



akvo.org

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2013

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openness

Akvo is helping today's brightest international development talent guide their organisations into a new era.

new era

Entire aid portfolios are coming online in ways that are detailed and easy to navigate.

real time

Governments are digitally mapping the status of entire infrastructure and service systems, and publicly sharing the real time data.

A new generation of development professionals – working on the ground, and committed to being open about what works and what doesn't – is coming to the fore.

new generation

## Akvo in 2013

**As 21st century technology arrives in even the poorest corners of the world, organisations focused on global poverty reduction are going through dramatic change.**

Akvo is centred on this change, helping partners harness new tools to make country governance and development cooperation more open, transparent and collaborative. Akvo's partners work to create better, more resilient services that eliminate chronic poverty – tackling poor water and sanitation, healthcare and education, unsecure food supplies and a lack of trade opportunities.

Akvo's tools make it easier to understand and coordinate the business of intelligent international development. From the field up, teams of people now share unprecedented volumes of information about project progress, digitally mapping and monitoring key services in poor or remote places. Development cooperation becomes transparent

from end-to-end, with investment and intervention built on sound understanding of the situation at hand.

In 2013, the Akvo Foundation turned five. It was a pivotal year. With a turnover of €3.3 million and 46 staff in 11 countries by year end, a global team is in place to support a portfolio of projects and programmes worth in excess of €1 billion. These are being delivered by NGOs, international institutions, government departments and the private sector.

Akvo has always been about partnerships. But where before we pointed to the future, we're now part of the change itself, at scale. In 2013, Akvo helped transform reporting and monitoring of programmes in Central and South America, West and East Africa, Central Europe, Southern and South East Asia.

Entering 2014, Akvo's financial position is strong, with an established business model and service revenues built on solid contracts. During the year

we expect to grow to a turnover of €4 million. Key strategic partners include the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Bank WSP, SNV, UNDP, Unicef, Mars Chocolates, Cordaid, ICCO, IRC, Water For People and major development programmes such as the WASH Alliance, Connect 4 Change, and Millennium Water Alliance.

In 2014 we hope to enter a new phase of our long relationship with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to enable a step-change in the way its international work is visualised, reported and monitored.

We invested substantially in the development of each of Akvo's four core products during 2013, and expanded our hub teams around the world to support partners locally and regionally. Akvo's growth strategy is to expand through regional teams and offices, devolving more responsibility and autonomy to these hubs.

Akvo Foundation USA was formally established in 2013, with a team in New York and Washington DC. With our consortia partners, we passed a pre-qualification round to bid for major future contracts with USAID. We also secured new philanthropic investments from Cisco Inc in Akvo FLOW, and from the Kenneth L. Harder Trust, both built on long-standing relationships with Water For People, the original instigator of FLOW.

We set up an Akvo West Africa team, based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to help establish country-level and regional mobile and online monitoring of water and sanitation infrastructure. Our East Africa hub in Nairobi, Kenya, expanded to five staff. Both teams provide support and training to partners across each region. We also expanded our South Asia team, led from our hub in Delhi, India, working particularly across India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

As we entered 2014, Akvo's executive board expanded from two to three – Thomas Bjelkeman-Pettersson, Jeroen van der Sommen and Kathelyne van den Berg. After seven years helping shape and lead Akvo to great success, Peter van der Linde decided to step out of his co-director role and move to South East Asia as regional director, establishing an Indonesian hub office. Peter has helped form an exceptional team and built great trust across our partnership base and his new role will energise our regional expansion in 2014.

Akvo continues to exercise a supervisory board, which was highly involved in strategic decisions during the year. It met with the executive board four times by video conference and once face-to-face.

After six years featuring dazzling but fictional movie posters of local development heroes in action, 2013 was the year Akvo got real. In summer,

we started highlighting “partner heroes” – teams of people working together around the world to do great things, using Akvo tools. A series of distinctive global photo shoots, always by a local photographer, has inspired everyone involved and brought to life the work people do with our systems. You can see the results on the Akvo.org website, and across this report.

