



## Annual Report 2019

Skat Foundation was established by Skat Consulting Ltd. in 2002 to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience in development cooperation.

### **Values**

- Participation
- Collaboration and learning
- Openness and respect
- Gender equality
- Quality
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Conflict sensitivity
- Integrity and accountability

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## Preface

2019 represented a year of great milestones for us. For the first time, Skat Foundation was awarded the Zewo Quality seal as proof of our commitment to the transparent, efficient and effective use of donations. At the same time, Skat Foundation became part of an Alliance with five other organisations working in International Cooperation, with the aim of learning from each other and building synergies for better impact.

2019 is also a year of farewells. Our dear friends and colleagues Jürg Christen and Karl Wehrle stepped down as members of the Skat Foundation Board. As founding members, Jürg and Karl played an important role in the further development of the Foundation. We thank them for all these years of collaboration and work dedicated to Skat Foundation and wish him all the best in the future. We also say goodbye to our Board Member Nicole Stolz from Caritas Switzerland and thank her for the time and efforts dedicated to the Skat Foundation.

Skat Foundation has become a lead organisation in Switzerland and, internationally, in water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This year's report takes stock of its long-lasting experience in groundwater management, presenting the achievements of more than 16 years of work in the professionalization of drilling. Likewise, we give an overview of the many years of work on Self-supply of Water, demonstrating that this approach not only ensures better access to water but also provides opportunities for income generation activities in rural areas.

Knowledge Management and Learning continues to be at the centre of all our activities. In 2019, Skat Foundation, through the Rural Water Supply Network, reached more than 11,000 professionals and practitioners and brought together 81 partner organisations working in the various topics related to Rural Water Supplies. In 2019, the theme of Leave No-one Behind became the guiding topic for network activities including events, webinar series, blog posts and e-discussions. The Mentoring Programme has become a success, with more than 200 young professionals from over 80 countries participating in it with an assigned mentor.

Finally, in 2019, RWSN presented the Directory for Rural Water Services and published the results of a study on Addressing challenges of handpump corrosion and material quality. Additionally, two videos about the experiences of Solaqua Foundation demonstrate successful approaches to Operation and Maintenance of Schools and the role of Water Kiosks in Nepal.

We thank all our donors, partners and friends for their trust in and support of Skat Foundation. With your support, you make it possible for us to realise our vision to work for a world where individuals and organisations can learn and act in collaborative ways to eradicate poverty and contribute to the development of sustainable, diverse and inclusive societies.



Dr. Rolf Leutert  
Chairman of the Board

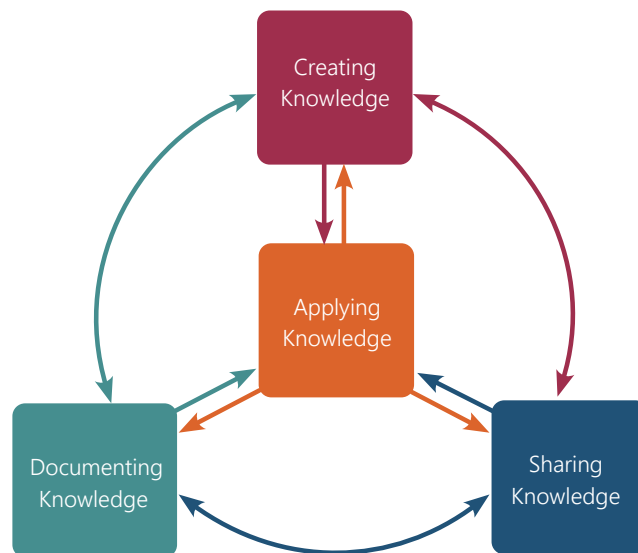


Bertha Camacho  
Managing Director

## Introduction

Skat Foundation is a legally independent not-for-profit organisation supervised by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations. In its 2020-2024 Strategy, Skat Foundation envisions a world where individuals and organisations can learn and act in collaborative ways to eradicate poverty and contribute to the development of sustainable, diverse and inclusive societies.

Skat Foundation's mission is to enable learning and encourage the application of knowledge that can help achieve the vision through the following circular and holistic approach: creation, sharing and documentation of knowledge and skills:



## Strategic Objectives

### Application of Knowledge:

Skat Foundation supports the application of existing knowledge and skills by promoting the creation, sharing and documentation of knowledge.

### Creation of Knowledge:

Skat Foundation supports the creation of new knowledge with the purpose of generating new concepts, methodologies and approaches in all its areas of expertise through the piloting of new ideas, technologies and approaches and by undertaking applied research and action-research.

### Sharing Knowledge:

Skat Foundation supports and enables knowledge, experience and expertise-sharing and learning among practitioners, academic researchers, funders, policy-makers and leaders working in the development cooperation through knowledge and innovation Brokering, on- and offline training and through technology transfer.

### Documentation of practices and experiences:

In co-operation with other institutions or on behalf of partners, government agencies or donors, Skat Foundation documents good practice and evidence-based lessons learned through the curation and creation of synthesis knowledge products, publications, websites and blogs.

#### Expected Outcome:

Professionals, practitioners and researchers in development cooperation improve their knowledge and skills and apply them explicitly.

#### Expected Outcome:

Professionals, practitioners and researchers in development cooperation generate new concepts, methodologies, technologies and approaches in order to improve policy and practice.

#### Expected Output:

Knowledge, experience and expertise shared among practitioners, academic researchers, funders, policy-makers and leaders working in development cooperation.

