

**West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program  
(USAID WA-WASH)**

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**KOOM LA VIIM NEWS**

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**USAID WA-WASH TRAINS ITS PARTNERS IN RESULTS-FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

From September 30 to October 4, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized in Ouagadougou, a training session in organizational management focused on results. Initiated under the capacity building component, this session aimed to strengthen the capacity of participants in decision making and problem solving.



The participants, happy to have taken part in the training.

- Development of human resources and employee evaluations;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Funding/ project proposals and fundraising;
- Management of contracts and grants from USAID.

This workshop, rich in terms of its content and the quality of those who taught the sessions, enabled the beneficiaries to learn the most effective ways to change behavior, improve skills, encourage staff to take on additional responsibilities and continue to succeed.

The workshop participants also learned practical techniques to define common goals and focus on getting the job done well by their organization. They developed strategic plans that they are committed to implement in order to improve the management of their service or department.

Participant Beata Akanyani Awinopoka of APDO, a NGO based in Ghana said, "This training has enhanced my abilities and skills by focusing on realistic strategy development, professional practice and customer satisfaction."

"Training workshops like this one enhance the capabilities of individuals and the goals of our organizations when they are organized annually," she added.

The managing for results training program is designed to train managers of non-profit organizations to increase their efficiency. The development of skills and strategies to manage the pressures and obstacles that go along with decision making in public organizations is essential in order to become more efficient.

For five days, under the leadership of Dr. Gregory A. Porombescu from the Department of Public Administration at Florida International University; Sara Miner, deputy director of the USAID WA-WASH Program; Edwige Tia, capacity building coordinator; and Kader Sanfo, monitoring and evaluation specialist, participants learned about the various concepts related to managing for results.

The topics discussed included:

- Ethics and professionalism;
- Strategic planning;
- Evaluation of best practices and analysis procedures;
- Delegating for results;
- Management of a diverse workforce;

**Moussa Cissé (Intern at USAID WA-WASH )**

**Editor's note**

KOOM LA VIIM means water is life in mooré, a local language in Burkina Faso. This electronic newsletter publishes information generated in the course of the implementation of the USAID WA-WASH program.

Beyond the topic of water, this newsletter introduces issues related to USAID WA-WASH interventions. With this communication vehicle we aim to share with you news you can use and bring to you information about our program activities.

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Photos: PR/C Department

## USAID WA WASH PROGRAM SEMI-ANNUAL PARTNERS MEETING: FOR A MORE COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The semi-annual meeting of the USAID WA-WASH program partners was held from September 25 to 27, 2013 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The purpose of the meeting was to foster a teamwork mentality among all of the partners involved in the program in order to benefit from a more consistent implementation approach.



View of the participants of the meeting.

The USAID WA-WASH program is implemented by a consortium of several actors. The semi-annual meeting is an important meeting for all partners involved in the implementation of USAID WA-WASH program. In September, the partners met in Ouagadougou for three days to reflect on the objectives and approaches of the program.

Although considerable efforts have been made, access to quality water services and adequate sanitation is a major problem in West African countries such as Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. According to the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) of WHO and UNICEF, in 2011 the rate of access to drinking water in rural areas of each country was as follows: Burkina Faso (80%), Ghana (80%) and Niger (39%). For the same period, the rate of open defecation in rural areas was 75% in Burkina Faso, 32% in Ghana and 91% in Niger. These figures underline the need to act for the dignity and well-being of people who do not have access to basic social services.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, Regional Director of the program, welcomed the participants. He

said that the purpose of this meeting was to develop a culture of teamwork with all partners involved in the program for a more consistent implementation approach. He noted that after two years of implementation, the actions of the USAID WA-WASH program have contributed to improving the living conditions of many communities.

After the welcome by Dr. Boukerrou, the partner organizations shared their successes achieved during the period.

In terms of access to drinking water, participants learned about the work done by PROMACO in Burkina Faso and ANIMAS SUTURA in Niger. In both countries, PROMACO and ANIMAS SUTURA made Aquatabs (a product to treat drinking water at home) available to the people. In Burkina Faso, after only a few months of operation in communities without good quality drinking water, PROMACO was able to sell 15,000 Aquatabs tablets. In Niger, ANIMAS SUTURA sold 1,500,000 tablets.

