

Vitens Evides International officially began a public-private partnership in Ho Chi Minh City in January 2008. Vitens Evides International is supporting the water supply company SAWACO there until mid-2012 with the management and maintenance of the water production and the professionalisation of the distribution tasks. The project also includes a programme for providing house connections to the urban poor.

The Water Operators Partnerships (WOP) between SAWACO, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch embassy and Vitens Evides International officially began in January 2008.

Unofficially, Ho Chi Minh City has a population of 8 million people, which is about half the size of the Netherlands. Due to the number of inhabitants and the explosive population growth, there is extremely high demand for safe drinking water in Ho Chi Minh City. This presents an enormous challenge for the local water company SAWACO.

Ho Chi Minh City



Vietnam

Poverty and Non-Revenue Water (NRW)

In concrete figures, Ho Chi Minh City produces about 325 million m³ drinking water per annum. 140 million m³ of that is lost (NRW) and therefore generates no income. These losses are not the only problem. The distribution network is poorly structured and managed. The local media regularly reports on brown and black tap water. In addition to this, the water company has been commissioned to drastically expand the distribution network. Poverty reduction is also high on the city's agenda. Many residents below the poverty line have no house connection or a tap point near their homes.

Project objectives

Vitens Evides International will assist SAWACO in improving the management and maintenance of the primary processes in a sustainable and professional manner. The concrete objectives are as follows:

- Improve the quality of the water produced.
- Increase the production quantity.
- Introduce management tasks to limit the enormous losses due to NRW.
- Professionalise the organisation responsible for distribution.
- Advise about the implementation of the desired organisational structure.



- Educate and train SAWACO employees and management.
- Introduce a programme to provide house connections to the urban poor.

Expected results

A better financial position, largely due to a reduction in NRW. Partial re-distribution of the financial benefits to the urban poor; for example, SAWACO can give a free water connection to the poorest parts of the population in the future. A lower tariff can also be charged for water use.

Population

8,000,000 people.

Financing

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the Dutch Embassy and Vitens Evides International.

Type of contract

WOP between Vitens Evides International, SAWACO, the Dutch Embassy, PC of Ho Chi Minh City.

Contract value

€ 4.3 million.

Duration of the contract

January 2008 – 30 juni 2011.

Vitens Evides International

Vitens Evides International supports water companies in developing countries by helping them to improve their business processes in a sustainable way. This we do by sharing the extensive and prolonged experience of the two largest privately run public operators in the Netherlands: Vitens and Evides Water Company. Through technical, operational and management support, we enable local utilities to make progress in such

areas as Water Quality and Safety, Non-Revenue Water, Asset Management, and Financial Planning & Control. By teaming up for better performance, we aim to generate the investments required to improve and expand water services in the world's most rapidly developing urban areas. This means that more people will enjoy reliable and safe drinking water and sanitary facilities, now and in the future. With its activities Vitens Evides International contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations. Over the past ten years, Vitens Evides International has already helped to improve water services to more than twenty million people in Asia, Africa and Latin-America.

Available funds

Vitens and Evides make € 3 million available each year for international projects. This internal budget is leveraged by contracting public-private partnerships and deploying the financing opportunities of the various parties, such as the Netherlands' Ministry of Development Cooperation and Economic Affairs, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Asian Development Bank. Vitens and Evides have also formed the independent foundation 'Water for Life', enabling its clients to contribute to international water projects via their water bills.

Millennium Development Goals

The Dutch government actively supports the UN target to halve the number of people without safe drinking water and sanitary facilities (1.0 billion and 2.5 billion people respectively) by 2015. In this context Vitens and Evides are doing all they can to share their expertise and experience in water purification, maintenance and waste water solutions with water companies in developing countries. Through the international alliance, Vitens and Evides are involved in providing safe drinking water to over 20 million people in parts of the world where reliable water services are not readily available.

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