

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

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KOOM LA VIIM NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



our local partners and in collaboration with our international partners, we launched sanitation and hygiene activities in Bazoulé and other communities in Burkina Faso and Ghana. Once the rainy season is over, these activities will proceed in earnest.

On the other hand, we are winding down our activities in Niger. The program there is due to close by August 15. The last visit I made to Zinder, Niger in June allowed me to see the accomplishments of our partners there and to visit with beneficiaries to discuss the sustainability of our activities.

What is in store for us in the next three to six months? We will expand the reach of our sanitation and hygiene activities to other communities. We will also be sending a group of technical staff members from the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) of Ghana to Florida for a study tour. We will participate in the Water and Sanitation for Africa High Level Forum in Yaoundé, Cameroon. All of these activities and more are what makes USAID WA-WASH an exciting program to manage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Regional Office staff and those who work behind the scenes at FIU Miami for all their efforts in ensuring the success of the program. Our partner staff are also to thank for all their efforts. One special person we have worked with at USAID/West Africa is Dr. Anne Dix. Anne and her team made sure that our questions are answered as they gave us all the support we needed to ensure the success of the program. As Anne moves on to another part of the world, I would like to thank her on behalf of all the partners and the program staff.

Please do visit our website <http://wawash.fiu.edu> where you will always find news and updated information about our activities, our indicators, photos, videos and much more. You can also write to us at any time with your comments/questions at wash-bf@fiu.edu.

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 your information about our program activities.

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Photos: PR/C Department

Welcome to the 7th issue of our newsletter. So many things have happened since our last issue! As we move into the rainy season in our neck of the woods and towards the completion of the USAID WA-WASH program, we are pleased to give you an update on where we are. These are exciting times for us because we are seeing more and more people benefit from our work and the investment from the American people. We continue to work hard to reach our intended results.

With the rain comes an intensification of many of our activities and a brief slowdown of others. We continue to undertake sustained efforts to improve the capacity of various stakeholders including decision makers, mayors, government agency staff, university faculty, graduate students, etc. Our partner organizations and thematic coordinators have been busy with workshops the last three months. We have also hosted a number of interns at the Regional Office and we have placed 12 interns with our partners and other organizations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger to help them conduct action research on topics related to our thematic areas.

What is new for this quarter? We started climate smart agriculture activities in ten villages in Burkina Faso and we launched, in conjunction, the dissemination of weather data from the Meteorological Services of Burkina Faso to farmers in these communities. These activities will contribute to improve food security of the target population and beyond. With the help of

THE USAID WA-WASH PROGRAM TRAINS LOCAL ACTORS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN WASH

From April 19 to 22, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized a training workshop on governance in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Dédougou in the Boucle du Mouhoun region of Burkina Faso. This workshop brought together local stakeholders from 11 municipalities and the regional directorate of water, hydraulic engineering and sanitation in Boucle du Mouhoun. It aimed to develop the capacity of the participants and the local public sector institutions in the WASH sector.



Participants listen to a presentation during a plenary session.

Recent public sector reforms in Burkina Faso have decentralized the management of WASH service delivery to the municipality level. Unfortunately, many municipalities in Burkina Faso are not yet able to offer sustainable WASH services to their residents. They are handicapped by insufficient water and sanitation facilities and lack of human and financial resources, among other challenges.

The USAID WA-WASH Program works with the municipalities in its intervention areas to improve people's access to these essential services. In addition to supporting the installation of water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, USAID WA-WASH also works to build stakeholders' WASH governance capacity through training workshops. Governance is a process through which the public sector aims to improve the livelihoods of the population, reduce poverty and increase the likelihood of achieving sustainable development.

The workshop in Dédougou created a

framework for exchange between WASH sector stakeholders (local elected officials, water users' associations, focal points of the municipalities and the technical services in charge of water and

sanitation) to contribute to improvements in financing, institutional policy and regulation of WASH at the local level. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Hadiza Sériba (USAID WA-WASH WASH Coordinator) and addressed various topics such as the role and responsibilities of actors, good water governance and challenges for the communes. The participants also discussed strategies for the application of good WASH governance as well as WASH policies.

