



Flood risk assessment in Ghana & Reducing water losses by improved data systems in Kenya

VIA Water - Innovative solutions to water problems in African cities

Countries:

Benin, Ghana,
Kenya, Mali,
Mozambique,
Rwanda,
South Sudan

Duration:

2015-2018

Total value:

€ 9 million

Program partners:

UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water
Education,
Aqua for All

Questions?

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VIA Water finds solutions to urban water problems in the cities of 7 African countries. The program cultivates 'Innovation through co-creation', focusing primarily on social innovation. Promising new approaches to address these challenges receive support in the form of expertise and funding. One of the key features of the program is its 'online community' which enables knowledge sharing among various actors and prospective VIA Water grantees. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funds VIA Water and Aqua for All manages the VIA Water funds.

About the program

VIA Water stimulates innovative ideas for meeting pressing water-related needs in urban environments of seven African countries. The program is hosted and coordinated by UNESCO-IHE. Applicants approach VIA Water with their ideas for solving one or more of the following urban water-related issues:

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER	DATA MANAGEMENT
ACCESS TO SANITATION	INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
EFFICIENCY OF WATER USE	WATER ALLOCATION
WATER HARVESTING	VIABLE FINANCIAL PLANNING
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT	PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCIES
WATER QUALITY	IMPROVED URBAN PLANNING

If an applicant's idea has potential, VIA Water works with the applicant to make the plan ready for piloting. Projects are subsidized up to a

maximum of € 200.000. Currently, the majority of applicants are from Africa, and sanitation solutions dominate. Projects such as at Sanivation Kenya (waste is collected and transformed into charcoal briquettes) and Hydroponics Africa LTD (urban hydroponic farming using limited water and soil) are a couple of the successes VIA Water can already claim. The program encourages business-oriented initiatives because they lead to more sustainable solutions. To read more about the program and the criteria for applications visit the [VIA Water website](#).

Why it matters:

African cities are quickly growing in population, as are the water-related problems affecting the health and well-being of an increasing number of people. VIA Water is cultivating

solutions to these issues by making optimum use of the energy, creativity and entrepreneurial skills that are also to be found in these cities. The program serves as an innovation magnet where ideas and experiences can be shared and improved within the online community. Bring your innovative solution to water problems in African cities to VIA Water!

Aqua for All's role

Aqua for All supports promising solutions for access to water and sanitation from idea to exit strategy. VIA Water is evidence of this approach. As a fund manager of VIA Water, Aqua for All brings potential innovations to life to get the maximum out of the pilot and to seek funders and investors for future upscale of the innovations it supports.



Over 380 ideas submitted.
Mobilizing local stakeholders to innovate.



30 contracts awarded (2015-2016).



Over 270 community members sharing knowledge and experience online