#### Expected Output:

Good practice and evidence-based lessons learned in development cooperation documented by supporting the creation of synthesis knowledge products and publications.



## Striving for borehole drilling professionalism: a brief history of 16 years of efforts by Skat Foundation and others

Groundwater is crucial to domestic water supplies around the world, serving 75% of African populations, and its use is increasing. Estimations show that the volume of groundwater in Africa is ten to 100 times greater than that which flows annually through its rivers, lakes and wetlands. Groundwater is less vulnerable to contamination than surface water. Drilled water wells are vital for meeting SDG 6.1, in Africa and beyond.

Skat Foundation has been working on this topic in six Phases for the last 16 years:

**Foundation phase:** As the world was working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Skat Foundation, the World Bank Water and the Sanitation Programme (WSP) were concerned about high borehole costs in

Africa. Conceived as a multi-year and multi-stakeholder initiative and under the umbrella of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) a 'low-cost drilling flagship' was established.

**Phase I:** The flagship became "Cost-effective boreholes", and UNICEF developed an interest in it. In 2008, Kerstin Danert, the flagship leader, joined Skat and brought the topic to Switzerland.

### Foundation Phase and Phase I (2004-2008) - Products

Studies in Ethiopia and Mozambique addressing high drilling costs

Ten-step guide to cost-effective boreholes

A study in Niger on a successful manual drilling industry, providing water for agriculture and domestic use.

The fourth RWSN forum in Ghana in 2006 brought drillers from all over Africa together to share and generate ideas and experiences

### Phase II (2009-2013)

#### Products

Study of UNICEF's borehole drilling history and clear principles for its country programmes

Country studies in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Zambia documenting good practices and challenges in drilling cost-effectiveness

RWSN's Code of Practice for Cost-Effective Boreholes

RWSN's Hand Drilling Directory drawing on the experience from eight countries and twelve organisations

Five guidance documents

Study on Drilling Professionalism in Sierra Leone

Three one-week face-to-face courses in Sierra Leone

#### Results

The work in Sierra Leone triggered considerable stakeholder engagement, and the government drafted and published principles for drilling cost effectiveness

An online groundwater community was established by RWSN

DFID was funding efforts to develop rural water supplies in Sierra Leone and brought the cost-effective boreholes work on board

### Phase III (2013-2014)

#### Products

A series of five weekly webinars in English and French on experiences of manual drilling from 12 countries

A global desk study drawing on experiences of manual drilling from 36 countries

Photo documentaries on the experiences and the spread of the technology of manual drilling in Chad and Niger

#### Results

Raised awareness of manual drilling initiatives globally

The Open University (UK) incorporated the case study of manual drilling in Nigeria into one of its courses

The online community on groundwater and the exchange and networking between practitioners increased

World Vision engaged with the association of manual drillers in Chad

**Phase II:** UNICEF started reflections on the role of the private sector in drilling and launched various studies in Africa. Meanwhile, the Nigerian Standards Institute published a Code of Practice for Water Well Construction. Skat's efforts focused on its application.

**Phase III:** Three years had passed since UNICEF's launch of the Manual Drilling Toolkit. The partnership between UNICEF and Skat Foundation brought new opportunities and products, and the initiative incorporated "Professionalising Manual Drilling".

**Phase IV:** Inspired by the broader drive for 'professionalism' within RWSN, the engagements in the topic by partners increased. In this phase, WaterAid UK, and the US National Groundwater Association joined the RWSN initiative.

**Phase V:** The current phase systematically addresses capacity gaps through online and face-to-face courses. The partnerships of Skat Foundation continued growing including UNDP Cap-Net, WaterAid UK, Oxfam, UNHCR, Africa Groundwater Network, the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Water Integrity Network (WIN).

For further information, please contact: [sean.furey@skat.ch](mailto:sean.furey@skat.ch)



Manual drilling in Lagos, Nigeria

(photo: Kerstin Danert)

#### Phase IV (2015-2017)

##### Products

- A UNICEF Guidance Note on Professional Water Well Drilling
- Four animated films based on drilling guidance notes
- A study on the Angolan drilling sector and a training course
- A participative assessment of manual drilling in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- A training course on Procurement and Contract Management in Zambia

##### Results

- The work carried out by Skat Foundation through RWSN inspired different organisations:
  - WaterAid funded and ran five one-week face-to-face drilling supervision courses in Uganda and Burkina Faso
  - The RWSN drilling supervision course was adapted for Southern Africa participants in a course held at SADC-GMI
  - UNICEF worked on a Toolkit for the procurement and contract management of borehole drilling to provide guidance across its programmes
  - WSP published a report on the drilling sector in Mozambique
  - Cardiff University initiated research on private boreholes and resilience in Nigeria

#### Phase V (2018-2020)

##### Products

- UNICEF Toolkit on Borehole Drilling – Planning, Contracting & Management
- A Procurement and Contract Management of Borehole Drilling in Angola. A one-week face-to-face event in Portuguese
- Course in Zambia on drilling supervision
- A roadmap for cost-effective boreholes in Burkina Faso that tests pump components and documents widespread corrosion problems
- Two online courses on professional drilling management: 84 participants, out of whom 24 were women, from 43 countries (2018 course) and 97 participants, 18 of them women, from 36 countries (2019 course)

Thanks to the financial support of various donors and partners, mainly UNICEF and WSP, Skat Foundation was able to carry out the activities in Sustainable Groundwater Development. The total investment through Skat Foundation is approximately CHF 980,000.00 of which 12% was provided by funding from Skat Consulting Projektfonds.



