

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

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**KOOM LA VIIM NEWS**

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**PROGRAM BRIEF**

The USAID WA-WASH Program is funded by the US Agency for International Development with \$29 million of which \$24 million are dedicated to WASH activities; \$1 million to Food Security, and \$4 million to climate change. The primary goal of the four year (2011-2015) program is to increase – by building on and expanding past WAWI efforts in West Africa – sustainable access to safe water and

sanitation, and improve hygiene in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

**The Program Objectives are:**

- 1:** Support catalytic approaches to accelerate regional access to improved water supply/sanitation services and improved hygiene behaviors.
- 2:** Develop and implement improved models for sustainability of rural and peri-urban WASH service

delivery that are replicable throughout West Africa.

**3:** Build synergies between WASH interventions and critical USAID/West Africa regional priorities related to food security, climate change, and sustainable resource management.

**4:** Strengthen regional enabling environment and capacity for WASH to achieve WASH MDGs in West Africa.

**Words from the Editor**

KOOM LA VIIM means Water is Life, in mooré a local language in Burkina Faso. This quarterly electronic Newsletter publishes information generated in the course of the implementation of the USAID WA-WASH Program.

Beyond the original meaning of KOOM LA VIIM, the newsletter treats all the themes related to USAID, WA-WASH intervention. KOOM LA VIIM is the first Newsletter of our program. 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 four countries communities.

**CONVENTION SIGNING WITH THE BURKINA FASO MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCES**

Under the umbrella of Florida International University Research Foundation, USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH) signed its convention with the Ministry of Economy and Finances of Burkina Faso, March 16, 2012 in Ouagadougou.

March 16, 2012 marks a milestone in the life of USAID WA-WASH. The signing ceremony was held at the office of the Direction Générale de la Coopération. Florida International University Research Foundation was represented by Dr. Lakhdar BOUKERROU, USAID WA-WASH Regional Director, and the Government of Burkina Faso was represented by Mr. Dimitri Frédéric MILLOGO of the Direction of NGOs Monitoring, on behalf of the Minister of Economy and Finances.

both the United States of America and Burkina Faso, and to harmonize their actions in conformity with the economic, social, and cultural development objectives defined by the Government of Burkina Faso. Before appending the signatures on the document, Mr. Dimitri Frédéric MILLOGO emphasized the content of the convention which includes the commitments of both sides and specific provisions with regard to the Program operation in Burkina Faso.

In turn, Dr. BOUKERROU thanked the Government of Burkina Faso and the different services which contributed to the official registration of FIU Research Foundation as an NGO in charge of implementing

USAID WA-WASH Program in the region.



The Regional Director Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou signing the convention. Standing from left to right Adama Ouédraogo (Office Manager), Bakary Tou (Lawyer), Ousséni Yéyé (Deputy Director, GDA/P Manager).

USAID WA-WASH is expected to deliver key output and reach beneficiaries in four countries. In particular, the program aims at increasing, directly and indirectly, the number of people with access to improved water supply services for household and productive use, as well as the people with access to improved sanitation services.

**Editor:**  
Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou  
**Writers:**  
Seydou Traoré; Hubert Ouédraogo.  
**IT Manager:**  
Marina Sirima

## PROGRAM OFFICIAL LAUNCH

USAID WA-WASH Officially launched its activities Monday July 16, 2012 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The launching ceremony was presided by the US Ambassador to Burkina Faso, His Excellency Mr. Thomas Dougherty.

USAID WA-WASH Officially launched its activities Monday July 16, 2012 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The launching ceremony was presided by the US Ambassador to Burkina Faso, His Excellency Mr. Thomas Dougherty. Among the guests of this important event, were Mr. Abdoulaye Combari, the burkinabè Junior Minister in charge of Agriculture, Mr. Constant Ouédraogo, the Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, members of the diplomatic corps, parliamentarians and many other guests, including representatives of various organizations, partners, NGOs, academic institutions, private sector, US projects, governors of regions, and mayors.