Through Winrock, the program promotes the multiple uses of water services (MUS) approach. Because the USAID WA-WASH program serves populations where agriculture is the main economic activity, the MUS approach increases people's access to drinking water and water for sanitation and hygiene while also improving agricultural production and income generation. Among the results of the MUS approach in Burkina Faso, seven communes have benefited from the program's intervention and 400 hand washing stations have been installed in the intervention villages.



Dr. Boukerrou and Tracey Keatman moderated the meeting.

Now, the mayors of each of these municipalities have endorsed the MUS approach. In addition to the successes of Burkina Faso, in the region of Zinder, Niger, the populations of four towns now have access to sources of potable drinking water.

In addition to water and sanitation interventions, USAID WA-WASH program partners also take into account food security, climate change, capacity building and gender.

Thanks to partners Winrock and CARE's interventions, women in the USAID WA-WASH intervention areas have become more independent. In Niger, some women now run hygiene training sessions within their communities and were even able to put in place savings structures that enable them to better manage their income.

Capacity building is also an important component of the USAID WA-WASH program. The program organized several training sessions on geographical information systems, adaptation to climate change, etc. These sessions were organized for partners implementing the program, local decision-makers and planners from state services.



Participants were able to study the MUS approach in Ouéglega.

In addition to these training sessions, the program gives a prominent place to the training of youth. This interest is manifested through the granting of scholarships as well as the hosting of students to pursue professional or graduate internships. For the 2013-2014 academic year, the program offered 30 scholarships to students from Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger to conduct research on topics related to USAID WA-WASH program objectives.

In addition to their presentations, the participants made a field visit to Ouéglega and Tama, two villages in Burkina Faso where Winrock and PROMACO intervene, respectively. In Ouéglega, they learned about Winrock's experience implementing the MUS approach. In Tama, the visitors were exposed to the system established by PROMACO to promote household use of the Aquatabs water treatment product .

The semi-annual meeting allowed the partners to learn about the status of program implementation and share their experiences. They pledged to continue working together to achieve the objectives of the program and have made an appointment for the next semi-annual meeting to be held in March 2014.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



Participants during the field visit to Tama.

## USAID WA-WASH: COMMUNITY BASED ADAPATION AS A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION APPROACH

From October 22 to 26, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH program through CARE International held a training workshop on the conception and design of community based climate change adaptation strategies (CBA) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This training aimed to guide the participants to account for climate change in the planning of their activities and to equip them to develop, on their own, adaptation measures according to the climate hazards they identify and the vulnerabilities of their localities.

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people of Burkina Faso. However, the success of agriculture remains very dependent on climatic events and natural disasters. Without even knowing their causes, many people face the effects of climate change (droughts, floods, etc.). This situation increases the vulnerability of the population, most of which is very poor. Very few tools are available for affected communities to participate in and understand the question of climate change and participate in the elaboration of the approaches of adaptation to climate change.

Through CARE International, the USAID WA-WASH program will contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of communities. In addition to its activities in drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and in food security, the program grants a special place to the capacity building of communities.



A view of the participants at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

Community based adaptation gives communities the opportunity to participate, from the beginning of the process, to first understand how climatic hazards affect their socioeconomic and environmental conditions. It also allows them to evaluate their vulnerabilities and

then to design, on their own, an adaptation plan for each point of vulnerability.

From the point of view of CARE, CBA requires an integrated approach combining traditional knowledge with innovative strategies to face the current vulnerability and develop adaptation capacity to rise to dynamic and new challenges. The CBA process uses four interdependent strategies:

- Promotion of livelihood resilience strategies in the face of climate change, accompanied by income diversification and capacity building for planning and improving risk management;
- Natural disaster risk reduction strategies to reduce the impact of catastrophes, particularly on vulnerable households and individuals;



Participants during a group work debriefing session.



Participants exchange with the population of Vipalgo on climate change adaptation measures.

- Capacity building of local civil society and government institutions so that they can better support communities, households and individuals in their adaptation efforts;
- Advocacy and social mobilization to address the underlying causes of vulnerability, such as poor governance, a lack of control of access to resources, or limited access to basic services.

