also reached with severe selection of contractors who have to provide on-time quality results and be accountable and transparent towards beneficiaries, donors, SI and its values.

Furthermore, SI has an extend network of experienced WaSH consultants and patronages of competences with big international companies and foundations as Veolia Foundation and Aquassistance.

The logistic capacity of SI allows its access and intervention also in fragile states characterized by weak livelihood, insecurity and unpredictable migration patterns.

Also in such specific contexts, SI seeks to implement innovative, low-cost solutions able to be replicated at scale with a mass approach.

ACTION CORE

REDUCE HEALTH RISKS BY MEETING VITAL NEEDS OF ENDANGERED COMMUNITIES

SI sets up activities which aim to limit the spread of waterborne diseases including the most neglected ones as trachoma and others context-specific ones. Following a natural disaster or population displacement, the lack of drinking water and precarious sanitary conditions, sometimes aggravated by overpopulation, creates significant risks to the health and the survival of these populations. To reduce this risk as much as possible, or to respond to potential epidemic outbreaks, SI implements drinking water supply programs, sanitation activities, and raises awareness among populations of the importance of applying appropriate hygiene rules for an emergency situation.

Emergency humanitarian action aims to promote short term access to drinking water and sanitation to protect the health of people affected by a crisis quickly and efficiently, and contribute to their dignity.

Typical activities implemented by SI are:

- Mass distribution of filters, hygiene kits...
- Mass distribution of water (water trucking and boating)
- Emergency water treatment stations (production, distribution to large populations)
- Rehabilitation (Construction) of infrastructure
- Emergency sanitation (defecation fields, community latrines for large populations)
- Emergency waste management and vector control
- Short term mass hygiene awareness raising
- Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) in emergency

Moreover Cash transfer programs (CTP) are increasingly used to meet the needs of the populations affected by crises. When markets are operational, CTPs effectively replace in-kind aid. They are a relevant tool to meet multiple needs - food, shelter, education, health but also water, sanitation and hygiene - of a large population while respecting the dignity of beneficiaries through the free choice of their priorities and supporting the local economy.

Typical activities implemented by SI are:

- Vouchers for water
- Cash for latrine (ex. pro-poor or pro-disabled incentives)
- Cash distribution
- Cash transfer (bank card)



INCREASE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND GROUPS TO SANITATION RISKS

After a crisis, affected populations sometimes struggle to recover their level of access to vital services without external assistance. Help with the construction or the restoration of basic infrastructure can be provided promptly by SI if the causes are only economic. However, community vulnerability is often increased by long-term underlying factors.

In conjunction with water access activities and basic sanitation, SI works with communities to increase their ability to manage water resources and infrastructures. These actions can sometimes be undertaken through support of national or local authorities.

Once the basic needs are covered, the objective is sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene to improve the health and economy of populations at risk and to strengthen the capacity for resilience.

Typical activities implemented by SI are:

- Construction/rehabilitation of wells, boreholes
- Construction of reservoirs
- Source catchment
- Rehabilitation of water networks
- Harvesting and storage of rainwater (impluvium)
- Mass latrine kits distribution
- Fecal sludge management
- Waste management and vector control including drainage
- WaSH in Health
- WaSH in Nutrition
- Hygiene awareness raising
- Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)
- Approach focused on Behavior Change Determinants (ABCD)
- WaSH services management/maintenance systems (water management committees, repair artisans, waste management committees...).

IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POOREST POPULATIONS AND GROUPS

Access to the basic services of water and sanitation is essential for respecting human dignity and contributes to improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations and most disadvantaged groups. It supports access to education and development of household incomes. During its intensive experience in rural areas, SI is committed to protecting water resources and lessening the disparity with urban areas. In urban areas, SI develops infrastructures as a response to population growth in the most vulnerable and poorest areas.

In order to make improvement become sustainable, SI integrates a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach in its sectors of intervention. Based on needs analyses and local capacities, it contributes to disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

Typical activities implemented by SI are:

- Internal (contingency plans and risk mapping) and external (training, alert systems...) disaster preparedness
- Impacts mitigation (dike strengthening, construction of elevated latrines, deep borehole and large wells, stormproof infrastructures...)

If the fight against the spread of diarrheal diseases passes first through an emergency response, only major programs aimed at a sustainable improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation allow to eradicate diseases. SI has the capacity to make sustainable also short programs and have put in place monitoring and evaluation systems able to assess the sustainability of its actions already at the early stage of programs.

Typical activities implemented by SI are:

- Long-term water treatment stations (production, distribution to large populations)
- Construction/rehabilitation of small and big drinking water networks
- Fecal sludge management and treatment (anaerobic baffled reactor, waste stabilization ponds, sedimentation/thickening ponds, drying beds, composting, biogas reactor, disinfection)
- Long-term WaSH in School
- Long-term WaSH in Health
- Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)
- Approach focused on Behavior Change Determinants (ABCD)
- Mass hygiene awareness campaigns
- Waste management and treatment (controlled disposal and incineration)
- Drainage
- Promotion of WaSH new actors/products through social marketing
- Public authority and community-led infrastructure maintenance
- WaSH authority reinforcement
- Elaboration of WaSH monitoring plan
- Long term public-private partnerships
- WaSH research, development and innovation

Only a sustainable improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation can eradicate diseases.



ACTION PRINCIPLES

SI responds to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and operational independence. SI has also signed 'The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief'. Where appropriate, SI uses SPHERE standards to guide its activities.

Furthermore, in the framework of its humanitarian operations, SI respects the following principles

Do no harm

To be accountable towards beneficiaries, donors and partners;

To ensure transparent and ethical financial resources;

To promote coordination with stakeholders

To not substitute local authorities but strengthen them to achieve results

To be professional

To be inclusive of all population groups including the most vulnerable



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