Group work enabled the participants to discuss the problems encountered by their municipalities in managing the WASH sector. Among other difficulties, they noted delays in transferring funds allocated to the sector by the central government, a lack of the skills necessary for the municipalities to develop planning documents, and insufficient involvement of local authorities in sector meetings. According to the participants,



The field visit allowed participants to learn more about water points in the commune of Kona.

addressing these barriers will allow them to achieve good governance in WASH in their respective municipalities. "This workshop has helped me to better understand our role as a local actor. I intend to share the knowledge I have gained with other actors in my community in order to better organize the management of the WASH sector," said Coulibaly Betamou, the WASH focal point of the commune of Solenzo.

The training seminar was also an opportunity for participants to undertake a field visit to the commune of Kona. The visit allowed them to discuss with the leaders of the municipality the efforts made to provide better access to drinking water for the population. To date, these efforts have helped mobilize 32 million CFA (approximately \$16,000) for the construction and extension of simplified water supply systems. The municipality has also benefited from more than 6 million CFA (approximately \$3,000) for the rehabilitation of three broken boreholes. To meet the drinking water needs of the population of over 23,000 inhabitants, the commune needs an additional eight modern water points, eight standpipes, six boreholes and an



Participants during a debriefing session of group work.

extension of the current water supply system. At the end of the visit, Karim Boro, the focal point of the commune of Nouna, said: "The field trip reinforced our understanding of the need to allocate more resources to the municipalities so that they can ensure people's access to drinking water

services. The workshop also allowed me to see some deficiencies that we have to correct. For example, before this training on document archiving, we did not have a good method for managing information, which is an important element when it comes to good governance."



Family photo of the participants in the municipality of Kona.

The participants welcomed the initiative of USAID WA-WASH to provide them with new knowledge that will help them meet the challenges they face. They intend to put the skills into practice to improve the living conditions of their residents in terms of access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene. If people have adequate access to these services, in addition to health, this will enable them to carry out activities that allow them to generate income for the benefit of family members.

Alimata Nébié (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern)

INTENSIVE PROMOTION OF AQUATABS MARKS THE START OF THE RAINY SEASON IN BURKINA FASO

From May 18 to 21, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH program through one of its implementing partners, the Social Marketing and Health Communications Program (PROMACO, in French) initiated a series of outreach activities to promote Aquatabs in the southwestern region of Burkina Faso. These activities aimed to raise awareness among the people of this region on the benefits of using Aquatabs.

In the southwestern region of Burkina Faso, many people still use water points like traditional wells to supply their drinking water. However, the water from these wells is not always of good quality and its consumption may expose people (especially children) to waterborne diseases such as diarrhea. With the onset of the rainy season, these diseases affect more people because rainwater often flows into wells that are not protected, thus contaminating drinking water.

To help the people of the Sud-Ouest region have access to good quality drinking water at home, the USAID WA-WASH Program promotes the use of Aquatabs to treat water at home. In view of its advantages, the people of the Southwest region are increasingly interested in Aquatabs. Throughout the course of these outreach activities in community markets from May 18 to June 1, 2014, USAID WA-WASH noted the communities' enthusiasm for the product. The outreach events took place in 13 markets across the region



Group photo of community mobilizers after a training in the commune of Dano.

and reached a total of 5,388 people (2,483 men and 2,905 women). As a result, 34,000 Aquatabs were sold on site.

The market in Koumbou (in the rural commune of Boussera) was the first to welcome the outreach team. In front of the community, the team conveyed awareness messages on the benefits of Aquatabs and how to use it. The team also discussed with the people in attendance good water handling practices in order to not contaminate drinking water. The same presentation took place in 12 other villages in the zones of Gaoua and Diébougou.



Pupils taste water treated with Aquatabs in the commune of Batié.

During these outreach sessions, the program team conducted demonstrations on treating water using Aquatabs. The participants were afforded the opportunity to taste the treated water to appreciate the difference in quality. After tasting the treated water, Sansan Somé, a resident of the village of Boussera, reflected, "When I drank the water treated with Aquatabs, I found it to be different from the untreated water. It



A market outreach session in the commune of Boussera.

does not contain any impurities and this will prevent us from getting sick."

In the communes of Gaoua, Diébougou and Dano, potable water is provided by the National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA, in French). However,

certain behaviors can contaminate the water. To address these, the outreach team met with people to encourage them to adopt better hygiene practices to ensure that their drinking water remains potable. The team also showed people how to use Aquatabs to produce safe

drinking water when the quality of water is otherwise doubtful. The hygiene and sanitation services agent and the chief of the municipal police of Gaoua also took part in these discussions.

