



akvo.org

Annual report
2009



Akvo See it happen

As communication technology continues to envelop our world at breathtaking speed, the fragility of global economics and the opportunities and risks that face the world's poor come sharply into focus.

There's one thing that experts are unanimous on – if people get access to clean water, and have proper sanitation facilities, their health, education and economic situation all improve, fast.

Akvo is focused on this big vision, and brings two other crucial components to it.

The first is turning the response upside down, and starting at the bottom. Akvo makes it easy to understand what is happening with each water or sanitation project, at the local level. This isn't about spreadsheets and accounting. It's about helping everyone involved contribute to a global hydrological memory, where every single water and sanitation project has its own feed to the internet. The implications are far-reaching – funds can be allocated more easily between donors, people can follow progress, and development teams can share experience and develop track record.

The second is harnessing IT and mobile phones, fully. The world's poorest now get a mobile phone before they get a toilet. In this situation the phone itself becomes a critical tool – to gather and share detail on what is being built, where it is, what it looks like, what has worked, what hasn't.



Kajlado Boreholes

This project is focused on helping the population take advantage of rehabilitated borewells, increasing threefold the number of people using clean water. It will also promote safe sanitation and hygiene practice.

2 water systems, 2 sanitation systems, 2 hygiene facilities. 2000 people get access to improved water and 200 people get improved sanitation, for 30 years. 4 people trained per year.

Eiti and Tima. Mashuru, Kenya, East Africa

Partners:
AMREF Kenya, Wilde Ganzen

akvo.org/rsr/project/62/

Bring on the rain in Nepal

Funding rainwater harvesting tanks puts water right outside people's homes. Today they walk 2-3 hours per day, just to fetch it from a spring that only provides water from June to October, the rainy season.

68 water systems. 355 people get improved sanitation for 15 years. 68 people trained, every year.

Alamdevi, Shyangja, Nepal, Southern Asia

Partners:
Rain Foundation, Live Earth, BSP Nepal

akvo.org/rsr/project/112

Akvo's committed to local heroes. If you give people tools to share their story as it happens, you can bring to life a whole new generation of 'doers' – people who transform lives on a daily basis, building infrastructure, training communities and solving problems.

By the end of 2009, 105 water or sanitation projects were live in the Akvo system, projects with a value of €2.7 million. These will provide clean water or sanitation to well over a quarter of a million people.

Our goal is to increase these numbers dramatically in the years to come. How that happens depends on us working with great partners who see the opportunity as clearly as we do. I'd like to thank those who have helped us get this far, and welcome all those who will be a part of this future.

Jeroen van der Sommen

Chairman of board, Akvo Foundation
May 2010



What Akvo did in 2009

Akvo **opened 2009** by releasing its source code for the first time. This was an important milestone – as an open source foundation a central goal is to make what we create – the software code – available under an open license to others, so they can build on, adapt and feed improvements back to the central code repository. At the same time we moved into the new International Water House in The Hague, leaving our previous home at the UNESCO-IHE campus in Delft.

During **spring**, we began charging customers who use Akvo tools, adding many new features at the same time. Partners could add their own projects online, more easily solicit donations and embed ‘widgets’ – a way to easily serve project information dynamically across many different websites at the same time, with minimal effort. We also got involved with our first Twestival event – sealing our hard-earned place at the forefront of innovation in the use of social media in the water and sanitation sector.

In **March** the prestigious World Water Council invited us to showcase our work in its pavilion at World Water Forum 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. We hosted an event titled “Thinking outside the water box”, which brought together leading technology innovators such as Google and IBM alongside a new wave of pioneers such as Africa Interactive and charity:water. Late that month, 18,000 Dutch school-children participated in Walking for Water, raising over a million Euro for water projects, some of which were visible online for the first time because of Akvo.

In **April**, we were in New York City, announcing a new strategic partnership with the global campaigning team at Live Earth. This was a major break into the US market, and meant we could refine our product for the needs of our first global sponsor partner.

