SIAAP: promoting international solidarity and cooperation





SIAAP

Paris region public wastewater service

SIAAP: working in the **public interest**

A strong, structured commitment

Despite an upward trend in recent years, only 64% of the world's population has access to "improved" sanitation. With this in mind, and aware of its responsibilities, SIAAP is committed to working alongside relevant communities to promote a long-term improvement in people's living conditions.

Since 1995, SIAAP has been working worldwide to champion the right to water and sanitation while sharing its expertise.
This commitment comes against a backdrop of stark differences in access to water and wastewater services around the globe, with 2.4 billion people still lacking access to drinking water and 2.5 billion without access to sanitation equipment.

SIAAP seeks to promote awareness and fulfilment of the universal right to water and sanitation for people around the world while taking tangible steps to assist those in need through decentralised cooperation initiatives. With the international community slow to offer any clear commitment on ensuring equitable access to this vital resource, SIAAP continues to play its part as a public utility in pursuing the goal of safe water and sanitation for all, while sharing the technical expertise that it draws on every day in providing services to nine million people in and around Paris. The decision to advocate decentralised cooperation reflects a drive to promote interaction between communities and local authorities to make projects even more effective. Technical assistance is provided in coordination with a hub of expertise in the relevant area and always incorporates a focus on education as well as cultural, social and economic issues to promote mutual gain and success.
SIAAP is one of Europe's largest public utilities. It is involved in key international forums and organisations and participates in 24 cooperation programmes in 16 countries. As a result, it plays a crucial role in promoting international cooperation on sanitation issues.

Guided by the elected representatives on its board of directors, SIAAP promotes its public-service values well beyond its immediate borders through initiatives that focus on the public interest, solidarity and basic human rights.

What is decentralised cooperation?

Decentralised cooperation involves building long-term relations underpinned by agreements between local government in France (regions, departments, municipalities and related authorities) and abroad. It mainly consists of support for project owners provided by French local authorities to their foreign counterparts.

Relevant legislation

*Since 27 January 2005, **the Oudin-Santini law** has allowed local municipalities, their associations in charge of water and sanitation services, and water basin agencies to devote up to one percent of their water and sanitation budget to international outreach initiatives, emergency aid programmes and decentralised cooperation in water and wastewater services.*

***The Thiollière law** of 2 February 2007 gives local authorities and related bodies in France the freedom to conclude agreements with their counterparts outside the country—in compliance with France's international obligations—to pursue development-aid and cooperation projects. These agreements state the purpose of planned initiatives along with the estimated funding required. Where warranted by an emergency, local authorities and related bodies may also implement or finance emergency humanitarian relief programmes.*

For a number of years, the elected representatives on the SIAAP board of directors have been pursuing a policy of international cooperation to promote sustainable improvements in access to safe water and sanitation for people in developing countries.

The decentralised cooperation commission

Set up in 2008, the commission is an advisory body comprising elected representatives from the SIAAP board of directors. It determines focal points and priorities for decentralised cooperation. Its members ensure a hands-on approach to projects, providing input on entire array of SIAAP partnerships and financing initiatives. The board votes on all proposed initiatives and projects.



Acknowledged skills and expertise

Drawing on its experience in decentralised cooperation and buoyed by the expertise gained and constantly honed through the initiatives it supports, SIAAP has gradually established itself as a key player in promoting international outreach programmes. The company takes part in major events in France and around the world, including the World Water Forum, World Water Week in Stockholm, the annual congress of the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA), and the international biennial “Efficient Use and Management of Water” conference organised by the International Water Association.

In addition, SIAAP is a member of organisations such as the Partenariat Français pour l’Eau and the Académie de l’Eau. It is also an active member of international bodies including the World Water Council and the GWOPA, and works in partnership with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) in pursuing cooperation initiatives. SIAAP is backed by leading national authorities such as the Office National de l’Eau et de l’Assainissement (ONEA) in Burkina-Faso and the Office National de l’Électricité et de l’Eau potable (ONEE) in Morocco.

Through these organisations and in its work with these partners, SIAAP upholds its values and strives to promote recognition for the role of local authorities in cooperation initiatives. At the same time, SIAAP helps to reduce the number of people without access to basic sanitation services in line with the Millennium Development Goals for 2015.



