

## DELIVERY MECHANISM

**GEF Small Grants Programme -**  
a proven efficient and effective delivery  
mechanism

CWI is implemented through the GEF-SGP, a well-established and proven mechanism for reaching communities and supporting their initiatives. Launched in 1992, it has channeled nearly \$300 million to communities through 10,977 projects around the world. SGP has resulted in direct global environmental benefits, and influenced the formulation of national and local policies on sustainable environmental and development management. Building on its success to date, SGP expects to expand to cover more than 120 developing countries by 2010. The rich community-based experience and networking of GEF-SGP have provided an effective delivery mechanism for CWI's activities.

Photo Credit: Liseth Martinez  
Sending potable water to elementary schools,  
Colonia Belén, Tacaná, San Marcos, Guatemala.



## QUOTATIONS FROM COMMUNITIES

"Today, Kwasilansa has come out of the doldrums of underdevelopment. We have **good drinking water** and excellent sanitation conditions to attract and entice any professional teachers to stay in our community to help our children. We have said **goodbye to guinea worm infestation** and we will never go back. Now our children can compete in athletics and **our women can run to the market.**"

Nana Takyi XI, Chief of Kwasilansa at the swearing-in ceremony of the Community Water Managers  
Kwasilansa, Ghana

"I can't believe that we have good drinking water during the dry season. It has never happen before. **It's a miracle.** We thank the people who have changed our lives."

Magazia Saratu Mamuna of Sanga community  
Sanga, Ghana

"Llegó la luz a la Nueva Alianza gracias a CWI, y lo mejor fue que pudimos usar nuestros propios recursos sin dañar a nuestros hermanos vecinos (Thanks to CWI, **light has been shed upon Nueva Alianza**, and the best part of it is that we can use our own natural resources without jeopardizing our neighboring communities)".

Javier Amado Jimenez Recinos  
Gerente de STIAP, Guatemala

"The village wells are sealed by health authorities due to the high fluoride content in the water. Last month we lost one village member due to kidney infection. We get water without fluoride contamination now from this well. **We invoke blessings on all of you who gave us drinkable water.** We walked over 2 kms to fetch water before."

D. Asokamala  
Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

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# CWI

## UNDP Community Water Initiative

Promoting  
**Community-Based  
Water Governance**  
for Enhanced Livelihoods  
and Resource Conservation

graphic design > [www.pudra.com.tr](http://www.pudra.com.tr)



**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme





## OVERVIEW

In response to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Community Water Initiative (CWI) was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2004 in seven countries (Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda), and was recently expanded to three new countries (Mali, Niger and Senegal). It receives financial support from SIDA, Government of Luxembourg, Government of Norway and other donors. The programme is implemented through UNDP's Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP).

Since 2004, CWI has provided more than US\$ two million funding through 89 projects (up to \$25,000 per project), bringing water supply and sanitation services to more than 260,000 people directly. The types of activities supported by CWI projects include:

- Community-based water supply and sanitation services using low-cost systems manageable by communities
- Water resource conservation and sustainable land management to mitigate effects of drought and flooding in adapting to climate change
- Providing clean energy for water pumping
- Capacity building for community level governance through community water management committees, women's empowerment, and the establishment of water user fee schemes.

## APPROACHES

### Community-based solutions to water supply and sanitation

CWI supports decentralized, demand-driven, innovative, low-cost, and community-based water resource management and water supply and sanitation projects in rural areas. It is rooted in the strong belief that local management and community initiatives play a key role in ensuring and sustaining the success of enhancing water supply and sanitation services to poor communities. CWI channels funds directly to local communities in need of support.



Photo Credit: Shireen Smarasinghe  
Providing potable water to communities with fluoride contamination, Sri Lanka.



Photo Credit: Nehemiah Murusuri  
Solar powered water-pumping scheme in Tanzania.

### Climate adaptability and environmentally sustainable approach

Implemented by GEF-SGP, CWI has adopted a distinctive perspective that considers environmental sustainability of the water supply activities it supports, ensuring synergies and linkages with GEF-SGP activities. For example, CWI promotes the use of solar energy for water pumping, and integrates water supply activities with conservation of water sources, reforestation, and water resource management. In Mauritania, a strategy to promote carbon-neutral water services has been implemented, combining an environmental approach with development practices.

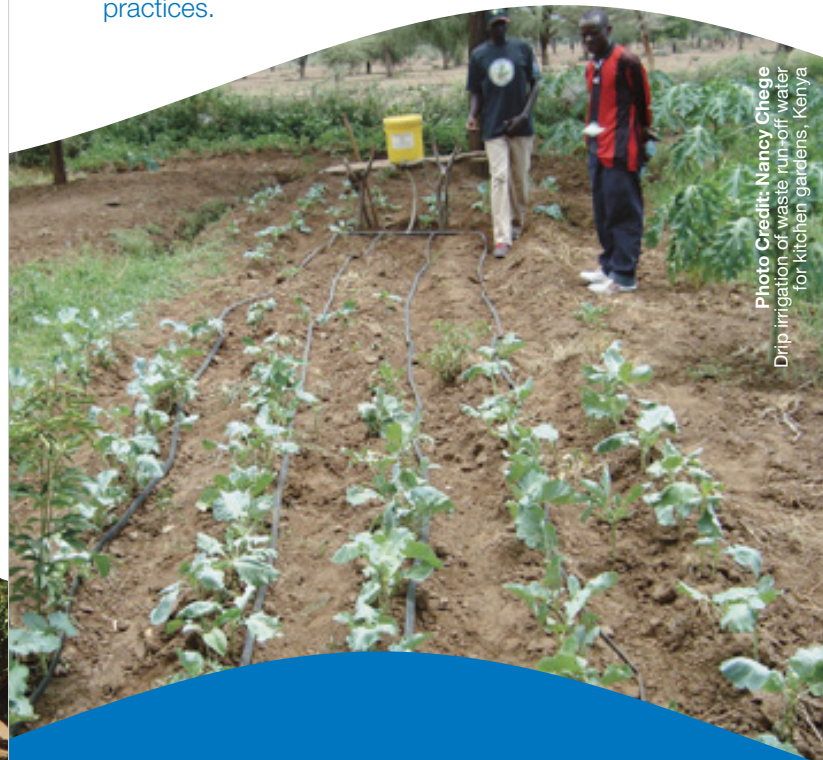


Photo Credit: Nancy Chege  
Drip irrigation of waste run-off water for kitchen gardens, Kenya.

### Focus on the poor and marginalized populations and women's roles

CWI aims to support poor and marginalized populations to acquire one of the most basic human needs -water supply and sanitation. It not only benefits women and children whose lives and health are impacted most adversely by the lack of accessible clean water and sanitation and the burden of fetching water over long distances. It also highlights women's knowledge and responsibilities as managers of water at the household level and their potential roles in community water committees.



Photo Credit: Sulan Chen  
A woman fetching drinking water, Mauritania.

### Capacity building and sustainability

CWI focuses on building local community arrangements and capacity for developing, maintaining and expanding new systems to ensure sustainability of the benefits. It mobilizes local leadership and participation of community women in local water management institutions as well as training local people in maintenance and repair. Management committees or groups have been established and continue managing water systems beyond the completion of the projects, instituting user fee arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure financing for management, maintenance and repair.

- Two CWI projects won **Visions Award** on "Water for energy and energy for water" (2008);
- Two CWI projects were selected for the top 10 finalists for the **Kyoto Grand Prize**;
- Two CWI projects entered the top 30 finalists for the **Kyoto Grand Prize** (2009).



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