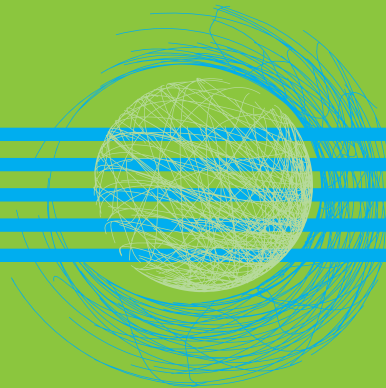




*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



# Practice Guidelines

## Decentralized Cooperation, Water and Sanitation



# GLOBAL WATER SOLIDARITY

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**Practice Guidelines on  
Decentralized Cooperation,  
Water and Sanitation**

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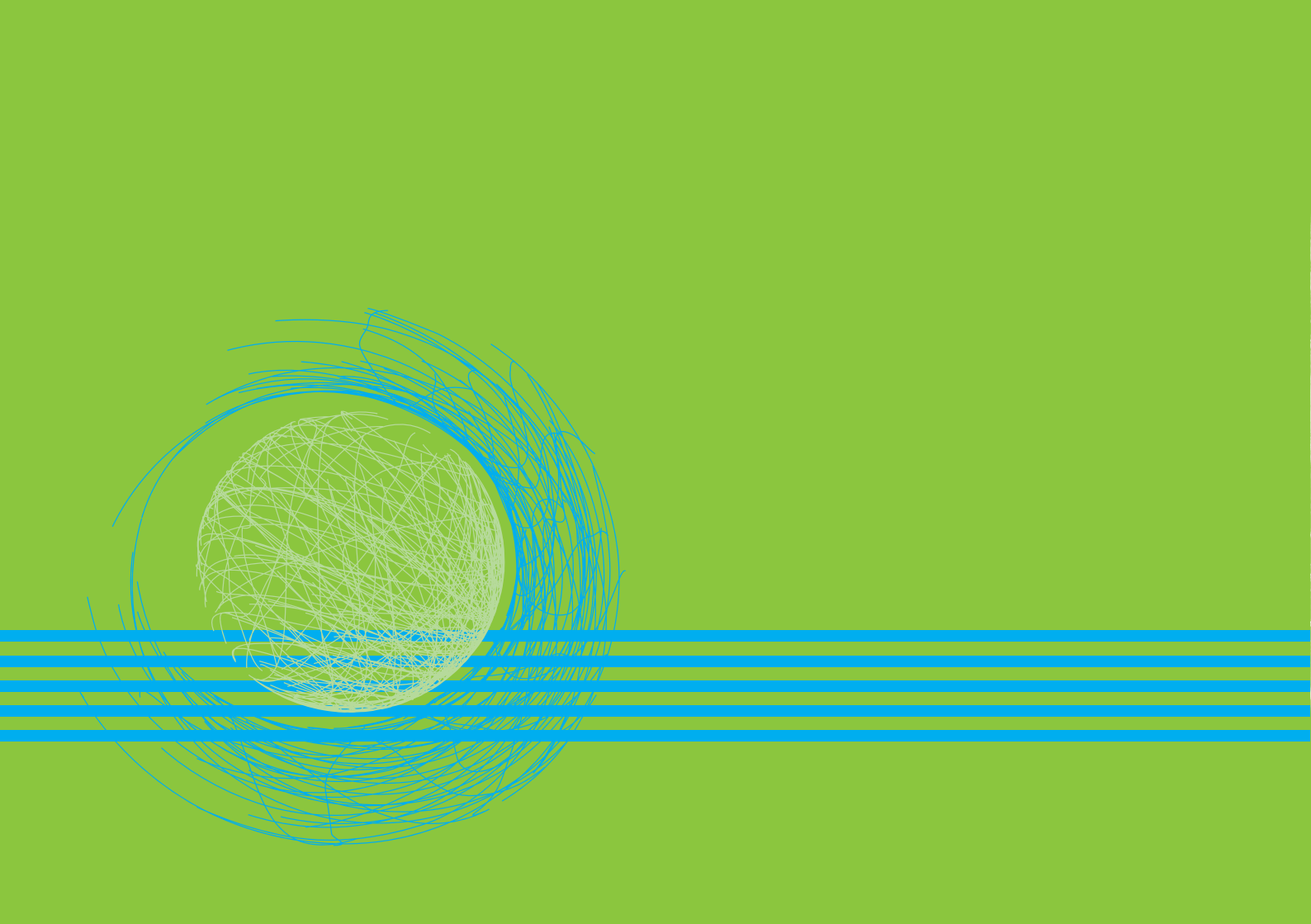
### List of acronyms

ART	Articulation of Territorial Networks for Sustainable Human Development	UNCDF	United Nations capital Development Fund
CFP	Country Framework Programme	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
DC	Decentralized Cooperation	WHO	World Health Organization
GIS	Geographic Information System	WSA	Water and Sanitation for Africa
GWS	Global Water Solidarity		
ISW	International Secretariat for Water		
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management		
LRAs	Local and Regional Authorities		
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		
NGO	Non Governmental Organization		
NPL	<i>Société des Eaux de Vientiane</i>		
NWP	Netherlands Water Partnership		
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation		
SEDIF	<i>Syndicat des eaux de l'île de France</i>		
SHD	Sustainable Human Development		
SIGE	<i>Service Intercommunal de Gestion</i>		
U5	Children under five		
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments		



Purified water in the purification plant in the region of L'Oriental, Kingdom of Morocco (2013).







## Foreword

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## Decentralized solidarity cooperation for a water-secure world

Water is as essential to development as it is to life. It is at the core of Sustainable Human Development in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental). Water has fortunately gradually become a priority of development cooperation interventions, because it features in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which have been the dominant paradigm and organizing framework of international development for more than a decade. Although at the beginning water was rather underestimated and listed under the seventh MDG (ensuring environmental sustainability), access to water and sanitation is now on the forefront of development efforts. After the World Water Forums in Kyoto (2003), Mexico (2006), Istanbul (2009) and Marseille (2012), several concepts emerged and have been consolidated throughout the years to pave the way for a sustainable use of water resources: the need for national water rights, the right of all citizens to access fresh water and sanitation services, the important role of

local authorities in managing water access, the need to coordinate water management at the basin level and the need to find a permanent financing system for water.

In order to ensure that water issues will be adequately addressed in the post-MDG development framework, Switzerland has co-led, with Jordan, Mozambique, the Netherlands and Liberia, the global thematic consultations on water. Because it is not sufficient to consider water a transversal sector, Switzerland and various countries are advocating the inclusion of a specific Water Goal in the post-2015 development agenda. Such a goal must explicitly refer to a water-secure world, defined by the UN as “the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters,

and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability”. Therefore, it is of outmost importance that the single water goal addresses three lines of action: safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all; sustainable management of water resources to satisfy human needs by respecting ecosystem requirements; and waste water management based on the concept of reduction/omission, treatment and re-use/discharge.

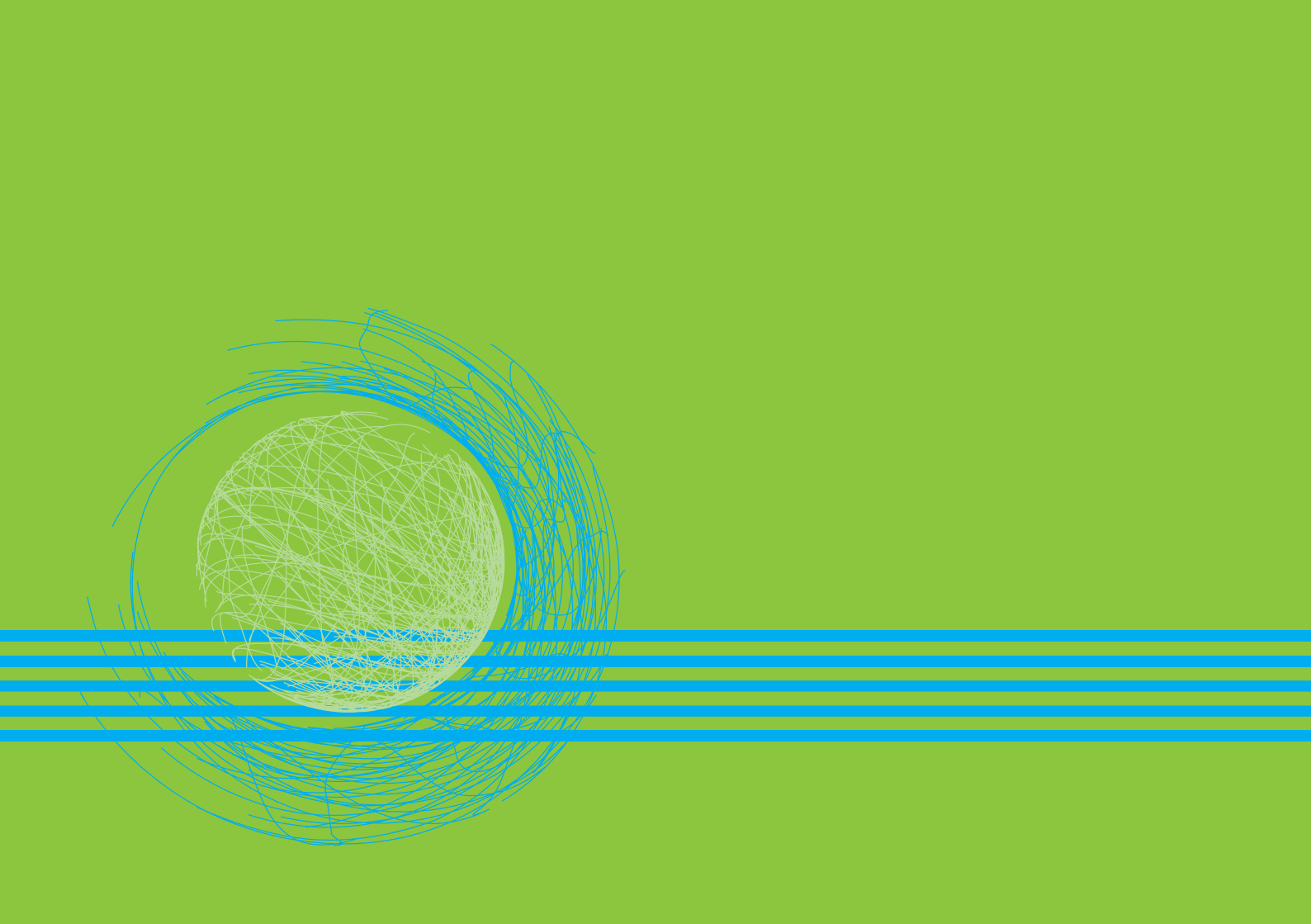
Local authorities play an important role in contributing to development objectives in general and to water security in particular. Hence a water-secure world can only be reached in collaboration with local authorities and with the strong involvement and empowerment of communities. This evolution is the consequence of the local authorities’ unique capacity to listen to their communities’ needs and to exchange knowledge, expertise and financial resources when responding to the most pressing local needs in water and sanitation. In this respect, several European countries are applying legislative frameworks or initiating similar concepts on a voluntary basis, authorizing local authorities and water providers to allocate solidarity funds from their

