



STANDARDS ALLIANCE PHASE 2

Community Water Systems – *Standards for Safety and Risk Management*

OVERVIEW

The “Community Water Systems – *Standards for Safety and Risk Management*” project will support public agencies, private sector stakeholders, academic and non-governmental stakeholders build consensus for standards that validate the safety and/or efficacy of materials, chemicals and water treatment devices that come into contact with municipal, community and building/home drinking water systems in Morocco and Brazil. 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

This project is intended to enhance in-country quality of life as a reduction of the burden of disease from chemical and microbiological contaminants in community and household systems through the promotion of NSF Standards directly or to inform and/or strengthen existing in-country programs via education, training, and promotion of integrity/values inherent in the application of third-party, independent certification programs to NSF Standards. NSF/ANSI Standard 60, *Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals – Health Effects* and NSF/ANSI Standard 61, *Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects* shall provide the baseline for discussions with stakeholders. NSF/ANSI 61 establishes minimum health effects and requirements for chemical contaminants and impurities that are directly imparted to drinking water from products, components, and materials used in piped drinking water systems. NSF/ANSI 60 establishes similar requirements for chemicals used to treat community drinking water supplies.

ACTIVITIES

The project will occur over a period of two years (FY 2021-2022) with three activity phases:

- A *Needs Assessment* phase will be conducted during Q2 and Q3 of 2021 to create a baseline understanding of current regulatory frameworks and practices. This assessment of the current state of local regulation, practices, in-country public health concerns, barriers to trade and marketability of products used in community water systems, as well as in-country interest, shall be performed through surveying manufacturers and consumers within the country one-on-one in-person and virtually. NSF will engage in regulatory, governmental and other stakeholder relationship building and promotion for involvement to discuss which Standards may strengthen national regulation either through specifying adoption as NSF/ANSI Standards, adoption under the country as their national standard and/or strengthening existing in-country programs.
- A *Training* phase will include three (3) in-person (or virtual, if restricted travel) training events in Q3 and Q4 of 2021 for regulators, operators, manufacturers, NGOs, and other stakeholders
- During the *Application* phase, occurring Q1 and Q2 of 2022, NSF will assist with strengthening the legal and regulatory frameworks within each country to improve consistent delivery of products that meet safety standards.

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

- strengthened water quality infrastructure
- identification of current regulatory and practice gaps;
- regulator training;
- increased awareness within country importance of national standards for water system infrastructure, relevant international standards, standards development procedures, and how to participate;
- increased production/installation of safe products used in community water systems in country;
- increased manufacturers presence in-country and trade in the drinking water systems component and chemical treatment industry;
- improved maintenance and installation of water system components, and lastly,
- ensured trust in product certification so that the global and national trade in the marketplace have thriving economies that supports the interoperability of standards based on their specific needs.

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STAKEHOLDERS

Morocco

- Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment, and Ministry of Interior;
- Office National de l'Electricité et l'Eau Potable (ONEP);
- Academic institutions, and researchers;
- American Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Services of Casablanca;
- Water Infrastructures firms such as WaterLeau, Abengoa and Veolia, and
- WHO Country Office

Brazil

- Ministry of Health and Ministry of Cities;
- Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas;
- Academic institutions, and researchers;
- National Health Foundation (FUNASA);
- Chemical and equipment manufacturers such as ABIQUIM, ABES and SINDESAM, and
- SABESP and BRK Ambiental Participações S.A.
- WHO Country Office

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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