Why we must act

Clean water and safe sanitation for all—by 2030. This is the commitment the global community has made with the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Together we can bring about a more just and stable world.

Contaminated water, lack of hygiene, poor sanitation: Every day around 2,300 people die as a result.

Nearly 1 billion people practice open defecation.

An additional 2.1 billion people go without safely managed sanitation.

2.4 billion people... use a smartphone. ... do not have basic sanitation.

7.5 billion people live on our planet.

BORDA, founded in 1977, is a civil society expert organisation focused on the provision of essential public services. BORDA cooperates with more than 100 partner organisations worldwide.

More than 40 years of fighting poverty and improving living conditions

• We design and implement urban sanitation systems.
• We develop and disseminate know-how for integrated management of water and waste.
• We implement decentralised, sustainable technologies and operating models.
• We work together with local partners – as transparent and trusted long-term capacity builders.
We create liveable cities and communities.

Innovating.
We develop customised and sustainable solutions.

Sludge-Go is a successful business connecting pits, tanks and treatment in Tanzania’s largest city, Dar es Salaam. In the city’s tightly packed neighborhoods, workers arrive “on demand” at homes to pump empty the pit latrines and tanks. The treated sludge is sold as fertiliser; the treated water is used to irrigate a banana plantation. Making all this possible: Sludge-Go’s small tractors that can navigate the narrow streets to reach people where they live—a technologically adaptive approach for a fast-growing East African city.

Worldwide...
- ...80 percent of sewage goes untreated.
- ...Almost 2 billion tonnes of municipal waste are generated every year.

In Europe, life expectancy has risen by 30 years over the past century. 25 of those years stem from better water management, sanitation and nutrition.

We're set on realising a human right.

7,670,000 liters of faecal sludge is safely processed and sanitised annually at the FSM facility in Devanahalli.

3,500 BORDA decentralised wastewater treatment solutions (DEWATS) are in operation worldwide serving more than 1 million people.

Sanitation.
We're set on realising a human right.

For 30,000 people, a joint flagship project with our Indian partner CDD Society: our award-winning, reuse-oriented faecal sludge management (FSM) system in Devanahalli, on the edge of the Indian metropolis of Bangalore. Regular collection, bio-based treatment, sludge transformed into fertiliser: this is safely managed sanitation—financed through a property tax.

With Devanahalli as a model, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now supporting our FSM projects in 30 more Indian cities.

BORDA participated in the drafting of an action-oriented blueprint for the future development of cities—the New Urban Agenda—adopted by the UN Human Settlements Programme at the HABITAT III Conference in 2016. Working with partners around the world, BORDA shapes the management of urban water and sanitation services as well as the associated structural and legal frameworks—in an efficient, participatory and quality-assured way.

BORDA helps local authorities provide their citizens with access to basic services—with support ranging from city and regional planning to conception and citizen participation to financing and commissioning.

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Our countries of operation—Lesotho, Mali, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia—are characterised by urban migration and rapid urbanisation. Infrastructure is typically unable to keep pace with population growth. Local policymakers and authorities face an enormous challenge: to provide all citizens with adequate sanitation systems. The need is especially acute in low-income unplanned communities.

BORDA Africa facilitates the development of standards for decentralised wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS) and engages in awareness campaigns to encourage compliance with existing laws and regulations. We work to protect the environment, health and dignity of local residents by reducing the social and environmental burdens of inadequate sanitation and improper disposal of human waste.