I'd like to thank everyone who worked with us over the past year. We look forward to helping each of you harness new technology to improve the lives of people who today still lack the opportunities that come once there is access to basic services, better healthcare and greater economic opportunity.

**Aalt Leusink**  
**Chairman of the board, Akvo Foundation**  
**May 2014**



See it happen

## Programme overview

### Water For People

In 2012, we signed a partnership with Water For People to assume responsibility for the further development and rollout of FLOW. Together we secured investment from Hilton Foundation and Cisco Inc. Water For People continues to be a leading user of Akvo FLOW, assisting in the testing and deployment of the latest versions in its programmes.

### WASH Liberia

Liberia has played a lead role in recent years in realising the water and sanitation parts of the Millennium Development Goals. In 2010, an early version of FLOW was used to map the status of 10,000 Liberian water points in partnership with WSP (World Bank) and UNICEF. Since 2012, RSR has been used to bring Liberia's water project portfolio online at the WASH Liberia portal (developed by Akvo), and we're helping to establish a water monitoring unit within the government. Akvo FLOW is now being used to conduct a follow-on mapping exercise with the goal of introducing continuous monitoring. This programme is supported by UNICEF.

### WASH Alliance

This five year, €50 million Dutch government programme to improve water and sanitation facilities for two million people in eight countries passed the halfway mark in 2013. We're supporting 100 field partner organisations to publish project information using Akvo RSR and helping run workshops to increase local capacity for reporting. We're currently rolling out Akvo FLOW in Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya, introducing Akvo Openaid, and implementing the consortium's website, built on Akvo Pages.

### UNICEF-WCAR

Akvo participates in UNICEF's West and Central Africa (WCAR) water and sanitation programme in 11 countries. Baseline surveys of water and sanitation facilities have been carried out using Akvo FLOW in Mali, Guinea Conakry, Liberia and Ghana. Akvo RSR and portal web sites are being introduced in a number of countries.

### UN-Habitat

Akvo's long-term partnership with UN-Habitat is about delivering end-to-end transparency. Together we've developed Open UN-Habitat, an open data portal built on Akvo Openaid, with the support of our software development partner Zimmerman & Zimmerman. We're also collaborating to bring projects related to the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative online using Akvo RSR and are currently piloting Akvo FLOW in Kenya.

### UNDP

Since 2012, Akvo has been supporting UNDP's Bratislava based team, which leads the organisation's development projects in Central and Eastern Europe, to publish its projects. This was the first substantial RSR implementation in a large UN organisation. It's been warmly welcomed and soundly embedded into working methods, with UNDP now one of the most active users of RSR.

### Netherlands Water Partnership

Akvo is still a member of NWP, a comprehensive network that unites Dutch water expertise, who incubated us in our early years. An initiative with IRC, Aqua for All and NWP to develop a joint US strategy resulted in several projects with US and Dutch water sector NGOs, including the large Millennium Water Alliance programme in Kenya.

### Millennium Water Alliance

Backed by USAID, Coca Cola and FEMSA, this major consortium of US NGOs in the field of water and sanitation is working towards realising the water and sanitation elements of the Millennium Development Goals. Akvo is supporting MWA in Latin America and East Africa, where it's using FLOW for project monitoring in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia and Kenya. MWA also uses the Akvo RSR API to publish its projects on its website.

### Mars

Mars is pioneering an initiative to ensure all its cocoa comes from sustainable sources by 2020. In 2012 it used RSR in a pilot micro-finance programme to help Ivory Coast farmers increase yields. 2013 saw the development of a website to enable story-telling from these farmers to Mars associates globally, and an Akvo FLOW dashboard to facilitate data collection in Ivory Coast and Indonesia.

### IRC

We collaborate with IRC to promote innovative ways of monitoring around the world. We are working together on a large programme in Ghana, Smarter WASH, in which Akvo FLOW will be rolled out country-wide. Special FLOW features are being developed for this programme that will be available to other countries where national monitoring systems are taking place. In 2013 we also jointly developed a new

finance portal within our knowledge base, Akvopedia.