In his remarks, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, Regional Director of USAID WA-WASH thanked the guests and presented the Program. He stated that insufficient and inadequate access to water and sanitation services has enormous health, economic and social consequences on populations' living condition, notably the poor. Besides problems related to water sanitation and hygiene, the four beneficiary countries, are also experiencing food shortages. Accentuated by Climate change, the region is experiencing floods and persistent droughts which impact the environment and the livelihood of many people.



The Regional Director, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou pronouncing his speech.

For those reasons, USAID WA-WASH Program will put at the disposal of populations innovative technologies at low costs and financing mechanisms based on micro-savings and micro-credits initiatives in order to equip rural households with adequate water supply systems and enhance the promotion of Multiple Use Service of water.

The US Ambassador, Thomas Dougherty, stressed that the US government recognizes the crucial importance of access to water, sanitation and hygiene. In that respect, President Barack Obama is engaged to concentrate an important share of American aid to the development of Africa in the fields of public health, food security, and the reduction of the impacts of climate change. The American diplomat, noted: "we are proud to work in partnership with Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Niger".

The two representatives of the Burkinabe Government mentioned the pertinence of USAID WA-WASH Program activities. They confirmed that the objectives of the Program are in line with the concerns of the Burkinabe Government regarding the access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and the adaptation to climate change. They also stressed that the Program comes at the time when food security is becoming a major issue in the region. On behalf of the Government of Burkina Faso and the people of the beneficiary countries, Mr. Abdoulaye Combari, Junior Minister in Charge of Agriculture thanked USAID and the American people for their financial and technical support.



Junior Minister in Charge of Agriculture M. Abdoulaye Combari pronouncing his speech.

*The Global Water for Sustainability (GROWS) Program is a consortium, under the leadership of Florida International University (FIU), financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) working to increase social, economic, and environmental benefits to people of the developing world through provision of water supply and sanitation services, healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustainable water resources management. Launched in early 2005, GROWS works on-the-ground to implement improved practices, build local capacity through multi-level training activities, and shares lessons learned and advancements in Integrated Water Resource Management practices with local and global partners.*



Cutting ribbon ceremony. From left to right: H.E.M. Thomas Dougherty (US Ambassador to Burkina Faso), Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou (USAID WA-WASH Regional Director), Mr. Abdoulaye Combari (Junior Minister in Charge of Agriculture), Constant Ouédraogo (Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Environment and



H.E.M. Thomas Dougherty, US Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Responding to Newsmen Questions after the Official Launch Ceremony

## WATER INFORMATION SUMMIT (WIS) XIII

Africa hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Water Information Summit on April 11-13, 2012. It was an opportunity which gathered, in the Burkina capital "Ouagadougou", information specialists, web site managers, scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders, to discuss the regional perspectives on water information, to present and discuss case studies of the implementation of international, national, regional, and local water information systems and to examine the use of the Internet to disseminate water information.



Participants at the WIS XIII Summit

The 13<sup>th</sup> Summit was organized by USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program in collaboration with the Water Web Consortium, under the sponsoring of US Embassy to Burkina Faso and the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulics of Burkina Faso. The opening ceremony was presided by Dr. Sabné Koanda, the Technical Adviser of the Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulics, in the presence of Dr. Maria Donoso, Director of Global Waters for Sustainability Program at Florida International University (GLOWS-FIU) and Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, USAID WA-WASH Regional Director.

The Summit allowed the exchange of experiences from several regions of the world. More than fifteen speakers

presented communications related to the issue of water information. The Summit covered the following themes:

1. Water Information Regional and National Needs.
2. Information Management: Why and How?
3. Experiences from other Regions.
4. Knowledge Sharing and Information Management.
5. Trans-boundary Water Information Management.

The participants suggested that water information has to be collected and disseminated in an efficient way to benefit stakeholders.

In Africa, generally efforts have been made to develop a harmonized methodology for monitoring and evaluating the water sector, and to elaborate a report at the continent

level. Challenges consist of how to improve the management of country data; how to assure a reporting mechanism which generates systematic and regular information; how to utilize existing efforts in the field of water and sanitation in the profit of Africa and finally how to utilize the pan African report for local pragmatic change.

