

# A sustainable solution for Rural Water Supply

By WatSan Consult

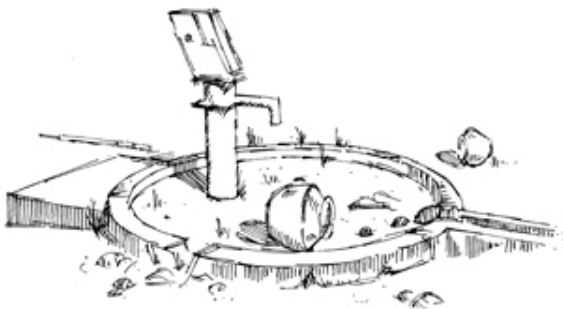
**The Afripump, a new Dutch handpump which requires no spare parts, can achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in a low-cost and sustainable way.**

Studies indicate that over 90% of donor handpumps are abandoned within a few years, mainly because spare parts are not locally available.

A new handpump is expensive, does not solve this maintenance problem and more funding will be lost. The MDG goals seem not realistic. The inconvenient truth is that there is a handpump trauma to solve...

A borehole with a handpump cost about 10.000 US\$. NGOs normally train communities the basics of handpump Operation & Maintenance (O&M). However, these NGOs move out with time and users become responsible for repairs, *precisely in the period that the handpump start to have serious problems.*

Finding spare parts becomes increasingly problematic; and when the handpump fails people have to go back to their traditional and unreliable water sources. At the end of the day, most of the donor investment and hope for development and a better future is lost.



## Spare parts problems

Studies clearly indicate that *the local private sector is not interested in selling handpump spare parts*, simply because it is not a profitable activity. Therefore, NGOs often provide spare parts for free, but that is clearly not a sustainable situation.

*It is estimated that when donor funding in rural Africa would stop now, by the year 2015 most handpumps will be abandoned and over 800 million US\$ on water funding has been spend without any sustainable results.*



## The Volanta - Afripump.

Based on the success of the Volanta, the Dutch manufacturer Jansen Venneboer B.V. developed the Afripump, which is beyond doubt, the most sustainable VLOM handpump on the market today. The special piston has no rubber seals and all other moving parts are also maintenance free. The expected lifetime under normal conditions is therefore 25+ years.

The Afripump can be used up to 100 m deep and is easy to install by one technician without special tools. The blue pedestal fits directly on a standard handpump; rehabilitation of an old pump is therefore easy and fast.

## Hope for the MDG's

The sturdy Afripump is considered by many international experts as a final breakthrough in handpump design. Afripumps are already present in Angola, Chad, Kenya, Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Zambia and more countries are joining in.

The Afripump solves 2 major problems:

1. *It needs no spares to function.*
2. *It can pump from greater depth up to 100m.*

Maintenance is limited and can easily be done by a local caretaker in a "public - private arrangement" with the local government. The supervisor's salary should be negotiated with the families who use the Afripump for their daily water supply.

*WatSan Consult is an independent, not for profit organization, based in the Netherlands, with a focus on sustainable low cost solutions for Rural Water Supply.*

[www.handpump.org](http://www.handpump.org)

Phone /Fax: +31-20-6837540

[info@watsan.com](mailto:info@watsan.com)