

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

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**KOOM LA VIIM NEWS**

**Contents**

Climate Change workshop in Burkina Faso	2
Academic trainers training workshop	4
Promotion of the MUS approach in Tiogo Mossi	5
Partnership USAID WA-WASH and Peace Corps	7
MUS approach in Niger	9
USAID Environmental Compliance	10
IRC in the Sahel	12
Photo tour and events	13

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**



The semester ended with a meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso of all the implementing partners both local and international. The semi-annual meeting was an opportunity for all the partners to share their experiences. We focused on reviewing the USAID WA-WASH integration and scaling-up strategy and addressing the challenges faced by each of the implementing partners. Our next meeting, scheduled for September 2014, will take place in the Upper West Region of Ghana to allow us to showcase the work done by CARE, Winrock and the local implementing partners.

What is in store for us? In the next months we will launch sanitation activities in Burkina Faso to provide access to improved sanitation facilities to 9,000 beneficiaries. We will continue and scale-up WASH governance training targeting a number of stakeholders including mayors, service providers, government technical services, etc. Expanding multiple use services in Burkina Faso and the communities of Upper West, Ghana will be the focus of our water activities, as well as operationalizing new water infrastructure in the Sahel Region of Burkina Faso. We hope to reach an additional 9,752 beneficiaries. Finally, during this final semester of USAID WA-WASH implementation in Niger, our partners will focus on the sustainability of Program activities there.

Communication is important to us at all levels (local, regional, national and international). This is facilitated by the fact that the regional office staff members speak 18 languages/dialects (English, French, Arabic, Moore, Dioula, Zarma, Haoussa, Lingala, Bissa, San, etc.) Also, to facilitate communication, we have a new email general address for the Regional Office, so please do not hesitate to contact us at [wash-bf@fiu.edu](mailto:wash-bf@fiu.edu) if you have questions or comments about our activities. Of course, our thematic coordinators and technical support staff are always available to provide information about activity implementation and can be contacted directly.

Until next time,

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

**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

The USAID WA-WASH Program has just completed another six months of activity implementation in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. They were busy months but months where we accomplished a great deal especially in the areas of access to water, adaptation to climate change and capacity building. Our administrative, financial and technical staff members at the Regional Office have been hard at work to address the needs of the Program at various levels. For example, we have increased the number of monitoring visits to the field sites in the three countries. To coordinate activities within a country, we organized country meetings for the implementing partners in each of the countries. These forums provided an opportunity for the partners to share their work and learn about what others are doing in their geographical area.

To promote knowledge management and information sharing, we launched our new website, which I encourage you to visit at <http://wawash.fiu.edu> to read about the activities mentioned above. This user friendly website will allow us to share more information with people interested in our work and the public at large. New entries such as maps, profiles of the areas where we work, success stories, and our WA-WASH News Flash will give you up-to-date information about various activities. Many other documents and data are added on a regular basis.

## ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: USAID WA-WASH STRENGTHENS THE CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS

From February 10 to 14, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized a training workshop on the integration of risk and adaptation to climate change in development strategies. Bringing together decision makers and planners from Burkina Faso's public and private sectors, this workshop was designed to give to water and sanitation stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the effects of climate change on water resources.



For five days, public and private sector stakeholders discussed the issue of adaptation to climate change in the WASH sector in Burkina Faso .

Climate change is a reality that negatively impacts the lives of many people. By making this issue a cross-cutting component of its intervention, the USAID WA-WASH Program aims to help local communities increase their resilience to better adapt to this reality. Indeed, like other countries, Burkina Faso cannot escape climate change, but it can reduce its impact by taking adaptation measures. Through this workshop, the USAID WA-WASH Program aimed to reinforce the capacity of decision-makers and planners in Burkina Faso in the management of climate risks in order to limit their impact on the lives of vulnerable populations.