Some of the difficulties expressed by the participants include: the insufficiency of human and financial resources, the lack of synergy in information management, the belated releasing of functioning budgets, the inadequacy of water resources monitoring procedures, the lack of motivation and encouragements as well as vandalism acts on equipment and tools of measure in some cases. Participants recommended among others: more implication of governments and regional institutions in water resources management; the use of modern information technology and communication strategies in collecting and disseminating water information; the exchange of water information among sub regional institutions; the sensitization of populations; the development of collaboration programs between partners of the sub region and others from the rest of the world.

*The WaterWeb Consortium is a "virtual" group of representatives of organizations that use the Internet to disseminate water and water-related information and that use water information to make management and policy decisions. Its objectives are: (1) to improve the quality of water resources decisions; (2) to increase accessibility of water information on the Internet, (3) to establish and maintain an Internet gateway (4) to water information, to identify gaps in information available on the Internet, and (5) to seek funding to assist in filling those gaps.*

## HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITIES BUILDING FORUM

USAID WA-WASH program held a Capacity Building Forum July 16-18, 2012, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The major objective of the Forum was to coordinate capacity building activities among the USAID WA-WASH partners and to present the Program Capacities Building Framework to the various stakeholders.

It was an ambitious Forum organized by IRC, IWA, UNESCO-IHE and FIU through the WA-WASH Regional Office in Ouagadougou. It started with a meeting among 45 representatives of the ten partners of USAID WA-WASH

Program: BPD, CARE, FIU, IRC, IWA, RAIN, SKAT, UNESCO-IHE, WATERAID and WINROCK.

The program included presentations of different capacity gap assessments

conducted by IWA in collaboration with local consultants to identify capacity gaps and human resources shortages in the WASH sector in Burkina Faso. During the three days, presentations, group work and

plenary sessions took place. It was an opportunity for all the USAID WA-WASH partners to get an overview of each other activities. These activities cover several approaches and concepts, such as Multiple Use Services, Gender, Retention Recharge et Re-use, Decentralization, Service Delivery Approach, Life Cycle Cost Approach, Self-Supply, Community Adaptation to Climate, Community Led Total Sanitation, Point of Use treatment and Food Security.

The last day, stakeholders from Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger were invited to join the Forum, in order to share their view on the USAID WA-WASH Capacity Building Framework. Over 80 persons participated in the debate, discussing how the sector can best benefit from those activities and seeking ways to institutionalize the capacity building content developed under WA WASH to ensure it survives the Program.



Participants at the Capacity Building Forum.

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE AND PARTNERSHIP (GDA/P) ACTIVITIES

USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH) organized with BPD a workshop on Global Development Alliances and Partnerships (GDA/P) on July 20, 2012 at the Hotel Laïco in Ouagadougou. Sixteen participants from the public and private sectors, foundations and local governments attended the workshop. It allowed the participants to best understand USAID WA-WASH GDA/P goals and approach.

Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, USAID WA-WASH Regional Director welcomed the participants. He presented the Program funded by US Agency for International Development and implemented under the leadership of the Global Water for Sustainability (GLOWS), at Florida International University.

In his presentation, Jacques-Edouard Tiberghien, BPD's Program Officer defined partnership, and noted that many partners do not take time to study well the partnership in which they are going to be engaged. Consequence, after the signing of an agreement, several partners are disillusioned. He, therefore exhorted the participants to seriously negotiate the goal, objectives of their partnerships and the resources needed to ensure success.

Ousséini Yéyé, USAID WA-WASH Deputy Director in charge of Global Development Alliances and Partnerships, defined the concept of GDA/P. He listed the immediate expected results of a GDA/P which are:

1. To give more impact to partners' interventions,
2. To provide more visibility to partners'



Participants listening to a presentation on GDA/P



Mr. Ousséini Yéyé, WA-WASH GDA/P specialist presenting the concept of Global Development Alliance/Partnerships

- actions on the ground,
3. To create more business opportunities for the partners,
  4. To promote conditions for good governance to the benefit of communities,
  5. To show the partners' goodwill.

Many of the participants stated the motivation and interest of their organizations to enter in partnership with USAID WA-WASH, and discussed how they could organize their interventions, what complementary actions and which types of resources are necessary for the implementation, what GDA offers to their organizations. The participants also discussed the most important principles for a successful partnership: vision, transparency, flexibility and synergy were key words in the responses provided.