In **June** we announced a strategic partnership with Rabobank, to provide Akvo with a €500,000 soft loan, unlocking



Arsenic filter pot

In rural Bangladesh each of these arsenic filter units will provide 150 litres of clean drinking water, meeting the daily needs of 6 households of 5 people. The results are much improved health of the local population who otherwise drink water that's contaminated with arsenic.

90 water systems. 2500 people get access to improved water.

Jessore district, Khulna, Bangladesh, Asia

Partners:
Aqua for All and PRIDE

akvo.org/rsr/project/38

EcoSan in Colombia

The community will build and use 10 ecological sanitation toilet systems, operated and maintained by families. The treated faeces and urine will be used by households to cultivate their gardens.

10 functioning sanitation systems. 600 people get access to improved sanitation for 20 years. 1200 people get training and education each year.

Santander Quilichao, Cauca, Colombia, South America

Partners:
Consam, Kijlstra, Aqua for All

akvo.org/rsr/project/101

further grant funds. The deal promised wider collaboration, opening the way to connect Akvo's aspirations with Rabobank's roots in helping develop the livelihoods of the rural poor.

During **summer** we extended our work with product and events teams. Our second year supporting bottled water company Earth Water raised money from people going to the toilet at the De Parade festival, to fund water projects profiled through Akvo. For our fourth summer at Stockholm World Water Week, we developed a dazzling new concept to front our presence. In close partnership with SIWI and IRC, our Stockholm World Water Cube in **August** was a sensation, putting the power of online video onto the congress floor, and capturing and posting online over 100 video interviews from the event.

Throughout the summer we helped Live Earth's Los Angeles-based team assemble a wide range of project partners that could run water and sanitation projects for a new, still secret, campaign. In **October** the wraps finally came off the Dow Live Earth Run for Water, an ambitious series of runs and concerts scheduled for April and intended to raise awareness about the global water crisis. At the same moment, all the projects to be supported went live online, through a dedicated website powered by Akvo.

Our partnership with Live Earth included a significant knowledge-sharing component and we began publishing regular insight articles on the various kinds of technologies and techniques that can lead to rapid introduction of better water and sanitation infrastructure. Our team saw at first-hand the work of the pioneering EMAS college in rural Bolivia and Live Earth helped us promote these best practice insights to a wider global audience.

In **November** we concluded several months of negotiations to enter two key consortia in the MFSII process that will allocate several billion Euro of Dutch development aid during the five years from 2011. In both groups Akvo has been welcomed as the member that can drive the introduction of internet and mobile phone technology to accelerate poverty reduction and help taxpayers see where their aid has gone.



Elephant pumps and toilets in Northern Malawi

Construction of Elephant pumps and toilets provides a sustainable water supply and adequate sanitation in this region of Malawi, which is amongst the world's poorest countries.

4 functioning water systems.
90 functioning sanitation systems. 1500 people get access to improved water for 15 years.
36 people get training and education each year.