### ICCO

Akvo has a global partnership with ICCO, one of the largest and oldest Dutch NGOs, to pioneer the mapping of food security across 20 countries using Akvo FLOW. As partners in the WASH and Connect4Change alliances, we've been collaborating for over four years to help ICCO introduce new ways of working into its organisation. Akvo's South East Asia team shares its home with ICCO's regional hub in Delhi.

### Football for Water

This four year, €27 million programme uses the popularity and energy of football to improve hygiene education, drinking water and sanitation, initially in more than 1000 schools in Ghana, Mozambique and Kenya. Partners include the Dutch Royal Soccer Union (KNVB), UNICEF, Simavi, Aqua for All, Vitens Evides International and the



Nepal WASH Alliance



RedTic Bolivia





Nepal Akvo FLOW and RSR



See it happen

Bolivia Akvo RSR

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We're helping map and monitor all the projects online using RSR and FLOW. In 2013 we managed a Football for Water fundraising track to attract new partnerships and plan fundraising activities for 2014.

### Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)

We continue our ongoing strategic cooperation with DGIS to increase transparency and build Dutch and international public support for Dutch global aid spend. We helped bring the Dutch government's water portfolio online using Akvo RSR and DGIS has financially contributed to the development of Akvo FLOW. With DEC (the transparency unit of DGIS) we set up and continue to develop Openaid.nl, which displays all Dutch development aid spend around the world through a user-friendly, open-standards compliant interface.

### Cordaid

One of the largest Dutch NGOs, Cordaid has reorganised in response to changes in how aid is allocated. As part of this process, it resolved to become much more transparent. Following its experience in Connect4Change, Cordaid is deploying RSR across its network to publish its entire portfolio of around 1000 projects. RSR is also the underlying content management tool for its new website, which is improving communications internally and externally. Akvo supports all Cordaid's partners across the globe, training them to use Akvo RSR.

### Connect4Change

Launched in 2011, Connect4Change is a five-year Dutch government-funded programme of just under €50 million that uses technology to improve health, education and economic development in 11 African and South American countries. We help field

partners publish project information using RSR and have introduced FLOW in Uganda.

### Aqua 4 All

We've had a strategic partnership with Dutch foundation Aqua for All almost since our inception. It's brought over 160 projects online with Akvo RSR and is helping us deploy FLOW in other consortia programmes like Football for Water. Aqua for All worked with Akvo to expand our joint partnerships in the United States, in conjunction with DGIS. We also support Walking for Water, its annual fundraising and awareness campaign focused on engaging school children.



See it happen

Open UN-Habitat Kenya Akvo Openaid

## REALLY simple reporting

### **Akvo RSR**

stands for Really Simple Reporting. It's a web-based system that makes it easy for development aid teams to bring projects online and share progress with everyone involved and interested.

**akvorsr**

## mobile phone based **FIELD** **SURVEYS**

### **Akvo FLOW**

is a mobile phone and online service that transforms field monitoring in the world's poorest and most remote places using Android smartphones.

**akvoflow**

## **PUBLISH** international development **DATA**

### **Akvo Openaid**

is a web-based tool designed to help big aid organisations and government donors publish large quantities of development aid data in an easy to use, transparent format.