## Self-supply: Supporting Entrepreneurs from Nicaragua to Zimbabwe

Rural areas continue to lag behind urban and peri-urban areas in terms of access to drinking water. Globally, four out of five people without access to basic services of drinking water live in rural areas. This situation is particularly striking in sparsely populated areas – and not only in Sub-Saharan Africa, but across the globe.

Over the past few decades, most governments and NGOs have been providing access to water by using centralised approaches: boreholes or wells that serve many people. This has left hundreds of millions of people with no other option but to repair and improve whatever water service is available to them. In most cases however, water users have limited resources and skills to ensure the efficient functioning of their water source.

Against this backdrop, a few organisations started developing ideas and approaches on how to develop support systems for individual households or small groups of households to ensure their secured access to water. This approach, commonly referred to as “Supported Self-supply”, gains particular importance when government supplies collapse.

Under the name of “Self-supply”, this approach became a flagship topic of the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) in 2003. Since then, Skat Foundation started looking more closely into this approach and decided to assume the leadership of this flagship in 2008. Over the past 13 years, Self-supply has grown in acceptance and attention, and major actors like the World Bank have started to take note of this historically neglected sector, also thanks to the continuous behind-the-scene work of Skat Foundation through RWSN.

Skat Foundation aims to develop concepts, tools and methodologies which are appropriate for Self-supply. On the other hand, it supports grassroots initiatives in several places, helping users to learn from each other and sharing knowledge and experiences with third parties. By showcasing their work, Skat Foundation also aims to promote and raise awareness of this form of intervention among donors, non-profit organisations and governments.

To achieve this, Skat Foundation has been applying two levels of interventions:

**Building capacities for Self-supply in the field:** Skat Foundation supports, both financially and with technical advice, several non-profit organisations in implementing projects using the Self-supply approach. Since local entrepreneurs – drillers, masons, welders, plumbers – are at the heart of all Self-supply projects, developing support systems for them is the main goal of this support. Thus, our partner organisations focus their attention on training local entrepreneurs on specific technologies and products and bringing them together as a network so that they can offer their services to private households.

**Showcasing and disseminating the Self-supply experiences:** through RWSN, Skat Foundation focuses on developing concepts, documenting experiences, and showcasing and sharing successful initiatives with the aim of bringing the topic into mainstream programming of key actors.

For further information, please contact: [matthias.saladin@skat.ch](mailto:matthias.saladin@skat.ch)

### Main Results of 2019

Self-supply events were organized at three international events: IRC WASH Symposium in Delft, WaTER event at Oklahoma University and Water&Health at the University of North Carolina. These events gave the topic additional visibility and enabled cross-organizational learning.

Thanks to the wells built in Zimbabwe, families started with small-scale gardening, improving their food security by having access to vegetables and enjoying the opportunity to generate additional income by selling the vegetables in local markets.

### Global Awareness raising

The main challenge related to Self-supply is the limited attention the approach receives by most actors – governments, NGOs, UN agencies and donors. In order to address this, Skat Foundation continues working through RWSN in the global awareness raising of the approach. With the support of Skat Consulting Ltd., Skat Foundation has been able to go on developing the concept of Self-supply and to share information about the experiences in the field through courses, e-discussions, webinars, face-to-face events and publications through RWSN.

## Partner countries

<p><b>Country: Tanzania</b></p> <p>Since: 2012</p> <p>Partner Organisation: <a href="#">SHIPO</a></p> <p>The training of local artisans – drillers and welders – and monitoring/certification of installations</p> <p>The longest-lasting Self-supply project of Skat Foundation</p>	<p><b>Country: Zimbabwe</b></p> <p>Since: 2017</p> <p>Partner organisation: <a href="#">AfricaAHEAD</a> – one of the global pioneers in implementing Self-supply projects in the 1990s</p> <p>Training of artisans (drillers and masons), capacity building of community health workers through Community Health Clubs (CHCs)</p>	<p><b>Country: Zambia</b></p> <p>Since: 2019</p> <p>Partner organisation: <a href="#">Jacana Foundation</a></p> <p>Training, technical support and coaching to local entrepreneurs in Eastern Zambia, smartphone-based monitoring of results. Support to a local association of drillers.</p>	<p><b>Country: Nicaragua</b></p> <p>Since: 2019</p> <p>Partner organisation: <a href="#">EOS International</a></p> <p>Showcasing selected technologies and products particularly adequate for Self-supply. Training local entrepreneurs (artisans and sales people). Strengthening of supply chains for rural water supply. Development of micro-credits for water and sanitation.</p>
<p><b>Results</b></p> <p>31 artisans certified as drillers after receiving training in drilling and welding of hand pumps and after receiving a government-led courses in hydrogeology and water resources.</p> <p>The certified entrepreneurs sold their products and services to private households. In this way, more than 2,200 people gained improved access to water. In addition, access to water at schools and healthcare institutions was created for some 4,400 people.</p>	<p><b>Results</b></p> <p>19 artisans were trained in producing hand pumps.</p> <p>These artisans installed and improved more than 90 wells, creating better access to water for around 2,700 people.</p> <p>30 health technicians improved their WASH practices thanks to the training courses provided. More than 9,000 people were informed about Self-supply through the awareness raising campaigns.</p>	<p><b>Results</b></p> <p>11 local pump producers and 22 manual drillers produced affordable, locally made pumps and manually drilled boreholes.</p> <p>Pumps were sold to and wells were drilled for around 1,200 people. About half of the families paid in full for the wells, while the rest were subsidised by the project.</p> <p>Awareness and demand for these products increased.</p>	<p><b>Results</b></p> <p>Awareness and demand for low-cost water technologies increased.</p> <p>1,600 people benefited from improved access to water and from a rotational micro-credit scheme for water supplies</p>