Working around the world

Bespoke initiatives



A combination of technology and teaching

SIAAP cooperation initiatives draw on the expertise of its employees in all aspects of sanitation services, including technical expertise and support for project owners, training for local personnel and material and logistics support.

This commitment is underpinned by four key principles:

- Targeting initiatives based on available skills;
- Listening to local people to provide an efficient, sustainable response to specific needs;
- Giving priority to knowledge sharing and skills transfer;
- Empowering local people and local authorities as part of any initiatives undertaken.

Technical expertise and support for project owners

Teams of SIAAP engineers and technicians pool their expertise on every project. They perform a wide range of tasks tailored to each individual challenge, including fieldwork, technical drawings for work to be carried out and follow-up. The goal is to offer people long-term improvements in access to safe sanitation.

There is a wide range of different projects. In Lebanon and Moldova, SIAAP is helping to draw up complete master plans for sanitation to assess needs and anticipate the facilities needed to ensure sustainable sanitation that will improve the health and economic well-being of local people. Other initiatives focus on providing standard infrastructure, cesspools and latrines in Niger and Mali, public wastewater systems in Cuba and Morocco, drainage for irrigation canals in Cambodia and reed-bed filtration in Vietnam.



SIAAP projects are designed in close partnership with local stakeholders and incorporate social, cultural, economic, regulatory and environmental issues faced by each region involved. SIAAP focuses on building long-term partnerships that include monitoring and assessment, dialogue and social developments based on its projects.

Training for local personnel and awareness-raising initiatives for local people

Training is essential to ensure the long-term success of any measures put in place and is made available to employees of local sanitation service providers. Courses take place at SIAAP plants, at its training centre (La Cité de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement) or on the ground in the relevant country.
SIAAP encourages interaction between people performing different functions to promote knowledge sharing and skills transfer.
SIAAP also teams up with local partners to implement programmes that raise people's awareness of hygiene issues and promote best practices with regard to water use.

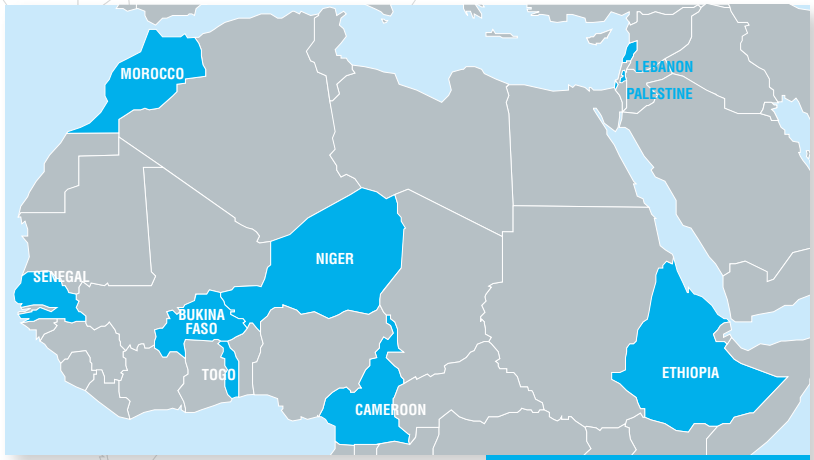


Material and logistics support

SIAAP provides its partners with material and logistics support adapted to their needs, including measuring equipment, pumps, screens, lab equipment and related software.
The supply of specific resources also ensures that approaches on the ground are better adapted to relevant social and cultural contexts, along with available expertise.