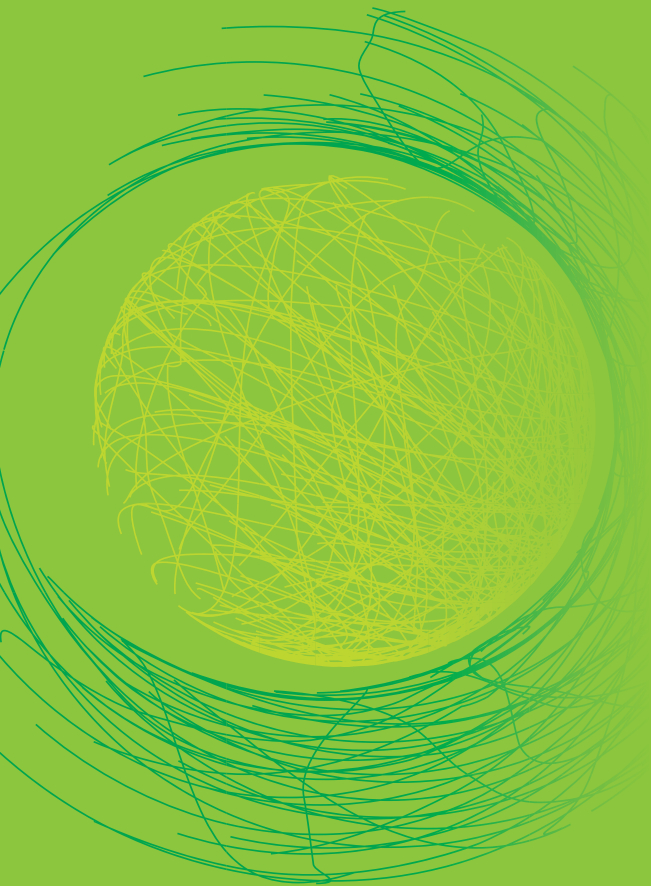
direct financial resources to international cooperation interventions on water and sanitation. This contribution should provide an opportunity for all countries to get involved in water issues: water is as much an individual need and responsibility as a collective one. Ideally, this mechanism should extend to all developed countries and go beyond financial solidarity; it should also include the transfer of technical competencies to carry out projects in water and sanitation. Water solidarity is not just about North-South partnerships but also about local mechanisms, as various cities around the world have put in place solidarity mechanisms where consumers can contribute to the extension of water services to developing neighborhoods in their own cities. Indeed, such experiences need to be promoted. Despite its complexities and the reduced financial resources worldwide, this cooperation modality is necessary to address the major challenges facing water and sanitation. If we can combine increased awareness and improved governance of solidarity partnerships at all levels (local, national and international), this is an achievable feat. In this sense, the UNDP Global Water Solidarity international platform has already made strides in pushing

forward the establishment of decentralized cooperation partnerships for access to water and sanitation. Joining efforts is an opportunity that we ought to seize, develop and capitalize on, to collectively contribute to achieving a water-secure world.

**François Münger,**

Head of the Global Programme Water Initiatives,  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)





# Summary

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## Summary

Innovative partnerships between decentralized cooperation actors have proven to be an important vehicle in achieving universal access to water and sanitation (MDG 7-C). Honoring its commitment to support Decentralized Cooperation (DC) through the ART Initiative, UNDP, in collaboration with several local authorities and water suppliers, has established a thematic platform dedicated to water and sanitation: the Global Water Solidarity (GWS) international platform.

GWS aims to become a platform for local-level water management that ensures the integration of its proposed technical frameworks within Sustainable Human Development (SHD) processes.

GWS allows identifying local demands and pairing them to what decentralized partners can offer; as well, it promotes and institutionalizes articulation between and across levels (global, national and local).

GWS systematizes and builds upon the existing solutions and best practices and facilitates a more effective participation of local actors in the planning, delivery and monitoring of water and sanitation management. Furthermore, GWS consolidates the knowledge and experiences accumulated over the years to facilitate technical cooperation and exchanges among local level stakeholders. It therefore contributes to more accountability and higher ownership by development actors, which in turn yields greater transparency of development processes. Ultimately, these efforts create an international DC community of practice on water and sanitation issues.

As a broker of local-to-local knowledge and experiences, GWS aims to strengthen UNDP's provision of tailored services to meet the different national and local requirements in water and sanitation.

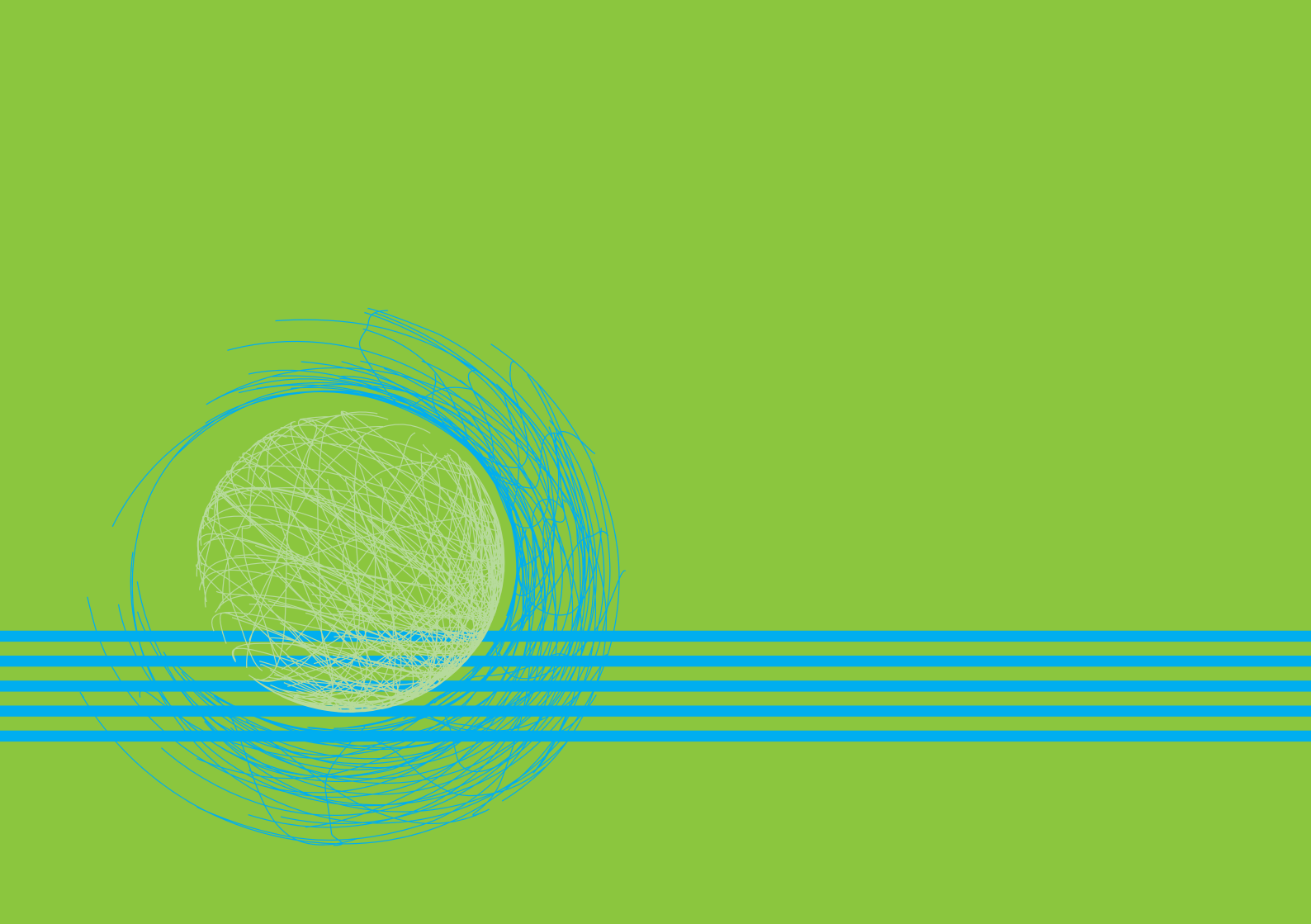


The interventions of GWS are channeled in support of integrated territorial plans, therefore reducing fragmentation and overlap of water and sanitation programmes and increasing the impact and sustainability of efforts in support of SHD. The decentralized transfer of technical competencies also creates and promotes more opportunities for local authorities, national Governments, specialized public agencies, private institutions and civil society organizations from the water and sanitation sector.

This proposed line of action seeks to reach all relevant decentralized stakeholders, the members and partners of GWS and those financial institutions interested in joining our efforts to reach universal access to water and sanitation.



Torola River in the region of Morazan, El Salvador.