From this workshop, it appears that Burkina Faso offers good opportunities for GDA/P development. Most of the participants indicated their willingness to develop partnership programs with USAID WA-WASH. Two of them, the National Lottery and the National

Social Security Agency, already committed to contribute to specific projects through a GDA/P.

In conclusion, Dr. Boukerrou stressed that USAID WA-WASH GDA/P goals and objectives are geared towards supporting and enhancing the local countries development programs.

### ORIGIN

Global Development Alliances and Partnerships (GDA/P) derive from Objective N° 4 of the USAID WA-WASH Program. The main activity planned under this objective with regard to GDA/P consists of an "expanded WASH Regional Private Sector Partnerships and GDA Development".

### DEFINITION

Global Development Alliances and Partnerships are defined as an agreement between two or more parties to jointly define and address a specific development problem. By the agreement, partners combine resources and share risks in pursuit of common objectives.

### GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

The main goal of a GDA/Partnerships Program is to support the development in the beneficiary country by goodwill actions.

The objective of the GDA/Partnerships Program is to create, develop and maintain a working partnership between USAID and the Public or Private sectors in order to solve an economic development problem for the benefit of the local communities.

### STRATEGY

- Share ideas and means
- Share successes
- Develop and share networks
- Start with small scale projects
- Concentrate on specific defined areas.

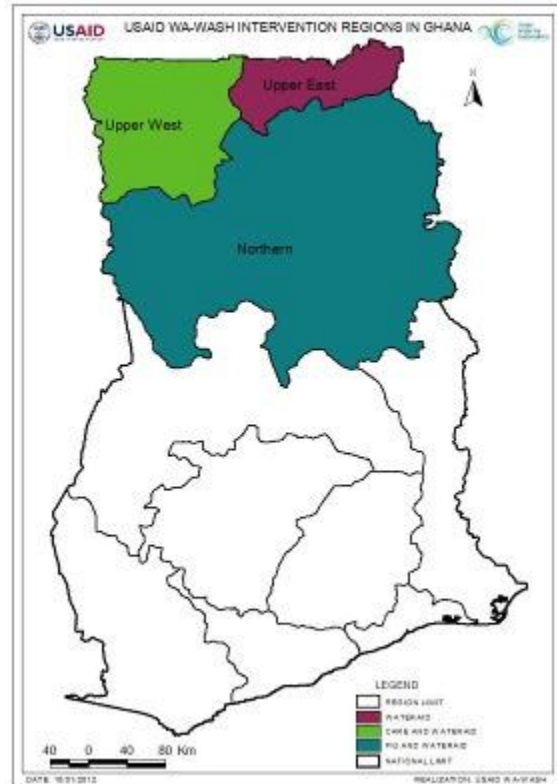
### UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

EVENT	DATE
Winrock Staff Mission to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	November 1-4
BPD Trip to Accra, Ghana	November 5-11
Winrock Staff Trip to Tanzania and Rwanda	November 5-18
Semi Annual WA-WASH Partners Meeting in Accra, Ghana	November 8-9
Veteran's Day, Regional Office Closed	November 12
BPD Trip to Niamey, Niger	November 13-28
Thanksgiving Holiday, Regional Office Closed	November 22-23
BPD Partnership Training Course in Niamey, Niger	November 26-28

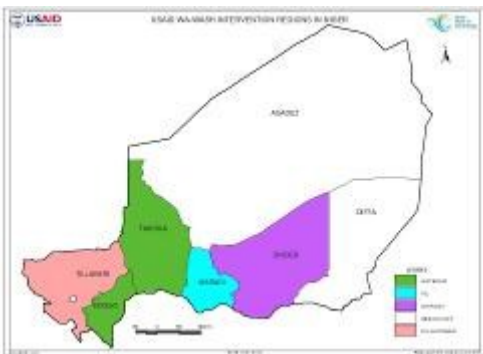
### INTERVENTION ZONES AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



WA-WASH Intervention Zones in Burkina Faso



WA-WASH Intervention Zones in Ghana



WA-WASH Intervention Zones in Niger

#### WA-WASH Implementing Partners

