

**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**



We have reached another milestone—the end of our third year of operation. Time flies when we are having fun and when we accomplish what we have set out to get done. Thanks to our dedicated regional office staff and all the implementing partners, we have had another successful year. The excellent support back home in Miami has contributed greatly to our success. The USAID WA-WASH program is truly a good example of collaboration between a number of partners with a common goal to serve a population in need of clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and food security.

This year, our interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and adaptation to climate change have reached beneficiaries in several communities in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. We have launched an extensive sanitation and hygiene program in the three countries. Our climate smart agriculture efforts and the dissemination of agrometeorological information are concentrated in 10 communities in three regions of Burkina Faso. Our capacity building efforts have been expanded this year to include a study tour in Florida for 22 staff members from the water management agencies in Ghana and Burkina Faso. In addition, we have awarded 42 scholarships to students from Burkina Faso and Ghana to continue their academic studies et research to address timely topics. We continue to host interns throughout the program and so far we have offered opportunities to more than 90 students. With the rainy season, some of our activities including the construction of latrines have slowed down, but we are ready to start again in a few weeks. Interaction with

government officials in the three countries is continuing with some specific advocacy work on water quality, water supply, and infrastructure monitoring. Visit our website at <http://wawash.fiu.edu> for more information about our activities and check out our photo and video gallery.

We have closed down our operations in Niger. The investment there has resulted in a number of achievements including 5,091,000 tablets of Aquatabs sold, 1,768 hand washing stations installed at the household level, 43 community rope pumps, 2 family rope pumps and 7 EMAS pumps installed for more than 10,000 beneficiaries, 293 improved latrines constructed, 10 communities certified ODF, 746 producers trained in horticulture, more than 83 people trained on climate vulnerability and capacity analysis and community based adaptation tools and frameworks, 11 scholarships awarded, etc. I feel that our efforts in Niger have been successful and we have reached our targets, but beyond that we have ensured the sustainability of what we started there. Local organizations are continuing what USAID WA-WASH began—local businesses are building rope pumps and other equipment for sale.

We just had another very productive partners' meeting in Ouagadougou. The three-day meeting allowed the participants to discuss the Year 3 accomplishments, plan Year 4 activities and visit some of the work being done in the Centre-Ouest Region. The visit to the village of Koukouldi highlighted the work of Florida International University (climate smart agriculture and dissemination of meteorological information), Water and Sanitation for Africa (sanitation and hygiene), CARE (community vulnerability capacity analysis), and Winrock International (water multiple use services, rope pump manufacturing). It was also an opportunity for the more than 40 trip participants to interact with the beneficiaries and government officials from the region and municipality.

We have less than a year to go and we are going to make the most out of it. There is still lots to do and we are ready!

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 channel, we aim to share with you useful information about our program activities.

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Photos: PR/C Department

## USAID WA-WASH PARTNERS' MEETING: CHALLENGES AND SHARED EXPERIENCE

The semi-annual USAID WA-WASH partners' meeting was held from September 17 to 19, 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This meeting, the second and last of 2014, allowed the USAID WA-WASH partners to highlight the various actions that have been successfully executed by their organizations as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

For three days, USAID WA-WASH and its implementing partners conducted in-depth discussions on the strategies adopted by each partner for the implementation of their activities. Throughout the different sessions, each partner presented at least one activity that was able to produce remarkable effects or impact for the population.

In terms of water access, Mr. Richard Bassono of IRC presented the results of a survey that focused on the operation and maintenance of hand pump (pompe à motricité humaine – PMH, in French) installed by other institutions/organizations in the municipalities of Arbinda and Gorgadji (Sahel region of Burkina Faso). This survey showed that at least a third of Arbinda's PMH and a quarter of those in Gorgadji have already broken down at least three times in six months. The survey brought up the low quality of repairs, lack of professionalism of some stakeholders and poor quality of spare parts in these two communes. The survey also shows that the frequency of breakdowns of the PMH increases the costs of repairs, which are very expensive. If the number of PMH experiencing frequent breakdowns is reduced, the municipality of Gorgadji and Arbinda would save 440,000 FCFA (85,1537 USD) and 2,294,265 FCFA (4,440,11 USD) in one semester, respectively.

Mr. Adam Ouedraogo of PROMACO



USAID WA-WASH partners during a plenary work session.

presented the progress made in Aquatabs promotion in 132 intervention villages in Burkina Faso. The various communication campaigns initiated by PROMACO have reached approximately 27,000 people with a sale of 79,990 Aquatabs in Burkina Faso.

