

# The Blue Deal arrangement

The Blue Deal makes it possible to work with local partners for an extended period on clean, sufficient and safe water. 50% of the total costs of the programme will be paid for by the water authorities (including the NWB Fund) and local partners, and 50% by the two ministries.

The main criteria are as follows:



## 1. The partnership takes place in a country on the Blue Deal longlist

The water authorities and ministries have drawn up a list of countries for the Blue Deal. A country can be added to the list if at least one of the two ministries and at least one water authority have an interest in entering into a partnership in that country.

## 2. The partnership demonstrably contributes to the ambition to help 20 million people in 40 water catchment areas gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water.

The theme of the partnership must fit within the aim of the Blue Deal, and it must have sufficient potential to make an important contribution to the programme.

## 3. The partnership is being entered into with the right local partner

Long-term partnerships are the basis of the Blue Deal and it is therefore important that the partner:

- has a water-related problem that links up to the water authorities' core expertise
- is an authority responsible for decentralised water management
- respects human rights
- commits itself to the partnership up to the end of 2030 by making a contribution financially or in-kind

## 4. The partnership is sustainable

The approach aims to achieve efficient and effective water management – also after 2030.

For more information on the Blue Deal,  
please send an email to  
[info@dutchwaterauthorities.com](mailto:info@dutchwaterauthorities.com) or call +31 70 351 97 51



MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
& THE DUTCH WATER AUTHORITIES



Helping 20 million people in 40 catchment areas  
around the world to gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water



**Cora van Nieuwenhuizen**  
Minister of Infrastructure and Water  
Management



**Hein Pieper**  
vice-chairman  
Dutch Water Authorities



**Sigrid Kaag**  
Minister for Foreign Trade  
and Development Cooperation

## Blue Deal: reaching 20 million people

Helping 20 million people in 40 catchment areas around the world to gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water. That is the ambitious goal behind the Blue Deal, the new international programme of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management and all the Dutch water authorities.

“Worldwide we see an increase in water-related problems. There is therefore a great need for knowledge and expertise on how we can solve these problems structurally and in a sustainable way. I expect the Netherlands to contribute effectively with the Blue Deal to improving water safety and water security in the world. In addition, I also see opportunities for the Dutch private sector. Many countries approach the Netherlands for our expertise to solve problems with water. With this Blue Deal, Dutch Water Authorities and companies in the water sector can more easily cross the border with their knowledge.”

“With the Blue Deal, the projects of the ministries and Dutch Water Authorities have a greater impact in countries that have challenges in the field of water management. If you start with water, you can prevent many problems. Water and food security belong together, as do water shortages and climate refugees.”

“The Sustainable Development Goals have a 2030 horizon. This long term is necessary to realize the ambitious SDG agenda. For me it is important that the Blue Deal has that same horizon. No separate projects, but long-term partnerships, continuity. Impact on 20 million people who are better protected against flooding, have access to water – for example for irrigation – or whose wastewater is better purified; I hope for that.”

The Blue Deal programme will run to the end of 2030 and focuses on establishing long-term partnerships between water managers in the Netherlands and abroad. Together they strengthen the three crucial elements of good water management: sufficient knowledge and expertise, a well-functioning organisation and cooperation with key stakeholders. In this way, the programme contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 6.3-6.6, the International Water Ambition and the vision of the Dutch Water Authorities.

### Unique opportunity

The Blue Deal is unique because it offers the water authorities and the ministries the opportunity to support regional and national governments with more resources than are available now and for a longer period. By joining forces, the ministries and water authorities wish to achieve more together than they do now individually. The focus is on providing help, creating opportunities for businesses and learning from other countries so as to keep improving our own work in the Netherlands.

### Growth model

The Blue Deal programme will be prepared over a period of a year and will start in 2019. It will be implemented in three phases: 2019-2022, 2023-2026, 2027-2030. The Blue Deal is a programme that will grow. The first phase will largely be implemented through partnerships in which the water authorities already participate. In the years that follow, more and more new partnerships and projects will be added.

### Launch in 2019

In the preparatory year, the water authorities and the two ministries will examine together with 35 local partners on a longlist whether a partnership is suitable for the Blue Deal. Some partnerships will be removed from the list and others added, resulting in a shortlist. They will then draw up, together with the partners on the shortlist, project proposals for the first phase of the Blue Deal. The Blue Deal will be festively launched on the 2019 World Water Day.