Hands-on training of manual drillers in Njombe, Tanzania  
photo: SHIPO



Artisans are being trained on using a phone-based App in order to register the products sold  
SHIPO



Manual drillers at work in Zambia  
photo: Jacana Foundation

Thanks to the generous support of Volkart Foundation (until 2018), Drink&Donate, Lotteriefonds Schaffhausen and the Commune of Maur, Skat Foundation has been able to carry out the Self-supply initiatives around the globe. In 2019, Skat Foundation invested around 200,000 CHF in these four projects. Skat Foundation uses 10% of this investment to provide technical assistance and to share and disseminate the experiences and results, while the remaining 90% goes to the implementing partners in the field.



## Rural Water Supply Innovation at the World Bank

The World Bank is one of the largest international financial institutions with a mandate and mission to tackle poverty. Within the Bank, the Water Global Practice provides research, training and technical guidance to colleagues and client governments so that loans and grants are designed and targeted for a maximum beneficial impact on the world's poorest.

As part of the on-going partnership with the World Bank through the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN), Sean Furey from Skat Foundation provided inputs to the annual World Bank Water and Learning Week and produced an internal briefing on innovation in rural water supply technology, research, policy and practice. An important aim was to raise awareness within the Bank and client governments that rural water supply is an area which needs investment and can deliver positive outcomes, if everything is done with care.

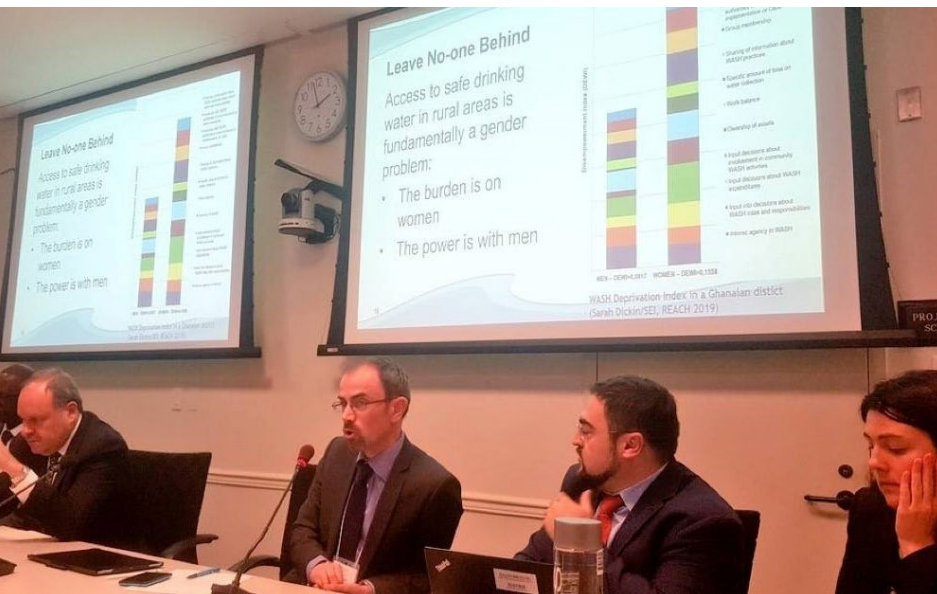
For further information, please contact: [sean.furey@skat.ch](mailto:sean.furey@skat.ch)

### Products

90-minute session on "Rural Water Innovation".

Half-day training course "Deep Dive into Rural Water" for World Bank staff on the basic building blocks and context of rural water supply programming. To gamify the learning experience, apart from the content presentation, the course included a bespoke role-play exercise.

A 35-page internal briefing compendium of the latest thinking and technology in rural water supply: "Innovations in Rural Water Supply Sustainability".



*"A central message that I took to the World Bank sessions was that rural water access is not a challenge that can be solved by technology. Lack of access to water is often woven together with gender power imbalances, so women and men have to be part of the solution on an equal footing."*

Sean Furey

*"This was a very useful training session and I would like to see more of this interactive format."*

Participant from World Bank, Nepal

Opening presentation by Sean Furey (Skat) at the World Bank Water Week session on Rural Water Supply Innovation  
Shabana Abbas, Aqua for All



## Rural Water Supply Network: Leave no-one behind in rural water supply

The Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) is the global network for rural water supply professionals, with 11,000 members in more than 160 countries.

Our vision is of a world in which all rural people have access to sustainable and reliable water supplies, which can be effectively managed to provide sufficient, affordable and safe water within a reasonable distance of the home.

RWSN is a strategic global network of rural water supply practitioners and organisations committed to improving their knowledge, competence and professionalism, to fulfil RWSN's vision of sustainable rural water services for all. Both individuals and organisations participate in the network.. The focus of the network is on water in rural areas and small towns.

“Leave no-one behind in rural water supply” has been 2019's thematic focus for the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN). It was the guiding theme for RWSN activities for World Water Day, the early 2019 RWSN webinar series, blog posts and the RWSN e-discussion, and sessions at SIWI World Water Week.

For further information, please contact: [sean.furey@skat.ch](mailto:sean.furey@skat.ch)

Dr Kerstin Danert chairing a session at World Water Week on Leave No-one Behind.