The Burkina Country Office of the pan-African agency Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA) is the partner in charge of the implementation of sanitation activities in Burkina Faso. Ms. Noëlie Pitroipa (Project Manager at WSA) introduced the promotion of hygiene and sanitation activities in 30 villages in the Centre, Centre-Ouest and Boucle du Mouhoun regions of Burkina Faso.

This activity aims (through the construction of 1,500 latrines) to bring about behavior change within the population to reduce diarrheal diseases while improving access to sanitation facilities.

Representatives of Winrock International (Mr. Patrice Beaujault and Mr. Ilyasse Kaboré), made presentations on sanitation in Niger and tools for water accounting. Winrock International has built nearly 1,304 latrines in several municipalities and identified and trained 50 leaders in 25 villages. In Zinder region, the USAID WA-WASH intervention allowed 10 communities to reach the open defecation free status.

Dr. Sita Zougouri (Gender Specialist at CARE International) presented the results of a survey conducted in Burkina Faso on gender integration for WASH sustainability. In the Sahel region, the survey found that women's economic empowerment (through livestock) has enabled the community to include women in the decision-making process within their households. Dr. Zougouri particularly insisted on the need to integrate the gender approach in regional development policies and programs to allow women to have equal access to arable land in villages along with the opportunity for them to participate in



A view of the participants during the discussion session with the local authorities and population of Koukouldi.





Mrs. Laurentine Kanzémo exchanged with participants about the benefits of the rope-pump for her and members of her community.

the various decision making processes for WASH sustainability.

In terms of food security, the USAID WA-WASH Program has developed several strategies. In the commune of Tankougounadjé (Sahel region), through RAIN Foundation, the Program conducted a survey on the possibility of improving household agricultural production. As a solution, the Program proposes improved usage of rainwater and improved soil fertility by optimizing water and soil conservation techniques for achieving food security.

The Program also assists people in other regions of Burkina Faso to achieve food security. Mr. Zakari Saley Bana (FIU Food Security Coordinator) gave a presentation on the climate smart agriculture (CSA) approach. The main objective of CSA is to help farmers increase agricultural production through the adoption of new technologies that can mitigate the impacts of climate change. Pending the end of the rainy season, there is a real interest of farmers in this approach which will give them better yields.

Climate variability has rendered traditional seasonal planning ineffective for many rural populations. In addition, climate information is not available to all farmers. Mr. Ezekiel Anebakouri Pouahoukiga (FIU Climate Change Coordinator) made a presentation on the activity designed to build resilience through information and climate smart agriculture in 10 communities. This activity is implemented in partnership with the General Directorate of

#### Meteorology in Burkina Faso.

In the domain of capacity building, Mrs. Edwige Tia (FIU Capacity Building Coordinator) made a presentation on the USAID WA-WASH scholarship program for students from the three intervention countries. For the 2014 - 2015 academic year, a total of 42 students from Burkina Faso (31) and Ghana (11) benefited from scholarships.

A field visit to the village of Koukouldi (Centre-Ouest region) gave the opportunity to the partners' meeting participants to meet with local government officials and beneficiaries allowed them to appreciate the importance of the intervention of USAID WA-WASH Program in improving the living conditions of beneficiaries with regards to food security, access to



Participants visiting the fields of farmer beneficiaries of agro-meteorological information and CSA..

climate and agro-meteorological information, sanitation and drinking water.

Women from Koukouldi, particularly those who were trained in the production and processing of moringa (461 women) issued their recognition of the USAID WA-WASH Program, because the processing of products derived from moringa allows them to have an income.

Marcelin Bakala, owner of a sorghum field, said that with the CSA approach promoted by USAID WA-WASH, he hopes to have a good harvest. Participants also exchanged with Mrs. Laurentine Kanzémo (beneficiary of a rope pump). The installation of this rope pump has multiple benefits for herself and her community (ease of access to safe drinking water and water for production).

This USAID WA-WASH Program partners' meeting was very rewarding and was also an opportunity for the different participants to learn more about the implementation of all the Program activities. It enabled them to strengthen their synergistic actions to respond effectively to the needs of the beneficiaries and to focus on the intermediate results as outlined in the USAID WA-WASH Result Framework.

#### Nita Bélemsobgo (USAID WA-WASH Program Intern).

## SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: USAID WA-WASH AND LONAB OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS IN BURKINA FASO

On Thursday, August 28, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH program and the National Lottery of Burkina Faso (LONAB) organized the second edition of the scholarship award ceremony for students from Burkina Faso. Held at the LONAB headquarters, this ceremony launched the USAID WA-WASH scholarship program for the 2014-2015 academic year, which aims to provide funding to students pursuing Master's degrees related to the program's areas of intervention.



Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou (USAID WA-WASH Regional Director) and Mrs. Haby Djiga (General Secretary of LONAB).

Capacity building is an important component of the USAID WA-WASH program. USAID WA-WASH and LONAB intend to contribute to the training of young researchers who can help solve some of the development problems facing the people of Burkina Faso. These students will work on research topics related to the program's areas of intervention: people's access to water services, management of water resources, sanitation, hygiene, climate change, food security and gender promotion.

At the official scholarship award ceremony, Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou, USAID WA-WASH Regional Director, told recipients that the research sector remains a huge area to explore for the development of many African countries such as Burkina Faso. "This means that any research activity whose results can contribute to the well-being of people is welcomed", he added.

Representing the LONAB General Director, Mrs. Haby Djiga (General Secretary of LONAB) appreciated the collaboration with the USAID WA-WASH. She believes that "In light of the many

development challenges that our country faces, training youth is a key element to be taken into account if we want to move towards progress. Without any risk of misstatement, I

would say that the best investment we can make is that made in human capital. I therefore salute the foresight of USAID WA-WASH in this noble initiative to provide scholarships to students with our financial support."

She then urged the students to give the best of themselves in order to reach the end of their research and participate in the development of their country.

For this second edition, 22 new students from three academic institutions (University of Ouagadougou, 2IE, Aube Nouvelle University) in Burkina Faso received scholarships from USAID WA-WASH and LONAB. In addition, nine students had their scholarship renewed for another year. A student at the University of Ouagadougou, Miss Marthe Kiendrebeogo is one of those nine students: "Having a two-year long scholarship is a privilege for me. This will allow me to position myself in the field of employment in order to contribute to the development of my country. I thank the USAID WA-WASH



From left to right: Pr. Nicolas Barro (Vice President of the University of Ouagadougou), Mrs. Haby Djiga, Marthe Kiendrebeogo (a recipient) and Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou.



program and LONAB for giving me this opportunity for two consecutive years."

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Miss Laetitia Zougrana first thanked USAID WA-WASH and LONAB for the financial support they provided to help the students carry-out their research: "We say thank you to the USAID WA-WASH program and LONAB for this great opportunity they offer us to be trained in areas where our country needs to spend a lot of effort. From this moment, we commit to reach the end of our research work, to give the best of ourselves to earn the trust placed in us by the USAID WA-WASH Program and LONAB. "

**Nita Bélemsobgo (Intern at USAID WA-WASH Program).**



Mlle. Laetitia Zougrana during the thank you speech of the scholarship recipients.



Recipients' family photo with Dr. Boukerrou and Mrs. Djiga.

## PROMOTION OF CLTS: USAID WA-WASH SUPPORTS THE PEOPLE OF BAZOULE TO REACH THEIR OBJECTIVE OF ZERO OUTDOORS DEFECATION

Beginning in April 2014, the USAID-WA-WASH Program through SOS Sahel is implementing a project to promote sanitation and the construction of latrines in the village of Bazoulé. The inclusive approach developed by the program, accounts for the right of vulnerable people to have access to health services and decent sanitation. The case of a beneficiary with a physical disability demonstrates the desire of USAID WA-WASH not to excluded anyone in its intervention strategy.

In the Centre region of Burkina Faso, the practice of defecation varies by area of residence and living environment. The urban environment is mainly composed of large cities such as Ouagadougou, with a rate of open air defecation of 4.5%, while in rural areas it is 80%. The proximity to the capital even does not seem to influence the practice of defecation in rural areas.

Bazoulé (a village in the municipality of Tanghin Dassouri on the outskirts of Ouagadougou), has only 5% of households owning improved family latrines. Almost 95% of households still use fields, bushes, along streams and abandoned houses or houses under construction as places for defecation.

To help improve the health and well-being of the rural poor communities in the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri, USAID WA- WASH Program encourages hygiene and sanitation promotion through the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach. This activity is conducted in Bazoulé by SOS



His Excellency the Ambassador of Algeria (tie) visiting the beneficiary of the latrine.

Sahel, who is an implementing partner.

The project activities are like a thorn removed from a foot in at least 33

households in this village. Mr. Cyril Kabore, younger brother of a vulnerable beneficiary of one of three latrines subsidized at 100%, testified, "Our sister, who is the direct beneficiary of this latrine, has a physical disability that limits her mobility and her participation in the socio-economic activities of the village."

He went on to describe the difficulty that she experienced to manage her defecation practices. The foul smell of her house and surroundings made it embarrassing for her to receive visitors. Further, her unsanitary living conditions and frustration with her situation also strained her relationship with her family.