# Water and Development

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## I - Water and Development

It is no coincidence that the Practice Guidelines on Decentralized Cooperation, Water and Sanitation of GWS, developed in collaboration with the ART Initiative (Articulation of Territorial Networks for Sustainable Human Development), have been elaborated throughout 2013. Declared by the United Nations as the **Year of Water Cooperation** in the framework of the International Decade of Action “Water for Life” 2005 – 2015, this year has been dedicated to global cooperation on water issues, resulting in accrued world awareness of the absolute centrality of access to water. As UNDP’s leading platform to promote DC in the water and sanitation sector, GWS has been actively involved in these efforts, endorsing the view that cooperation is indispensable to achieve results in this field and upholding the stance that water cooperation interventions must be part of a coordinated multi-actor, multilevel and multi-sector effort that takes into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions of SHD. An integral and inclusive territorial approach that articulates among cooperation actors (at the local, national and international levels) and across all development sectors will allow reaching

### Fast facts:

- Despite considerable advances towards MDG 7-C, more than 750 million people in 43 countries still suffer from no or poor access to water.
- By 2025, over 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world’s population could be living under water stressed conditions.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 3,900 children a day die because of dirty water.
- Lack of sanitation is the world’s leading cause of infection.
- 88% of deaths due to diarrhea in children under five (U5) are water related.
- Although 89% of the world population had improved water sources in 2010, in 2015 more than 600 million people will still lack access to safe drinking water.
- About 2.6 billion people, (or 42% of the world’s population), lack access to basic sanitation.

sustainable development results. This holds particularly true when it comes to water and sanitation, for water is intrinsically connected to all major development objectives: access to water, or the lack of it, is directly correlated to political security, economic development, health, education, food security, gender equality, environmental and poverty indicators.

### How does water affect the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

- **MDG 1:** Access to water for domestic and productive uses (agriculture, industry, and other economic activities) has a direct impact on poverty and food security.
- **MDG 2:** Incidence of catastrophic but often-recurrent events, such as droughts, interrupts educational attainment.
- **MDG 3:** Access to water, in particular in conditions of scarce resources, has important gender related implications, which affects the social and economic capital of women in terms of leadership, earnings and networking opportunities.

- **MDGs 4 and 5:** Equitable, reliable water resources management programmes reduce poor people's vulnerability to shocks, which in turn gives them more secure and fruitful livelihoods to draw upon in caring for their children.
- **MDG 6:** Access to water, and improved water and wastewater management in human settlements, reduce transmission risks of mosquito-borne illnesses, such as malaria and dengue fever.
- **MDG 7:** Adequate treatment of wastewater contributes to less pressure on freshwater resources, helping to protect human and environmental health.
- **MDG 8:** Water scarcity increasingly calls for strengthened international cooperation in the fields of technologies for enhanced water productivity, financing opportunities, and an improved environment to share the benefits of scarce water management.

(source: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/scarcity.shtml>)

### **“Achieving the water and sanitation goals would trigger a major leap forward in human development.” (UNDP)**

Taking into account these intricate linkages, water should therefore be a crosscutting element of development initiatives, carefully integrated in territorial local development plans as a pervasive component.

UNDP follows a human rights approach to water, based on the 2010 General Assembly resolution on the basic human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The resolution specifically calls on States and international organizations to provide financial resources, build capacity and transfer technology, particularly to developing countries, in scaling up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all (resolution 64/292).

UNDP recognizes the explicit links between water and development and is advocating for water needs to be a central focus of the post-2015 agenda, as the key water global challenges are to inform the new development framework (Petra Lantz, Director of the UNDP Representation Office in

Geneva, at the GWS Practice Guidelines Workshop held in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2013).

From an operational perspective, UNDP strives to empower local communities to plan and manage water through community-based and participatory water management. Its longstanding commitment to ensuring access to water and sanitation for all is well reflected in programmes such as MDG GoAL-WaSH, CapNet, the Community Water Initiative, Every Drop Matters, Gender and Water, Human Rights Based Approach and others, all designed to promote and facilitate access to water and sanitation, as a precondition for human development.

In 2011, UNDP took its engagement one stride further and led a group of 25 institutions—including local, regional and national authorities as well as international and multilateral organizations, water operators, NGOs, private organizations and public figures—to establish a new international tool to promote DC in the field of water and sanitation: the Global Water Solidarity international platform. UNDP intends to step up its efforts, consolidating GWS to better communicate the Platform’s principles and results, elaborate concrete

cooperation frameworks, discuss more effective and innovative funding mechanisms, promote inclusive and participatory methodologies that are integrated in local planning exercises, identify innovative approaches for water cooperation and eventually further influence national water policies. The resulting upstream-downstream synergy ultimately aims at supporting local and regional authorities (LRAs) in ensuring access to water and sanitation to improve their communities' quality of life and contribute to their development objectives.

### **GWS and ART: two complementary tools**

Certainly, this strategic choice is partly due to the changes witnessed by the development landscape in the last two decades, not the least of which the proliferation of development actors and the rise of LRAs as pivotal players in identifying, planning and leading local development processes. Acknowledging the importance of the sub-national level and the need to change the development paradigm from a top-down, donor-beneficiary approach to a bottom-up, partners-colleagues perspective, UNDP mainstreamed ART in its corporate strategies on local

development, as a tested tool to appraise the strategic value of cities, municipalities, regions and civil society, to promote their harmonized involvement in the countries' prioritized processes and to foster mutually enriching dialogues between territories. Through ART, UNDP has engaged in a strategic partnership with DC actors on multiple thematic areas; Global Water Solidarity builds on this approach and works in complementarity with ART, bringing these actors together in the field of water and sanitation.

### **What is Decentralized Cooperation?**

ART and GWS understand DC in a broad and inclusive sense, where local and sub-national governments, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and academia work with counterparts in other countries to advance SHD. By definition, DC responds to needs identified and formulated locally, putting the LRAs in the driving seat of their own development processes.

The joint actions of LRAs from the North and the South lead to long-term relationships between two or more communities. DC focuses on the exchange of know-how, institutional support and training,



where two local authorities develop a specific type of cooperation to share experiences on local management and local development. Furthermore, it is a modality that encourages dialogue between territories—and therefore, more equal relationships—and mutually enriching exchanges.

DC partners have been working in a coordinated and complementary way through ART's networks for the past six years. Their wealth of experiences, good practices and innovations are put at the disposal of partner countries through ART's Country Framework Programmes (CFPs).

The DC modality represents ART's characteristic capacity to offer local-local linkages in support of local development in general—and of water development in particular—through GWS.

**“Decentralized cooperation is ‘cooperation on request’, and always starts with an expression of needs by the South.”**

ART is UNDP's main entry point for development actors (whether decentralized or multilateral) wishing to increase

the impact and efficiency of their interventions at the local level through the multilateral framework; therefore, GWS can act as a “synergy-booster for water” by taking part in ART's framework, which puts its extensive network of partners, established alliances, pool of knowledge products, expertise and operational tools and mechanisms at the service of water and sanitation objectives.

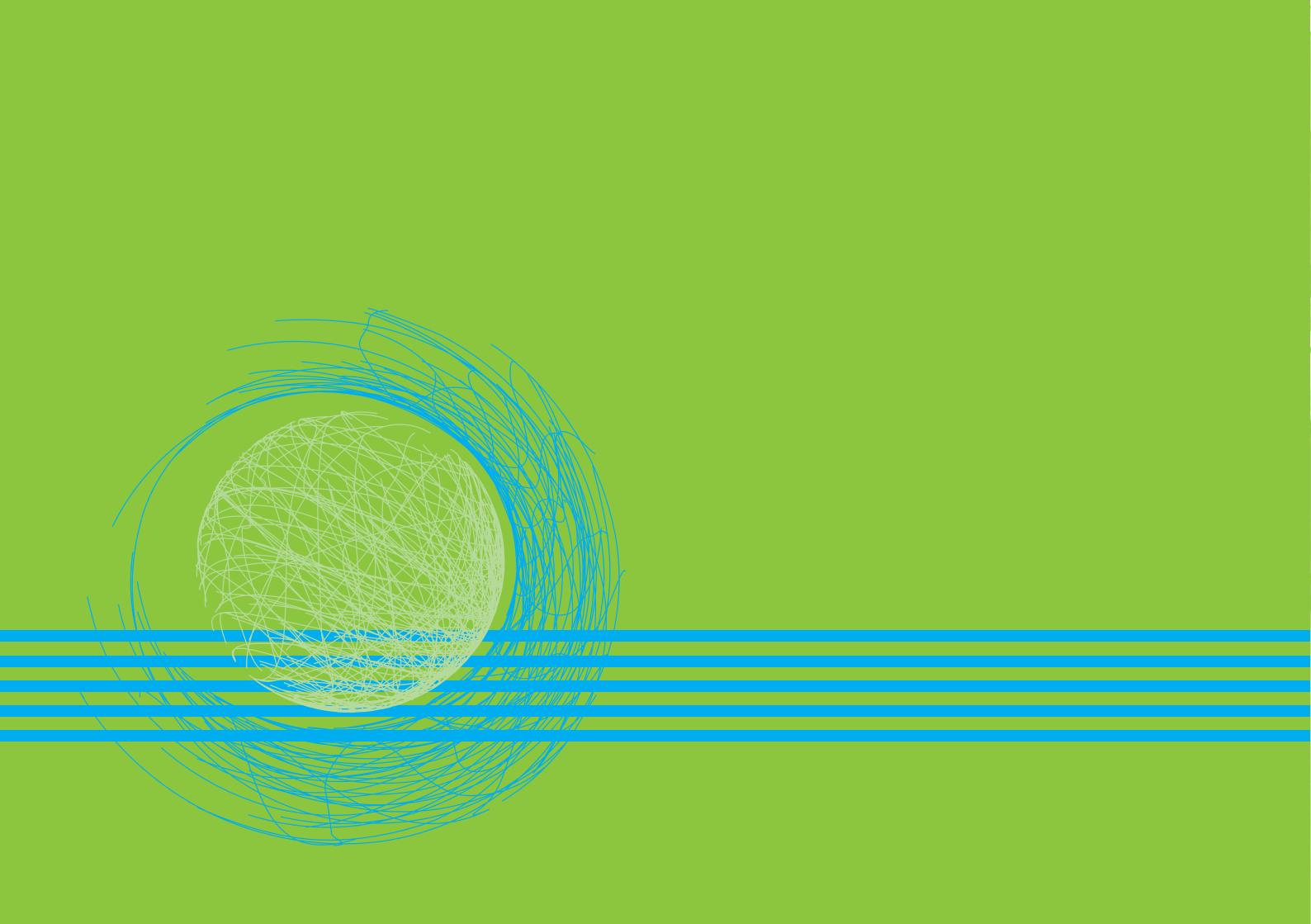


Senegalese woman drawing water from a newly built fountain.

Harnessing complementarities and combining the existing knowledge and resources of two in-house platforms is a timely and pertinent exercise in the current challenging international context and to respond to the calls for more coordinated, harmonized and aligned interventions. It is also an added value with immense leverage potential and an opportunity to build upon.



Purification plant in Nador, Kingdom of Morocco (2013).



# What is Global Water Solidarity?

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## II - What is Global Water Solidarity?