(photo: Sandra Fuerst)



### Activities and products

Skat staff drove activities an innovation across the network; in addition to the usual suite of activities, including webinar, e-discussions and online training, Skat successfully piloted activities and products:

- The 2019 RWSN directory of rural water supply services, tariffs, management models and lifecycle costs. This was a pilot virtual internship, where the lead author was a young professional, Philip Deal from the University of Oklahoma, USA.
- The publication “Challenges of Water Well Drillers & Water Well Drillers Associations” was the result of a second pilot virtual internship with a Uyoyoghene Traoré, a young African engineer. These activities are designed to mentor young professionals on themes related to the Network.
- The RWSN Member Organisation Exhibition Stand at SIWI World Water Week under the umbrella of the Swiss Water Partnership. RWSN Member Organisations, such as Simavi a, Water Mission and Nazava presented their activities.

### Statistical Results

	2018	2019
<b>Membership:</b>	10,883 57 organisations	11,473 81 organisations
<b>Blog visits:</b>	7,373 visitors, 14,191 views	8,934 visitors, 16,990 views
<b>Webinars:</b>	1,700 participants in total, i.e. 59 participants per session on average	15 Webinars (three languages) 1,200 participants 46% women presenters 80% Southern-based presenters 73% young professional speakers
<b>Individual contributions to online groups:</b>	1,495	1,174
<b>Document downloads from Website:</b>	12,504	20,000
<b>Knowledge products:</b>		5 produced, 2 translated into more than one language

**RWSN Young Rural Water Professional competition.** In 2019, Benson Kandeh from Sierra Leone won a competition for RWSN Young Professionals to attend World Water Week in Stockholm for his work in Rural Water Supplies. This was his first time he left Sierra Leone to communicate and network with global players in the WASH sector. After returning home, Benson continues to eloquently communicate and promote his work in rural water supply, and inspires other young people across Sierra Leone. [See Link](#)



## RWSN mentoring programme: a professional development opportunity for more than 200 young water professionals

Young people are agents of change and constitute the generation that will be working towards the realisation of the SDGs and beyond, to ensure universal WASH services and improved water management practices. They make up a large proportion of the population in developing countries: more than 40% of the people on the planet are younger than 25, and more than 55% are younger than 35. As such, it is important to engage with young people in the water sector.

Mentoring presents the opportunity for young professionals (including students) to exchange with more senior professionals in the water sector in order to progress more rapidly, develop their professionalism and learn from each other.

In 2019, thanks to the financial support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), RWSN launched a mentoring scheme, aimed at matching young professionals under the age of 35 with more senior professionals in the water sector. The aim of this scheme is to help develop the new generation of water experts, and to ensure that the knowledge and experience acquired by senior members of the RWSN community is not lost. With this mentoring programme, RWSN is filling a gap not just in the rural water sector but more broadly in the development sector.

The RWSN mentoring programme was launched in English, French and Spanish in January 2019. The RWSN Secretariat coordinates the programme. To ensure the effective mentoring scheme, it has developed a mentoring guide, which includes a professional code of conduct.

Mentors provide the following support:

- Transition from studies to employment in the water sector, or support the mentee to develop his/her own company
- Development of knowledge about the sector
- Writing and communication, interview, leadership and management skills
- Development of personal network

### Activities

Over 400 participants from more than 80 countries registered interest in being a mentor or a mentee. A total of 240 young professionals were matched with senior professionals from all over the world. Matchmaking was done by the RWSN Secretariat on the basis of: Language, Interests and Country. At World Water Week in Stockholm in 2019, RWSN organised the session “Women and Youth: living apart together” and a meet-up between mentors and mentees who were attending the conference.

### Products

RWSN mentoring programme for young professionals video ([here](#)): 580 views

Mentoring programme guidance note in English ([here](#)): 95 downloads

Mentoring programme guidance note in Spanish ([here](#)): 53 downloads

Mentoring programme guidance note in French ([here](#)): 34 downloads

### Results

The mid-year assessment of the mentoring programme provided the following qualitative examples of how the target groups were benefiting from the project:

- 79% of mentees think they are a good (or quite good) match with their mentors; conversely.
- 83% of mentors think they are a good (or quite good) match with their mentees.
- 76% of the respondents found the material and support provided by the RWSN Secretariat useful.
- 60% of mentees are satisfied (or quite satisfied) with the mentoring relationship.

### Impact Story

Anecdotal evidence from correspondence with mentees also showed that some mentees were able to find supervisors for their master's thesis. One of them prepared for a Fulbright interview with his mentor and was accepted.

## Challenges

The mid-year assessment revealed a number of challenges with participation in the RWSN mentoring programme. For some of the mentees, the mentoring relationship has worked out, and they have been able to benefit from it on a personal and professional level. However, for others, it has not – the main source of dissatisfaction for the remaining mentees was the lack of commitment to the mentoring relationship, with some mentees or mentors not keeping up the relationship after the initial contact.

Below are some suggestions to take into account for the next round of the mentoring programme in 2020:

- Make the application for the mentoring programme more 'competitive'.
- Have an initial 'check-in' one month after the matchmaking has been announced to follow-up on the match-making.
- Have regular communication (every 2-3 months) from the RWSN Secretariat to 'remind' people about their mentoring objectives and for them to get back on track.
- Arrange face-to-face meeting(s) of RWSN mentors and mentees.
- Organise a webinar (about coaching general principles) in the first half of 2020 for mentors and mentees to help underline the commitment, get guidance on coaching, and present some conflict-resolution types of ideas.
- Hand out a 'certificate' in recognition of participation in the mentoring programme.