The CBA training workshop included all the different groups of actors with whom the USAID WA-WASH program works, including community representatives, NGOs, and actors from the public sector and civil society. It allowed the participants to acquaint themselves with certain basic concepts and approaches to better undertake community based adaptation through climate change vulnerability evaluation tools. These tools are the climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA) and CBA. In addition, the community-based risk screening tool for adaptation and livelihoods (CRISTAL) also was reviewed by the group. These tools will allow them to integrate community based adaptation strategies into the planning of their activities at the local level.

To encourage the participants to take ownership of these tools and to facilitate their use at the community level, the workshop organizers planned a field visit to Vipalgo (a USAID WA-WASH intervention village situated 45 km from Ouagadougou). With the cooperation of the population, the participants were able to develop a map of natural disasters, a vulnerability matrix, a summary table and a community action plan.

According to one participant, “Before this workshop, I did not know that our actions such as cutting firewood could be the cause of reductions in rain and have hard

consequences for our daily lives. When there is no water, it is us the women that suffer most because we have to make very long trips to find it.” The other participants agreed with this leader of a Ouahigouya women’s association, echoing the relevance of the new knowledge that they acquired.

By the end of this training, the participants understood the real measure of the threat of climate change. They return to their communities with diverse experiences that they intend to share with the members of their communities to increase their resilience to climate change.

To best apply the CBA tools, the participants consider meteorological information sharing as an essential element which should accompany the implementation of certain adaptation strategies (improved seeds, animal feed, water management, etc.). They plan to begin to make these changes within their communities if they benefit from the support of state actors in their communities.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



Group photo of the participants after the workshop.

## ACCESS TO WATER IN THE SAHEL: IRC TRAINS MUNICIPAL ADVISORS ON TOOLS FOR MONITORING DRINKING WATER SERVICES IN TWO MUNICIPALITIES

On Thursday, September 26, 2013, IRC in collaboration with the Sahel Regional Directorate of Water, Hydraulic Equipment and Sanitation (DREAHA, in French) organized two simultaneous training workshops for Arbinda and Gorgadjion municipal water and sanitation advisors (CCEA, in French) on monitoring tools for drinking water services. The workshops provided participants with new knowledge that will enable them to master the tools of drinking water service monitoring.



Participants reflect on the monitoring tools they will use.

Monitoring of water services is a cyclic and continuous process, integrated into other decision-making processes. This makes it different from ad hoc operations such as surveys, inventory, diagnosis, etc. To do monitoring properly, it is important that the responsible parties have a perfect mastery of tools for collecting information.

The training was marked by two key phases: a theoretical classroom phase and practical component consisting of a pre-test of the tools. The tools are the result of a collaborative production process with all strategic actors in water and sanitation (DGRE, DREAHA, municipalities, NGOs, consultants, etc.). This process lasted nearly seven months, between January and July 2013.

The toolbox for monitoring public drinking water services in rural and semi-urban areas consists of three forms. Each form covers an important aspect in the monitoring of drinking

water services in connection with the roles envisaged by the policy framework for the organization of decentralized management.

The first form concerns monitoring the activities of the person responsible for maintenance. It lists the length, the number and types of failures identified during the month. Each maintenance person is accountable to the municipal engineer in charge of water and sanitation.

The second form covers the quarterly meetings each water users' association (WUA) must hold. It provides information on financial management (revenue and expenditure) of the WUA. Beyond just record-keeping, it is a tool that contributes to the transparency of WUA management. In the short term, the information from the form will be posted as a table in a public place, visible to all.

The last form is used to report to the general assemblies of the WUA. It also allows the measurement of the rate of user satisfaction in regards to water point management.

After this theoretical phase, the members of the CCEA and the trainers went to the field to test the tools. This helped to clarify the unclear areas and improve the understanding of the monitoring process by all stakeholders.

This training was critical because participant trainees will become trainers, responsible for training, in turn, the executive offices of WUAs in both municipalities.

### Salouka Nourouline (IRC)



Participants in group work.

## REVIEW OF USAID PARTICIPATION AT WSA'S THIRD HIGH LEVEL FORUM

From November 21 to 23, 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA) hosted the third High Level Forum on Water and Sanitation for All in Africa. USAID, the official sponsor of the Forum, presented its areas of intervention as well as its support for the well-being of people in West Africa. An important contribution of USAID to the forum was a meeting moderated by Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou with the ministers in charge of water in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. Dr. Boukerrou reflects on the meeting in this interview.



Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, Regional Director of USAID WA-WASH.

**KOOM LA VIIM:** You have already met the authorities of the countries involved in the program; what were your impressions?

**Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou:** This morning we had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Water and Sanitation in Niger, the Minister of Local Government of Ghana, and the Minister of Water, Water Infrastructure and Sanitation in Burkina Faso. For two and a half hours, we had an excellent exchange on the implementation of the USAID WA-WASH program in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger, as well as WASH-UP, a project implemented on behalf of USAID in Ghana.

This meeting also provided an opportunity for Dr. Anne Dix, Regional Director for the Environment Program of USAID/West Africa, to communicate with ministers on programs that are implemented by the USAID throughout

the sub-region.

**KLV:** What objective did you have in mind for the meeting with the ministers?

**LB:** Our goal was to inform all of the ministers at the same time and also receive feedback from them about the program. Our intervention is part of the strategy of these countries. So, we want there to be an exchange of ideas including the national policy of each country as well as that of USAID, which is a policy of implementation in cooperation with the governmental organizations of intervention countries.

I will retain from this conversation that the three ministers appreciated the work done by USAID West Africa. They assured us of their support and I think that we will continue to work in synergy for the well-being of the people.

**KLV:** A few words about your involvement in the three countries...

**LB:** Nowadays, our intervention contributes to improve the living conditions of many people in terms of

access to water, hygiene and sanitation.

In figures, as of September 2013, we have helped over 32,008 people gain access to improved water sources and provided 3,139 people with sanitation facilities. During the same period, our program organized training sessions related to these areas of intervention for the benefit of 1,774 people. We also offered Master's level research scholarships to 30 students and hosted more than forty students for internships.

The program also takes into account food security, climate change, development of partnerships, capacity building and the inclusion of gender in all our interventions.

**Interview by**  
**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



The USAID delegation with the Ministers after their discussions.

## WATER AND SANITATION: A NICHE FOR YOUTH

In addition to the members of its delegation, USAID sponsored the participation of 10 people from Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger to the High Level Forum. A native of Burkina Faso, Iliasse Sawadogo is a member of the World Youth Parliament and made up one of the 10 people sponsored. In the following interview, he discusses his feelings about his participation in the third High Level Forum.



Iliasse Sawadogo of the World Youth Parliament.

**KLV: Why is the High Level Forum on water and sanitation important for young people?**

**Iliasse Sawadogo:** I would first like to thank the Regional Director of USAID WA-WASH for allowing us to participate in this Forum. This is an opportunity for youth to express themselves on the issue of water and sanitation.

It must be said that youth participation is very important for the promotion of access to clean water and a healthy environment in our communities. Issues of water and sanitation are issues of generations, not short-term questions. As long as there are human beings, there will always be the issue of water and sanitation.

If young people are brought into the debate on water and sanitation as the USAID WA-WASH program has done, it ensures a dynamic succession of the workforce to sustain the progress made by various water projects, but also we will have young people sensitized to the issues of water and sanitation.

This approach has the advantage of creating citizens who know good hygiene and sanitation behaviors and the preservation of water resources.

**KLV: What will you retain from the Forum on Water and Sanitation for all?**

**IS:** The forum allowed us to understand that the domain of water and sanitation is an area where there are many challenges and that everyone, at their own level, can do something.

We also attended a session on business opportunities in the area of water and sanitation and we think it could be an opportunity for young job seekers. We talked about the management of sludge and biogas, which could be a growth area for young job seekers.

We welcome the USAID WA-WASH program that develops an initiative to strengthen the capacity of Burkinabe youth and youth in in all three countries where it operates to enable them to be present on the issues of water and sanitation.

**KLV: How will you follow up on this Forum?**

**IS:** Back in Ouagadougou, we have already started to organize a briefing to share with young people the knowledge we learned in this Forum.

In a presentation made by the Regional Director, I saw that USAID WA-WASH gives prominence to youth training. It is an opportunity for young people like us to check with the USAID WA-WASH program to see what the youth could do to assist the program to achieve its objectives.

**Interview by  
Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



Iliasse Sawadogo with the Regional Director of USAID WA-WASH.



