



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **USAID ORGANIZES A TRAINING SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)**

**NIAMEY**– The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will organize a training seminar in geographic information system (GIS) at the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey from January 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, through the USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH).

Geographic Information Systems are a technique for collecting, analyzing and publishing in the form of graphics and reports alphanumeric data spatially referenced. GIS are among the key activities of USAID WA-WASH. Indeed, through GIS, the USAID program collects and processes data from its Implementing partners. These data are then checked, treated for producing cartographic products shared with the partners of the program, made available to other potential users (through the Internet). The GIS training seminar is organized for local and regional water resources experts, hydrologists and other professionals from local NGOs. It aims to equip new knowledge to develop their skills and experience in the use of geographic information.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

The USAID WA-WASH Program, implemented by the Florida International University, is a four-year, U.S. \$28 million project that contributes to meeting West Africa's Millennium Development Goal of providing improved access to water and sanitation to 50% of the population. In addition, WA-WASH provides access to water for productive uses via multiple use systems and improves resilience to climate change in three target countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger.

The goal of USAID in West Africa is to promote social and economic well-being advanced by West Africans. Spanning 21 countries, the USAID/West Africa regional office designs and implements programs with West African partners to strengthen systems of non-violent conflict management, support economic growth, and expand quality health services. The American people, through USAID, provide economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries worldwide. For more information please visit <http://www.usaid.gov/west-africa-regional>.