To ensure access of the population to Aquatabs on a permanent basis, there are 244 Aquatabs retailers in the Sud-Ouest region as well as wholesalers in Gaoua, Batié, Diébougou and Dano. With regard to the influx of people to the shops during these outreach activities, Mr. Issa Ouédraogo (an Aquatabs wholesaler in Gaoua) said, "this kind of activity reinforces the promotion work that sales points undertake. Progressively, people understand the importance of using Aquatabs to treat water."

Mr. Somé agreed. "The awareness raising efforts of the USAID WA-WASH program helped me understand the need to drink water that is potable. Since the product is affordable (100 F CFA for a blister pack of 10 tablets), I will encourage my family to use Aquatabs," he said.

David Telliano (PROMACO Aquatabs Project Assistant), Alimata Nébié (USAID WA-WASH Intern)



A woman preparing to buy Aquatabs in commune of Batié.

THE USAID WA-WASH PROGRAM DEVELOPS APPROACHES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF TANKOUGOUNADJÉ, BURKINA FASO

In May 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program initiated an activity applying the retention, recharge, reuse (3R) approach to support improved water resource management in the commune of Tankougounadjé, Burkina Faso. Executed by the RAIN Foundation and VDS Association, this activity aims to improve the living conditions of people in the rural municipality of Tankougounadjé by allowing them to have water for their different needs.

Because of climate change, water resources are decreasing across the Sahel region. With population growth, there is simply not enough water for the rural population. In the dry season, men, women and cattle congregate around the few available water points, mainly ponds and boreholes with hand pumps. Women spend almost all their time searching for water from February to June. Providing water for livestock occupies the men and off-season gardening is abandoned because of a lack of water.

The USAID WA-WASH Program is working in three of the villages most affected by the problem of access to water (Tiéna, Moussoua and Keri) to improve its availability year-round. Our approach consists of building harvesting structures and water storage, including groundwater, for use in agriculture, raising livestock or human consumption. USAID WA-WASH plans to construct a micro dam, four



Women gather around a borehole water point to collect water.

sand dams, rain water catchment tanks and wells, as well as promote actions to improve soil fertility (such as stone bunds and compost pits). The program will also strengthen the capacity of communities and local authorities, particularly in the area of climate change and gender.

After just one year of implementation, the communities have completed three sand dams in Tiéna and Moussoua; 18 rain water catchment tanks for households in Tienan and Moussoua; 30 compost pits in Tiéna and Moussoua; and 30 hectares of bunds. Even before the coming rainy season has begun, the beneficiaries are celebrating the benefits of the Program's accomplishments. "We are confident that the sand dams will contribute to an increase in the amount of water in our water pits and wells because of their depth. Here, people have always dreamed of having dams on the villages' rivers. Because of the advantages of sand dams, the people have invested heavily in the work of collecting pebbles and excavating the soil," says Ali Hamidou, a resident of the village of Tiéna.



A sand dam in Tiéna holds water after an early rain.

The construction of rain water harvesting tanks in the villages of Tiéna, Moussoua and Keri will help people to have drinking water year-round and at home. This will allow

women to avoid long lines at water points. Aïssatou Tampari, a widow living in Moussoua and a beneficiary of a tank, says, "I'm glad to have a rain water harvesting tank at my house. With the first rains, I have already collected a lot of water. I think that if all goes well, I will have a supply of water in the dry season and this will allow me to significantly reduce the time I spend collecting water. I am the sole provider for my children and I have a lot to do." Moreover, rain water harvesting tanks help keep girls in school. "The beneficiary families who have daughters in school will also be able to relieve the girls of the task of fetching water and allow them not to miss their classes. Because here girls must first finish the chore of fetching water before going to class if their mother is alone; this disrupts their studies," adds another woman from the village of Moussoua.

As the 2014 rainy season begins, these new installations will begin to collect water for the first time. They will help meet the water needs of beneficiaries through the development of solutions permitting the control of water resources, particularly rain water. These solutions are an opportunity for people in the Sahel



A rain water harvesting tank built in Moussoua.

region to improve their lives and develop socio-economic activities. The lessons learned applying the 3R approach implemented by the USAID WA-WASH

program in these arid areas will inspire other actors in the area.