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Meet up between mentees Gervais Momo and Dexe Boniek in Cameroon

*"I think my mentor and I are a great match. Every time we catch up, which is every 2 weeks, I feel I have more ideas and a clear sense of direction for whatever problem or challenge we have discussed. My mentor is very helpful and makes me think of practical ways to approach challenges. I have learnt a lot from our conversations, and I am sure we will remain in touch after the mentoring programme is over."*

[Mentee]

*"The RWSN mentoring programme is helping me build my confidence in a mentoring/supervising role. I also am learning a lot from my mentees about the water sector and the challenges that young professionals are facing in securing work. It has also been good for networking – both my mentees are working in the same field as me and are well-connected. I think that it gives my mentees opportunities to talk through their career opportunities/aspirations in a constructive way in a safe environment."*

[Mentor]

*"I see my mentee evolving to be a better person and achieving all the set goals we both agreed that she will meet. For me as a Mentor, I feel very satisfied that I am passing on my knowledge and skills as a water professional with a vast experience to someone in need; thus I am growing in the process as well."*

[Mentor]





## Supporting cross-organisational learning of Solaqua partners in Nepal

Solaqua Foundation is a public benefit foundation based in St.Gallen, Switzerland. Founded in 2001, it aims to improve drinking water quality in low-income countries, with a focus on Nepal. Over the past few decades, Nepal has made significant progress in providing water supply to its population, but services are often unreliable, support systems are weak, and the quality of the water provided often is not apt for human consumption.

Through Skat Consulting, Solaqua Foundation supported eight implementing partners for specific project components in 2019 by providing both financial resources and technical advisory services. Over the last two years, it has become clear that there is a need to enable cross-partner learning and experience sharing. Skat Foundation took the lead in facilitating the knowledge and experience sharing among Solaqua partners in Nepal.

The project aimed to improve the quality of the individual projects supported by Solaqua and to enhance their impact. The project focused on two lines of activities: to facilitate cross-organisational learning and exchange processes, and to document key experiences for wide dissemination.

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### Activities

The main activity to facilitate cross-organisation learning and exchange processes was a 3-day face-to-face workshop, which took place 20 km outside Kathmandu in May 2019. 21 people from the eight implementing partners of Solaqua participated in the event. An important part of the programme strengthened the working relationships and trust among the participants, which are crucial conditions for long-lasting partnerships. Different formats such as Marketplaces, Small Group Discussions or a field visit to the project of SPLASH highlighted the impressive breadth of the Solaqua portfolio of projects.

### Results

At the beginning of this process, the partners of Solaqua Foundation had little awareness of each other's work – in spite of all having worked in Nepal on WASH issues, only few of the organisations knew each other, and there was a lack of mutual trust. By bringing people together to learn from one another, the project helped them to find synergies and common challenges.

The project was instrumental in allowing for a cross-organisational learning process. For example, five different partners are working on improving WASH conditions at schools; the event allowed them to share and learn from their different approaches and experiences.

Another immediate result was that by establishing an informal network, the Solaqua partners participated in a WHO-facilitated workshop held in November as a group, supporting each other and facilitating access to key experiences regarding household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) products and technologies.

### Products

One video: "Community-run water kiosks for urban areas in Kathmandu" documenting key experiences of UEMS ([short version](#) and [long version](#))

One video "[Taking care of schools \(Operation and Maintenance\)](#)": Experience of CARITAS Switzerland in Nepal

[WASH Operation & Maintenance manual for schools](#)



Participants of the Knowledge Exchange Workshop in May 2019 in Dhulikel  
Stephanie Theis, Skat Foundation



Keep yourself and your friends safe, wash your hands here.

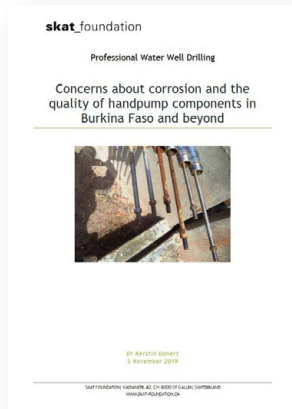
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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Picture courtesy of Pious Nyirongo (Jacana Foundation)



## Addressing challenges of handpump corrosion and material quality

Burkina Faso is among the countries with concerns about borehole and handpump failure within a relatively short time of construction. Reasons for this include water quality and the installation of inappropriate handpumps. One third of the handpumps function poorly, or cease to function completely within a few years, with estimated investments losses of between € 0.9 and €4.5 million per year. Despite knowledge of handpump corrosion for over 30 years, it remains a problem.

Handpump corrosion is a major global issue, which the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector has, to date, largely failed to address. It will impede the realisation of global targets for drinking water access.

In early 2017, there was a renewed call to investigate this issue by the government of Burkina Faso. With support from UNICEF, samples of handpump rising mains and pump rods were purchased from suppliers in Ouagadougou, and taken from pumps that were in use or had been abandoned. Analysis by EMPA in Switzerland showed that of the samples, five of six riser pipes and two of the four pump rods did not conform to international standards for the composition of stainless steel of the specified grade. In particular, the low nickel content means that the components have less corrosion resistance than they should have.

The small sample size of 13 is not a statistically representative of the situation in the country as a whole but is a step in verifying concerns. The extent of the problem in Burkina Faso and beyond is not fully researched. However, what is being witnessed, as documented in the 2019 study published by Skat Foundation, is a failure of “the market” to guarantee high quality materials. Addressing this failure requires solutions within importing countries, such as Burkina Faso and internationally.