As if it was yesterday, Mr. Kabore remembers the day he heard about the project. "On the morning of May 2, 2014 when I was working, I heard that there was a project that wanted to build latrines for vulnerable people. I attended all the meetings and during the selection process, I



Une latrine en construction dans le village de Bazoulé.





Mrs. Hadiza Seriba (USAID WA-WASH WASH Coordinator)

A member of Kabore family in front of the household latrine.

pleaded with all my might that my sister be among those beneficiaries. God has answered my request. This project has truly arrived on-time to save all of us."

Thanks to USAID WA-WASH, since July 2014, the Kaboré family has a ventilated improved pit (VIP) household latrine with the option to empty it once it's full without destroying the superstructure.

The Kaboré family is very grateful to the program because they came to understand the importance of adopting good sanitation and hygiene practices through the awareness raising activities organized in the village. All the members of the family use the latrine with care and also wash their hands with soap using the simple hand washing station right outside of the latrine.

A proverb in the local mooré language says, "When someone else washes your back, you should make the effort to wash your own face," said Mr. Kaboré. According to him, this proverb means that when someone benefits from help or support, then its recommended that he make efforts on his own to take care of himself better. "We are now protected from the fecal matter of others, the rain and flies can

no longer transmit illnesses to us and make us spend money," declares Mr. Kaboré happily.



Mr. Lassané Nikiéma water and sanitation focal point of the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri checking the latrine of the Kabore family.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA: A DEVELOPMENT PREOCCUPATION FOR USAID AND AFRICOM

From August 6 to 9, 2014, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Command for Africa (AFRICOM) organized a symposium on environmental security in West Africa. In collaboration with Florida International University (FIU) through the USAID WA-WASH Program, the symposium aimed to raise awareness and facilitate the exchange of experience on various issues related to environmental security in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger.



Mr. Ousmane Dambadji, Chairman of the Nigerien Network of Journalists for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (REJEA).

**Koom La Viim:** What is your assessment of the symposium on environmental security in West Africa?

**M. Ousmane Dambadji:** First of all, I would like to thank the USAID WA-WASH Program for inviting our journalist network to participate in this symposium. It allowed us as journalists, specialized in the field of water and sanitation, to further understand how the environmental system works. The exchanges with distinguished speakers from different continents have allowed us to understand the major challenges that Africa is facing in the context of the fight against climate change, and the efforts that countries like Niger, Burkina Faso and Ghana are making to adapt to this change. It will allow us, in our capacity as journalists, to support public policy development.

**KLV:** How to do plan to provide this support?

**O.D.:** Our role as media is not just about writing stories, or criticizing, but rather to participate in the development

process by supporting public policy. Through this symposium, we specialize ourselves more because we have seen how the military and civilians need to work together to address the issues of environmental security and climate change. These phenomena will have adverse effects on the climate within 30 to 50 years. So, it is necessary that journalist networks like ours support public policies.

**KLV:** As the head of a specialized journalists network in the sector of water and sanitation, what is your assessment of the activities of USAID WA-WASH Program?

**O.D.:** USAID WA-WASH is an extremely important program that supports the policies of our countries in terms of access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. As you know, few African countries will meet the MDG 2015 targets on access to safe drinking water and sanitation. I appreciate the real value of the USAID WA-WASH Program's intervention to supports our country to initiate sustainable development. This morning (August 9, 2014), we visited some of the projects implemented by the USAID WA-WASH Program in Burkina Faso. I think these projects are very important and ambitious and will enable our people to live decently and effectively fight against poverty.

One of the concerns of USAID WA-WASH is sanitation. Sanitation is an extremely important thing in the policies of our governments because, if I use the example of Niger, 12 million people still defecate in the open air. These 12 million people constitute a great danger to themselves and to the rest of the population. This results in a loss of 75 billion CFA francs per year because of a lack of sanitation. If we lived in a cleaner environment, we could save this money that could be infused into others areas such as the education of our children and food security.

I think the activities of USAID WA-WASH contribute to help our communities to live in a healthy place. For example in Zinder region, 10 communities have reached open defecation free status because of the work that the USAID WA-WASH Program has done.



Mr. Jean de Dieu Nitiéma, General Director of Burkina Faso crop production.

**What is the importance of this symposium for those of you in the field of crop production?**

**Mr. Jean de Dieu Nitiéma:** For us, this symposium is of great interest because we have talked about environmental security. In terms of crop production, we use the environment, which should be suitable to crop production. The symposium allowed us to talk about the provisions to be considered in order to avoid polluting the environment. Indeed, in terms of crop production, it is necessary that the plant itself is in good condition so that what it produces does not cause a nuisance to humans. Thus, in terms of our understanding of the



importance of water, in terms of soil, in terms of the elements necessary for plants, I think that the symposium added many things to our knowledge.