Led by Mr. Anebakouri Ezekiel Pouahoukiga (Climate Change Coordinator of the USAID WA-WASH Program) and Dr. Andrews Nkansah from Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA), this workshop brought together twenty participants from the public and private sectors. The facilitators adopted a training method based on the combination of different approaches and tools for planning and evaluation, including: a participatory climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA), ClimPROSPECT developed by the

Science Application and Dissemination Institute, CRISTAL of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the risk matrix developed by the World Bank Institute. The theoretical sessions enabled facilitators to review a number of concepts related to climate change, current trends and the impacts of climate change on natural resources and human systems.

In addition to the USAID WA-WASH and WSA team, other partner organizations contributed to this workshop;

specifically, the General Directorate of Meteorology (DGM in French), the Directorate General of Water Resources (DGRE in French), the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (SP-CONEDD in French) and the National Water and Sanitation Office (ONEA in French). Each of these structures shared its experience in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The DGM module was introduced by Mr. Ernest Ouédraogo, who talked about alarming climate trends in Burkina Faso during the last three decades. According to him, the temperature of Burkina Faso has experienced an annual increase of 0.3 to 0.8°C, accentuated by a decrease in the amount of rainfall of more than 20%. The DGM also predicts the occurrence of more frequent and more severe flooding. These floods could lead to the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure and precarious habitats, the loss of crops and destruction of biodiversity in low lands, as well as the resurgence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and other parasitic diseases.

As for Jacqueline Zoungrana from the



The dam in Koukouldi, the main water source for farmers and gardeners.

DGRE, she focused on the negative impact of climate change on water resources and the lack of means to ensure their sustainable management. She also talked about the low availability of sanitation which increases the vulnerability of populations during the occurrence of floods.

In addition to theoretical presentations, participants carried out group work related to assessing WASH projects' vulnerability to climate extremes (drought, floods, high temperature, high winds, etc.). The participants also took a field trip to the village of Koukouldi in the Sanguié province. This visit gave them the opportunity to exchange with the population on the manifestations of climate change in their daily lives. Although they do not always make a direct link between their actions and the availability of water resources, the population of Koukouldi (mostly farmers) has not escaped the effects of climate change. During their discussions with the training participants, the Koukouldi farmers reported that their crop yields have decreased due to a scarcity of water. They recognized the need to adopt measures that will enable them to adapt to climate change. One of the adaptation measures proposed by the USAID WA-WASH Program is the multiple use of water services approach (MUS). Already tested in Koukouldi by Winrock International, one of USAID WA-WASH's



A participant receives her certificate from Dr. Andrews NKANSAH of WSA.

partners, this approach allows populations to achieve rational management of water to cover their personal livestock and garden irrigation need.

In addition to decision-makers and planners from the public sector, the private sector also participated in this training workshop. Such is the case of Justine Diarra of the firm CINTECH, who said, "Climate change is a hot topic but often neglected by some organizations. This workshop is an opportunity for private organizations to take it into

account in the implementation of their activities. It should lead us to a radical change in matters of planning, design, and implementation of development projects that actually take climate change into consideration."

The participants expressed satisfaction with the training they received. They recommended the creation of a network among the participants for sharing information.

**Maimouna Mallé and Arnaud Kouanda**  
(USAID WA-WASH Program Interns)



Participants at the Ouagadougou training workshop pose for a family photo.

## USAID WA-WASH TRAINS UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WASH CURRICULUM FOR THEIR UNIVERSITIES

After a first training in Tamale, Ghana in 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program held its second training session of professors from March 10 to 13, 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Bringing together professors from five partner universities, the workshop allowed the participants to discuss issues related to the development of a water, sanitation, and hygiene module

The holistic capacity building approach taken by USAID WA-WASH includes the training of professors from five academic institutions in the three USAID WA-WASH intervention countries in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene. This capacity building activity aims to improve course materials for teaching, introduce active learning elements in education and develop the process of non-academic and public and private institutions' participation in research development plans to create more applied research with a local integration.