Currently, no international body systematically controls the quality of handpump materials, and many in-country standards agencies do not have the capacity to do so. Further research on the use of stainless steel components to prevent the corrosion in aggressive groundwater is needed. Many of the handpumps used in Africa are imported from India (and apparently Nigeria). With no connection between manufacture and pump installation, those who install are not aware of the extent and scale of quality problems until it is too late. Given the lack of post-construction monitoring in many countries, they may, in fact never know. Corroding components becomes the burden of the community.

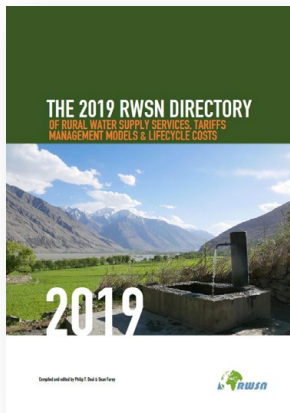
It is hoped that the Skat Foundation study will trigger interest among governments, research organisations, international development agencies and philanthropists to fully understand and find solutions to the poor quality of handpump components and to corrosion.

The full study is available for download here: Concerns about corrosion and the quality of handpump components in Burkina Faso and beyond ([English](#) and [French](#)).

Author: Dr. K. Danert



Kerstin Danert

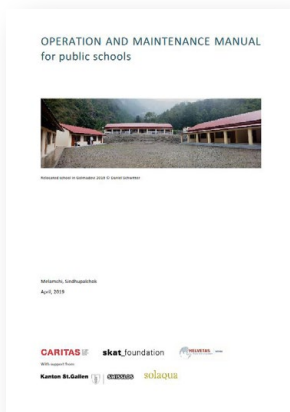


## RWSN directory of rural water supply services, tariffs, management models and lifecycle costs

The rural water supply sector is undergoing a period of change. In response to the challenges of achieving universal access to safe, affordable drinking water and sustaining those services, there has been increasing innovation in different types of rural water service models. In 2019, Skat Foundation, through the Rural Water Supply Network, published a Directory of Rural Water Supply Services in English and French. This Directory is intended to show the growing range of management options. Some are novel interventions that are still being piloted, while others have been established for a decade or more.

[Download here](#)

Authors: Deal, P. T. and Furey S. G.



## Operation and Maintenance of Public Schools Manual

The operation and maintenance (O&M) of public school buildings and WASH infrastructure can be a challenge if not managed well, if resources are insufficient and if the materials used cannot be replaced or repaired easily. The aim of this publication is to equip caretakers, as well as local civil society organisations, and local governments with the relevant knowhow on O&M to ensure not only long-term sustainability of the infrastructure but also the well-being of the students and teachers. It is also expected that staff of NGOs and INGOs use this manual as a resource to design programmes and plan capacity building activities, making sure that O&M is integrated in the project management cycle.

This manual outlines a process for the operation and maintenance of school buildings and wash infrastructure with a focus on managerial aspects. That means that the manual not only includes recommendations on technical aspects for the maintenance of infrastructure but also provides a guide on important social dimensions of O&M, such as the management of staff, awareness raising and human resource management.

This manual is a living document, which will be further developed and revised through the experiences and lessons learnt collected through its application.

[Download here](#)

Author: Stephanie Theis

## Videos

### **Taking care of schools (Operation and Maintenance): Experience of CARITAS Switzerland in Nepal**

Funded by Solaqua Foundation, this video (9 min, in Nepali with English subtitles) documents the experience of CARITAS Switzerland in Nepal in the operation and maintenance (O&M) of schools, including WASH infrastructure. The tools and the Operation & Maintenance Guidelines were developed by Skat Foundation and Caritas Switzerland, in the framework of a re-construction project of CARITAS Switzerland in Nepal, benefiting 36 schools in the Sindhupalchowk area, which was heavily affected by the 2015 earthquake. The video, a co-production of Skat Foundation, CARITAS and Sattya Inc., explains the eleven steps proposed for setting up sustainable mechanisms to take care of schools, with a strong involvement of the School Management Committee (SMC), the schools administration, teachers, students, municipalities and other key actors.

[View video](#)



### **Community-run water kiosks for urban areas in Kathmandu (short version and long version)**

This video shows the experience of Water Kiosks in Nepal. Whereas most water kiosks are run and funded by for-profit entities, there are also community-managed models. In Nepal, this model has been successfully developed in urban contexts on a small scale over the past 15 years. The video documents the experiences of the Urban Environmental Management Society (UEMS), a Kathmandu-based NGO, in implementing a community-managed water kiosk in Lalitpur. The Film is a co-production of Skat Foundation, UEMS, and Sattya Inc. and was funded by Solaqua Foundation.

