Water for food

In Mali, Caritas Switzerland assisted the local population in constructing dams for rainwater harvesting. Stored water in the reservoir is used to moisten farming periods and contributes to increasing recharge of soil and groundwater. Coaching and training aim at increasing and diversifying crop production and efficient usage of water.

National policy on sanitation

In Somaliland, Caritas Switzerland substantially contributed to the formulation of a national policy on sanitation, a process led by the Ministry of Health. The policy provides a national strategy and technical guidelines and serves as a reference document for all stakeholders. Subsequently, Caritas Switzerland has been involved in facilitating dissemination workshops to promote and implement the policy.

Claiming human rights to water and sanitation

In India, women’s groups are sensitized and supported in claiming their constitutionally guaranteed inalienable rights such as the right to water and basic sanitation. In only four years, it has been possible to generate state subsidies for almost 3,000 women’s groups amounting to CHF 45.8 million.

Public water supply

In rural Tajikistan, Caritas Switzerland assisted the local government of Mumlad to improve its water supply services. Important components were (i) building new water infrastructure, (ii) establishing and capacitating management structures and (iii) introducing a new, consumption-dependent tariff system with water meters. The combination of a improved and reliable service together with fair tariffing helped to substantially increase users’ satisfaction and thus willingness to pay.

Hygiene and sanitation in schools

The approach “Children’s Hygiene and Sanitation Training” (CHAST) – developed by Caritas Switzerland – aims at prompting children to discuss and genuinely understand the key issues regarding personal hygiene in a playful way. Implementation of the different methodologies and tools (posters, puppets, role plays, etc.) are explained in the CHAST training manual that has been so far translated into six different languages.

Humanitarian aid

As part of its recovery programme to respond to the disastrous earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Caritas Switzerland supported the construction of more than 400 ventilated improved pit latrines (VFL). The combination of technical assistance and comprehensive awareness and sensitization campaigns contributed to a cleaner and safer environment.

Agriculture is the biggest water user, with irrigation accounting for 70% of global water withdrawals.

World Water Development Report 2014

Some 5.8 billion people use a drinking-water source that is contaminated with faecal matter.

GLR, 2014

Caritas Switzerland

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