Abdouramane Ousmane (Executive Secretary of the VDS Association)



A training session on the maintenance and use of compost pits in Tiéna.

USAID WA-WASH CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING BEARS FRUIT: INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN TO INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

From June 17 to 21, 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized a workshop for WASH sector policy makers and planners in Burkina Faso on the integration of climate change risk and adaptation into development strategies. One year later, participants share their stories of putting into practice the knowledge acquired during this training.



Participants at the training session in June 2013.

The reality of climate change is particularly noticeable in the water resources sector because of rainfall and temperature variability. The search for alternatives to reduce the effects of this phenomenon concerns the USAID WA-WASH Program. The training sessions initiated by the Program for the benefit of policy makers and planners involved in the water and sanitation sector in Burkina Faso fall under this framework. A year after the organization of the June 2013 training, some participants are already putting into practice the knowledge they acquired.

Employed by the Gourma water agency in the Eastern region of Burkina Faso, Mr. Ouseni Ouedraogo is one of the policy makers and planners who participated in the June 2013 training organized by the USAID WA-WASH Program. He reports that, "From a scientific point of view, the Gourma

water agency is not in possession of data which would enable it to assess the climate change phenomenon in its intervention area. But we realize more and more that the water reservoirs dry up faster, the rainy season begins late and ends early". According to Mr.

Ouedraogo, this situation affects the performance of crops during the rainy season, as well as the possibilities of gardening during the dry season. To address this problem, Mr. Ouedraogo initiated a partnership between his agency and the local water committees for the protection of river banks and water reservoirs within certain municipalities under the Gourma water agency authority.

Another participant, Mr. Gilbert Tiendrebeogo, the water and sanitation focal point in the commune of Koudougou, also considers the early drying of dams and water points as one of the manifestations of climate change in his area. Mr. Tiendrebeogo attests, "Thanks to this training, we were able to integrate the issue of adaptation to climate change into the communal development plan of the commune of Koudougou adopted in April 2014."

The USAID WA-WASH training also allowed him to prepare two development projects related to climate change. "The knowledge that I gained on mitigation measures during the USAID WA-WASH



Mr. Gilbert Tiendrebeogo receiving his certificate from the USAID WA-WASH Program Regional Director.

training enabled me to develop, in September 2013, two projects on adaptation to climate change. The first project was prepared for the commune of Koudougou. It is a project for the construction of large-diameter stoves in the 15 villages in order to reduce wood consumption. It has been funded up to a total of 25 million CFA francs (approximately \$50,000). Our awareness actions are beginning to bear fruit because the people who have become aware of the climate change phenomenon are practicing less and less excessive wood cutting and bush fires", he adds. The second project designed by Mr. Tiendrebeogo involves the development of a nursery for the benefit of a women's association composed of 450 members in the village of Tiogo Mossi. For a total cost of 10 million CFA francs (approximately \$20,000), it is funded by the Swedish and Luxembourg development agencies. Mr. Tiendrebeogo speculates, "the sale of the seedlings produced should enable the members of this women's association to pay their children's tuition fees and to cover other family expenses."

Mr. Gilbert Tiendrebeogo and Mr. Ousseni Ouedraogo recognize the



Women in the village of Tiogo-Mossi prepare a nursery.

benefits of the workshop in which they took part and salute the USAID WA-WASH Program who made this training

possible. Their examples demonstrate the relevance of putting emphasis on strengthening the capacities of policy makers and planners with the objective of taking climate change into account in local and national development strategies.

Souleymane Zaré (Public Relations and Communication Officer)



Organic manure is essential for the establishment of nurseries.

FARMERS REAP INCREASED YIELDS USING CONSERVATION FARMING TECHNIQUES: USAID WA-WASH SCALES UP TRAINING FOR THE 2014 AGRICULTURAL SEASON

The USAID WA-WASH Program's food security component aims to help communities increase their agricultural production through the adoption of new practices. Through this component, the USAID WA-WASH Program promotes the technique of conservation farming. Producers who applied this approach in 2013 experienced many benefits due to the considerable increase in crop yields.

