

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

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**KOOM LA VIIM NEWS**

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**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 original mean of KOOM LA VIIM, 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. USAID WA-WASH is a complex program on which repose the dreams of several communities.

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Photos: PR/C Department

**WELCOME FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**



capabilities of local NGOs – are designed to address the capacity gaps that exist in the sub-region.

To date, in our geographical areas of intervention in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger, 32.008 people have access to water, 234 farmers are equipped to ensure food security for themselves and their communities, and 86 communities and organizations are better equipped to adapt to climate change as a result of the assistance provided by USAID WA-WASH. In addition, 20 faculty members, 30 graduate students from academic institutions and 37 interns in the region have benefited from our program support.

We will strive to keep you posted on our activities and progress via future editions of this newsletter, our website and other means such as USAID WA-WASH FLASH a new way of sharing timely information with you. Do not hesitate to give us your feedback and please visit our website ([www.globalwaters.net/projects/current-projects/wa-wash/](http://www.globalwaters.net/projects/current-projects/wa-wash/)) regularly for updates, new information, relevant data and results.

Until next time, be well and keep in touch ...

**Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou**  
Regional Director/CoP

This is our fourth newsletter and with it we bring you information and news about the USAID WA-WASH Program. We are halfway through the implementation period of this regional program. While we have achieved significant results in some areas, we still have lots to do to meet our goals and reach our target results.

The coming year is going to be critical to our success and the positive collaboration between the regional office, implementing partners and national stakeholders is going to ensure the success of the program in providing access water, sanitation and hygiene to the target communities in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger.

In addition, the program aims to address the issues of food security and adaptation to climate change while mainstreaming gender in our activities. Capacity building at the local, national and regional levels is an important component of our program and our efforts – training communities to adapt to climate change, offering internships and scholarships to graduate students, empowering women, improving the management

## POLICY MAKERS AND PLANNERS ADAPT TO RISKS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

After Tamale (Ghana), Zinder (Niger) and Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), the USAID WA-WASH program held, from 26 to 30 August 2013, a training workshop on "Integration of risk and the adaptation to climate change into development strategies" in favor of 13 policy makers and planners in Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso). This training aims to equip them for a better adaptation of communities to face the impacts of climate change.



Participants from the Ouahigouya workshop.

Climate change is a reality faced by many populations. Climate change is especially noticeable through floods, droughts, etc. But just as the people who are often hit hardest by climate change, policy makers and planners are not always equipped to deal with it.

The primary intervention area of the USAID WA-WASH Program is potable water supply, hygiene, and sanitation. However, an additional priority of the program is to mainstream climate change in water resource management.

For this reason, the risk integration and Climate change adaptation training workshops target those responsible for water resource management in catchment basins, regional water authorities, national water suppliers, and urban municipalities.

The workshop aims to familiarize participants with the approach and the tools to analyse vulnerabilities and adaptation capacity to climate change and to integrate climate change into their development strategies.

The sessions offer a framework to reflect upon and discover effective methods for communities to adapt to the effects of climate change. To achieve this, the training workshop

provides an introduction to climate change as well as an overview of current trends and the impacts of Climate change on natural resources and human systems. It also covers the tools and methods of analysis and planning, such as: a risk matrix from the World Bank Institute, the climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA) of CARE

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



Participants discuss climate change adaptation in their communities.

International, Clim PROSPECT of the Application and Popularization of Sciences Institute (IAVS) and CRISTAL, developed by the International Union for Nature Conservation.

These training workshops allowed reflection and discovery among the participants. They now have the necessary knowledge to implement the tools introduced by the trainers in the context of their respective institutions.

The participants will also develop, with the help of the trainers, a follow-up calendar. The USAID WA-WASH program will carry out follow-up sessions with each institution committed to risk integration and adaption to climate change in their development plans.

## WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS' PERSPECTIVES

Following the training workshop held in Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso), we turned our microphones over to two participants. Idrissa Issa Dicko, the Deputy Mayor of Djibo in the Soum province, and Cyprien W. Tizabo, the Director of the DREAHA Centre-Nord, gave their impressions of the workshop content and the knowledge they gained. They also discussed the actions they plan to take to assist the general population to adapt to the effects of climate change.



Mr. Idrissa Issa Dicko, the Deputy Mayor of Djibo.

**KOOM LA VIIM: What do you think of the theme of this workshop on climate change?**

**Idrissa Issa DICKO :** This workshop, initiated by the USAID WA-WASH Program, is very welcome. It permits us to better understand a phenomenon we talk about more and more. I would like to thank the Program, which really wanted to involve us. The municipal electorate is primarily responsible for the question of development. As you certainly know, our region is a part of the Sahel and climate change concerns us a great deal.

**KLV : Is climate change icurrently a reality in your area?**

**IID :** Our commune is located in the Sahel Region, which is a very vulnerable zone even before climate change. Now that we know climate change is primarily caused by action of humans on the environment, we can say that these changes are real, irreversible if nothing is done, and the consequences will be measured by the extreme events that we observed.

**KLV : So what is the importance of this training session for you?**

**IID :** This workshop is of primary importance in the sense that I have been given abundant knowledge about the climate change phenomenon. I think that for our commune, this will permit us as decision-makers, to integrate, into our policies, actions which will permit the population to adapt to the new phenomenon and its corollaries.

**KLV : What concrete actions do you intend to take at the end of this workshop?**

**IID :** We say that "*Governing requires foresight.*" As a decision-maker, with my colleagues, we will have an information campaign for the population about climate change and its effects. In the end, this will elevate their awareness about the phenomenon and prepare them to confront the eventual consequences of climate change. More than that, we will organize a reforestation campaign to alleviate the effects of climate change since our vegetation is already suffering.

**KLV: What is your opinion of the overall workshop?**

**IID :** I plead that this workshop will not be the last organized to benefit us, the participants. It was rich in information and in technical adaptations to face climate change.

However, it would be good to adapt the training for local elected officials. Certain terms used were very technical and understanding them conceptually is not always easy for us. We are, admittedly, decision-makers but not necessarily hardened technicians. If we don't understand these terms, it will



Mr. Cyprien W Tizambo DREAHA of the Centre-Nord Region, Kaya.

not be easy for us to explain them to the population.

**KLV : We hear more and more about climate change; are the populations you work with aware of this phenomenon?**

**Cyprien W. TIZAMBO :** Yes, these days, we hear a lot of talk about climate change, more in the media than in actual life. As a water specialist, I will say that this phenomenon is perceptible in my area and the people are becoming more and more aware.

**KLV: How does climate change manifest itself in the daily life of the population?**

**CWT :** The changes in climate are experienced by the population through the recurrence or the violence of certain precipitations such as the torrential rains which cause floods. There is also the irregularity of the rains, which is becoming more and more noticeable, the shifting seasons, and,

consequently, the reduction of the harvest.

**KLV : Seeing the effects of climate change, what role can the program USAID WA-WASH play so that the populations adapt to this new order?**

**CWT :** I think that the program is going in the right direction. One of the first steps is to reinforce the consciousness awakening in the face of the phenomenon. What [USAID WA-WASH] did with this session, from which we have benefited, is reinforce capacity. One can feel the effects of climate change on a daily basis and the majority of the popu-

lation does not always know the cause, so a large information campaign about climate change is essential.

I wish that beyond sessions of this nature, the program develops approaches and technologies to accompany the population facing the phenomenon.

**KLV: What concrete measures will you take for the population of your locality?**

**CWT:** As a player in the decision-making process, we can already opt for correcting our choices because our intervention areas are part of predefined policy.

From now on we are going to integrate the question of adapting to climate change in our work. Also, we will integrate certain effective tools to prevent negative situations so that in a disaster, we address the climate change challenges we face. We will integrate certain tools to avoid these troubles as the health consequences could be disastrous.