Mzimba, Northern Malawi, Africa

Partners: Pumpaid, Meal-A-Day

akvo.org/rsr/project/73

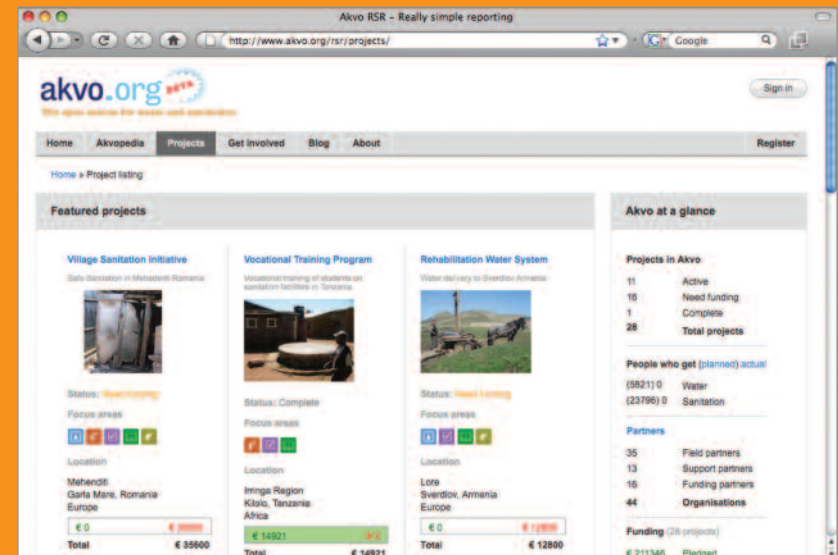
WaterCube.tv

Akvo's using video to highlight knowledge experts and politicians trying to improve water and sanitation access across the world.

Organised with SIWI and IRC, two renowned knowledge institutes, the Stockholm World Water Cube exposed more than 1,000 delegates to our vision for simple video reports and created 110 movies online in just five days, bringing to life the debate, personalities and issues at Stockholm World Water Week. We've been asked to bring WaterCube.tv to other development events across the globe, so watch this space in 2010 and beyond.

<http://watercube.tv>

How Akvo's site developed during 2009



Software

The Akvo software platform evolved significantly during 2009. January saw the first public release of the Akvo Really Simple Reporting application under an open license. Akvo RSR saw a further 12 releases in 2009 including features such as: Akvo Widgets, PayPal payment system integration, Dutch and German user interface, delegated user and project administration and multi-currency capability. The team also moved the development process to the Github online-versioning system, which has significantly sped up the development process.



Marketplace

In 2009 the number of support and field partners that use the Akvo platform increased from 41 to 135. The total volume of project in our system increased €600,000 to €2,500,000 enabling safe drinking water and sanitation for over 350,000 people. In 2009 Akvo gained 14 support partners that are based outside the Netherlands.

Akvopedia

Our water and sanitation knowledge portal expanded to contain more than 130 low cost water and sanitation technologies. Around 1000 people visit the Akvopedia every day. The further development of a wide community of voluntary supporters has started but with some more time we believe we can improve on the input from this network.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Akvopedia website. The page title is "Portal:Sanitation". The navigation menu includes Home, Akvopedia, Projects, Partners, Get involved, Blog, and About. The main content area is titled "Portal:Sanitation" and contains a brief description of the portal's purpose. Below this, there is a section titled "Sanitation technologies" which lists various technologies categorized into five groups: Toilet Facilities, Collection and Storage/Local Treatment, Conveyance, (semi-) Centralized Treatment, and Use of Products/Disposal. Each category has a grid of icons representing different technologies, such as Dry Toilet, Storage tanks, Jerrycan - tank, Anaerobic Baffled Reactor, Fill and Cover - Arborloo, Urine Diverting Dry Toilet, Single Pit, Human-Powered Emptying and Transport, Anaerobic Filter, and Application of Urine.



Walking for Water

In March 2009, more than 18,000 Dutch school children raised more than €1 million for water projects using our partner Aqua for All's schools-oriented event format, where kids carry 6 litres of water for 6 miles, collecting donations from friends and family.

All the projects that will be supported by the 2010 Walking for Water campaign will be visualised through Akvo, so schoolchildren can follow the projects they help to fund. Akvo, A4All and Live Earth have now partnered to extend this walking for water concept internationally.

Sanitation, health and hygiene in Tanzania

Five rural communities in Njombe and Ludewa in Tanzania will gain improved sanitation and hygiene. The project will promote improved pit latrines - the traditional latrines are of poor quality, or people don't use a latrine at all.

400 functioning sanitation systems. 2500 people get access to improved sanitation for 10 years.