**KLV: How did you find the general level of the debates?**

**J.D.N:** The debates were at a high level because the presenters were experts in their fields and participants were also well versed on the topic of the environment. The discussions allowed us to view the actions already undertaken in a developed country like the United States to reduce the negative effects of pollution on the environment. These examples should inspire West Africa to find solutions to the pollution that faces our countries.

**KLV: In your opinion, what are the next steps for USAID and AFRICOM to follow after the symposium?**

**J.D.N:** The participants made recommendations at the end of the symposium. The meeting focused on the environmental security in West Africa; USAID and AFRICOM should strengthen partnerships with stakeholders from local authorities (that is, municipalities) in order to support them in conventional waste management. It would therefore be interesting that in the future, USAID and AFRICOM invite municipal stakeholders. In the case of Burkina Faso, the process of decentralization gave the municipalities the responsibility for managing solid waste, which contributes significantly to the pollution of the environment

**KLV: What did you think about the field visit?**

**J.D.N:** I enjoyed everything we visited in terms of water, sanitation, the rope-pump and crop production in a sorghum field and especially the hand washing stations. All of these elements make good use of water for various purposes, but soundly and rationally. It's because of this that I appreciate the activities carried out by USAID WA-WASH in the municipality of Tanghin-Dassouri. But I would also like to invite USAID WA-WASH to reinforce the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, which is working towards the sustainable management of water, especially during the rainy season. Therefore, I invite USAID WA-WASH to

strengthen the partnership with regional offices, agents in the field and especially the collection of rainfall data.



Mr. Jeffrey Andrews (AFRICOM Environmental Security Director)

**Koom La Viim: Why is AFRICOM interested in environmental issues?**

**Jeffrey Andrews:** One of the reasons we have AFRICOM is precisely to combat terrorism, the problems of environmental disasters and prevent problems instead of solving conflicts. The environment plays a major role in the occurrence of conflicts. If we are able to manage our resources well, we will be able to avoid conflict.

**KLV: We know that the US is a major strategic partner in development. Regarding climate change, are there any specific ways that the US plans to support African countries?**

**J.A:** Climate change is also a problem for the United States. We are trying to see how we will adapt to this phenomenon. We have developed strategies to adapt over the past few years in the USA. We are trying to share this knowledge to Africa.

**KLV: What did you think about the general level of the debate?**

**J.A:** The discussions were very interesting and were at a fairly high level. This meeting is only the first step in the collaboration with the countries of West Africa and we will continue this relationship to provide the necessary

support.

**KLV: What messages do you have to send to African countries in order to elicit common solutions to effectively fight against climate change?**

**J.A:** We must all work together for the sustainability of our environment. It is the responsibility of Africans to take care of their countries, for example, picking up garbage, plastic bags. Governments must put in place stricter regulations on environmental protection and ensure that these laws, these regulations are respected by everyone.

**KLV: In the field, you saw the activities implemented by the USAID WA-WASH. What are your assessments?**

**J.A:** I am impressed by the work done by USAID WA-WASH. Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou and his team have done an outstanding job since the start of the program in Burkina Faso. They managed to accomplish many things that contribute to improve the living conditions of many people. This will contribute to well-being and encourage economic development.

**Interview by Souleymane Zaré (Relations and Communication Officer)**

## ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: USAID WA-WASH AND DGM STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF 10 COMMUNITIES IN BURKINA FASO

The USAID WA-WASH Program and the General Directorate of Meteorology (DGM) of Burkina Faso are implementing a project aiming to strengthen the resilience of 10 communities through information dissemination and climate smart agriculture. The project aims to help these communities to better understand and use climate and agro-meteorological information in decisions related to agricultural production. As exemplified by the Koukouildi community, beneficiary communities are increasingly taking this information into account as they conduct their farming activities.



The farmers of Koukouildi during a meeting with the project activity supervision team.

Agriculture is the main activity of the rural population in Burkina Faso. With traditional means of production, most farmers are unable to get good yields. Certain weather factors ignored by people sometimes reduce their production efforts and make them more vulnerable to food shortages and poverty.

Mr. Cyriaque Sia from DGM identifies five key climate parameters (temperature, rainfall, wind, solar radiation and humidity) that may affect plant growth. He says: "In our Sahelian region, the most critical parameter is rainfall." Thus, if precipitation is variable, if there is no moisture, this negatively affects plant growth. As most of farmers do not have adequate technical training, they fail to take into account these elements in their activities.

