

akvo.org

Annual report 2008



# Akvo. Reduce poverty fast.

As we move towards the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century, the number of people in the world who remain in poverty is mind-blowing. Around 1 billion people still lack access to safe, reliable drinking water and more than 2 billion have no proper sanitation. The impact of this is dramatic. A dozen jumbo jet loads of children die every day from related illness and a vast body of people remain unable to contribute to the world's growth.

Yet huge structural changes are underway, driven by information and communication technology. Walk in a Delhi slum or a Kenyan village and you will meet people who possess a mobile telephone but who defecate behind a tree. People carry water from a mile-distant pond to their home while talking on their telephone to check prices at a local market town.

The world's storytelling ability is changing dramatically in tandem. Knowledge can be shared about simple, appropriate technologies that can fix a water supply in weeks rather than needing years. Progress can be reported using text messages, digital cameras and short movies, unleashing a new generation of storylines that the best campaigners can use to secure reliable funds from donors large and small.

ss Region

PREDECT

**akvo.org**  
**partners**

Partners for Water

Logos of partner organizations: NRC, Arghyam, and others.

**Water!**

THE HAPPY BELAND PARTERS!

powered by SODIS

A woman in a blue shirt is smiling and pointing towards the camera in front of a large, colorful poster for 'Water!' featuring a rainbow and the text 'THE HAPPY BELAND PARTERS!' and 'powered by SODIS'.



Just as exciting, a new generation wants to have a greater connection with what's going on. Funders – individuals or institutions – want to support projects, but they now want to know where and how their money is being spent. They want detail – where is the place on a map, who are the people involved and how can they be empowered? Answering their questions can unlock more funds, more quickly.

Akvo seizes on all of the opportunities I describe above and makes it possible for communities to climb out of poverty fast. Its internet and mobile phone-based tools help donors and doers reach out to fund many thousands of new water and sanitation projects. Money flows quickly because donors choose what to fund and follow progress online. Feedback means happy donors and dialogue between field workers builds skills and improves quality. Time and money are saved while people across the world get safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

In 2009 we have ambitious plans to extend from 40 projects to many hundreds. And it is designed to be your tool. I challenge you to participate and help us make this your success as we battle to reduce poverty in the decade ahead.

None of this would be possible without the funders who saw the potential and the partners – the Dutch government, non-government organisations, knowledge institutes and commercial firms. I'd like to thank you all for your support.

**Jeroen van der Sommen**

Chairman of the Board, Stichting Akvo  
April 2009



## What Akvo did in 2008

Akvo.org launched at Stockholm World Water Week in summer 2008 to widespread approval. Its small global team, which numbered nine by year end, continues to work hard to create, share and support a new generation of tools for our customers.

2008 was Akvo's first big year. In **March**, we topped the fundraising board at the Unicef World Water Day fundraising event and secured more than €400,000 to build out and launch our online system to hit a summer 2008 deadline.

Spring of that year was a crucial phase in the design of the Akvo project marketplace, creating a system that can eventually scale to host many thousands of water and sanitation projects in Akvo.org. By summer we had signed a launch-day network of 50 global partners with 28 projects featured live in the new system – a total project investment value of over €250,000.

By **June** we were testing the potential of video to transform project funding and reporting. We commissioned a series of short movies to be captured on mobile phones by our partner Africa Interactive from projects in Cameroon and Tanzania. Turned around in just two weeks, the films have been a blueprint for many more to come and immediately helped secure project funds.

Two such funders came in the weeks before launch. EarthWater, which channels profits from selling bottled water into development projects, began funding projects and TAPPS, a beach volleyball tournament, quickly followed.





Akvo.org's formal 'Beta' version was launched in **August** at Stockholm World Water Week 2008 by Ms. Tineke Huizinga-Heringa, Secretary of State (vice minister) of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management to an audience of several hundred. That month Akvo was awarded a €1 million grant (spread out over the years to come) by the Schoklandfonds, a prestigious Dutch development fund that invests in progressive efforts to tackle Millennium Development Goals.

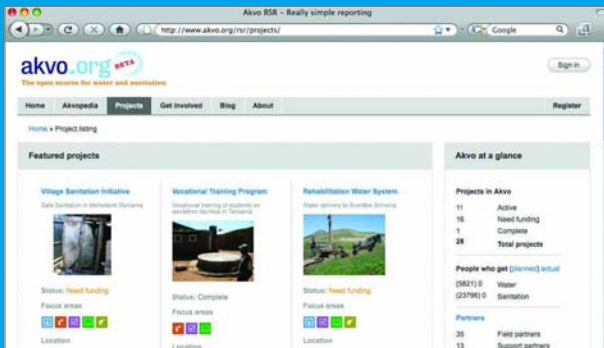
Our time in Stockholm, where we created a dynamic internet lounge, helped to extend our global brand as we shared our platform with high-level speakers from partners including UN-HABITAT and Arghyam. The event's long term impact was considerable. By the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009, Akvo would be sharing the podium with Google and IBM, and introducing many dynamic smaller organisations to the water development sector for the first time.