With the support of an active coalition of water development partners and backed by tested and innovative cooperation mechanisms, sub-national actors have a central role to play in responding to the challenge of improving universal access to water and sanitation (MDG 7-C).

**“Target 7-C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.”**

Owing to their closeness to local communities and first-hand knowledge of their territories, LRAs have developed innovative solutions and best practices that have allowed them to overcome technical, political and financial challenges. Furthermore, their combined know-how, expertise and technical and financial resources can contribute to filling the endemic resource gap that cripples water interventions.

To help leveraging this unique local expertise and bridging this funding gap, UNDP, through its Geneva Representation Office, officially launched the Global Water Solidarity

### Founding Members of GWS

Basque Agency for Water  
BothEnds  
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
International Office of Water  
International Secretariat for Water (ISW)  
Le Syndicat des Eaux de l’Ile de France (SEDF)  
Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP)  
PROTOS  
pS-Eau  
Sahara and Sahel Observatory  
Service Intercommunal de Gestion (SIGE)  
Solidarit’eau  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)  
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)  
United Nations capital Development Fund (UNCDF)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Vitens-Evides  
Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA)  
Waterlex  
Water Right Foundation

international platform during the Sixth World Water Forum held in Marseille in 2012. The Platform has the mandate of supporting the achievement of the MDG 7-C and the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 through the promotion of DC partnerships in water and sanitation.

Strong of 20 founding members and over 40 charter signatories, GWS builds upon previous groundbreaking national and regional experiences such as the Oudin-Santini Law in France<sup>1</sup>, the Dutch *Motie Koppejan* Law, the Swiss *Solidarit'eau*, the Spanish *canon del agua* and the Italian and Belgian initiatives. With the strategic support of ART, UNDP's main entry point for DC partnerships, the added value of GWS lies in its innovative capacity to build a

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<sup>1</sup> The Oudin-Santini Law was introduced in France on 9 February 2005. This law allows local governments or the associations in charge of water and sanitation services to devote up to 1 percent of their water and sanitation budget to development projects channeled through their counterparts in the South, such as local governments or providers of water and sanitation utilities. This law has facilitated the systemization of decentralized cooperation and reinforced existing initiatives. It has also had a leverage effect, harnessing the support of private institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

network of water and sanitation partners in order to promote knowledge and good practices exchanges and to mobilize more decentralized alliances—and thus innovative funding mechanisms—at the national, regional and global levels.



Global Water Solidarity annual meeting, hosted by the Water Right Foundation in Florence, Italy (2012).

As a proactive and specialized network of “water alliances”, GWS is also a UNDP “water think-tank” that contributes to identifying emerging local development issues, setting out ideas and options for the post-2015 development agenda. Indeed, GWS channels the immense knowledge of decentralized partners to feed into international and corporate processes in relation to water and sanitation. To this end, GWS has encouraged its members to share and disseminate their contributions and experiences at the local level —where development does make a difference.

### Founding Framework of GWS

1. MDG 7-C.
2. UN General Assembly resolution on access to water as a basic human right.
3. Aid effectiveness principles: Rome (2003) and Paris (2005) declarations, Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and Busan Declaration (2011).

Since its establishment, GWS has advocated for innovative partnerships, boosted existing cooperation alliances and compiled knowledge products, leading to these Practice Guidelines. GWS has also presented decentralized solidarity principles at major international forums, promoted the water debate at the national and international levels and facilitated the participatory elaboration of a charter that engages its signatories to develop and promote DC partnerships. The Platform has also been actively engaged in contributing to and advocating for innovative financing and fundraising, along with the promotion of exchange of knowledge and expertise in water and sanitation. In addition, with its main partners, it has lobbied for the inclusion of the concept of decentralized solidarity innovative partnerships in the agendas of several international events on water, among which the Sixth World Water Forum, Marseille, 2012; *Salon Euro Africain de l'eau et de l'énergie*, Bamako, 2011; World Water Week, Stockholm, 2011 and 2012; Water and Sanitation for All in Africa, Ouagadougou, 2011; *Assemblée de l'Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau*, Marrakech, 2012; *Forum de l'Association Africaine des usagers de l'eau*, Marrakech, 2012; and World Urban Forum, Napoli, 2012.



**“From concept to fact: GWS has become an established platform for the promotion of decentralized partnerships for water.”**

What is more, certification tools have been elaborated for the recognition, promotion and motivation of existing and future decentralized solidarity partnerships for water and sanitation, among which a “recognition label” that has been developed and granted to specific international initiatives based on the fulfillment of the principles of DC and of the territorial approach to development:

Decentralized Solidarity Innovative Partnerships (referred to in these Guidelines as Decentralized Cooperation -DC-) are driven by but not limited to the principles of a **human rights** approach to water, **universality, subsidiarity, multilevel governance, participation and inclusiveness, appraisal of the endogenous potential, complementarity, mutual accountability, leverage** and **sustainability** (institutional, environmental and financial).

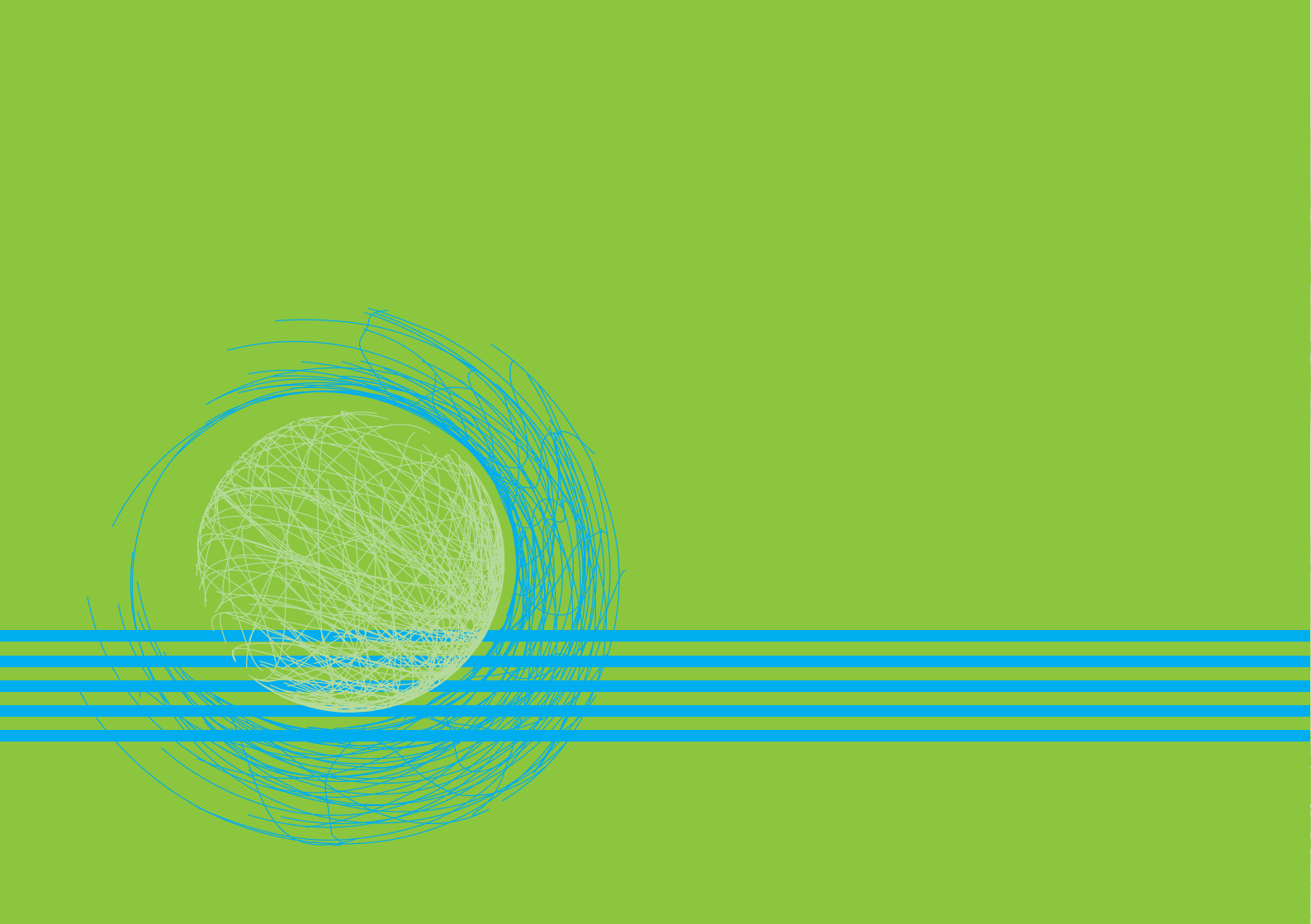
Thanks to a solid theoretical/methodological foundation that is coupled with a concrete operational capacity, GWS allows its members to contribute to the water global debates and policies and facilitates delivering results on the ground.

From a methodological perspective, GWS upholds a territorial approach, in the sense that it takes into account the territories’ endogenous potential, identity and needs; integrates water interventions within existing —or developing— local development plans and strives to promote crosscutting, inclusive and participatory interventions. This is so because GWS believes that human development —as an overall objective that includes water targets— needs to start at the local level and ought to be initiated, led, managed and monitored by the territories if optimal and sustainable results are to be achieved. Territories have an unparalleled capacity to bring together local actors, which makes them essential players in the elaboration of feasible, viable and long-term water management policies. Identifying and working on “issues of common interest” that concern all citizens, such as access to water, is indeed key to foster participatory approaches that involve institutional partners, civil society, the public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and others.

This methodology allows to strategically identify and rank local demands in a concerted, collaborative and participatory way, namely through local planning exercises that support the territories' development plans and priorities —comprising water— in a coordinated manner. This way, inputs to redefine national policies are directly conveyed, giving a voice to the territories in the definition of those policies that most affect them. Because it contributes to bring together all key local stakeholders, water development partners (bilateral and decentralized) and representatives of the national level, GWS has a pivotal role to play in pushing forward water solutions that are demand-driven, negotiated locally owned and that combine endogenous knowledge with external expertise and support. In turn, this leads to less fragmentation and overlap, more ownership and accountability, and therefore more impact and effectiveness.