Through this activity, the USAID WA-WASH Program and DGM are working with 10 local communities in order to

help them better understand and use climate and agro-meteorological information in their farming activities. In the month of June 2014, each of the 10 communities received two days of

training covering the following topics: climatology of sites and climatic constraints, climate variability and climate change, weather and climate forecasting, agro-meteorological products and their usefulness, strategies for adaptation to climate variability and change, and usefulness and importance of rainfall data. The program also installed two rain gauges in each of the 10 communities. A team of two rain gauge monitors (for each village) is responsible for informing DGM about the quantity of rainfall recorded in these areas.

According to Mr. Sia, consideration of climate and agro-meteorological information by farmers has the advantage of allowing them to make either tactical plans or strategic plans. Tactical planning or short term planning allows farmers to take into account the weather forecast for a 24 hour period. Strategic planning focuses on weather forecasts that are spread more or less over a long period. These forecasts allow DGM to give advice to people on what to do during the rainy season. "The choice of land types (flat, hilly or low-lying) where they can manage



M. Hermann Bazémo, one of the rain gauge monitors in the village of Koukouildi.



their activities and make a profit. For example, if we expect a deficit in rainfall during the season, DGM agents will advise farmers to cultivate in low-lying areas using short cycle varieties" says Mr. Sia.

Through a partnership between FIU and local radio stations, people in the intervention areas receive meteorological and agro-meteorological information. After several months of implementation, this activity has generated a great deal of interest among the beneficiary population of the USAID WA-WASH Program because it addresses their concerns and helps them improve their production.

Bakala Bazomo is from the village of Koukouldi. He is one of the farmers who is receiving support from USAID WA-WASH. Through the radio station "Voix du Sanguié" he has listened to the meteorological and agro-meteorological information produced by DGM. He declares, "The day before I applied fertilizer in my field, I listened to the agro-meteorological information bulletin on the radio. The forecast predicted rain in our area. Believing these weather forecasts, I thought it would be prudent to cancel this activity. If I had not taken into account this information, the rain would have leached the fertilizer, which would not have benefited my field."

Some farmers like Bapio Bamouni



Mr. Cyriaque Sia of DGM (middle) discussing with the two rain gauge monitors from the village of Koukouldi.

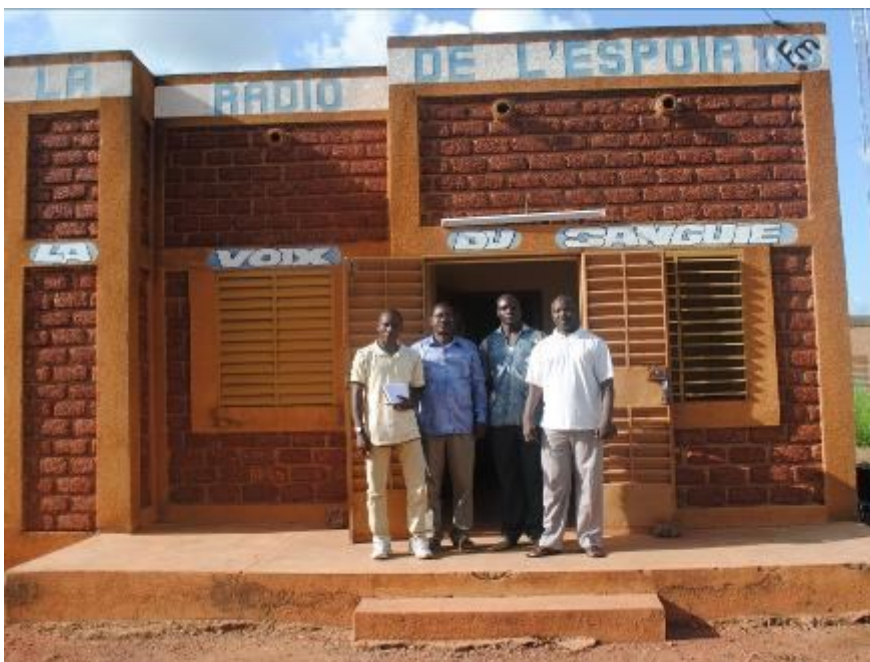
have had a sour experience by not accounting for the weather forecast broadcast by the radio. "I sought the support of my friends to plow my field while the radio announced rain. My wives did not believe the rain forecast announced through the radio. They stubbornly prepared food for the people that were coming to help me. Because the rain fell on September 1 the day I was supposed to plow, the people who were supposed to help me

could not come. This caused a great loss."