It is in this context that the workshop from March 10 to 13, 2014 was set up. The training was led by Peter van der Steen and Mariska Ronteltap from UNESCO-IHE. Peter van der Steen focused his intervention on "Bloom's taxonomy" which is a pedagogical model proposing a classification of knowledge acquisition levels. The first two days of training were devoted to active learning tools followed by practical exercises. As for Mariska Ronteltap, she presented modules on public health in relation to WASH and sanitation in slums.

These modules enabled participants to share their experiences with different



The participants at work in a plenary session.

teaching methods related to WASH. Alhou Bassirou from Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey welcomed this workshop : "We are in the process of rethinking our curriculum. This is an opportunity to do so" said Bassirou."

Taking advantage of this workshop, the professors also participated in field visits to the villages of Ouegléga and Vipalgo where the USAID WA-WASH Program implements the multiple uses of water

services approach (MUS), which allows people to access water sources and develop income-generating activities. Participants also visited 2iE to learn about the work of doctoral research on water, sanitation, and hygiene.

**Maimouna Mallé (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern)**



University professors learn about the benefits of the low cost technologies promoted by USAID WA-WASH in Ouegléga .

## THE CARAVAN, A MEANS TO PROMOTE HYGIENE AND LOW COST TECHNOLOGIES

From November 20 to December 20, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program held a public awareness campaign on the multiple uses of water services approach (MUS) in the Zinder region of Niger. Led by Winrock International, this caravan was designed to publicize the MUS approach in 43 intervention villages of the Program, in collaboration with the Radio Ahmad/Zinder theatrical troupe.



Participants, watching the caravan in Tounkourouss.

In the region of Zinder, Niger, Winrock is implementing the MUS component of the USAID WA-WASH Program. This component aims to introduce MUS services, which are technically and economically viable and allow rural households to improve sustainable and equitable access to water, income, health, hygiene and food security. To achieve this goal, several activities were carried out by Winrock International for the benefit of the population: construction of potable water points and garden wells, installation of hand washing stations, training of producers, creation and support of local organizations to manage waterworks, etc.

To create more awareness about MUS and achieve the expected results of the project, Winrock International decided to vary the channels of communication, leading to the organization of a caravan for community outreach through

theater. This outreach took place in Winrock International's first 43 intervention villages in collaboration with the Radio Anfani/Zinder theatrical

troupe from November 20 to December 20, 2013. Several issues related to the areas of intervention of the project were discussed in the sketch, including domestic water, water for production and hygiene promotion.

In addition to outreach through the sketch, the Winrock team appealed to health officials to help get their message across. The presentations of these health agents focused on diarrheal and water-borne diseases, with a particular focus on their causes (not washing hands with soap, water consumption from non-potable sources, open defecation, dirty clothes, etc.) and their frequency. The involvement of health officials resulted in practical advice on preventive and curative measures to



A project officer makes a presentation during the caravan.

be adopted by people to avoid these diseases.

To encourage community ownership of the technologies developed for their benefit, the Winrock International team also conducted practical demonstrations of hand-washing station installation while emphasizing the eight steps to follow while washing hands. The answers given by the Winrock International team helped the participants to better understand USAID WA-WASH goals and objectives as they relate the community needs. Further, a contest allowed some participants (mostly youth and women) to win t-shirts bearing messages on hand-washing.

In the 43 villages reached by the theater troop, 12,465 people (2,687 men, 4,355 women, 3,184 girls and 2,239 boys) participated. Twelve villages committed to invest in community rope pumps to ensure water quality and quantity for their respective communities. Gardeners in a village in Gouna (Barago) committed to produce three gardening wells equipped with pumps (Sawki Da Riba pumps or



Maman Sani, 12 years old, receives a T-shirt.

treadle pumps) at their garden sites to increase their production. The community leaders of the 43 villages committed to support the MUS committees and the project in the achievement of the expected results. In addition, the health agents affirmed

their availability to participate in all activities related to health.

**Rabi Sidikou (WASH and Gender Specialist, Winrock Niger)**



Seventeen year old Ayyou Maman models the T-shirt she received.