AMERICAS



AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

Resources for **effective cooperation**

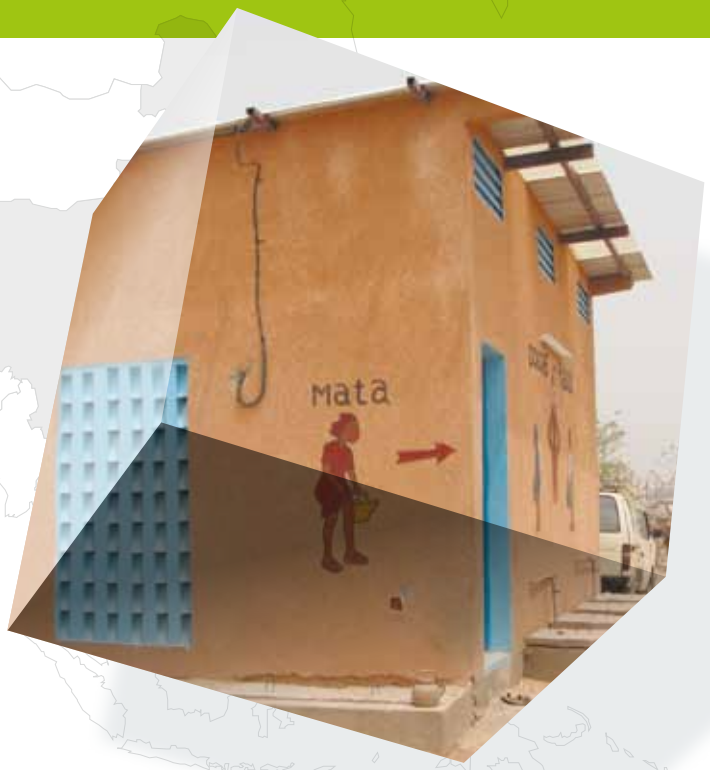
International Relations Unit



The International Relations Unit (IRU) heads international SIAAP initiatives chosen by the board of directors. Together, these specialists in decentralised cooperation combine solid experience in the field with specific technical skills. Members include a lawyer specialised in international relations, an expert in project management for urban infrastructure in developing countries and a specialist in intercultural management for human relations.

On each project, the IRU first assesses the site to determine appropriate solutions and provides necessary technical feedback allowing SIAAP to take relevant decisions. Working with its partners, it draws up an agreement detailing planned cooperation initiatives along with relevant technical and financial resources. Non-governmental organisations may also be brought in to help implement initiatives on the front line. The IRU may also involve other SIAAP partners depending on the expertise needed on each project.

500,000 people around the world have already benefited from SIAAP-backed projects.

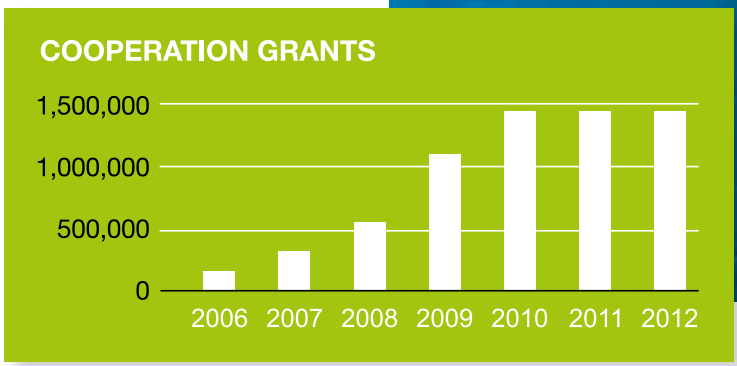






To ensure its expertise lives up to its commitments and provide follow-up on every stage of a project, SIAAP has acquired the resources needed to implement initiatives successfully the world over.





24 *projects*

16 *countries*

4 *continents*

A DEDICATED WEBSITE

www.international.siaap.fr





SIAAP: a key provider of sanitation services

SIAAP: a public utility in the Greater Paris area

SIAAP—the Greater Paris Sanitation Authority—was established in 1970. It transports and treats wastewater for nine million people in and around Paris, along with stormwater and industrial water, contributing to a thriving natural environment in the Seine and Marne rivers.
SIAAP treats nearly 2.5 million cubic metres of water every day.

SIAAP covers four French departments: Paris, Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne, along with 180 municipalities in the Val-d'Oise, Essonne, Yvelines and Seine-et-Marne departments, which have signed an agreement with the SIAAP.
The SIAAP board comprises 33 local councillors from the four founding departments.

SIAAP has an annual budget of €1.3 billion to provide public services in and around Paris, the European city with the highest population density.
SIAAP and its 1,700 employees manage and operate 440 km of pipes, six treatment plants and 12 stormwater retention basins.



Image & Stratégie Europe - November 2013 - Photos © SIAAP / Le Bar Floréal - Document printed on environmentally eco-managed paper. IMPRIM'VERT® eco-certified printer.

- Treatment plants
- Retention basins
- Tunnels and reservoirs
- SIAAP catchment area (nearly 2,000 square km)



SIAAP
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