**Interviews by Moussa Cissé (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern)**

## ELEMENTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TRENDS IN BURKINA FASO

*In terms of natural variability, climate change is not a new phenomenon. Human action, through the emission of greenhouse gases has led to an increase in the scale and intensity of extreme weather events.*

*In Burkina Faso, for example, several regions and provinces have faced serious periods of flooding and drought. According to the meteorological services, some years have been challenging for many people in these regions and provinces. The most significant years are:*

- Floods : 1988, 1992, 1994, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010.
- Drought: 1970-1973, 1983-1984, 1991-1992, 1997-1998, 2003-2004.

*Making climate change a key component of its intervention, the USAID WA-WASH program aims to help the grassroots for a better adaptation and resilience to these phenomena. The program has to be achieved through an approach that takes into account the sustainable population access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation and the new techniques of rational water management in the field of productivity agriculture in Burkina Faso , Ghana and Niger .*



Ouagadougou, under water after the floods of September 1, 2009.

Photo by DGM Burkina Faso



Drought, a factor that increases the vulnerability of populations and impacts negatively on food security in many areas in Burkina Faso.

Photo by DGM Burkina Faso

## USAID WA-WASH/PEACE CORPS : PARTNERS FOR COMMUNITIES' WELL BEING

American Peace Corps Volunteers, young and old, are deployed around the world to work in local communities. Alaina DEANS is one of those volunteers. After two years in Bilanga (a village in eastern Burkina Faso), she is currently serving a third year as a Peace Corps Volunteer with USAID WA-WASH.



Peace Corps volunteers paint murals such as this one about HIV/AIDS to inform villages of health issues.

*"Our Peace Corps is not conceived as an instrument of diplomacy, of propaganda, or of ideological conflict.*

*It is conceived to allow our people to fully exercise their responsibilities in the great common task of the development of the world"*

Former U.S. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961. At its inception, the Peace Corps intervened only in six countries. Fifty-two years later more than 210,000 men and women have served in 139 countries. The mission of the Peace Corps is defined by three goals:

- Help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

To facilitate community immersion, Peace Corps Volunteers are welcomed by families, where they live in the same conditions as their hosts. Alaina arrived in Burkina Faso in 2011: "After three months of training in Saponé, I was sent to Bilanga where I spent two years." She worked primarily in education with activities such as coaching primary school students in reading and educating high school students on avoiding HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy.

Burkina Faso Peace Corps Volunteers work in the domains of education, health and community economic development as well as the promotion of good practices related to water, hygiene and sanitation. In collaboration with health workers, they educate communities about hand washing, conservation of drinking water, prevention of diarrheal diseases, use of latrines, etc.

In Bilanga, Alaina conducted a training session for high school teachers on community health.

Through this training, she assisted teachers to relay health information, resulting in behavior change of pupils and their families.

Alaina is currently serving her third year with the Peace Corps with the USAID WA-WASH Program. "I chose to do a third year with USAID WA-WASH because I know that this is a program with high quality human resources. By working closely with them, I can apply what I learned in the field," she said.

Alaina will serve as the liaison between Peace Corps and USAID WA-WASH in the coordination of the collaboration between the two organizations.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public Relation and Communication Officer)**



Alaina Deans and her friends in Bilanga.

## LASSANE ZONGO: A ROPE PUMP MASTER

Lassané Zongo is an artisanal welder. His specialty is fabricating drilled water pumps. Located in Sector 15 of Ouagadougou, he has been doing this work since 1998. With the opening of USAID WA-WASH Program in Burkina Faso, Lassané makes up part of the group of artisans who have benefited from capacity building activities. Nowadays, he has mastered the fabrication of a new type of pump developed by the Program: the rope pump.



Lassané (against the wall), explaining to USAID WA-WASH program participants the rope pump operation and the manufacturing process.



Employees, at work in Lassané's welding shop.