From an operational perspective, GWS relies on three cornerstones that are articulated within a DC modality to achieve concrete results on the ground:

- I. As an **institutional and articulation** platform, GWS establishes and promotes decentralized solidarity partnerships and articulates water development actors: demands are identified and paired with what DC actors can offer, boosting complementarities and creating synergies.
- II. As a **knowledge hub**, GWS collects and builds upon existing solutions and best practices; it manages knowledge and facilitates the exchange of expertise to foster technical cooperation, create an international community of practice in DC partnerships and advance the transfer of competencies.
- III. As a broker, GWS strives to **develop innovative fundraising** and to **raise awareness**; it harnesses the interest of DC partners in technically and financially supporting concrete water initiatives in the countries. In turn, this multi-actor and multi-donor framework promotes a significant leverage effect that contributes to increasing available resources for water and sanitation interventions.





# The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

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### III - The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

The benefits of water cooperation spread across the development spectrum, for water and sanitation are key to poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, social equity and gender equality; moreover, adequate access creates economic benefits, prevents conflicts and builds peace. While indisputably, sub-national and DC partners take the lead in providing the institutional, financial and technical support to water and sanitation objectives, GWS has the capacity to foster, develop, replicate and support existing DC partnerships for water cooperation. Well aware of these complex and interdependent dynamics, the activities facilitated by GWS are structured around three interrelated cornerstones: **providing an institutional platform** for the articulation of partners and interventions; **building a knowledge hub** integrated by a specialized community of practice; and **engaging in innovative solidarity fundraising and awareness raising**. For each of these three bases of action, selected case studies of good practices from partner countries are introduced in this section, showcasing the existing and potential contribution of GWS to translating methodological principles into good practices, and

#### Principles unanimously adopted and implemented by GWS partners, as reflected in their projects:

- Development effectiveness: harmonization, alignment and ownership.
- Territorial approach / multilevel governance.
- Sustainable partnerships and dialogue between territories.
- Universality / Human Rights approach / socioeconomic inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups.
- Transparency and facilitation / mutual accountability / participatory approach.
- Leverage / multi-donor and multi-partner approach.
- Sustainability: environmental, financial, institutional, technical and socioeconomic.
- Citizen / user participation.
- Inter-sector coordination.

commitments into concrete actions on the ground through the collective experience and knowledge of its members.

### **GWS as an institutional and articulation platform**

Well in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Busan's final document "Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation", GWS facilitates the harmonization of development partners and their interventions, promoting concerted, participatory and inclusive decision-making processes. Harmonization is understood as a process that heralds better coordination among development partners, improves horizontal/vertical dialogue and leads to a better "division of labor" that is based on demand, resources and competencies. This is achieved while simultaneously respecting the specificities and strategic choices of all members and ensuring their individual visibility. Indeed, the members of GWS have adopted differentiated partnership modalities: from partnerships that are carried out through a local water actor (SEDIF-Laos) to public-public partnerships between two towns (Lausanne-Nouakchott); multiple partnership agreements (Water Right Foundation –Italy, and several municipalities in Armenia); multiple partners

from the North and from the South (Madagascar); bilateral national level agreements that trickle down at the local level (France-Vietnam); or partnerships facilitated by UNDP ART (El Salvador, Lebanon and Senegal), to name but a few.



Italian and Armenian mayors and other authorities inaugurating the pipeline in Ayagabats, Armenia (2009).

### III - The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

The need for a platform that facilitates coordination and coherence among partners and interventions is in fact a recurring issue underscored by GWS partners and one where GWS can provide a concrete added value. For example, in **Armenia** (several Armenian municipalities and Water Right Foundation –Italy), it was noted that although many partners are involved in water and sanitation projects, no entity is in charge of coordination and going “beyond information meetings” is needed. On the other hand, in **Lebanon**, UNDP’s ART project “Implementation of a management system of drinking water and of maintenance of infrastructure in South Lebanon” (ART Lebanon and Turin –Italy) offered its framework and instruments (such as the regional working groups) to enhance coordination among DC partners and allow for participatory decisions to be made based on the organized and prioritized demands from the territories.

Therefore, GWS gives the opportunity to identify local demands and pair them to what decentralized partners can offer technically and financially. These exchanges also prompt a “dialogue between territories” on issues of common interest, which takes place from a partnership perspective

and is based on mutual respect, equality and reciprocity, as all initiatives are aimed at long-term relationships and processes. This is so because “in the water business, short-term visions and actions are just not possible”.



Delivery of equipment and inauguration of the water center in Marjeyoun, Lebanon (2010).

The manifold undertakings of GWS are carried out within bottom-up, demand-driven and participatory processes

that strive for complementarity within territorial development plans and alignment to national priorities. One example is **Lebanon**, where UNDP's ART project is implemented in coordination with the Programme's national counterpart, the Council for Development and Reconstruction, and in partnership with three Municipality Unions and the Regional Water Authority. The Programme's objectives at the national level are aligned to national priorities, ensuring the project's ownership and sustainability on the long run, as the concerned municipalities directly manage the two maintenance centers established with the support of the Programme and its Italian partners, while the Ministry of Water is considering supporting additional similar centers in the region.

Furthermore, GWS promotes and institutionalizes articulation between and across levels (global, national and local), which are understood as interrelated and permeable spheres of action. This articulation ensures a multilevel governance approach to water management, vital to the long-term results of interventions.

**Water issues must be addressed at all levels and with all stakeholders; solutions must be aligned to national policies and respond to local needs.**



Italian and Senegalese technicians working together on project planning.



The experiences of several countries (El Salvador, Lebanon, Mauritania, Senegal) show that unless planned interventions are both integrated in territorial development processes and aligned with national level priorities, it is difficult to mobilize the necessary financial means or to institutionalize the initiatives—a prerequisite for their replication, scaling up, sustainability and ownership. The national level actually needs to be involved from the earliest stages of project design if any influence on national public policies is to be achieved and if national plans are to truly respond to territorial needs.

#### How does the territorial/multilevel approach of ART and GWS work? (Example from El Salvador)

**Approach:** territorial, participatory, long-term and integrated in local planning ➡ promotes ownership.

**Methodology:** aligned to national priorities, innovative and aimed at making the initiative a public policy ➡ promotes alignment and sustainability.

**Added Value:** international multi-donor and multi-stakeholder platform ➡ promotes harmonization and coordination among development actors.

Such is the case in **El Salvador** (UNDP ART El Salvador and the Basque Water Agency, as well as other DC partners), where the project “Improving Water Governance in El Salvador” follows a multilevel and territorial approach that ensures the participation of all stakeholders, contributing to mitigate the initial situation of fragmentation and dispersion of actors. Through this multilevel approach, water issues have been tackled at several levels: at the national level, to influence the legal framework; at the basin level, to promote articulation among actors; at the micro-regional level, to reinforce the necessary capacities and to promote inter-municipal management of water; and at the municipal level, to conduct small infrastructure projects that ensure ownership, the political commitment of elected mayors and user participation.

Along the same lines, the Regional Division of Hydraulic Resources of **Senegal** (Louga and UPL -Union of Provinces of Lombardy- Italy) noted that alignment with national priorities, involvement of the national Government, increased participation of local authorities, good governance and monitoring tools are prerequisites to maximize the project’s impact. Promoting multilevel and good governance, as

well as initiatives aimed at the active participation of water development stakeholders at various levels was recommended, well in line with the approach promoted by GWS in this regard. In **Ukraine**, (four Ukrainian regions and France - Agence de l'Eau Artois Picardie) the four projects are carried out through a multilevel approach that involves and coordinates the European, national, regional and local levels; responsibilities are well divided among the four major players, a case in point of good practice in harmonization:

### Multilevel coordination (example from Ukraine)

**European level:** provides directives and guidelines.

**National level** (several ministries): ensures quality standards, control and monitoring, controls wastewater, provides policy guidance, adapts national budget and sets prices.

**Regional level:** manages wastewater control and adapts regional budgets.

**Local level:** owns the system, assumes responsibility at the local level, provides and collects water, collects money and co-finances projects.

On the other hand, the articulation and harmonization efforts of GWS at the international level makes the territories' needs known and development partners more visible, contributing to muster financial and technical support at the global level, as the cases of El Salvador, Morocco, Lebanon and Madagascar demonstrate. Multilevel articulation also allows local actors to participate in international debates on water issues, enriching discussions with a local vision that is based on best practices and lessons learned.



Technicians and local authorities overseeing the building site for a new purification plant in the region of Oriental, Kingdom of Morocco (2013).

**“Any future solutions for water problems need to span across regions, disciplines and stakeholders.”**

#### **GWS as a knowledge hub**

As a knowledge hub, GWS facilitates knowledge management and transfer of competencies and exchanges; it also undertakes comprehensive mappings of “who can do what and where” in relation to water issues. As well, the Platform carries out feasibility studies, situational analyses and preparatory assistance missions aimed at elaborating contextualized proposals for local or national water management. This way, GWS “as a knowledge broker” indirectly supports harmonization, as feasibility studies and mapping contribute to better coordination and alignment.

**“When information is interpreted, understood and applied, when it is acted upon and added to previous knowledge, new knowledge is created.”**

GWS collects and builds upon existing solutions and best practices, ensuring that results are capitalized on, shared

and replicated, and that the various momentums generated on the ground are seized.



Local municipal staff attending technical training in Garni, Armenia (2012).

There are numerous examples of good practices in this area, showcasing that GWS can become a significant platform for knowledge brokerage, transfer of competencies and mapping of available financial and technical resources. All

the described interventions are demand-driven initiatives, since they represent concrete responses to local needs; moreover, thanks to the active dialogue between DC actors, projects are adapted to each and every territory's reality.

For instance, in **Armenia** (various municipalities) the Water Right Foundation (Italy) has included a component of tailored technical capacity building for municipal workers to its

Global Water Solidarity allows enhancing, sharing and pushing forward the diverse experiences and skills of its members. These competencies include, but are not limited to, the following typical fields of expertise:

- Water waste management and water safety management.
- Identifying water quality problems in the water distribution network of dams and reservoirs (through health surveys and establishing parameters for water drinkability).
- Determining general principles for the monitoring of water quality (through water control and surveillance in public supply chains).

- General principles for water safety management.
- Bacteriological measurement standards in water and sanitation (through validation of methods for bacteriological analysis of water and calculation methods of bacteriological analysis).
- Internal and external water quality assurance (through water quality control in microbiology, traceability in the records of tests and analysis reports in microbiology and validation of analytical results).
- Controlling the materials affecting the water resources through water quality controls: national and international regulations on materials that are used in contact with water.
- Identification of the factors affecting water quality in the distribution channels.
- General water and sanitation management capacities
- Technical expertise for building infrastructure or installing devices such as water meters.
- Capacity building for the staff of water utilities (billing, service orientation, etc.).

