

SMART Centres



Reaching universal and sustainable WASH with innovation and training of local entrepreneurs

Challenges

- » Ensuring access to safe water and sanitation for all for ever (SDG 6), including “the last mile”, people in small communities
- » Reducing cost and improving functionality of rural water supply
- » Improving food security and income of rural families, increasing their resilience to climate change
- » Creating employment for youth

The SMART Centre Approach

SMART Centres address these challenges by training technicians and entrepreneurs in SMARTechs being low-cost and innovative technologies. The training is in both production and business skills. SMART stands for Simple, Market based, Affordable and Repairable Technologies – for example manual tube well drilling, rope pumps and groundwater tube recharge. After training, these local companies can deliver products and services to a range of customers such as families, governments, NGOs, schools and hospitals. In this way a sustainable supply chain is built. The results of this approach include: reduced costs of communal rural water supply, increased sustainability of systems and increased options for family wells. Studies from Tanzania, Nicaragua and Malawi indicate that family wells can increase family income by 50 to 220 USD per year.

Impact facts

Results of the SMART Centre in Tanzania:

- » 500,000 people with an improved water source at an average cost of 25 USD/person for hardware and training
- » 40 local companies producing and installing SMARTechs
- » 3,000 tube wells manually drilled
- » 11,000 rope pumps installed of which 60% paid for by families
- » 200 new jobs created in well drilling and pump production
- » Many more jobs created indirectly (growing vegetables, transport and sales of products, etc.)

The SMART Centre Group

Currently there are SMART centres in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia and starting up in Ethiopia and Kenya. They are linked together within a network, the SMART Centre Group. The goal of the Group is to scale up by joining forces and to exchange experience and expertise. The Group is coordinated by the Dutch social Enterprise MetaMeta and supported by Aqua for All and RWSN/Skat Foundation.



Drilling a well with the SHIPO drill combined with jetting

Potential of scaling up

The SMART Centre approach is a proven concept that works well in various countries and in diverging contexts. Scaling up will have effects like:

- » A cost effective way to reach SDG 6 “Universal Access to WASH” including “the last mile”, the small communities or dispersed families, where conventional water supply technologies are too expensive
- » Reducing the cost per person of water supply by 30 to 50% as compared to conventional options
- » Increasing sustainability (functionality) of rural communal water supply due to local production and affordable spares
- » Increasing options that are affordable for families (Self-supply) which in turn can increase food security and reduce rural poverty
- » Building up supply chains for market based WASH products
- » Strengthening (new and existing) enterprises and stimulating youth employment in production, installation and use of SMARTechs
- » Increased resilience to climate change, by combining water extraction with options for water retention and recharge.
- » Guaranteeing quality of services and products with control and certification.

What do we offer?

Are you looking for sustainable and cost effective WASH solutions or like to install WASH facilities?

Do you (want to) run WASH training programmes? Then we can support by sharing experiences and organising trainings in SMARTechs and business development. SMART Centres can function as contractors and provide a complete package to supply sustainable WASH systems in your area. They work with trained technicians and companies, thereby guaranteeing quality of services and products.

How can you support the Group?

Are you positive about the approach and would you like to support? Then please contact us. A SMART Centre can operate with a budget of 40,000 to 80,000 USD/year. With an average of 25 USD you can ensure that one person gains access to a safe and sustainable drinking water source. For 500 USD you can support the training and guidance of an entrepreneur who in turn has an average of 3 employees. We would very much like to hear your ideas and how we can work together to attain our common goals.

Contact

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From open well to improved water source with a tube and a Rope Pump