## USAID WA-WASH OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM GHANA AND NIGER

After the scholarship award ceremony held in Burkina Faso on September 27, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH program organized similar ceremonies for the benefit of 6 students in Ghana and 11 in Niger. These ceremonies took place November 20 at the University for Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana and December 10 at the University Abdou Moumouni in Niamey, Niger, respectively.



Ousmane Tiney (3rd from the left, representing the Regional Director of USAID WA-WASH) surrounded by the heads of the University of Niamey and AGRHYMET.

In Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger (as in most African countries), research remains another vast field to be explored in view of the development challenges the people face. The objective of the scholarship program is to grant funds to students pursuing Master's degrees in the fields of intervention of the USAID WA-WASH Program. Considering the significant delay of African countries regarding access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, the USAID WA-WASH Program is investing in a sector where the need is very pronounced.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, 30 students from six universities in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger received scholarships. There are 13 beneficiaries from Burkina Faso. Eleven students are from Niger and six were selected from Ghana. Among

other themes, the scholarship recipients will research topics related to access to drinking water, water resources management, sanitation, hygiene, climate change, food security and gender. These students will be supervised by professors in their host universities and staff of the USAID WA-WASH Program.

During the two scholarship ceremonies held at the universities in Tamale and Niamey, the representatives of the Regional Director of the USAID WA-WASH Program reaffirmed the interest the program places in training a critical mass of young researchers capable of finding solutions for the development of their communities. The authorities of the universities greeted this initiative of the USAID WA-WASH Program.

The students thanked the USAID WA-WASH Program for its assistance with their training in fields where their countries will have to make significant efforts. The students in Niger made a speech declaring that: "This scholarship is strong incentive that will cultivate excellence and encourage other students to work even harder."

**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



A student receiving his certificate of scholarship.

## MULTIPLE USE OF WATER SERVICES APPROACH: MEETING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL CUSTOMERS AND CREATING JOBS FOR PRIVATE BUSINESSES

Resident of the village of Koukouldi (in the central west region of Burkina Faso), Moïse Bado did manual digging of traditional wells as his main economic activity. With the support of the USAID WA-WASH program, Moïse attended two training courses that allowed him to acquire new knowledge and to improve the way he works. Today, he has built a name as a business in low-cost drilling and in the sinking of improved wells to meet the water needs of his customers, in terms of water for household use and water intended for productive use. He even set up a company which he named "Lyaarebo" or "fatigue is reduced, work is improved," in the local language gourounsi.



Moïse Bado (green T-shirt) and his trainees.

Between December 2012 and March 2013, Moïse and his drilling team of four people participated in two training workshops financed by the USAID WA-WASH program within the framework of the multiple use of services of water (MUS) approach.

He has a lot of praise for the workshop. "Before, I was a well digger executing traditional wells, but now I am a professional manual borer with a team recognized at the regional level."

After these trainings, Moïse invested 200,000 FCFA (approximately \$400) to purchase his first equipment for the execution of these drillings.

Six months later, in October, 2013, the Lyaarebo company had already executed 20 improvements of existing wells in the zone of Koukouldi. In

addition to these improved wells, Moïse's team installed pumps and paving stones or concrete structures over these wells.

With an average pace of one drilled well per week, Moïse's team has simultaneously improved the quantity of water (important for productive uses such as the gardening), the quality of the water (important for drinking), and the year-round reliability of water (important for domestic and productive needs) for his customers.

The USAID WA-WASH program facilitates the development of the market by means of demonstration sites of water solutions that are easily accessible to the customer. Moïse also began to increase the size of his team taking into account the increasing demand of the customers. He recruited

and trained six trainees and added a second set of drilling materials to the existing one.

Moïse gives several reasons for the increase in demand for the water solutions he offers. According to him, wells improved by deepening, by strengthening and by covering provide reliable access to the water including during the season when traditional wells dry up; more safety for children thanks to covered wells; and also access to a drinking water for good health. Another reason in this success is Moïse's marketing know-how. For example, observing that women often take part in a family's investment in the water solutions, Moïse meets with groups of women to introduce his products to them.

Given its speciality, Moïse's company will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the USAID WA-WASH program—supply of water for domestic and productive uses adapted to the real needs of the population.

These low-cost technologies developed by the USAID WA-WASH program meet the needs of customers for multiple uses of water such as small cattle, construction, gardens and drinking water.