In Burkina Faso, uneven distribution of rainfall can negatively affect the yields of many crops. If the rainy season begins late or pockets of drought occur in areas where rainfall is less abundant, crops may not get enough water. However, the climatic conditions are not the only reason for poor yields. The agricultural system is traditional and farmers do not always know about good agricultural practices. Thus, there are often food crises due to poor harvests. To help people turn a profit from their work in the fields, the USAID WA-WASH Program has been promoting conservation farming.

Since 2012, USAID WA-WASH has promoted, through Winrock International, conservation agriculture techniques. Conservation farming is a production system based on soil conservation that improves its natural productive potential (suitability for cultivation) in order to obtain optimal and consistent returns on a parcel of land. Conservation farming is done through two methods: the manual method and the animal traction



Mr. Kane Yassia, specialist in horticulture and agriculture (white cap), shows producers the boundary of a parcel of land.

method. The animal traction method uses a device called a ripper. A seeder is also used in combination with the ripper to do the planting, which reduces the time and manual labor required of the producer. In addition to the conservation and improvement of soil structure, the conservation farming technique promotes more localized

and optimized use of fertilizers. It also has the advantage of helping farmers to secure their production and adapt to climate change.

The approach used for the extension of this low cost technology is based on training one lead producer per community and then replicating the training to a group of 20 producers in the community. Each producer who receives the training applies it in his field. In Burkina Faso, this approach is promoted in three regions: the Center, the Center-West and the Boucle de Mouhoun. 158 farmers in these three regions were trained on this technique in 2013 and 87 farmers put it into practice on crops such as millet, maize and sorghum.

Dano Benin, a producer from the village of Oullo in the Boucle de Mouhoun region, is one of many farmers who tried out the conservation farming technique in 2013. He says, "Agriculture is my primary economic activity. But soil degradation and



Farmers apply organic fertilizer in the holes before planting.



A field where the conservation farming technique was applied (right) next to a field where traditional techniques were applied (left).

declining rainfall did not allow me to have a good harvest anymore. During the training provided by program officers on this technique, I learned how to make better use of my fields to have good yields." Indeed, during the 2013 crop year, Dano Benin harvested four tons of corn on an area of one hectare. The sale of a portion of the crop enabled him to pay school fees for six children and purchase a motorbike.

At the end of the 2013 growing season, the USAID WA-WASH Program in collaboration with the decentralized technical services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security conducted an evaluation of the agriculture farming technique. The assessment was to measure the impact of conservation farming by comparing the yield of fields where the technique was applied to the yield of fields using traditional techniques. The evaluation found a 60% increase in millet yield, a 170% increase in maize yield, and a 134% increase in sorghum yield. In economic terms, the value of the additional amount of grain harvested as a result of the use of the conservation farming approach amounted to 6,292,142 CFA (approximately \$12,000) for 87 households, or 72,323 CFA (approximately \$150) per household. The USAID WA-WASH program

practice conservation farming in their communities. In addition, the program will continue its approach of training lead producers, who themselves train and follow up with the other producers.

Alimata Nébié (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern)

continues to promote conservation farming in the Center, Center-West and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. During the 2014 crop season, 240 producers from 12 new villages will benefit from training workshops in conservation farming. These workshops will also involve the 158 producers who received training in 2013. In order to ensure the sustainability of the approach, the USAID WA-WASH program will train local artisans who will build the equipment necessary to



Mr. Lomwéré Gnoumou, farmer from the Boucle du Mouhoun region, poses with his corn crop grown using conservation agriculture techniques.

USAID WA-WASH PARTNER IRC AND PS-EAU ORGANIZE AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF LOCAL WASH SERVICES

From April 7 to 9, 2014, Ouagadougou hosted an international seminar on monitoring and evaluation of local drinking water and sanitation services. Partially funded by USAID through the USAID WA-WASH program, this meeting brought together 209 participants to reflect on the appropriate mechanisms to improve monitoring and evaluation in small and medium-sized cities in West Africa.