## USAID WA-WASH SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIOGO MOSSI VILLAGE

Multiple use water services (MUS) is a holistic, client-centered approach to the question of water services to provide domestic water and water for priority productive activities. To meet the water needs of the beneficiary population, the USAID WA-WASH Program is promoting this approach in its intervention areas. In Tiogo Mossi (a village of the Centre-Ouest region of Burkina Faso), many people benefit from the implementation of the MUS approach. On Friday, January, 24, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized a meeting to discuss water accounting and conservation farming with the population of Tiogo Mossi. In the following quotes, we have tried to capture the thoughts of a few recipients about the benefits of the MUS approach and what it means to them.



Mr. Zongo Isidore, farmer and municipal council member in Tiogo Mossi, on the benefits of better access to water

I was very impressed by the results presented by the USAID WA-WASH Program team that have been accomplished so far. The Program approach is very appropriate and in line with the expectations of our communities. Thanks to the rope pump technology, people have enough water. With the training on conservation farming, producers have adopted a new approach for preparing the soil. We produce good quality organic fertilizer that we spread on our fields. Personally, I would say that the USAID WA-WASH Program has made a difference for my family. This year, I harvested more millet, sorghum and beans which allowed me to feed the fourteen people who are under my responsibility.



Mrs. Kantiono Blandine, chief of the Kou-dougou technical outreach unit, on the benefits of appropriate practices

There were numerous farmers who were unaware of good cultural practices that would allow them to have better crop yields. During our field demonstrations, when we asked producers to plant their crops in rows, many were skeptical and they thought it was a waste of time. Now, USAID WA-WASH Program interventions have contributed to significantly reverse the trend. Out of 10 households, we confirm that at least 6 came to understand the advantage of growing their crops in rows. They derive great benefit from this practice, because they get higher yields.

I welcome this meeting, which has convinced producers who are still skeptical to recognize that the Program recommendations produce concrete results. Those who have come to this meeting have seen the difference between the results of the old cultural practices the farmers use and the new approach proposed by USAID WA-WASH. In view of the results of this first campaign, I encourage the USAID WA-WASH Program to continue to focus on raising awareness to mobilize more producers.



Mr. Yaméogo M. Julien, producer in Tiogo Mossi, on the new agricultural practices.

Before the intervention of the USAID WA-WASH Program, most of the water points were broken down so we had to go long distances to get water. Currently, with the various water points installed by the Program, we have water permanently. For example, in my household I have two rope pumps: one at home for domestic needs and another for agricultural activities. Other households near us take water from our rope pump. As I raise livestock, this pump helps me a lot to provide water for my animals (sheep, goats, hens). Through training on conservation agriculture conducted by the Program, I was able to improve my crop yields: I had more than 10 bags of sorghum and 16 100kg bags of corn. The sale of these cereals generated revenue that allowed me to purchase school supplies for my children and meet other needs for my family. Through my activities, I also hired three people who now can support their families. I encourage other Tiogo Mossi producers who have not yet adopted the USAID WA-WASH recommendations to do so. This new knowledge will help them generate more income.



Mrs. Albi Suzanne Zongo, a producer from Tiogo Mossi, on the benefits of the rainy season onion

We agreed to work with the Program because we found that its activities are very beneficial to us, especially the production of the rainy season onion. Thanks to the training that I have received, I produce onions even in the rainy season. There is a big difference between the regular onion and the rainy season onion. When the rainy season onions ripen, they are well formed; reddish in color; and have a little more pulp. I would advise other women to join the activities of the USAID WA-WASH Program because the results are concrete and very beneficial. Nowadays, I have more money and I contribute to some expenses of the family. With the 110,000 CFA francs from the sale of the rainy season onion, I help my husband pay the tuition of our three kids who are in high school this year.