**Patrice Beaujault (Director of Winrock Burkina Faso)**

## MANAGEMENT OF SIMPLIFIED WATER SUPPLY NETWORKS: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK SERVICES IN RURAL AND SEMI-URBAN AREAS

Meeting in Ouagadougou on October 30-31, 2013 on the initiative of the IRC, mayors, private sector actors, government services, support organizations and NGOs reflected on the sustainable management of simplified water supply networks (AEPS, in French). For two days, participants discussed the problems and solutions around three major themes: monitoring and control by public authorities, funding for renewal and development of networks and services.



Participants examine solutions for sustainability of water services.

A simplified water supply network is a drinking water supply system consisting of a water tower serving one or more fountains. In Burkina Faso, AEPS construction is encouraged for villages of at least 3,500 inhabitants and for the seats of communes. Just like hand pumps (commonly called boreholes in rural areas), the management of which was transferred to the municipalities since the 2006 adoption of a new policy of decentralized management of drinking water facilities, AEPS also falls under municipal management. However, since the implementation of this policy, no meetings between the strategic actors were organized to evaluate the state of AEPS management in Burkina. People perceived many problems but had not yet had the opportunity to discuss solutions and strategies to ensure sustainable services.

The discussion and reflection workshop on the management of simplified drinking water networks fits into the overall national exchange on AEPS. For this reason, all of the stakeholders, beginning with the state, welcomed the organization of this workshop. In his opening speech, Sori Alassoun of General Direction of Water Resources (DGRE) said, "This workshop is important for us because the most difficult thing is not to build structures but rather to ensure the sustainability of services and ownership structures".

The workshop is based upon a study conducted by IRC on cost, performance and regulation of small drinking water distribution networks in Burkina Faso. The study involved 6 AEPS in the Sahel region. It resulted in many important conclusions. The authors argue that in the long term, it is more profitable to produce AEPS rather than hand pumps which have high maintenance costs

and poor service quality. The study also explores all other aspects of the management of AEPS, including the level and quality of services provided.

To enrich the discussion on the subject, in addition to the presentation of the IRC study, DGRE made a presentation on the regulatory framework for managing public drinking water infrastructures. Service providers (ONEA, Vergnet Hydro and PPI) and mayors of Markoye, Gorgadji, Latoden and Houndé shared their experiences managing AEPS. These experiences allowed participants to focus discussions on real concerns observed in the field. Exchanges revolved around three issues selected by the organizers, namely: monitoring and control by public authorities, funding for renewal and development of the network and services.

IRC supports improved monitoring of drinking water services in the Triple-S project, a part of the drinking water and sanitation component of the USAID WA-WASH program.

**Salouka Nourouline (IRC)**

## AQUATABS: A LOW COST SOLUTION FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER IN NIGER

In rural areas in Niger, many communities lack access to safe drinking water. Even in communities where potable water is available, it often becomes contaminated during transportation to the home or during storage. The consumption of contaminated drinking water causes diarrhea and other waterborne diseases, which account for 14% of child deaths in Niger, or about 15,000 per year. To provide good quality drinking water to the people of Niger, the USAID WA-WASH Program supports the promotion and sale of a low cost solution for water treatment by households – Aquatabs. This activity is implemented by local partner ANIMAS-SUTURA and co-financed by KfW, the German development bank.



An awareness session on Aquatabs in Niger.

Initially, many Nigeriens were skeptical about using Aquatabs. Boubacar Moumouni, the manager of the USAID WA-WASH program at ANIMAS-SUTURA, remembers, "When we started promoting Aquatabs for households, many people did not want them. At the time, the media presented Niger as a country where the fertility rate was one of the highest in the world. People believed that Aquatabs was a contraceptive product."

Gradually, ANIMAS-SUTURA was able to change people's perception of Aquatabs and convince people to use them to purify their drinking water. To persuade people of Aquatabs's usefulness and to facilitate its availability, ANIMAS-SUTURA deployed 1391 community volunteers in 327 villages. These community volunteers, with the support of traditional chiefs and religious leaders, sold Aquatabs and educated people on hand washing, hygiene, sanitation and the proper use of Aquatabs.

Their efforts were complemented by community radio and television broadcast messages promoting Aquatabs. To encourage poor people to buy the product, Aquatabs are sold at a low price – a single tablet used to treat 20 liters of water costs only 10 FCFA (about 2 cents).

