



Drinking water and sanitation

Guarantee fair, sustainable access for all to drinking water and sanitation while respecting the environment.

Thematic factsheet



BENCHMARKS

GRET has been working on this subject area since the late 1980s.

14 countries of operation in 2020:

Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, France, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal.

57 field projects, consulting missions, studies, events and training courses conducted by GRET in 2020.

Provision of drinking water and sanitation is essential for the well-being of individuals, development of societies and preservation of the environment. And yet, 2.2 billion people have no access to safe water, and 4.2 billion people have no safe sanitation.

GRET has been working for the last 30 years to improve conditions of access for the most disadvantaged people to water and sanitation, with a particular focus on innovation and sustainability of systems. Its action is based on the notion of essential services and on the conviction that water and sanitation must be accessible to all and contribute to social cohesion.

In order to guarantee sustainability and accessibility of services, it is crucial to generate institutions that are suited to local situations and include solidarity mechanisms.

GRET's strategy has three strands: strengthen the capacities of water and sanitation stakeholders; organise inclusive, sustainable methods of governance that are appropriate to each context; and generate technical and social innovations based on existing local dynamics.

Methods of intervention

GRET provides support to diverse entities in the exercise of their responsibilities: planning, service ownership, management, defending users, regulation of services, etc. Its teams have developed a broad range of know-how: environmental engineering, social intermediation, management and economy of services, etc. This expertise is mobilised to conduct research, studies, training and to participate in networks.





GRET's approach

» «Extension of access, sustainability and affordability of services are the main development issues relating to drinking water and sanitation. GRET not only works on setting up services, but also on ensuring the conditions necessary for their economic sustainability are met and on the mechanisms that must be implemented to make services as inclusive as possible», explains Mathieu Le Corre, Drinking water, sanitation and waste management programme manager with GRET.



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Key stakeholders' views

“Our collaboration with GRET is in line with the region’s policy aiming to correct the unfair paradox whereby populations do not have access to drinking water, despite living close to the river. The Aicha project provides innovative solutions by optimising production and supply of drinking water for populations.” **Ousmane Sow, director of the Agence Régionale de Développement (Regional Development Agency) in Saint-Louis, Senegal**

“The school in Ziré Sbeikha has 300 pupils and 6 teachers. Before the school latrines were installed in 2014, pupils spent less time in class as they had to walk sufficient distance from the school to hide behind trees. Today, they use latrines, which have a positive impact both on their health and their education. Since we have water in the village, the pupils also fall ill less often, and are therefore less absent at school. Drinking water and hygienic measures have improved living conditions for the pupils and the entire village.” **Lehbib Ould Mahfoud, Principal of the school in Ziré Sbeikha, Mauritania**

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Focus on two actions

Local public-private partnerships for drinking water in small urban centres in Cambodia and Laos (Mirep, Pacepac and Isea projects)

Projects: Isea, Mirep, Pacepac, Washoba | 2001-2019 | **Budget:** 15 M€ | **Funding:** AFD, Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie, AusAid, World Bank, Fondation Suez Environnement, Sedif, European Union, City of Paris | **Partner:** Isea



Since the early 2000s, GRET has been providing support for the development of drinking water services in Cambodia and Laos via local public-private partnerships. Over a period of 15 years, more than 750,000 people benefitted from GRET's interventions.

Recently, GRET's teams created a services centre for water companies to support their professionalisation. They also contributed to the implementation of a loans offer to cater for investment projects led by these drinking water operators.

Total, integrated, concerted sanitation in the Guet Ndar district in Saint-Louis, in Senegal (Acting)

2013-2019 | **Budget:** 2.6 M€ | **Funding:** Agence de l'eau Seine Normandie (AESN), Conseil départemental de l'Eure, Municipality of Saint-Louis, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union | **Partners:** Saint-Louis local development agency (ADC), Senegal National office national of sanitation (ONAS), Municipality of Saint-Louis



In Guet'Ndar, one of the most densely populated districts in West Africa, the Acting project enabled 18,000 residents to connect to a collective or autonomous sanitation network. Providing support to ADC and ONAS, this project was coordinated in concertation with residents in neighbourhoods taking an inclusive approach to management and coordination of stakeholders.

A strong component of the project was awareness-raising on hygiene, health and safety.

This project made it possible to test the first system of financial and technical monitoring of the sanitation service.