

**International Geneva
Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors**

**Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology | Department
of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries | EAWAG - SANDEC**

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

As the Department of Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), Sandec's goal is to support sustainable development in less developed countries. Sandec works to research and develop as well as facilitate the implementation of cutting edge technologies in the fields of environmental sanitation, water supply and solid waste management, which are adjusted to fit the local context and needs. On these subjects Sandec conducts applied research in partnership with researchers in the global south and fosters professional development of researchers and practitioners, and assists in developing improved local training and educational curricula for students. Sandec promotes awareness in the global north regarding issues of water and sanitation, and the obstacles related to accessibility and infrastructure of water supply and sanitation systems, faced in developing countries.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Strategic Environmental Sanitation Planning
- Municipal Solid Waste Management
- Excreta, Wastewater and Sludge Management
- Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Sanitation and Water in Developing Countries (WHO CC)

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sandec has focused research, dissemination and demonstration efforts on household drinking water treatment systems such as solar water disinfection (SODIS) to contribute to sustainable and long term solutions for cleaner water and a healthier population. The method consists of exposing contaminated water in PET bottles to sunlight and thus ensuring disinfection. This cheap and easy approach is used by more than 2 million people worldwide. Furthermore, research results on treatment of faecal sludge from on-site sanitation provide appropriate means to hinder the spread of faecal contamination and the transmission of diarrheal disease. Regarding activities related to the WHO Collaborating Centre, EAWAG is working on building national and local capacity on water WASH in health care facilities and schools in low- and middle-income countries, monitoring and implementation of research and hygiene behavior change interventions, with a particular focus on gender, in health care facilities and schools, contributing to guideline development and implementation, microbial testing tools, behavior change approaches for improving water safety and approaches for urban sanitation.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Sandec is split into 5 different research groups, each focusing on one of the areas of interest. The department is led by Dr. Christoph Lüthi, who is also the group leader for Strategic Environmental Sanitation Planning. The department consists of 28 employees who are working as PhD students and guest researchers, as scientific support staff or in administration.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

EAWAG is mainly financed by contributions by the federal government of Switzerland (2016: 77%) as well as research contributions, mandates and income due to scientific services (2016: 23%). Total income in 2016 was CHF 79 million.

PUBLICATIONS

See: <http://www.eawag.ch/en/department/sandec/publications/>

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