Mrs. Yaméogo Angèle, housewife in Tiogo Mossi, on the benefits of clean drinking water at home

In Tiogo Mossi, before the intervention of the USAID WA-WASH Program, we suffered a lot from the lack of water. When we were able to collect water from wells, we stored it in the open air, without thinking of the elementary rules of hygiene, which we were unaware of. Thanks to the different sensitizations conducted by the Program officers, I came to understand the need to have a clean living environment. Water that I collect from the pump manufactured by the Program is good and my kids no longer suffer from diseases such as diarrhea. In light of the benefits associated with the consumption of clean drinking water, many women are interested in the awareness campaigns conducted by the USAID WA-WASH Program.



Mr. Togbo François, a producer in Tiogo Mossi, on the new agricultural practices

I work with the Program in the market gardening component. I learned a lot from the Program through training I received on cultivation techniques. It allowed me to have very good yields. I am able to support myself, as well as my family. Before the Program, production was limited to the dry season. Now with the different agricultural practices techniques taught by the Program, we produce vegetables during the rainy season. This is something new for me. For example, when I began the production of the new variety of tomatoes produced in the rainy season, I made nearly 350,000 CFA francs of profit..

**Interviews conducted by Souleymane Zaré (Public Relations and Communication Officer)**



Togbo François, in his field of sorghum in the village of Tiogo Mossi.



## USAID WA-WASH AND PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP: USING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO CONVEY INFORMATION TO THE POPULATION IN BURKINA FASO

As part of their partnership, the USAID WA-WASH Program and Peace Corps Burkina Faso have initiated training sessions for Peace Corps volunteers on promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices in the community. Through these trainings, USAID WA-WASH and Peace Corps intend to equip these volunteers to promote best practices in sanitation and hygiene in the communities where they live.



A group of pupils wash their hands before eating lunch.

The partnership between USAID WA-WASH and Peace Corps aims to improve the skills of the volunteers so that they are able to carry out awareness activities on water, sanitation and hygiene in communities where they live.

Alaina Deans coordinates these training activities for the benefit of Peace Corps volunteers. Between January and March 2014, Alaina held three training sessions in the communes of Ouagadougou and Koudougou. These sessions were attended by 51 volunteers from the Peace Corps and 20 of their counterparts from Burkina Faso.

Alaina conducts these activities with a training module on outreach techniques

to promote good water, hygiene and sanitation practices. This module focuses on the pathways of transmission of fecal matter and barriers to transmission, as well as the use of latrines. A kit of pictures complements the module Alaina employs to train Peace Corps volunteers. The use of the kit allows volunteers to conduct participatory awareness sessions.

Amy Stile, a volunteer who lives in a village of the Centre-Ouest region, participated in the training workshop. "With the help of the picture kit I received, I held an awareness session on the impact of open defecation with the class I teach. This sparked a very interesting debate and students learned about the link between open

defecation and the development of certain diseases such as diarrhea," she said. Like her, other volunteers have also already begun to put into practice the knowledge they have learned.

The Peace Corps Volunteers, involved in the Program, have so far trained more than 500 students at schools and over 60 adults in various communities.

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

## WOMEN IN NIGER COMMIT TO THEIR EMPOWERMENT AND INVOLVEMENT IN WASH

Under the framework of the USAID WA-WASH Program, CARE and Winrock International organized a series of workshops on gender in Niger. Through these workshops, the USAID WA-WASH Program aimed to strengthen the capacity of its partners to mainstream gender issues in their activities.



View of participants in the training workshop on gender in Niamey, Niamey.