With the process of decentralization underway in many countries in West Africa, responsibility for managing the drinking water and sanitation sectors was transferred to municipalities. According to Mr. Juste Nansi, Director of IRC Burkina Faso, "monitoring and evaluation is an essential tool for our understanding. From our knowledge of the decentralization environment in Africa, we note that most communities are beginning this process. There are still many things to do to help strengthen the activities of the various actors in the drinking water and sanitation sectors. "

Mr. Ali Traore, General Secretary of the Ministry of Water, Hydraulic Equipment and Sanitation (MEAHA, in French) of Burkina Faso welcomed this seminar. At the official opening ceremony of the seminar, he said, "the transfer of responsibilities to municipalities must also include a capacity building component in monitoring and evaluation of services. Without this monitoring, it is impossible to have



The head table during the official opening ceremony of the seminar.

effective services. We expect the seminar to give us avenues of reflection and actions to undertake for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services."

The seminar was attended by more than 200 actors in water and sanitation from 32 countries. It offered

them the opportunity to share their experiences in monitoring water and sanitation services. Several topics were discussed by the participants during the various sessions of the seminar. During one of these sessions, participants paid particular attention to the theme "how do we link national monitoring to communities' concerns?" The answer to this question highlights the fact that there are two strong trends in monitoring: first, there is the monitoring and evaluation necessary for countries to monitor progress in terms of access to services and to make investment decisions; second, there is the monitoring of the functionality of services, essential to local actors, responsible for the quality and continuity of services. The difference between these two trends is a concrete reality that actors often have difficulties resolving. One of the key recommendations made at the end of the session is to develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms starting from the needs of hardware managers and local stakeholders.



Participants gave great interest to the themes discussed during the international seminar



Family photo of participants at the end of the international seminar.

Strengthening the monitoring of hygiene and sanitation

Monitoring and evaluation of sanitation services was also discussed. Discussions during this session first highlighted the need not to limit monitoring and evaluation to hardware, but to also ensure the monitoring and evaluation of sanitation services—that is, measuring the functionality and effective use of the infrastructure. The issue of hygiene has emerged as particularly lacking in the current reflections and experiments in monitoring and evaluation. One of the main difficulties unanimously recognized by the participants in this session is the sustainability of monitoring and evaluation. The participants asked, "can the owner support it? Mobilizing what skills? And based on what resources?"

Another issue highlighted is the pooling of monitoring and evaluation activities. If several locations jointly implement similar approaches, territorial cohesion will be strengthened and the costs of implementation will be more attractive.

Participants in this session also discussed the large number of tools for monitoring and evaluation developed within the same country. For the participants, it is necessary to harmonize the tools used in order to share and optimize their experiences.

On the whole, there remains much to be accomplished in monitoring of hygiene and sanitation. If tools are to be developed for monitoring and evaluation of household sanitation, participants felt that it is necessary to initiate discussions on monitoring and evaluation of hygiene on the one hand and of sanitation in schools, health centers and public places on the other.

Local communities and the post-MDG period

A session was devoted to the role of decentralized municipal authorities in the post-MDG period. It was facilitated by Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, Regional Director of the USAID WA-WASH program. The session served as a reminder that the MDGs have had a strong influence on monitoring methods and on databases established by nations in recent years. Nevertheless, the MDGs have important limitations: they do not sufficiently address issues of hygiene, equity, quality, functionality, etc. It is expected that the new generation of indicators to come (Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs) will compensate for this weakness. Faced with this prospect, some officials have expressed the need to translate the future SDGs into local development plans. This is a view shared by Dr. Boukerrou, who said, "decentralized communities play important role in the process of collecting reliable data."

An initiative unanimously hailed

The seminar on the monitoring and evaluation of local drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas and secondary cities was a success. It allowed for the first time all local actors—national stakeholders, financial and technical partners, NGOs, service operators, municipal technicians, etc.—to reflect together on the implementation of monitoring driven by communities themselves. "I am very pleased to have participated in this three day seminar. It allowed us to come together and take stock of what we have done so far in relation to monitoring and evaluation. Plus, it was an opportunity for us to share our experience with a multitude of players from other countries," said Akanda-Olouwa Arinloye, mayor of the municipality of Sakété, Benin. For Sadio Ouedraogo from the commune of Gorgadji in Burkina Faso, the workshop was a real platform to advocate for his town. "My hope is to be able to implement what I learned. More than that, I hope to attract new partners with the heartfelt plea I delivered," he said.

Nourou-Dhine Salouka (IRC)



Dr. Boukerrou presents a rope pump to some participants.