[View video](#)





# Partners

We would like to thank all our partners and donors who supported and collaborated with us in 2019:

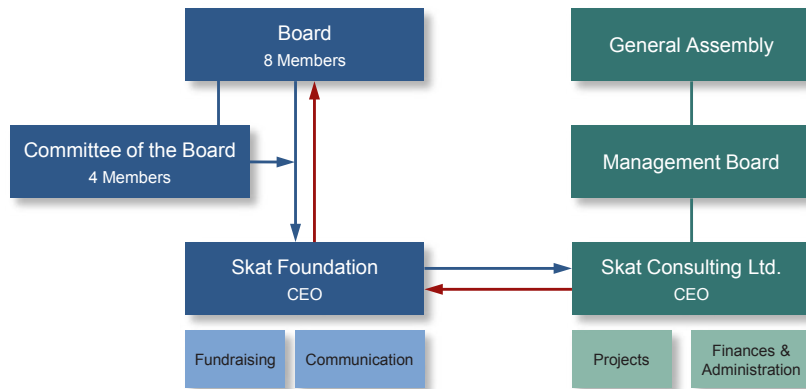
## Partners

- AfDB - African Development Bank
- AfricaAHEAD
- BGS - British Geological Survey
- CACH - Caritas Switzerland
- EOS International
- ISW - International Secretariat for Water
- Jacana Foundation
- SHIPO - Southern Highlands Participatory Organisation
- TdH - Terre des Hommes
- UNDP Cap-Net - United Nations Development Programme Cap- Net
- UNESCO - IHE Institute for Hydrological Education

## Donors

- DFID - Department for International Development (UK)
- ESRC - Economic and Social Research Council (UK)
- Dorfkooperation Engelburg
- Gemeinde Maur
- Lotteriefonds Kanton Schaffhausen
- NERC National Environmental Research Council (UK)
- Oxford University (UK)
- SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Skat Consulting Ltd.
- Solaqua Foundation
- Swisslos Kanton St. Gallen
- Symphasis Stiftung
- UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme
- UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
- WaterAid UK
- WSSCC - The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
- WHO - World Health Organisation
- World Vision
- The World Bank Group
- Drink & Donate, Zurich

# Management Bodies



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- Karl Wehrle, President of the Managing Board of Skat Consulting Ltd., St.Gallen (until May 2019)
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- Rolf Leutert, Chairman of the Board, Neuhausen
- Juerg Christen, Chief Executive Officer, Skat Consulting Ltd, St.Gallen
- Karl Wehrle, President of the Managing Board of Skat Consulting Ltd., St.Gallen (until May 2019)
- Xaver Edelmann, former Director EMPA St.Gallen

## Managing Director

- Bertha Camacho

## External Auditor

- Rietmann & Partner AG

Skat Foundation commissioned Skat Consulting Ltd. with the implementation of projects and with the administration and financial operations of the Foundation.

# Finances

## Balance Sheet as of 31.12.2019

Description	(CHF) 2019	(CHF) 2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and marketable securities	957,704	1,415,298
Receivables third parties	27,779	15,448
Receivables related organisations	0	0
Receivables government	19,599	20,192
Advances to projects	0	0
Accrued income	0	26
Work in progress	304,640	823,905
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,309,721</b>	<b>2,274,869</b>
Fixed assets	2	2
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,309,723</b>	<b>2,274,871</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Liabilities third parties	58,697	371,010
Liabilities from prepayments	123,658	690,716
Liabilities to associated organizations	560,082	654,410
Deferred income/accrued charges	4,445	16,636
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>746,881</b>	<b>1,732,772</b>
Restricted funds	339,643	326,486
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>339,643</b>	<b>326,486</b>
Free capital	215,613	213,393
Internally generated unrestricted operating funds	7,586	2,220
<b>Total capital of the organisation</b>	<b>223,198</b>	<b>215,613</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,309,723</b>	<b>2,274,871</b>

2019 closed with a net surplus of CHF 7,586. The total capital of the organisation changed from CHF 215,613 to CHF 223,198.

## Profit & Loss Account from 1.1.2019 – 31.12.2019

Description	(CHF) 2019	(CHF) 2018
<b>Income</b>		
Trade accounts receivable from third parties	363,509	418,160
Donations without earmarking	35,000	52,894
<b>Income from fundraising</b>	<b>398,509</b>	<b>471,054</b>
Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN 2018 - 2020)	350,000	231,568
RWSN related Projects	207,785	242,789
UNEP Solar Chill	915,619	907,925
Knowledge Management Projects	1,000	11,929
Other Projects	0	2,753
Bookshop	0	192
<b>Income from services rendered</b>	<b>1,474,403</b>	<b>1,397,155</b>
<b>Operating revenue</b>	<b>1,872,913</b>	<b>1,868,210</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN 2018 - 2020)	-239,547	-691,480
UNEP Solar Chill	-841,727	-907,925
Skat Consulting Project (Projectfonds) RWSN	-38,535	-60,854
Skat Consulting Project (Projectfonds) Small Projects	-29,207	-53,624
RWSN related Projects	-447,923	0
Solaqua Foundation	-14,952	0
Cameroon Projects	0	-19,418
Other Projects	0	-2,753
Knowledge Management Projects	-8,565	-52,025
<b>Total direct project expenditures</b>	<b>-1,620,454</b>	<b>-1,788,078</b>
Fundraising and general advertising expenses	-108,658	-4,079
Administration	-131,204	-25,072
<b>Expenses for services rendered</b>	<b>-1,860,316</b>	<b>-1,817,229</b>
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>12,596</b>	<b>50,980</b>
Financial result	8,249	-18,321
Extraordinary result	-103	0
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>	<b>20,743</b>	<b>32,659</b>
<b>Change in fund capital</b>	<b>-13,157</b>	<b>-30,439</b>
<b>Net surplus / deficit for the year after allocations</b>	<b>7,586</b>	<b>2,220</b>
<b>Withdrawals / Allocations</b>		
Free capital	7,586	2,220
Committed capital	0	0

## CONTACT

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Switzerland

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SWIFT / BIC Code: KBSGCH22

CHF IBAN: CH81 0078 1608 6366 8200 0  
Euro IBAN: CH27 0078 1608 6366 8200 2  
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## IMPRINT

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St.Gallen, May 2020