Ludewa, Njombe, Iringa, Tanzania, Africa

Partners: Aqua for All, Connect International

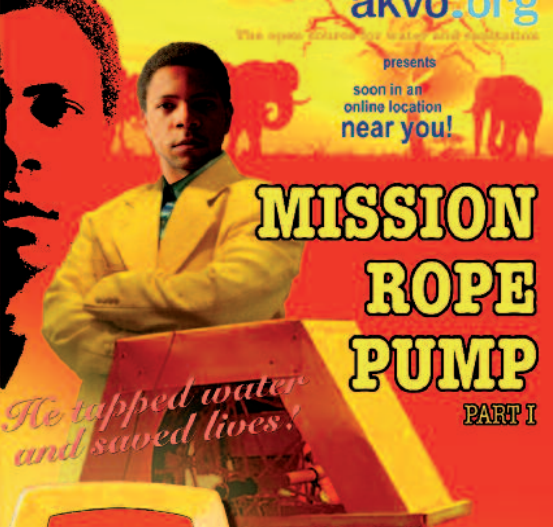
akvo.org/rsr/project/43

Financials 2009*

Expenditure in Euro (incl. VAT)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) staff | 247,861 |
| Non NWP staff | 333,818 |
| Temporary support staff | 124,201 |
| Website operations | 6,589 |
| Communications and PR | 16,502 |
| Office rent | 11,820 |
| Travel | 32,047 |
| Administration | 1,047 |
| Sundries | 29,510 |
| Contingency | 12,084 |
| Online Projects | 35,742 |
| Financial expenditures | 12,202 |
| Amortisation Akvo Platform | 79,279 |
| total | 942,702 |

*Audited and approved accounts available on request



Akvo's dazzling brand

Designed by Amsterdam-based artist Vincent Wijers, Akvo's unique movie posters challenge assumptions about poverty and development.

Instead of images of sad children looking desperate, our "Woman Who Built Herself a Toilet" uses Bollywood style glamour and aspirations to communicate sanitation issues. "Mission Rope Pump" reflects a bold, cool new generation of African heroes who can transform their own situation.

From the day we launched the brand in August 2007, our images have created excitement wherever we show them, with people from every country and situation.

World Water Forum, Istanbul

In March about 700 people joined us in Istanbul, Turkey, to hear new ideas that can change how the water sector works.

Speakers included Djeevan Schiferli from IBM, Alix Zwane from Google Foundation, Thomas from Akvo and Becky Straw from charity:water. We also heard from Ben White about how a new generation of Africa Interactive reporters are changing how projects can be reported from the continent, using low cost video. We also gained contributions from Helixer, Bogazici University and Joke Witteveen from the internet gaming industry.

Financials 2009*

Revenues

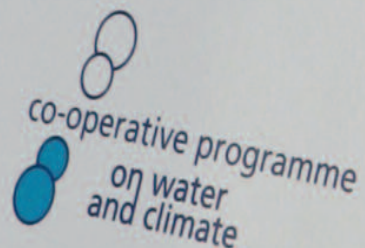
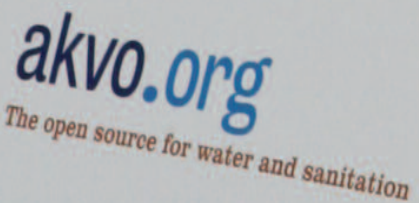
| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Fundraising activities | 35,742 |
| Online service fees | 7,137 |
| Consultancy | 50,000 |
| Grants | 517,250 |
| | 610,129 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Operational result | -332,573 |
| Revaluation Akvo platform | 274,811 |

Result 2009 **-57,762**

*Audited and approved accounts available on request

International Water



Contact us

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You can reach us by email, telephone or using social networking tools like Twitter and Facebook. We all use iChat and Skype but we'd prefer to connect initially with you via other means.

Photo credits

Page 2, 10 and 18:
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Page 8: NOTS Foundation, Women for Water Partnership
Page 10: PUMP Aid
Page 12: Silent Work
Page 14: Walking for water, Aqua for All

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