On **26 September**, some two years after it was conceived, Akvo was incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation called Stichting Akvo. In **December** we secured tax-deductable (ANBI) status and set up our new office at the International Water House in the Hague. We provided crucial field-based interaction with potential system users in India, courtesy of our Bangalore-based partner, Arghyam. The team was able to study how existing project reporting systems worked and test out new video-based field reporting methods in Karnataka and Gujarat. One result was Akvo.tv, of which you'll hear more in 2009.

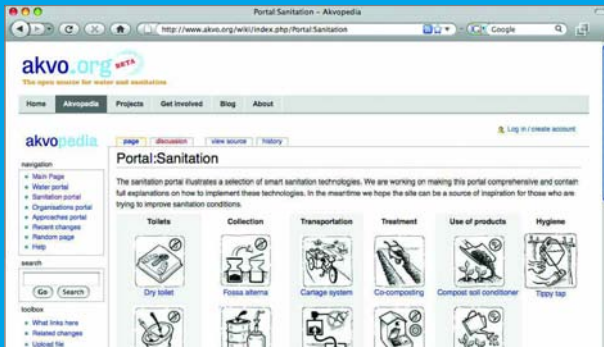
Akvo is an open source project and everything we do is designed to be shared. We hope that new communities and new talents can take our tools and the storylines they help create and solve old and new problems, in the year to come. We look forward to working with you.



# How Akvo's site developed during 2008



Akvo's web site is the focal point for the delivery of the services we provide. During spring and summer of 2008, the team worked hard to assess the international requirements for better online services, through many interviews and the review of design concepts with our partners. The result is a new web site where projects from our many partners can be viewed.



The site is unique because it provides three core services related to sustainable low-cost water and sanitation: an open integrated knowledge base, a project marketplace and a new reporting system— known as Akvo RSR (Really Simple Reporting). When used together, these tools can dramatically simplify and enhance the daily work of those in the water and sanitation development sector.



# Financials 2008

as audited and approved by Lentink De Jonge Accountants

## Expenditure in Euros (incl. VAT)

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Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) staff	145,957.18
Non-NWP staff	179,396.16
Temporary support staff	30,625.94
Web projects	52,720.79
Website operations	3,030.00
Travel	9,349.01
Stockholm Water Week	20,898.25
Contingency	14,183.40
Administration	33,583.89
Accounting and CFO support	15,118.20
<b>total</b>	<b>504,862.82</b>



# Financials as audited and approved by Lentink De Jonge Accountants

## Contributions in Euros (incl. VAT)

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Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management	279,650.00
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Development Cooperation)	250,000.00
Netherlands Water Partnership	54,504.75
ASN Bank	23,800.00
IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre	(in kind 12,500.00)
Aqua for All	15,000.00
Dutch Association of Regional Water Authorities	10,000.00
Simavi	10,000.00
Nedap	5,000.00
Total contributions	647,954.75
Total expenditure	-504,862.82

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**Cash position** **143,091.93**

## Akvo example projects



- ◇ Beach volleyballers in Katwijk raised funds to support a sanitation project for 2000 refugees in Somaliland.
- ◇ Local reporter Rashid Nur visited the remote camp. He shot a movie with his phone and uploaded it to YouTube.



- ◇ Toilet visitors at the cultural festival De Parade raised over €20,000 to support a ceramic filter production project in Cameroon.
- ◇ This year's toilet visitors will see exactly what was achieved with last year's 50 cent coins.





## Akvo example projects



- ◇ Rapper BangBang fought a kick-boxer in nightclub The Escape in Amsterdam, and raised €8000 for an Akvo water project in Bangladesh.
- ◇ Shirajul Islam shares short updates from the slum in Gazipur, to make sure BangBang fans can follow progress online.



- ◇ During the Walking for Water campaign, 19,000 school children raised over a million Euro.
- ◇ Aqua for All uses the Akvo platform for seven high profile projects to make sure children can follow local progress, and stay engaged.



# International Water House



Netherlands  
WaterPartnership

IRC



akvo.org

The open source for water and sanitation

PARTNERS  
Bundeling van krachten



VOOR WATER

match+

• Exhibitors  
• Sponsors  
• Exhibitors  
• Match Makers  
• Match Makers



co-operative programme  
on water  
and climate



innovatieprogramma  
watertechnologie

# Contact us

## Head office

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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

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Back cover: Parade Festival and  
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## PARTNERSHIPS

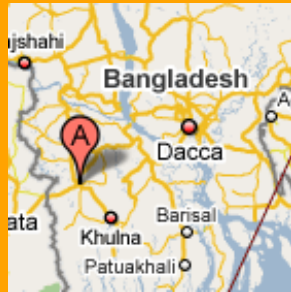
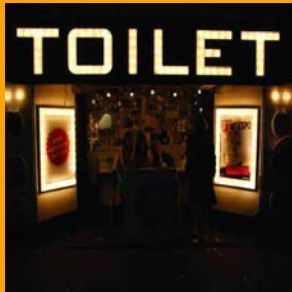
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2008