The gender mainstreaming approach has the advantage of taking into account the priorities and needs of youth, women, men, and the elderly and disabled in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of projects related to water, hygiene and sanitation. At the first workshop in June 2013, workshop attendees included: representatives of technical services and state institutions (University of Niamey, the Ministries of Water Resources and Social Promotion); municipal actors; local NGO partners like ANIMAS-SUTURA, Développement pour un Mieux-Etre (DEMI-E), Karkara, and the pan-African agency Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA); and representatives of USAID WA-WASH beneficiaries. The training workshop was repeated in August 2013 for the benefit of ten MUS committees in the intervention communes, resulting in 88 individuals sensitized on the management and maintenance of water infrastructure. Several themes relevant to women's empowerment were developed during these workshops, including: gender in the WASH sector; gender analysis,

requirements and tools; USAID gender policy and the experience of CARE/ Niger in the field of informal financial systems, particularly village savings and loan associations (VSLA), which are also called *matta masu dubara* (MMD) in the local language of Hausa, meaning "women on the move."

To better mainstream gender in the execution of the multiple use water services (MUS) component in Zinder, a debriefing workshop was organized for the staff of Winrock International. During the workshop, the participants highlighted the opportunities offered by MMD for MUS. MMD enables communities to make collective decisions to facilitate equitable access to water resources to all segments of the population while strengthening social justice and equity in the acquisition and sustainable management of water projects.

Only five months later, the results of these workshops are already apparent. There is more and more awareness and support from community leaders and men for the benefits of women's

participation. The workshops facilitated the creation or revitalization of 29 women groups constituted of 588 women to implement the MMD system. During the most recent follow-up conducted by Winrock International on January 22, 2014, these women had a fund balance of 906,700 CFA francs and a stock of six 50kg bags of millet and one 50kg bag of beans. These funds will be used for income-generating activities to support education, health, nutrition, and the maintenance, management and financing of new hydraulic projects. The MMD meetings are a place for women to exchange information and mutual support, enhance social cohesion and motivate each other to undertake income generating activities.

To further consolidate these gains, Winrock International mobilizers will continue to support and advise the women's groups. In addition, the Program will recruit Nouvelle Opportunité pour les Défavorisés (NODEF), a local NGO, to support these women's groups on the MMD.

### Rabi Sidikou (WASH and Gender Specialist, Winrock Niger)



Participants in the MUS committee training workshop in Wacha, Niger

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE: USAID TRAINS ITS PARTNERS ON REGULATION 216

From February 24 to 25, 2014, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) West Africa Regional Office held in Ouagadougou a training workshop on environmental regulations. This workshop aimed to improve participants' knowledge and equip them with the skills necessary to design and manage projects based on USAID environmental standards.

The workshop held on February 24 and 25, 2014, aimed to assist the USAID WA-WASH technical team and its partners to :

- Improve the effectiveness of the Program by integrating the principles of environmental protection at all stages of development and implementation,
- Understand and implement USAID environmental procedures, and
- Better monitor and reduce environmental impacts.

Led by Benjamin Opoku, Regional Environmental Compliance Advisor at the USAID West Africa regional office, the training session allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the two components of the environmental impact assessment: the initial environmental examination (IEE) and the environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (EMMP).

Through this training, the participants learned about the need to take into account environmental standards in the design and management of projects. The IEE is the basis for effective measures to control the negative impacts of some activities. As for the EMMP, it allows the



Testing of a rope pump during the visit of the participants to Vipalgo.



Group photo of participants at the USAID environmental compliance training workshop.

Program to monitor in order to minimize environmental impacts and identify practical mitigation measures. The EMMP often reflects the conditions of the IEE, which are written in very general terms.

During a field trip to Vipalgo (a USAID WA-WASH Program intervention village in the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri), the participants experienced the reality of environmental standards as seen by manual drilling teams that assist the Program to rehabilitate traditional wells. Two sites were visited by the training participants: One was in progress and a second site where the work was completed. At these sites, the participants identified behaviors to be improved by drilling teams in order for them to be in compliance with USAID environmental standards. They shared with the drill teams on the importance of compliance with these environmental standards with the drill teams.

All of the participants welcomed the workshop, which brought them new knowledge about environmental standards in the conduct of their

activities. Such is the case of Francine Ki from Winrock International, who said, "I hope that we further strengthen consideration of environmental measures already undertaken in the course of our business primarily through capacity building of teams in the field."

