



# Water for the Rural Poor

We aim at increasing the impact of poverty-reduction strategies on poor smallholder farmers through investments in water, by recognizing the diversity and complexity of their conditions and tailoring interventions accordingly.

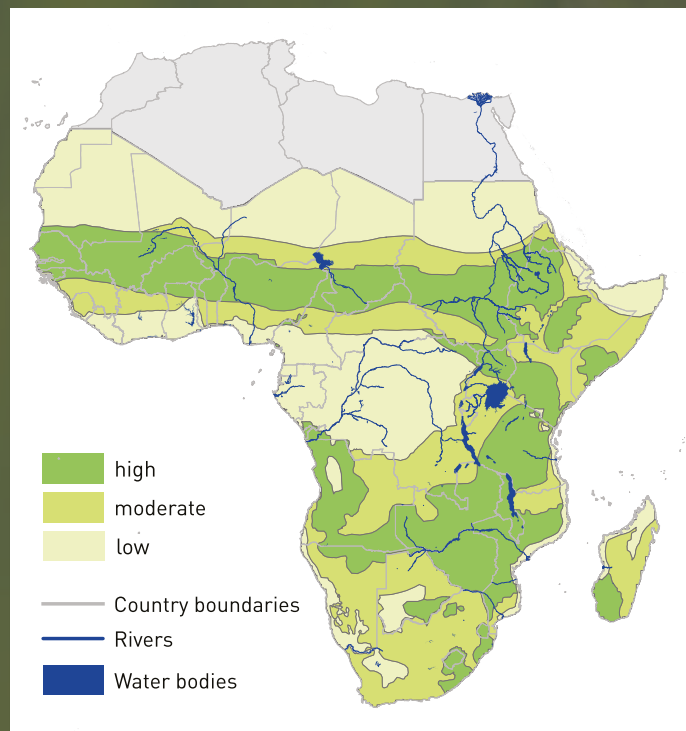


By increasing the knowledge on the role of water for rural livelihoods and adopting participatory approaches focusing on smallholder farmers, we work on building resilience, identifying adapted water technologies and promoting smart investments in water for poverty reduction.

## What we do:

- We develop methodologies based on the concept of livelihood mapping that support investors and policy makers in prioritizing, planning and implementing water-related interventions in support of smallholder farmers
- We perform regional and national studies on rural poverty reduction through water interventions
- We identify solutions for water technologies and approaches to enhance the impact of development projects that target poor farmers

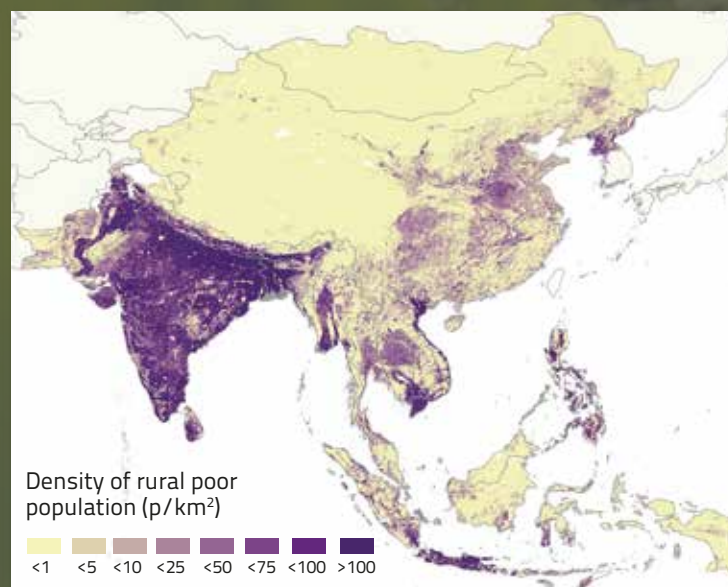
### Potential for poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa through water interventions



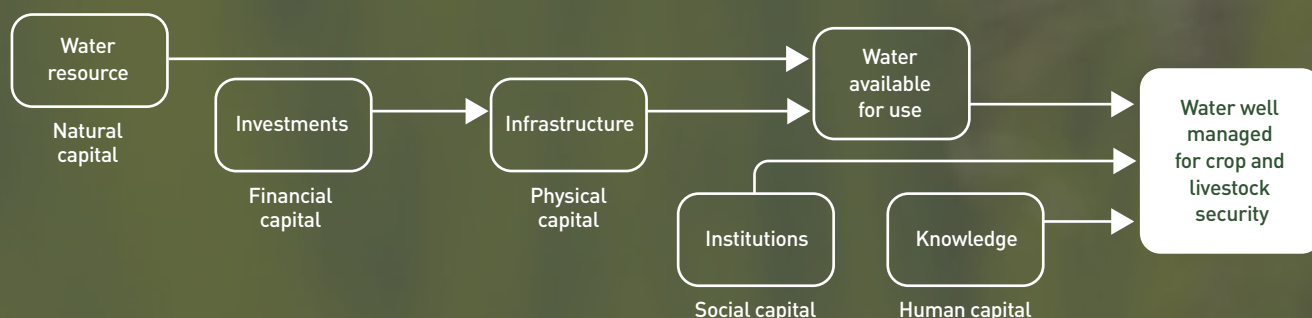
## Understanding the problem

For millions of smallholder farmers, fishers and herders, water is one of the most important production assets. Securing access to and control and management of water is key to enhancing their livelihoods. Water also provides a centre around which other interventions can be organized. Lack of sufficient water control and effective water management is one of small-holders farmers' key constraints, not only to food production, but also to social and economic development and environmental sustainability. It is one of the critical factors determining rural poverty.

Density of rural poverty in Asia



### Water and livelihood links



Increasing and improving investments in agricultural water management to support smallholders' livelihoods is therefore a priority. Poverty reduction and rural water development strategies need to deal with multi-local diversified livelihood systems with limited capacities for agricultural investment, putting extra emphasis on risk-preventing strategies. Indeed, the likelihood of succeeding in water-related investments depends on comprehensive analysis of dynamic opportunities and needs, which are closely linked to the biophysical and socio-economic contexts.

## Partners

IFAD, IWMI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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### MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.fao.org/nr/water/news/ruralpoor.html>