### III - The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

project, therefore localizing responses to the actual territorial needs. Furthermore, Water Right Foundation has extended its training topics to fundraising competencies, hence improving the project's sustainability and increasing local ownership, whereby local water authorities involved in the five-year project will eventually be fully in charge of water management.



Office of Vientiane's water company in Ban Phonxay, Saysettha district, Laos (2013).

GWS believes that pooling, reinforcing and transferring capacities and know how is more contextualized and localized when exchanges are peer-to-peer and LRA-to-LRA. A good

instance is **Laos** (*Société des Eaux de Vientiane -NPNL-*), where a long-term cooperation to develop water supply in Vientiane with the technical support of *Syndicat des eaux de l'île de France* (SEDIF) involves yearly training and technical exchanges in the region of Paris, which has led to knowledge transfer on water management and on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Moreover, NPNL technicians are provided with continuous and ongoing technical assistance on the ground through a locally based French NGO financed by SEDIF. In this specific case, cooperation is almost exclusively centered around technical and knowledge exchanges, as SEDIF does not directly implement projects, but provides technical assistance and asset management competencies. As to **Vietnam** (Vietnamese Department of Water Resources Management and two French water agencies), the pilot project “Technical support for the implementation of Integrated Resources Management in Vietnam” has focused on transfer of technology and expertise to support policies on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the Dong Nai river basin (pilot area). In this framework, the French counterparts have been providing capacity building to increase awareness on water resource conservation and have transferred expertise and know-how on IWRM to develop water resources

and control water pollution. Training activities, study visits to France and the transfer of tools, a web portal and a catalogue onto Vietnam's server have also taken place. In addition to the transfer of competencies, this partnership has facilitated cooperation among all involved actors and highlighted the importance of the “basin approach”. This cooperation is a good example of how capacity transfer can tangibly improve knowledge in specific areas where support is needed, such as IWRM (in this case, for a river basin). Interestingly, this bilateral agreement between two national Governments has filtered down to a more localized initiative whose results are felt at the local level.



Works on a double layer filter in Madagascar.

In another case in point of transfer of competencies and knowledge, two technicians and one engineer in charge of pipe network maintenance and management received training in Turin (Italy) through the UNDP ART **Lebanon** Programme, on competencies such as pipe replacing, digging, detecting leakages, tank cleaning and restoration, remote control of the network, use of basic systems for tank level regulation and pumping systems and disinfection systems. In Toamasina (**Madagascar**), the Flemish *Watergroep*, under the umbrella of the Flemish Partnership Water for Development, has been providing technical support and feasibility studies for the water network and production site through PROTOS, a Flemish NGO that has a local representation in the country. Through this cooperation, a transfer of competencies has taken place in sectoring the water network, pressure metering and detecting physical leakages and illicit water use. Moreover, *Watergroep* is considering organizing technical assistance missions to Flanders for Malagasy water experts in the near future. Another Flemish partner delivered satellite-based maps, thanks to which *Watergroep* geo-referenced the Toamasina water network. In Nouakchott (**Mauritania**), city technicians have been involved in various technical exchanges with the water utility of Lausanne

### III - The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

(Switzerland), regarding water management, water supply and water quality indicators. These exchanges are leading to capacity building in water management and encouraging the replication of good practices, as pilot projects are replicated when they prove successful and effective. Despite these encouraging results, challenges have also been identified, as better coordination, alignment of water policies at the national level and long-term political support are needed for more effective results and higher impact. This arena could well benefit from the capacities of GWS in coordination and advocacy.

These few examples illustrate how as a knowledge hub, GWS facilitates the transfer of competencies, creates “innovation laboratories” in the territories to exchange know-how and expertise and generates concrete and tangible results.

In another example of how GWS members enrich the Platform’s pool of knowledge products and resources, in **Ukraine** (in partnership with France’s *Eau Artois Picardie*), the Ministry of Regional Development is in the process of compiling a database of good practices in the field of water management; it will be needing feedback from the partners

of GWS on lessons learned, previous similar experiences and expertise to provide better insights into the creation of a regional company that provides water services to the four regions involved in the project (and probably others at a later stage).

**“Knowledge management is the collection of processes that govern the creation, dissemination and leveraging of knowledge to fulfill organizational objectives.”**

[http://www.km-forum.org/what\\_is.htm](http://www.km-forum.org/what_is.htm)



Azov Sea in Mariupol, Ukraine.

### **GWS as an agent for innovative fundraising and awareness raising**

In line with the emerging approaches for water and cooperation, shaped by strong citizen participation and increasing participative capacities of all development stakeholders involved in water interventions, GWS has a pivotal role to play in boosting leverage and multiplier effects, introducing innovative solidarity fundraising modalities and raising awareness on the centrality of water, therefore making tracks towards SHD in general and the MDGs in particular. Moreover, with ART's support, GWS can contribute to bridging the gap in relation to adequate legal frameworks and financing structures for DC interventions in water and sanitation.

### **“A new generation of water managers is needed to implement innovative policies and practices.”**

An interesting instance of such innovative policies and their positive spillover effect is the change in the co-financing policies of SEDIF (France) to enable it to finance European-based NGOs —and not just French

NGOs. This unprecedented move has allowed establishing a multi-actor partnership with Toamasina (**Madagascar**) and showed once again that multiple stakeholders from the North (*Watergroep* and SEDIF) can work together pooled around the main local actor (in this case, PROTOS). The Flemish partnership “Water for Development” is meanwhile generating a leverage effect: the Flemish Government is co-financing projects introduced by a minimum of two members of this partnership, while encouraging Flemish partners to financially support these projects. This is allowing the Flemish contribution to be used as a leverage to get subsidies (grants) from Belgian and European development aid channels.

Leverage effect and replicability cases are actually identified in most projects carried out by GWS members. In **Armenia**, the initial €45,000 from Firenze's water company funds allocated to DC encouraged development partners to contribute with additional resources from other donors, whereby the original investment has ended up co-financing interventions of over €600,000. Actually this is also a case in point of creative financing: because Italy does not have the equivalent of an “Oudin-Santini law”, the funds used for



### III - The Three Cornerstones of Global Water Solidarity

this project directly come from the water company's profits and are channeled through a Foundation. Meanwhile, Water Right Foundation is lobbying with the Italian Government to have such a law enforced at the national level, an effort that could well benefit from the advocacy capacities of GWS. Similarly, *Solidarit'eau* has labeled Lausanne's water utility as a "solidary commune" because it allocates one cent for each cubic meter sold in the commune for a development project in the water sector.

In **Vietnam** (Dong Nai river basin) the national Government is considering replicating of the project to other river basins in the country. In Nouakchott (**Mauritania**), in a clear example of the potential multiplier effect of DC partnerships, Lausanne (Switzerland) has been able to more than double the budget allocated to the project since its launch in 2009, achieving the involvement of 16 different communes and the co-financing of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. This constitutes an example of good practice in this respect: *Solidarit'eau* Suisse has been key to increase the number of municipalities that contribute to water and sanitation projects in the South (financially and technically) and has been able to mobilize more than

SwF 3 million for such projects, reaching over 660,000 beneficiaries thanks to a vibrant public-public partnership between cities.



Delegates from the municipalities of Nouakchott and Lausanne visit a water fountain in Nouakchott, Mauritania (2013).

Thanks to its convening capacity as one of UNDP's platforms for water that gathers a wide range of European DC actors interested in supporting communities from the South in achieving MDG 7-C, GWS also harnesses

their financial support for water projects. In this sense, the Platform can present projects to bilateral donors to mobilize additional resources aimed at responding to demands that arise from the territory in relation to water needs. Such would be the case with **Lebanon** and **Ukraine**. In **Lebanon**, ART and GWS could support the Programme in mobilizing additional funds to finance the national water strategy designed to overcome the country's endemic water issues (water shortages, lack of adequate water management, old pipe networks, leakages) in the southern region, where the Programme is already active and has produced tangible results, having improved the water maintenance network and cut the time needed for repairs. In **Ukraine**, the two regional and three local authorities involved in the partnership with Agence de l'Eau Artois Picardie (France) are seeking international exposure to mobilize additional funds in support of an integrated development programme and have requested the assistance of GWS in this regard. This is so because GWS is able to create a more attractive environment for financial cooperation and to advocate for innovative partnerships with influential institutions, leading to more opportunities for local authorities.

Last, it is important to highlight the importance of planning long-term processes. To reach results, long-term perspectives need to be integrated in water and sanitation interventions. It is not only local communities, stakeholders, national Governments and development partners who must engage in a durable and sustainable partnership: the future generation needs to be involved in the collective efforts towards access to water and sanitation as well, with awareness raising and education on water starting at the school level.



Global Water Solidarity Best Practice Workshop in Geneva, Switzerland (2013).

#### **First Results**

*The joint work of the ART Initiative and the GWS Platform generated two concrete results in 2013, in Morocco and El Salvador:*

#### **Morocco**

***“GWS has created a water and sanitation laboratory in the Region of L'Oriental with the financial and technical support of the Tuscany Region.”***

The ART Framework Programme in Morocco has been active since 2007 and enjoys well-established mechanisms that have ensured participatory, targeted and demand-driven interventions. In L'Oriental, one of the two regions of the Programme's intervention, water shortages are taking a heavy toll on the potential agro-pastoral production, adversely impacting industrial production and touristic activities. In response to the organized demand of the territory, a Project Document was elaborated in partnership with the Region of

L'Oriental, UNDP's ART Framework Programme and GWS Mediterranean sub-platforms members<sup>2</sup>. The document, approved in early 2013, aims at “Building the capacities of local actors in water and sanitation management and access”. As a first result, the Region of Tuscany has pledged a financial contribution of € 100,000 and technical assistance, thanks to the combined efforts and networking of ART and GWS.



Water Purification Plant in Oujda, Kingdom of Morocco.

<sup>2</sup> GWS has three sub-platforms: African, Mediterranean and European.