The centerpiece of ANIMAS-SUTURA's Aquatabs communication campaign is Alio Salaou, a famous traditional wrestling champion. Boubacar Moumouni

explains, "Traditional wrestling is the king of sports in Niger, so we signed a partnership with the Nigerien Wrestling Federation. This agreement allows us to use Alio Salaou for our outreach. He is an icon of traditional wrestling and many people identify with him. In addition to the wrestling arena where he educates people [on Aquatabs], he is also involved in the media to get our message across."

Aquatabs are now available in a large geographic area of Niger; sales numbers prove the widespread acceptance of the product by the Nigerien people. Between June and August 2013, 1.5 million tablets were sold in the Maradi and Tillaberi regions. ANIMAS-SUTURA aims to sell a total of 4.2 million tablets in 2013 and 5 million tablets in 2014.

Across Niger, thousands of people now treat their drinking water with Aquatabs. With this product, USAID WA-WASH and ANIMAS-SUTURA are meeting real needs in terms of access to safe drinking water.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication officer)**



**Aquatabs**  
pour purifier l'eau de boisson

Disponible ici

## THE COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS) APPROACH: HARMONIZING CONCEPTS FOR A UNIFIED SANITATION STRATEGY

From November 14 to 15, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a workshop on capitalization and exchange of experiences for its implementing partners. The theme of this workshop was: "The harmonization of concepts in sanitation, the CLTS approach and capitalization of knowledge" and aimed to establish a framework for discussion on issues of implementation of sanitation activities in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger.



View of the CLTS workshop participants.

The participants discussed the consequences of, that unlike in Ghana, in Burkina Faso and Niger regulations allow organizations implementing CLTS to financially support communities to build sanitation infrastructure.

The meeting allowed the participants to share their experiences, lessons and questions for a total sustainable sanitation. A common strategy has been developed for this purpose.

**Moussa Cissé (Intern at USAID WA-WASH)**

Sanitation remains a real problem to be resolved for the three USAID WA-WASH intervention countries. These countries are facing the harsh reality of open defecation. To face this reality, the USAID WA-WASH program and its partners debated this issue to deepen their understanding of effective approaches, including the community focused approach of CLTS.

According to Hadiza Sériba, WASH Coordinator at the USAID WA-WASH Program, "Hygiene and sanitation deserve and require a clear and transparent debate, free from dogmatism, to achieve relevant and realistic solutions."

These reflections also focused on issues that arise concerning the means of implementation (subsidies, technologies, environmental impacts, regulations, certifications, sustainability of infrastructure, etc.).

This workshop enabled participants to harmonize their methods of

intervention to improve people's access to health and sanitation services through the establishment of a sustainable strategy while remaining in compliance with the regulations in force in each country.



Participants in group work.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATES
National Day, Burkina Faso, Regional Office closed	JAN 03
USAID WA-WASH Training seminar on geographic information systems (GIS), Niger	JAN. 06 – 10
Mouloud (Burkina Faso) Regional Office closed	JAN. 14
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (United States), Regional Office closed	JAN. 20
USAID WA-WASH Study tour to the United States for the benefit of water agencies in Burkina Faso	JAN. 19 – 30
USAID WA-WASH training workshop on "Integrating risk and adaptation to climate change into development strategies", Burkina Faso	FEB. 10 – 14
Presidents' Day (United States), Regional Office closed	FEB. 17
USAID WA-WASH Training Workshop on Environmental Regulations, Burkina Faso	FEB. 24 – 28
USAID WA-WASH semi-annual partners meeting of the USAID WA-WASH program, Burkina Faso	MAR. 10 – 12
International Women's Day (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	MAR. 08

### PHOTO TOUR



A student receiving his scholarship certificate during the ceremony in Niamey, Niger



Participants of the semi-annual meeting of partners during their visit to Tama (Burkina Faso)



USAID intends to support policies and development strategies in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger



The Water Minister of Niger (left), with Dr. Boukerrou and Dr. Maunder of FIU



The partners of the USAID WA-WASH program came to agreement on the implementation of the CLTS approach



The trainees of Moses Bado sink a borehole into a traditional well

#### PARTENAIRES D'EXECUTION

