

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

USAID WA-WASH Success Story: Zinder stakeholders commit to integrating climate change into WASH

Program Element: Climate Change

Key Issues: Decision makers' capacity building for change change resilience

Operating Unit: USAID WA-WASH

Headline:

The West African countries of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger, targeted by the USAID WA-WASH Program, are currently experiencing extreme climatic events. These events are already having a negative impact on food security and water resources in West Africa, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations such as women and children. To help tackle these issues, the USAID WA-WASH program designed a curriculum and trained decision- and policy-makers from these countries on integrating climate risks and adaptation into development strategies, with an emphasis on water resources management. A total of six workshops were held in the three countries from May to September 2013.

In Zinder, Niger, the workshop took place at the Ecole Nationale de Santé Publique from September 9 to 12, 2013. The event convened 20 participants, including mayors, regional directors of water and sanitation, NGO leaders and lecturers of the University of Zinder. Over the course of four days, the participants, led by a team of two facilitators, Dr. Andrews Nkansah, WSA Research Director, and Mr. Anèbakouri Ezéchiél Pouahoukiga, USAID WA-WASH Climate Change Coordinator, worked in plenary and group sessions on the concepts and tools to master the process of integrating climate risks and adaptation measures into water resources and sanitation management. The key topics covered were: vulnerability and capacity assessment in present and future climate conditions, adaptation and mitigation measures and steps for taking into account all these issues when designing policies, strategies, programs, and projects related to the water sector. An additional presentation given



Photo 1. Three participants read teamwork guidelines for a capacity assessment group exercise.



Photo 2. A team of participants work together to complete the climate change vulnerability assessment tool

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by one of the University of Zinder researchers, Dr. Ibrahim Mamadou, provided contextual illustrations of climate risks and impacts on the Nigerien water resources. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed complete satisfaction with the content and delivery. They also recommended that the USAID WA-WASH program and national authorities expand this kind of training to more stakeholders and help increase the availability of climate information in the country because better climate information would contribute to more effective warning systems and to sounder planning in the water sector. In addition to their recommendations, the following commitments were made:

- All participants decided to brief their colleagues or the municipal council on the workshop.
- The mayors who attended the workshop promised to buy and install at least one rain gauge at their municipality headquarters or in another village of the commune.
- Most of the participants resolved to partner in a climate resilience project preparation.
- USAID WA-WASH will contribute to the implementation of that plan, leveraging the resources already existing among the participants.

To meet the commitments made on behalf of the participants, a four-member committee met in Zinder ten days after the workshop, on September 23, 2013, and drew up an initial plan for briefing other stakeholders and discussed the preparation of a project proposal. USAID WA-WASH will contribute to the implementation of the finalized climate resilience plan.

Background Information

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

Assistance Objective: Strengthen resilience and sustainable access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene for better livelihoods

Key Issues: Decision makers capacity building for resilience to climate change

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