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR RECOGNIZES USAID WA-WASH SANITATION ACTIVITY IN BAZOULE, BURKINA FASO

On Thursday, June 19, 2014, His Excellency Mr. Abdelkrim Benchiah, Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to Burkina Faso, conducted a field visit to Bazoule, a USAID WA-WASH Program intervention village located in the rural commune of Tanghin Dassouri. With the Algerian diplomat's financial contribution, USAID WA-WASH is implementing a sanitation promotion activity through latrine construction. This visit allowed Ambassador Benchiah to assess the advancement of the project activities and to have a discussion with the beneficiary population.



Mr. Boniface Nana (Deputy Mayor of Tanghin Dassouri) thanks the Ambassador of Algeria for his support of the construction of latrines in Bazoulé.

The June 19, 2014 visit was Ambassador Benchiah's second visit to Bazoule. On January 23, 2013, he also visited Bazoule, where he had the opportunity to observe USAID WA-WASH activities. At the end of his discussion with the people, Ambassador Benchiah committed to support the USAID WA-WASH Program (through co-financing) for the implementation of a sanitation activity to the benefit of the people of Bazoule.

In Bazoule, sanitation infrastructure is still rare; according to the results of a study performed by SOS Sahel International in April 2014, approximately 5% of households have an improved latrine. In fact, nearly 95% of households use fields, bushes, stream banks and abandoned houses or houses under construction as places for defecation. Moreover, a large part of the population is ignorant of good

hygiene practices. This situation contributes to the development of diarrheal diseases among young

children, with a negative impact on household finances.

Accompanied by Mrs. Sara Miner (USAID WA-WASH Deputy Regional Director) and Mrs. Hadiza Seriba (WASH Coordinator of the USAID WA-WASH Program), the Algerian Ambassador was welcomed by Mr. Boniface Nana (First Deputy Mayor of Tanghin Dassouri). The Deputy Mayor of the Tanghin Dassouri commune welcomed the joint initiative of the USAID WA-WASH Program, Mr. Benchiah and SOS Sahel.

Implemented by SOS Sahel International, the activity intends to improve the health and well-being of the people of Bazoule through the construction of latrines. Some households are already using the latrines constructed for their benefit. During the discussion he had with these households, Ambassador Benchiah came to understand the



Ambassador Benchiah, visiting a latrine

benefits of the activity.

"Before the construction of our latrines, we did our business in the bushes. Now, we no longer need to go far and our privacy is protected. I hope that the project will give the opportunity to many households to have latrines in order to maintain a clean dwelling and remain in good health," said Mrs. Tanpoka, a beneficiary.

Considering the people of Bazoule's enthusiasm to have latrines, Ambassador Benchiah congratulated the USAID WA-WASH Program for its awareness raising activities directed towards the population and for the construction of latrines by the program. He said he was pleased and willing to continue his support to the people of Bazoule. He said, "This activity is only one step in our actions. It will allow us to have a much better view of the contribution we can make for the population of Bazoule. Please be assured that you will be at the heart of the activities that we will pursue with the USAID WA-WASH Program."

Souleymane Zaré (Public Relations and Communication Officer)



Accompanied by Mr. Boniface Nana, the Ambassador visits a beneficiary of the project.



A family photo in the municipality of Tanghin Dassouri.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE
WASH governance training workshop, Wa, Ghana	July 14 – 17
Aid El Fitr (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	July 29
Independence Day (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	August 5
Africom International Symposium on Environmental Security, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	August 6 – 9
WASH governance training workshop, Wa, Ghana	August 11 – 14
Assumption Day (Burkina Faso), Regional Office closed	August 15
WASH training for Peace Corps Volunteers and community counterparts, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	August 24 – 28
End of gender survey in Burkina Faso, Niger and Ghana	August 31
Labor Day (United States), Regional Office closed	September 1
Study tour to Florida for Ghana water managers	September 6 – 18

PHOTO TOUR



Staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture observe the results of conservation farming technique.



Family photo after the panel held alongside the Africa Water Forum 2014 in Ouagadougou.



The Algerian Ambassador pays a visit to the chief of Bazoulé.



A mobilizer conducts outreach for Aquatabs promotion in the commune of Koudougou.



Participants visiting a water point in the commune of Kona.



Herders water their livestock at a water pit in the village of Tiéna, Burkina Faso.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