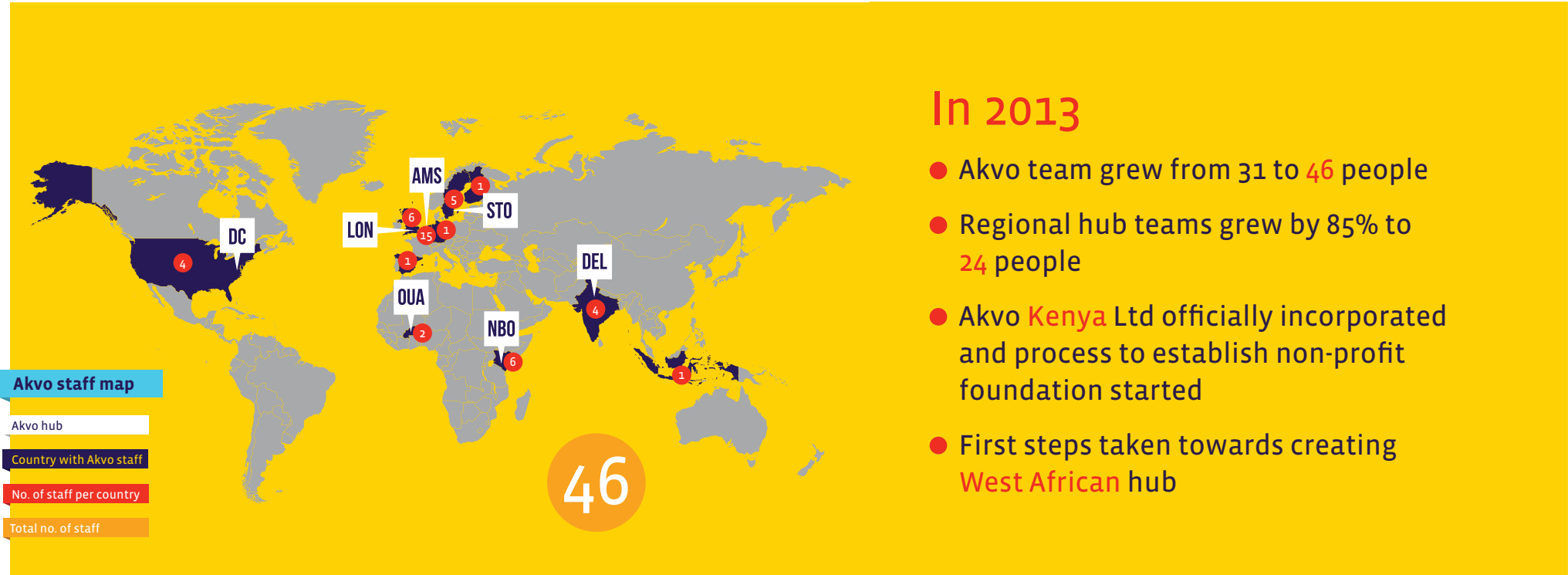
**akvoopenaid**

## **WATER** and **SANITATION** wiki

### **Akvopedia**

is a free to use online resource for finding and sharing knowledge about all stages of water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

**akvopedia**



## In 2013

- Akvo team grew from 31 to 46 people
- Regional hub teams grew by 85% to 24 people
- Akvo Kenya Ltd officially incorporated and process to establish non-profit foundation started
- First steps taken towards creating West African hub

## akvorsr

	2012	2013
TOTAL VALUE OF PROJECTS	€154.3 <i>million</i>	€579.2 <i>million</i>
TOTAL NO. OF PROJECTS	583	1344

## akvoflow

	2012	2013
TOTAL NO. OF DATA POINTS	165,355	314,641
TOTAL NO. OF DEVICES	1156	2737

## akvoopenaid

	2013
TOTAL COMMITMENTS	€855.3 <i>billion</i>
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	67330

## akvopedia

	2012	2013
NO. OF ARTICLES	1051	1146
NO. OF PAGE VIEWS PER DAY	920	

Akvo FLOW data was collected in February 2013 and February 2014. Akvo Openaid data was collected mid January 2014. Number of daily Akvopedia pageviews was collected in the period June-December 2013. All other data collected on 31 December 2012 and 31 December 2013.

# Financials 2013\*

## Income in €000

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Income own fundraising	
• Fundraising activities	1
• Project contributions	100
Total income own fundraising	101
Government services	2,054
Other income	1,178
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,333</b>

## Cost in €000

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Expenditure on behalf of the objectives	2,454
Expenditure fundraising	0
Charged staff costs	-1,856
Direct project costs – staff	1,856
Direct project costs – material	795
Total direct project costs	2,651
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>3,249</b>
<b>Balance of income and costs</b>	<b>84</b>

\*Audited and approved accounts can be downloaded from our website



## Image credits

page 6: Nana Kofi Acquah

pages 8-9:

top: Shahnawaz Mohammad;

bottom: Jaime Cisneros

page 10: Mwangi Kirubi

page 15: Jhordan Avalos

back cover: Akvo team  
meeting, December 2013,  
Netherlands, by Loïc Sans

See it happen



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