**Maimouna Mallé (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern)**

## USAID WA-WASH ENCOURAGING RESULTS OF MONITORING IN THE SAHEL REGION

Through monitoring, evaluation and support to stakeholders conducted by USAID WA-WASH IRC, the management of public drinking water services in the municipalities of Arbinda and Gorgadji has experienced a significant improvement.



Women of the Sahel region refill their cans at a source of drinking water

In Arbinda and Gorgadji, two communes in Burkina's Sahel region, service management is noticeably improving. Brought down to the commune level by the government decentralization policy, the management of water infrastructure and the organization of the drinking water supply were hindered by several problems. The measures that ruled infrastructure and service management in rural areas were not respected.

Dysfunctional since their installation by a government act, water users' associations (WUA), which are responsible for service management in villages, are now fulfilling a major part of their duties. These duties include management of community wells, organization of the sale of water and management of revenues, payment of taxes to the municipality and organization of meetings.

The municipalities, leaders in the field of drinking water supply, are also getting more involved in the organization and management of services. Through a participatory process involving all stakeholders, they adopted yearly action

plans aiming to improve drinking water utilities. Communes also organize consultation at the municipal level and preventive monitoring of human-powered pumps.

This change is due to the monitoring, evaluation and support system for communes that was implemented in the two communes by IRC and the regional directorate of water. The objective of monitoring and evaluation is to periodically measure the performance of drinking water public service of Arbinda and Gorgadji in order to improve stakeholders decisions and actions, including: authorities, service operators, users and support or assistance organizations, and financial partners. Monitoring is not a punctual action but a cyclical process, which is continuous and integrated into the decision making processes. The monitoring framework used was developed by the general directorate of water resources with the technical support of USAID WA-WASH through IRC, the German cooperation water and sanitation program, the NGO Eau Vive and the consulting bureau ANTEA.

### Innovative approach

The monitoring and evaluation framework was implemented by the municipalities, the regional directorate and IRC for 3 months, covering an initial monitoring cycle from October through December 2013. The monitoring involves tracking five main categories of indicators: technical performance indicators, financial performance indicators, governance indicators, activity indicators and results indicators.

The assistance to communes and WUAs required setting up a close support plan. IRC and the regional directorate first trained municipal technicians and communal water and sanitation commissions (CCEA) in the use of information collection tools. Thanks to the monitoring and assistance to organizations in charge of water supply, we now observe a resumption of WUA executive committee meetings, an improvement in the running of WUA, an increase in the WUA revenues, the payment of taxes to the municipality, etc.

The support provided by USAID WA-WASH is part of IRC's Triple-S activity, a component of the USAID WA-WASH program. Triple-S is a research-action project, focused on the effectiveness of services offered to the users rather than the construction of new infrastructure.

**Nourou-Dhine Salouka**  
(Communication and Documentation Officer, IRC)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATES
USAID WA-WASH training workshop on the integration of risk and adaptation to climate change in development strategies in Tillabéri, Niger	March 31 – April 4
International bilingual seminar on Monitoring and evaluation of water and sanitation services in rural areas and small towns in West Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	April 7 – 9
Easter Monday, Regional Office closed	April 21
USAID WA-WASH training workshop on the integration of risk and adaptation to climate change in development strategies in Tamale, Ghana	April 10 – 14
USAID WA-WASH Training Workshop for PROMACO mobilizers on the promotion of good WASH practices	April 14-15
International Labor Day (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	May 1
Memorial Day (US), Regional Office closed	May 26
Ascension Day (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	May 29

## PHOTO TOUR



A view of participants during the training on climate change in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



A team of manual drillers at work in the village of Vipalgo, Burkina Faso.



Working groups during the USAID environmental compliance training workshop, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



Awareness session led by a health officer during the caravan in Niger.



At USAID WA-WASH Thursdays after work are reserved to maintain "healthy minds in healthy bodies."



Academic professors learn about the operation of a treadle pump in the village of Ouéglega, Burkina Faso.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