This decentralized solidarity partnership will primarily focus on the following thematic areas:

- **Support to local and regional institutions:** The Region of Tuscany will accompany local and regional institutions in the implementation of national guidelines and strategies in water and sanitation to ensure access to fresh water in rural areas, the protection of water resources and environmental protection, among others.
- **Technical assistance and financial support** to the water and sanitation regional laboratory to improve the socioeconomic, health and environmental impact of interventions in this field. The overall objective of the laboratory is to harmonize the various regional and local water and sanitation actors, while ensuring more sustainability for their interventions. To do so, it will foster a more active participation of the most vulnerable groups, mainly in rural and mountainous areas, in the management of water and sanitation.

- **Institutional capacity building** for technical officers and managers, decision makers and elected officials in various competencies related to water and sanitation, such as (but not limited to): training on water and sanitation GIS, preventative policies, elaboration of a manual to prevent and treat cases of pollution and awareness raising on international and national commitments in relation to water.

Fully dedicated to this innovative pool of competencies, the Tuscan cooperation is ultimately aimed at reinforcing the capacities of local institutions in relation to water resource management, in particular regarding the provision of fresh water in rural areas, sanitation and protection of water resources and the environment.

### **EI Salvador**

***“GWS will push forward over ten high-impact infrastructure projects in partnership with its members.”***

The ART Framework Programme in El Salvador has supported the implementation of water pilot projects since 2011 in three Salvadorian micro-regions, in cooperation with the Basque Water Agency. These micro-regions share similar challenges and characteristics, among which deforestation, lack of water collection policies and the absence of a legal framework for water management.



Ministry of Environment observatory in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Following a joint ART and GWS identification mission carried out with the support of the Loire Bretagne Water Agency, the financial and technical collaboration of the latter will be secured to implement ten infrastructure projects for the construction of water tanks in each of these areas. Because a relatively modest financial investment can achieve tangible results and thanks to the active participation of over 100 local representatives who shared their ideas, priorities and proposed solutions, this DC alliance represents a real opportunity in achieving universal access to water in the three micro-regions.

The partnership facilitated by GWS and ART is relevant because it constitutes a natural continuation of the initial three pilot projects and builds on the existing participatory mechanisms (namely, regional working groups and local planning cycles). In addition to the infrastructure actions, other needs were identified during the mission and will be matched with the technical competencies offered by the partners of GWS in the following areas: water quality measurement, information management, water usage control, water waste management and national legislation in relation to water and sanitation. To do so, GWS will seek

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to establish an institutional partnership network between its partners and the three micro-regions through a centralized micro-regional center for water and sanitation. Furthermore, these projects have the potential of being scaled up to other micro-regions, as the initiative is strongly supported by national and local authorities.



ART Initiative and GWS working together in El Salvador (2013).

#### **Conclusion**

To leverage knowledge and facilitate innovative solutions that can contribute to achieve universal access to water, it is essential to strengthen DC partnerships and bank on innovative practices, both in water and sanitation interventions and in fundraising, and to combine long-term perspectives and processes with short-term actions.

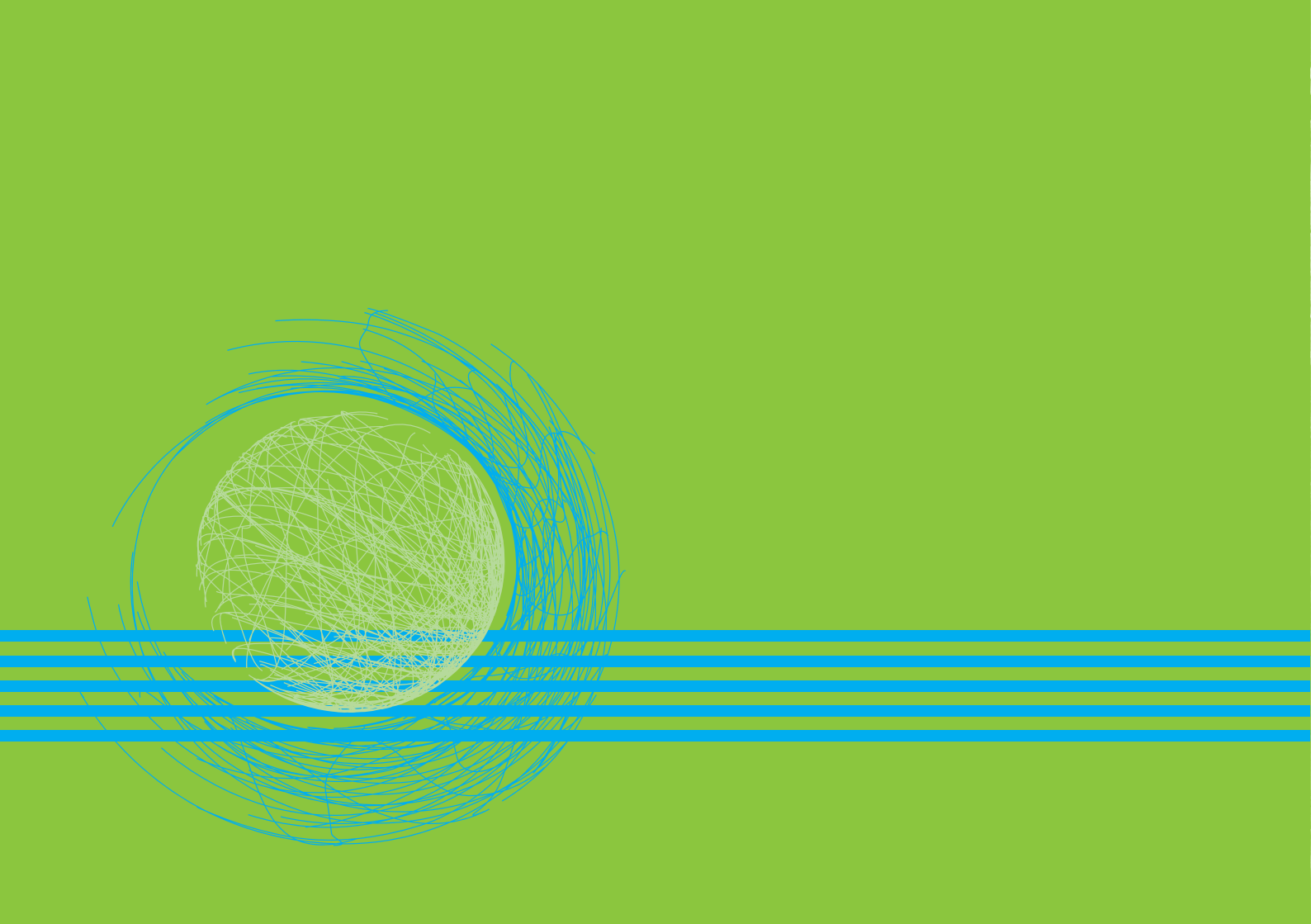
**“Partnerships and innovation lie at the heart of development cooperation for water and sanitation.”**

The UN report on *Good practices in realizing the rights to water and sanitation* (Catarina de Albuquerque, United Nations Special Rapporteur), mentions that: “Improving access to water and sanitation services depends on political will, the right policy environments and the availability of sufficient financial and management capacity to deliver services”. Through its three main fields of action GWS can in fact contribute to all three areas: ensuring political will through advocacy, creating the right policy environment by fostering alignment and donor coordination and identifying,

mapping and mobilizing the financial and technical resources necessary to achieve the right to safe and adequate water and sanitation.



French-Vietnamese partnership presentation during the GWS Best Practice Workshop in Geneva, Switzerland (2013).







## The Added Value of Global Water Solidarity

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## IV - The Added Value of Global Water Solidarity

After its formal constitution in March 2012, GWS is now an acknowledged participatory and representative articulation platform that gathers multiple DC water partners from the North and the South. It is therefore able to capture a wealth of indigenous and global know-how and technical competencies, making it a unique network of “water alliances”.

**“It is probably the diversity of its partners, their commitment to work together for a common goal and their combined manifold experiences that constitute the most important general added value of GWS.”**

Indeed, GWS represents a new opportunity to achieve water targets, where solutions proposed by its community of expert partners are both theoretically sound and operationally feasible, concrete and results-oriented. GWS has not only become an “innovation laboratory” but also an “implementing agent” able to generate solutions born of joint reflection and specialized knowledge. This active networking and sharing

of expertise is one of the notable added values of GWS, well in line with the growing importance of sharing knowledge and competencies, as opposed to the mere transfer of funds with no associated capacity-building activities. GWS is facilitating a reciprocal, mutually enriching approach to water development cooperation and has become a databank of solutions in the water sector, having achieved the successful merger between the territorial approach to development and a concrete operational framework that delivers tangible results and capitalizes on the immense and unique potential of each and every territory.

The added value of GWS can be broken down in line with its three cornerstones:

**As an institutional and articulation platform, GWS:**

- **Harmonizes actors and actions**, as it is able to map water development interventions and local needs, matching international expertise and resources (both

financial and technical) with local demands and national priorities, therefore feeding into development effectiveness.

- **Provides a tested legal, operational and administrative framework for GWS partners**, through the use of common identification, formulation and monitoring frameworks and mechanisms. This makes water interventions easier to implement and more cost-efficient, transparent and accountable.
- **Ensures that water and sanitation issues are incorporated into the wider SHD objectives and strategies** (at the global level), national policies (at the national level) and territorial development planning (at the local level), therefore articulating the global debate on water with national policy formulation and local demands and ensuring that water becomes a key element of multi-sector interventions.



Fitting pipes for a water distribution system in Madagascar.

### As a knowledge hub, GWS:

- **Specializes in knowledge management and brokerage**, promoting the elaboration, dissemination and use of knowledge products. Furthermore, GWS facilitates the exchange of good practices, know-how, competencies and expertise as well as the compilation of lessons learned, enriching the existing body of information with high-level technical input that has been tested on the ground.
- **Creates a global community of practice** and expertise, by facilitating linkages and mutually reinforcing relationships between the various development and technical actors at the local, national and international levels.

### As an agent for innovative fundraising, GWS:

- **Facilitates innovative fundraising** from decentralized, bilateral and multilateral donors by adopting a multi-donor approach, as GWS advocates for DC and

innovative financing mechanisms and harnesses the interest of potential donors, showcasing the work and achieved results of GWS partners to mobilize additional funds and technical cooperation.