Lassané's story with the USAID WA-WASH Program began in December 2011. During that month, he attended a training workshop offered by the program. The workshop focused on one of the primary objectives targeted by the program: equip the population with low-cost potable water while permitting the development of income generating activities.

Lassané remembers: *"I am always searching for new knowledge to better do my work. When I had the opportunity to benefit from this training workshop, I did not hesitate. It has permitted me to acquire something more. It permits me to pick up new contracts because many clients have seen the advantages of rope pumps."*

Nowadays, Lassané is able to make new pumps, which have several advantages compared to the older pumps he used to make. Less expensive to buy, these pumps can be used in homes as well as in the fields for gardening with less physical effort. With his extensive experience, he has become the exclusive supplier of the USAID WA-WASH program for hydraulic pumps in Ouagadougou.

Seeing the seriousness of his work, he was even recruited as a consultant for the WA-WASH Program to make these rope and pedal pumps more popular. So in two years, he has crafted and sold more than twenty pumps.

Currently, ten other pump orders are expected. Lassané is a very fortunate man because, besides the financial profit he accrues with the making and selling of these new pumps, he is equally servicing the poor and vulnerable populations by giving them access to potable water services, all while increasing their revenue.

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

## PROVIDING NEW TOOLS FOR SPECIALISTS IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The USAID WA-WASH Program organized two training workshops on geographic information systems (GIS). Bringing together 28 participants in Burkina Faso and Ghana, the overarching objective of the workshop was to provide new tools to GIS specialists from USAID WA-WASH partners and local organizations working in the domain of WASH.

After holding a GIS workshop in Tamale, Ghana from September 9 to 13, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized a similar workshop from September 16 to 20, 2013 in Ouagadougou, to allow participants from Burkina Faso to take part.

This GIS training workshop aimed to assist students, local and regional water resource management experts, hydrologists, and other professionals seeking to develop their aptitude and experience with geographical information.

The GIS workshop was conducted by Zakari Bana (USAID WA-WASH GIS Specialist), Dr. Shimelis Setegn (Assistant Professor) at FIU and Matthew Toro (Technician in Geo-spatial Sciences) at FIU.

The workshops helped participants improve their skills using tools to convert and manage data and conduct spatial analysis. The sessions were focused on hands-on data manipulation with SAGA 2.1.0., an open source and free GIS software.

The choice of an open source is motivated by the willingness to allow participants to continue to use the GIS software after the training without worrying about software license fees.

This training is part of USAID WA-WASH strategy which aims to provide beneficiary organizations and communities with sustainable development assistance.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public Relation and Communication Officer)**



Participants practicing individual exercises.



From left to right: Matthew Toro ( from FIU), a participant, Dr. Shimelis Setegn (from FIU) and Zakari Bana (from USAID WA-WASH) .

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATES
IRC training workshop on Management of drinking water supply simplified issues: challenges, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.	OCT. 30 – 31
USAID WA-WASH visit CHF for experience sharing and collaboration between the two programs, Accra, Ghana.	Nov. 04 – 06
USAID WA-WASH workshop on sanitation marketing and value chain.	Nov. 14 – 15
WSA High level Forum, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.	Nov. 21– 23

### PHOTO TOUR



In Bilanga, Alaina learned how to cook Burkinabe meals, which was a very good experience for her.



Women take drinking water from an improved well with a rope pump installed by the USAID WA-WASH program.



Animals and vegetation are very vulnerable to the effects of climate change in West Africa.



A participant in the climate workshop receives his certificate from Ezéchiél Pouhoukiga, USAID WA-WASH Climate Change Specialist.



The example Lasané Zongo inspired these artisans who derive their income from the production of rope pumps.



The participants of the GIS training listening to Dr. Shimelis Setegn, one of the trainers.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



UNESCO-IHE  
Institute for Water Education



RAIN

WSA  
Developing Sustainable Solutions for Africa



Association nigérienne de marketing social



Wi WINROCK INTERNATIONAL  
Putting Ideas to Work