



STANDARDS ALLIANCE: PHASE 2

BW+ (Bottled Water Plus) - Bottled Water Certification Scheme for Senegal

OVERVIEW

The Senegalese standardization body, Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation (ASN), has requested the Standards Alliance: Phase 2 support in the development of a Bottled Water Certification scheme according to the West Africa Standard ECOSTAND 022, which Senegal has adopted. ECOSTAND 022 concerns quality, packaging, labelling, sampling and testing requirements for packaged natural mineral waters intended for sale as foodstuff. ASN operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Industrial Development and Small and Medium Industries (SMIs), with a mission to promote the development of national standards, disseminate information, raise awareness, and provide training to economic actors in Senegal, including stakeholders such as manufacturers, distributors, consumers, and administration agents.

NSF's Bottled Water Certification program is the only accredited product certification program that offers analysis for bottled water, including microbiological, chemical, and radiological analyses in accordance with national and international regulations, such as FDA, EPA, EU, ANVISA, BIS and China Natural Mineral Water. Additionally, NSF has a Registration available for the manufacturing process. The project will include both a product certification with an analytical component and support and training for auditing and Good Manufacturing (GMP) practices.

This project will be implemented by NSF International through USAID's public-private partnership with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Standards Alliance: Phase 2.

OBJECTIVES

ASN is ISO 17065 accredited, however their scope does not currently include bottled water or ECOSTAND 022. Therefore, the project shall include support to expand the scope of ISO 17065 to include the requirement of the standard and build the capacity within the bottled water certification stakeholders, including, but not limited to ASN certification department staff, auditors, laboratories and other from the key government ministries and the private sector. ASN will be instrumental in assisting with identifying and conducting outreach to these groups.

With the aim to build a robust certification program against the ECOSTAND 022, NSF will conduct virtual trainings in French to sensitize and educate stakeholders on the value of standards and conformity assessment, technical capacity strengthening, and highlight the need for regulation to drive manufacturer compliance to ECOSTAND 022. Technical strengthening would include auditor workshops on Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Hygienic Practices, and training related to product sampling methodologies.

A Bottled Water Certification program will not only advance public health regarding drinking water safety in-country, advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, but will greatly improve marketability for the manufacturers within Western Africa regions, and possibly more globally, particularly where interoperability opportunities across national regulatory regimes exist. With this, USAID, ANSI, ASN and NSF contribute to progress with respect to the finance, capacity building and trade targets of SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Developing ASN's capacity to provide testing and certification to ECOSTAND 022 will improve the bottled water market both within Senegal and in the global market.

ACTIVITIES

The project will occur over 1.5 years (Q2 2024-Q2 2025) with three activity phases:

- Project Stage 1: expand the scope of the ISO 17065 to include the requirement of the ECOSTAND 22 standard
- Project Stage 2: build the capacity within the bottled water certification stakeholders, including, but not limited to ASN certification department staff, auditors, laboratories and other from the key government ministries and the private sector.
- Project Stage 3: provide training on auditing, laboratory sampling methods, ISO 17065, and Certification

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Quarterly and annual reviews on the progress will be conducted and sustainability will be fostered by building the expertise locally, such as through embedding knowledge in academic institutions and by extending invitations to those trained in-country to participate in the NSF standards development and ongoing update/maintenance processes.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced legal and regulatory framework
- Good practices for adoption/applications of standards
- Support development of national quality infrastructure aligned with international best practices

STAKEHOLDERS

Senegal

- ASN certification department staff and auditors
- ASN Laboratory staff
- Relevant ministries such as The Ministry of Industrial Development and Small and Medium Industries; the Ministry of Health and Social Action; and The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Water and Sanitation Equipment
- Association of Industries and Service Providers of the Industrial Free Zone of Dakar (AIPS – ZFID)
- Senegal Business Movement (MDES)
- National Union of Tradesmen and Industrialists of Senegal (UNACOIS)
- National Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Senegal

About ANSI: *ANSI is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standards and conformity assessment system.*

About NSF: *NSF International is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to protect and improve global human health. NSF is a leading provider of public health and safety-based risk management solutions that balance the interests of all stakeholders, namely the public, business, community, and government agencies. As a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Center, NSF supports the important initiatives of WHO through sharing of its expertise, resources, capacity and global reach.*

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