Even before an assessment of these activities is conducted, the people of Koukouldi welcome the implementation of the project, which allows them to strengthen their resilience to climate change.

The sustainability of this initiative in Koukouldi depends largely on the radio "Voix du Sanguié." In addition to French which is the official language, this information channel has the advantage of adapting messages to the local languages used by people in the radio station coverage area. According to Bationo Achilles, the director of the radio station, "People in Koukouldi and other surrounding villages have an interest in the climate and weather information we disseminate. Since this information affects agriculture which is their main activity, over time, this interest will grow. Currently, some listeners who missed the broadcast call the radio to see if the weather forecast predicted rain or not."

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



Family photo in front of the radio station « La voix du Sanguié ».

## INTERVIEW WITH Mr. ALI JACQUES GARANE: GENERAL DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGY IN BURKINA FASO

Mr. Ali Jacques Garane is the General Director of meteorology in Burkina Faso. This department is the institution responsible for the production and dissemination of products related to weather information, agro-meteorological information and climatological information. During this interview, Mr. Garane introduces this institution, of which he is the manager. He also talks about the partnership between the DGM and the USAID WA-WASH Program for the implementation of a project to build resilience through information and climate smart agriculture for the benefit of ten communities in Burkina Faso.



Mr. Ali Jacques Garané (General Director of Meteorology in Burkina Faso)

December 30, 1972. It is the national authority in charge of meteorological matters. After several changes, it was erected as a General Directorate in 2011. Thus, according to the decree which defines roles and responsibilities, the DGM has jurisdiction over all matters concerning meteorology and its applications in Burkina Faso. It is also in charge of liaison with the World Meteorological Organization, with the National Meteorological Services of other countries and with international scientific organizations in the field of meteorology and related sciences. The DGM is also responsible for the management of the meteorological observation network (capacity, monitoring, maintenance, etc.) and the collection, processing and archiving of meteorological and climatological data. It is also in charge of the development and dissemination of products and weather information, agro-meteorological information and climatological information for assistance to various socio-economic sectors of the country (civil aviation, agriculture, livestock, water resources, forestry, health, education,

environment, energy, construction, civil engineering, etc.). In this capacity, it provides assistance to air navigation, farming production, protection and preservation of the environment, civil security for the protection of people and property against the effects of hazardous and extreme weather events, the rational management of natural resources (water, land, forest resources, natural ecosystems, etc.).

**KLV: A MOU binds the USAID WA-WASH program with the DGM. What is the purpose of this partnership and what are the activities in this framework?**

**A.J.G:** The objective of this partnership is to help 10 local communities to better understand and use climate and agro-meteorological information in decisions related to agricultural production. The activities in this framework are training and advice to rural communities to enable them to improve their resilience and adaptation to climate change leading to higher agricultural production and thus improve their incomes.

**KLV: How do you assess the current activities within the framework of this partnership?**

**A.J.G:** Despite certain difficulties related to the procedures for implementing USAID WA-WASH projects, our assessment is generally positive to the extent that it has been a win-win partnership. This partnership has allowed us to highlight our expertise in agro-meteorological support for the goodwill of the beneficiaries. Indeed, as you know, the DGM is an institution that produced weather and climate information. Unfortunately, it has difficulty releasing useful information to farmers in a timely manner in order to optimize their production (financial resources are required for the dissemination of such information by the media). This is a good partnership since the USAID WA-WASH Program provided funding and DGM contributed its expertise to the

**Koom La Viim: Can you tell us about the General Directorate of the Meteorology (DGM, in French)?**

**Mr. Ali Jacques Garané:** The Directorate of National Meteorology was established by Decree No. 72-278 / PM / MTT / T / URB on



The map of the Burkina Faso meteorological network.



project.

**KL.V:** What will the DGM do to ensure the sustainability of the gains that will be achieved during this partnership?

**A.J.G:** The mission of the DGM, among others, is to develop and disseminate products and weather information, agro-meteorological information and climate information for assistance various socio-economic sectors in the country. For this purpose and, to the extent possible given the available resources (human and material), it will continue to provide agro-meteorological support to producers of Burkina Faso through their organizations or through their supervisory structures.

Our desire is to see these activities continue after the project ends. For this, we plan to educate local authorities responsible for these sites so that they can take over the project. The effective involvement of local authorities will be a guarantee of the sustainability of these gains and, if necessary, a memorandum of understanding could be signed between the DGM and the municipalities in which the commitments of each structure will be clearly defined.

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



A rain gauge installed in the village of Koukouli by the USAID WA-WASH Program.



