



Ensuring sustainability...

The « 1001 fontaines pour demain » projects fulfil a critical social need (safe drinking water) in a sustainable manner by establishing social enterprises within each village. This document describes the approach and structures, which ensure the durability and scalability of the solution.

The objective of the “1001 fontaines pour demain” initiative is to create local facilities to produce safe drinking water for the benefit of villagers living in rural villages, which do not currently have access to clean water. The “1001 fontaines” solution uses simple technology that purifies water from local sources (rivers, swamps, wells), bottles it in closed, sealed 20 litre containers and then delivers it to the homes of the beneficiaries.

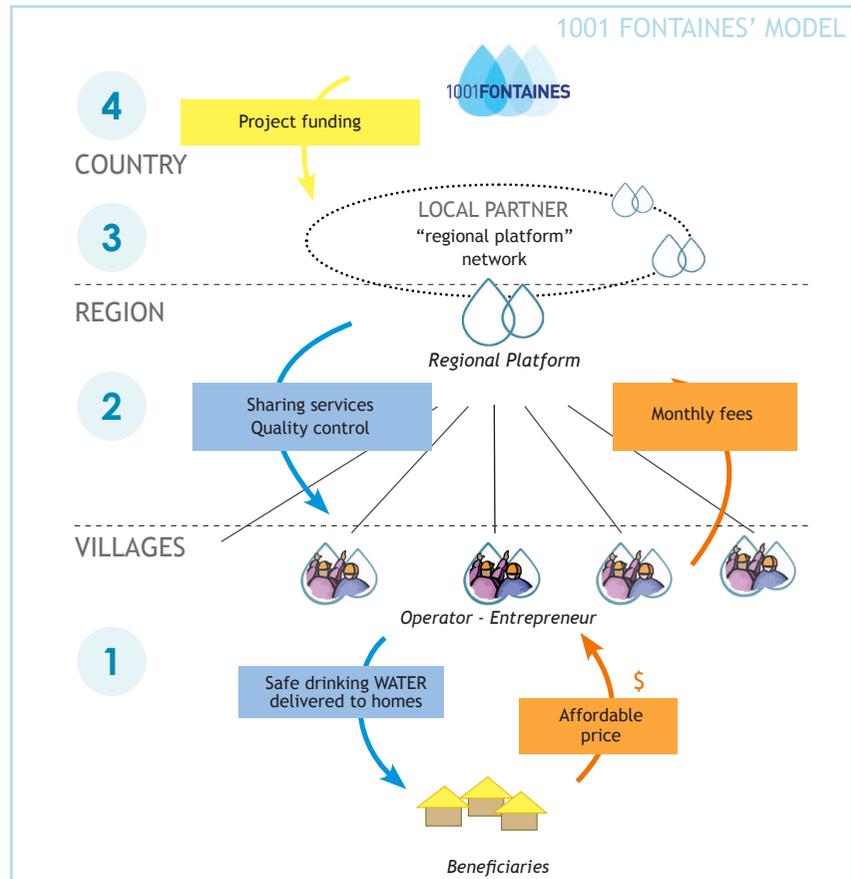
1 Sustainability of the solution within each village

In order to ensure the sustainability of this solution and, hence, ongoing improvements in the health of the villagers, the daily operation of the system is performed by a villager, via the creation of a social business enterprise based on this activity.

In order to remunerate the operator in each village the approach adopted is one based on social entrepreneurship. The water is sold within the village at the lowest possible price (one cent of euro per litre) to make it affordable for the villagers. The revenues generated by these sales are sufficient to cover the operating costs of the production unit, as well as generate an income for the operator. Thus, after an implementation project lasting 12 to 18 months, the village is self-sufficient in meeting its needs for safe drinking water both from a capacity and economic point of view.

2 Self-financing regional platform

The “regional platform” employs local technicians to support the operators in the surrounding villages. The support includes assistance in resolving technical issues, sourcing spare parts, providing management expertise and conducting campaigns to educate the local populations about hygiene and the links between safe drinking water and health. The operating costs of this “regional platform” are covered through monthly fees from each production site. (Up to 60 production sites are required per regional platform to ensure that the platform is self-financing).



3 Scalable model

This structure - regional platform supporting up to 60 production sites - is designed to be replicated across multiple regions within a country, in order to address a maximum number of beneficiaries. Under the auspices of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) established by “1001 fontaines pour demain” in each country, the regional platforms are networked to ensure the transfer of knowledge and experience from one region to another.

4 Proven approach and strategy

“1001 fontaines pour demain” is a registered French charity as defined by regulation 1901. It is also registered with HMRC in the UK. In each country, where it operates, it teams with local operational partners.

The central team, which is kept to the minimum size possible, determines the technologies to be used, performs the overall programme management of the initiative, ensures that experience and knowledge is shared among the teams in the field and conducts ongoing research and development aimed at continual improvement of the processes used by the operator-entrepreneurs in the villages. This team is also in charge of raising the funds required to support the initial project investments.