

## Access to Water Foundation launches a new project in Western Africa

**By the end of 2019, more than 250'000 people, along the Senegal River in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, will have a new access to safe drinking water with the creation of about 300 working places. This is possible thanks to impact funds and several grants, including an important one from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).**

### Already 6 years of track-record:

Initiated in 2012 by the company Swiss Fresh Water,

Access to Water (A2W) is a Swiss foundation of public utility working on water treatment and job-creation programmes for low income communities. Today, in Senegal, A2W has installed 133 machines in water kiosks, leading to the creation of about 480 working places and giving access to safe drinking water to a population pool of about 270'000 inhabitants. 100% of the installed machines

are operational thanks to their follow-up via an online platform.

This first project was co-financed by impact loans from the Seco Start-up Fund and the Swiss Bluetec Bridge of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as by grants such as OFID's grant in 2014, grants from Service Clubs such as the Rotary, the Lions, the Soroptimistes, the Junior Chamber International, the Order of Saint John and grants from private donors.

### A new step in 3 countries:

Following the success of the project in Senegal, A2W has decided to launch a second project along the Senegal River, at the border between Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

The project consists of the installation of 100 water

treatment machines. This will enhance access to safe drinking water for about 250'000 living in poor rural communities, as well as improve their health condition, create direct and indirect jobs, save fuel oil of transportation due to on-site production and fuel of generators thanks to solar panels. This solution also reduces rural exodus through the improvement of their living conditions.



### A sustainable solution thanks to the co-financing of grants and impact loans:

The project, with a total cost in the amount of USD 2.4 millions, is financed by impact loans and several grants,

including a significant one from OFID. Thanks to impact funds, A2W can borrow money, which, while bringing in a standard interest rate, also brings about a large impact on sanitation, economy, social cohesion and environment.

Locally, the water is sold at a price decided with local authorities, within a range of 0.7 and 1.5 cents of euro per litre, that is 20 to 80 times cheaper than the first available safe drinking water. This price is not only affordable to the local communities but also expected to

generate sufficient income from the sale to pay for local salaries, the maintenance of the machines, pays back the



impact loans, or pays for the expansion of the project. This financial system ensures the sustainability of the water kiosk and of the project.

**Why receiving grants?**

Access to Water foundation installs water kiosks in villages of different sizes: small, medium and large. It will then establish the mutualisation of maintenance costs between these villages. It is, thus, through grants that the foundation will be able to install water kiosks in small villages, often located in remote areas, having urgent water needs and suffering from young people’s rural exodus.



Set up of a Better Shelter kiosk, initiated by the IKEA Foundation. Two 70Kg-boxes, a manual and 6h of setting up.

**A reliable solution followed on the Internet**

The water treatment systems are developed near Lausanne by Swiss Fresh Water. While chlorine kills bacteria and viruses, which in some cases is an efficient and necessary solution, the Swiss Fresh Water machines produce water free from bacteria and viruses but also from hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, heavy metals such as lead and mercury, and finally free from salt, without any use of chemicals. The machine produces up to 4’000 litres of safe drinking water per day and is certified to meet the WHO’s standards. The composition and taste of the water is very similar to rain water and is thus particularly appreciated by the populations. If required, the water can be re-mineralised to fit individual taste.

Thanks to telemetry, all machines can be monitored remotely and the local team can be coached from Switzerland for the maintenance.

Today, it seems that the SFW machine is unique of its kind; low-cost, decentralised thanks to solar panels and followed by telemetry.

**Sustainable solutions exist!**

This new project confirms that it is possible to generate sustainable solutions, in which Swiss technology, Internet, public-private partnerships, and local partners from hundreds of villages with several thousand inhabitants meet to create jobs both in Senegal and in Switzerland, as long as the business model is “win-win” for each stakeholder.

In order to support other small and remote villages, A2W will launch a crowdfunding campaign of 8’000 to 17’000 CHF to cover the cost of the machines, their installation, the first year’s maintenance, and the donation of water to schools and health centres, and depending on the cases, it will also include solar panels, Better Shelter houses or even a motorcycle for the delivery of water (more info on: [www.accesstowaterfoundation.org](http://www.accesstowaterfoundation.org)).

A huge THANKS to all and each of our partners, which have made these projects possible.

A2W team