Last, the Platform's territorial approach to development:

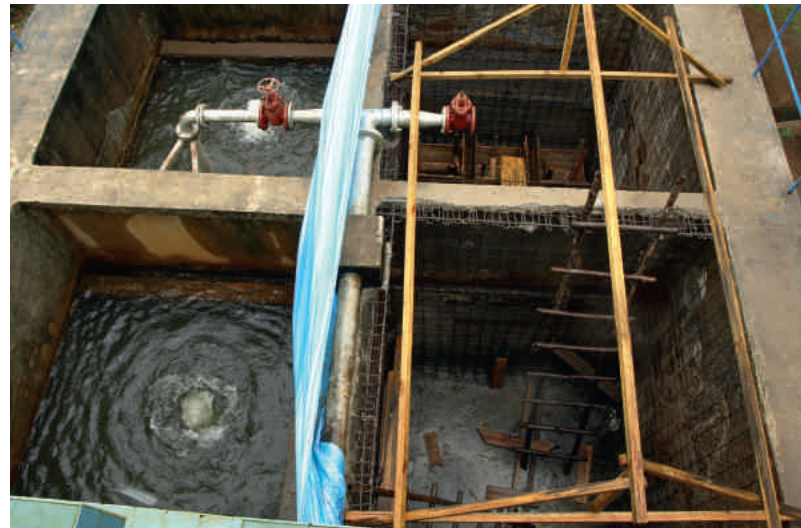
- **Reinforces processes of local development planning**, eventually pushing for the incorporation of local demands and needs in water and sanitation into national priorities and public policies.
- **Facilitates dialogue among various local level actors** (from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society, local authorities and multiple development stakeholders) and between these and the national and global levels. This ultimately facilitates articulation and harmonization between all development actors interested in contributing to universal access to water, therefore increasing the effectiveness of water interventions.

- **Promotes a structured dialogue between territories and South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation** on water issues, allowing territories to connect with each other on issues of common interest.
- **Provides a process-oriented, long-term perspective to water and sanitation interventions**, therefore avoiding fragmented and one-time actions that have a limited and short-lived effect, and maximizing impact.
- **Ensures the inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups in water and sanitation interventions** such as youth, women, marginalized ethnic groups and the poor, making these interventions truly participatory and inclusive.

These combined added values represent a unique opportunity for the water sector and for human development in general.

**“Water has made development possible, for there is no development without access to water.”**

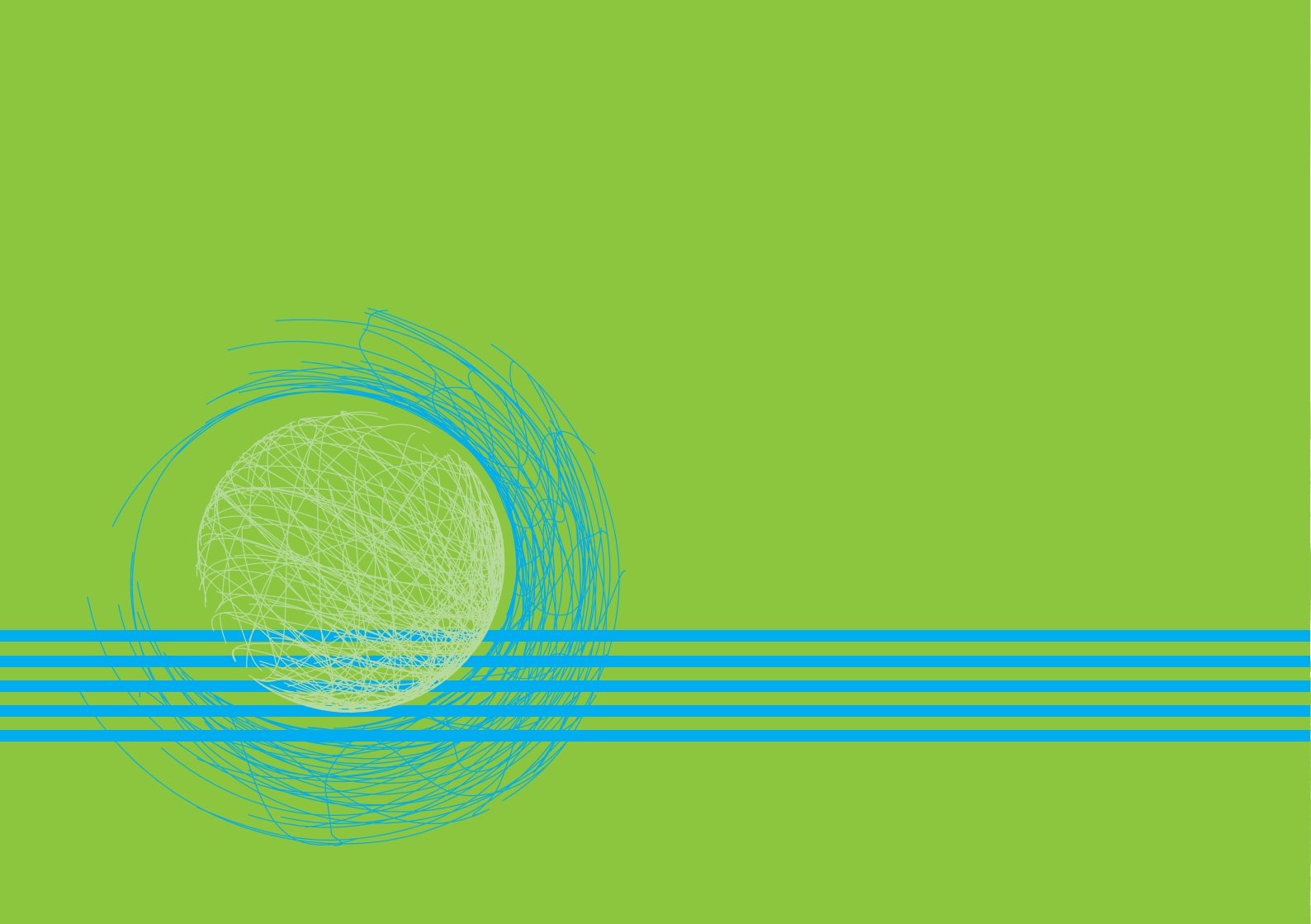
Through this joint work, the ART Initiative and GWS can initiate a qualitative shift from specialized and sector-specific solutions to more integral and holistic ones.



Inside a double-layer water filter system.



Preparatory work on a purification plant in the Region of L'Oriental, Kingdom of Morocco (2013).





# Tallying in-house Efforts: Global Water Solidarity and the ART Initiative

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## V - Tallying in-house Efforts: Global Water Solidarity and the ART Initiative

Despite global and sustained efforts to improve access to water and sanitation, it is estimated that within the next generation water scarcity is likely to threaten fifty percent of the population. This is incompatible with development targets: water has unquestionably moved in the ladder of development priorities and it is now clear that for water objectives to be reached, a new development agenda for water management is needed. There is also wide consensus that the need to listen to the territories, share experiences and engage in mutually enriching partnerships is shaping the new development paradigm. This is why combining the efforts, networks and expertise of existing performing in-house platforms is the natural path to take to maximize synergies, complementarities and linkages, ultimately benefiting local communities from the North and the South and increasing the impact of both GWS and ART.

**GWS and ART are complementary mechanisms whose added value is compounded by joining forces.**

### *Generating synergies and capitalizing complementarities*

Although significant milestones have been achieved in the promotion of sustainable partnerships for water, DC in this sector can still benefit from a reliable and trusted interface, further mapping of actors and aggregated efforts in mobilizing additional financial and technical resources. As a longtime entry point to the multilateral framework for DC actors, ART can certainly support GWS in its coordination, harmonization, mapping and resource mobilization efforts.

This can be achieved by intertwining GWS—a thematic platform dedicated to promoting decentralized partnerships in water and sanitation—and ART, a consolidated multi-sectorial network of alliances for development cooperation.

Articulating GWS through ART’s frameworks will considerably enhance the added value of both platforms, ultimately maximizing impact and benefiting partners as well as local

counterparts and communities. Indeed, the ART Initiative can enrich and enhance GWS with its multilevel integral approach and tested tools; combined, they support SHD, allow for long-term perspectives and promote development effectiveness in its five components<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, GWS can make the most of the specialized knowledge of its members and its capacity as an innovative fundraising agent. This linkage would contribute to making the territories heard, to turning concepts into concrete actions on the ground, to improving results through pooling resources, partners, mobilization of endogenous resources and knowledge and to minimizing scattered and fragmented interventions.

**“What is needed is not something new, but using what already exists more efficiently and with a global perspective.”**

The added value of interlinking GWS and the ART Initiative bridges several areas. Through ART, GWS can be further appraised and exposed and its achieved results and best practices can be built upon, disseminated and scaled up. In

those countries where there are active Country Framework Programmes (CFPs), GWS can use ART’s existing Programmes as a framework for project identification, implementation, follow up and monitoring, saving time and costs —and therefore reducing the cost of international development cooperation.

CFPs provide the operational, administrative and legal framework where ART’s approach and instruments are implemented in the field.

Such partnership would also feed into improved donor and intervention harmonization, thanks to the combined mapping and convening capacities of both platforms. What is more, integrating water interventions within local planning processes that are contextualized to local realities would ensure an integral and cross-sectorial approach to water issues, contributing to their ownership and sustainability. Joining the efforts of two large networks of partnerships would also boost the leverage effect of DC: an aid multiplier

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<sup>3</sup> Harmonization, alignment, ownership, management by results and mutual accountability.

## V - Tallying in-house Efforts: Global Water Solidarity and the ART Initiative

effect would be triggered, as small contributions elicit larger ones.

Last, ART and GWS would join efforts in contributing to mainstream UNDP's corporate policies and strategic orientations on water at the local level, such as assistance for integrated water resources management and efficient use of water. Clearly, establishing partnerships and coordinating efforts are essential to achieve these aims; the alliance between ART and GWS is one that can support UNDP in reaching them.

The current global financial context and the changing development landscape require improving the efficiency and quality of cooperation interventions aimed at complex objectives such as MDG achievement, an informed post-2015 development agenda and ultimately SHD. This is why a partnership between GWS and ART is both timely and needed: the territorial approach will improve effectiveness of cooperation in water and sanitation and the cost-efficiency of interventions. It will also reduce the risks of fragmentation and of sector-specific, one-off projects that are not carried out within local development plans. Finally, an alliance

between GWS and ART can provide water partners with a wider-ranging platform to boost and articulate alliances, leverage resource mobilization, manage knowledge and ultimately contribute to the universal right to water and sanitation.



Residents of a rural municipality with their new water tank, El Salvador (2013).



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