



Vitens Evides International

Where are they?

VEI operates globally in 20 countries. In Africa, they are present in 10 countries, all-in sub-Saharan Africa.



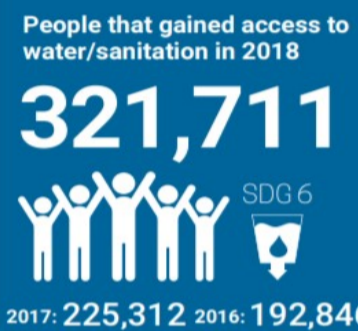
What do they do?

VEI is a foundation started by Vitens and Evides Waterbedrijf (the two biggest water suppliers in the Netherlands) in 2004. Nowadays, other Dutch water companies joined VEI. VEI work together with local partners to provide access to water in developing countries. VEI contributes by providing money, knowledge and skills as Dutch people help by starting the projects.



SDG 6

The goal of VEI is to contribute to the global achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation for everyone. Only in 2018, 320 thousand people gained access to water / sanitation, and every year, the results increase compared to the year before.



Risks

- VEI is exposed to 3 categories of risks:
1. Risk related to health and safety. They combat this with a lot of training and supply of information
 2. Operational Risks
This is countered with a strict selection of partners and contracts
 3. Financial risks. Based on the assumption that not all projects will end at the same time and that new projects will arise or existing projects will be renewed, this risk is limited.

Partnerships

VEI works together with a lot of local wateroperators in different countries. They have 27 partners in Africa. Another Partnership is the WaterworX program between all ten water companies in the Netherlands.

“WaterWorX is committed to provide sustainable access to clean drinking water for 10 million people in 2030”

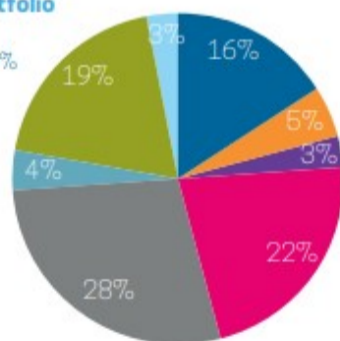
Financiers

VEI is a foundations, they are highly dependent on (external) funding. Their annual income is average +/- €20 million. In the graph below, an overview is presented of the different providers of money in 2016. The Dutch companies have a big part in the investment, but also the Dutch residents provide 6% via ‘Water for life’. This is a program where customers of Vitens and Evides Waterbedrijf can donate to their development projects.



Contribution to VEI's project portfolio

- Dutch water companies through VEI: 16%
- Water for Life: 6%
- ADB: 3%
- FDW/GWW: 22%
- EKN: 28%
- EU/EB: 4%
- Partners/local water operators: 19%
- Other: 3%



The Four licenses

- License to exist → The knowledge and skills of Dutch water companies are exceptional and world-wide wanted
- License to operate → They can operate because VEI provide money, knowledge and skills and collaborate with local partners.
- Sustain and scale → VEI is a foundation, so the sustainability is dependent of enough funds. The scale of VEI is very big as they work in a lot of countries
- License to experiment → The waterworX project is a project which runs for a couple of years, providing possibilities to experiment

Advice

To stay in business, VEI must remain attractive for sponsors. The advice for them is to sustain this foundation by entering long-term contracts. Leading VEI to stay in touch with their local partners and support them for a couple of years with knowledge and skills until they can manage it largely themselves.



- Sources:

Tulder, R. van (2018), *Business & The Sustainable Development Goals:*

A Framework for Effective Corporate Involvement, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

VEI. (2019). *About Us*. Opgehaald van VEI: <https://www.vei.nl/about-us>

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