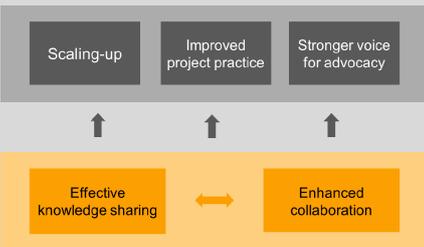


# Share, learn, scale-up – How working as a Consortium makes a difference

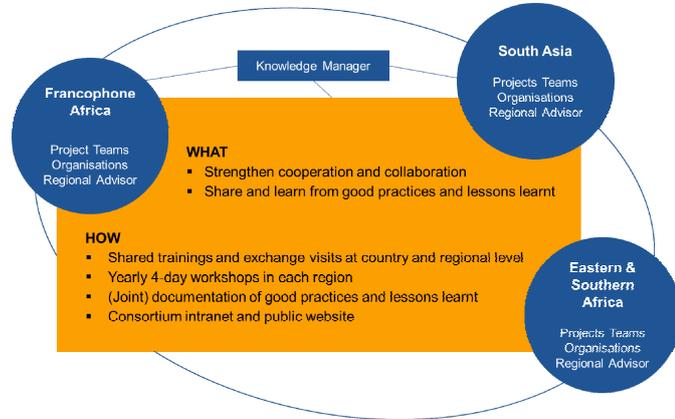
The Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium was created in 2011 as a new mechanism of collaboration among Swiss Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to **massively improve water and sanitation coverage and to foster innovation, knowledge sharing and advocacy and policy development.**

Consortium members are eight Swiss NGOs that implement 20 projects in 10 countries around **3 regions**, i.e. Eastern and Southern Africa, Francophone Africa and South Asia. The projects are aimed at **improving access to drinking water supply, adequate sanitation, improved hygiene and water for family farming.**

## Added Values



## The Knowledge Sharing and Learning Process



## Challenges

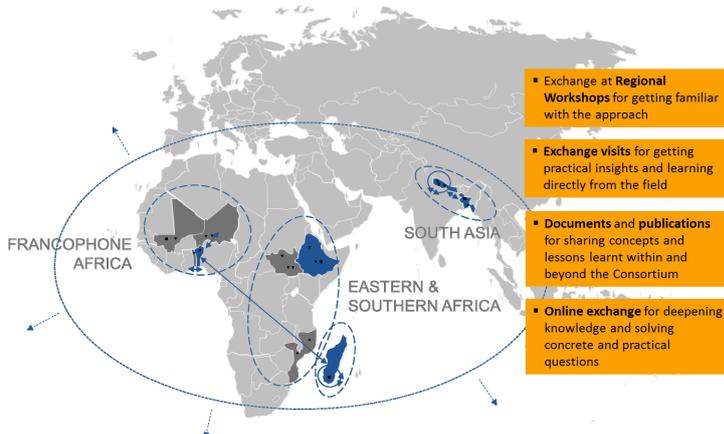
- Documenting and sharing appropriate level of knowledge without remaining superficial or sharing 'project progress only'
- Satisfying all Consortium members with different level of knowledge and expertise
- Right balance between internal exchange ('inward looking' and 'Consortium spirit building') and bringing in innovative ideas and external knowledge
- Motivate very busy field staff for documenting lessons learnt and good practices
- Overcome language barriers
- Increase intranet usage

## Outlook

- Allow for more external inputs on new approaches and exchange with external implementers
- Launch more appealing documentation initiatives (e.g. videos)
- Enable participation of field staff at international events

## Knowledge sharing and upscaling in practice: Blue Schools

The **Blue School approach** is a promising way to improve hygiene and sanitation conditions in schools and thus, to increase retention rate at school. It creates a learning environment for children to replicate good practices at home in terms of hygiene and sanitation. Within the framework of the Consortium, the approach was initially launched in Benin. The team documented lessons learnt and conceptual information, which were shared and published on the Consortium intranet and the public website. Very helpful for spreading the message were various sessions held during regional workshops and other face-to-face events. Exchange visits with practical demonstration transferred in-depth knowledge and allowed responding to practical questions and challenges of project teams. Within the framework of the Consortium, the approach has found its way to Ethiopia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Madagascar. Plans exist to spread it further to Mali and Niger.



## Selection of documented Good Practices

- Mobile-based Monitoring Systems - Mali, Bangladesh, Nepal
- Rock Catchments - South Sudan
- Multiple use of Water System - Nepal
- Capacity building approach for women empowerment - Ethiopia
- Puits pastoraux - Niger
- Transformation des puits à grand diamètre - Benin
- Durabilité des services d'eau pour les petites villes et en milieu rural - Madagascar

### Further information:

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