Mr. Samuel Bado in the field where he applied the advice provided by USAID WA-WASH and DGM.



## MANAGING HAND PUMPS: IRC EXPLORES HOW TO IMPLEMENT TOTAL MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES FOR HAND PUMPS

From July 24 to 25, 2014, the General Directorate of Water Resources (DGRE, in French) and the Regional Directorate of Water, Hydraulic Infrastructure, and Sanitation of the Sahel region (DREAHA, in French), with technical and financial support from USAID WA-WASH through IRC, organized a workshop to reflect on the effectiveness of the maintenance and spare parts systems for boreholes equipped with hand pumps. The objective of the workshop was to move towards a professional maintenance system managed by private operators.

A variety of actors from the water and sanitation sector attended the event, including the mayors of several rural municipalities, technical staff, maintenance personnel, and representatives from the government, NGOs, and the private sector. According to Sadio Ouédraogo, mayor of the municipality of Gorgadji, "Breakdown rates remain high. Efforts towards organizing and monitoring services will not bear fruit until we have succeeded in establishing a reliable maintenance service".

Gorgadji is not an isolated case. All the rural municipalities in the country find themselves in a similar situation. Despite the efforts of all stakeholders involved, problems are still many: prolonged breakdown periods, lack of locally available, good quality spare parts, repair teams' unfamiliarity with certain brands of pumps, and the absence of monitoring at the local and national levels.

Previous attempts to reorganize the sector have all had the same ambiguous results. None of them have lasted. "Previous attempts to organize the sector consisted mainly of setting

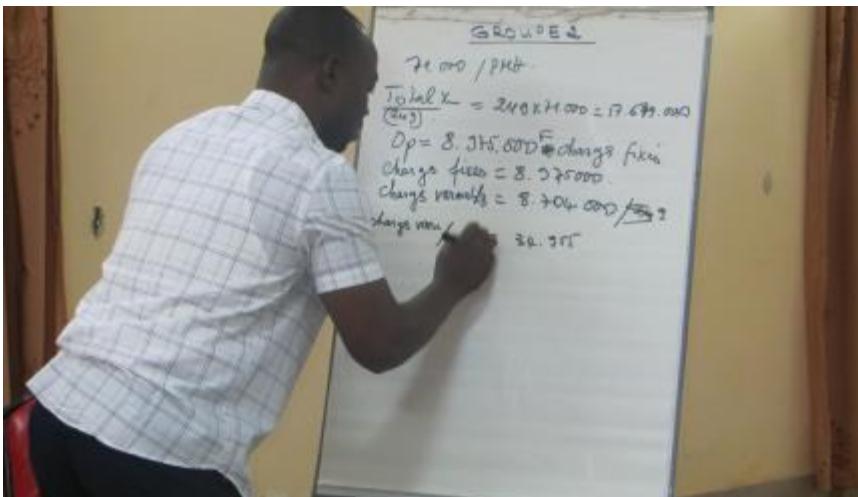


Group work on the implementation of the total warranty.

up spare parts stores and training artisans to manage their pumps through projects and programs," admitted Ruth Toé of DGRE. For the DGRE, this workshop is a good opportunity to build on previous experiences and to reflect on the establishment of an effective maintenance network.

### Moving towards professional maintenance

In light of the problems faced by the sector, IRC through funding from the USAID WA-WASH Program has been working on the issue of maintenance. IRC commissioned a study on the maintenance of hand pumps in the municipalities of Arbinda and Gorgadji, which served to demonstrate the value of passing on the management of water and sanitation services to private operators. The study, conducted by FASO HYDRO, included an analysis of the needs and costs necessary for passing on full responsibility to a private operator. This delegation of responsibilities is based on a contract between the municipality and a private operator for a fixed period of time. Hence, the service provider is responsible for preventive maintenance, repairs, and replacement of spare parts when necessary. Such a contract puts a system in place that can guarantee quality, quantity, and continuity of services.



Richard Bassono of IRC during group work.





Mamoudou Lankouandé, maintenance technician in Gorgadji, working on a self-contained water station.

appreciated the preliminary results.

*"The study is very important as it is the first time we are provided with tangible ways in which to improve the maintenance of hand pumps. We will continue to strive to find a way to reach a consensual and realistic model for the entire country,"* declared Jean Bazié of DGRE. For now, it seems that municipalities are looking forward to trying out the proposed system in the coming months.

**Nourou-Dhine Salouka ( Assistant Communication and Information Officer at IRC-Burkina Faso)**

### Crucial reforms

After the analysis, FASO HYDRO [proposed five scenarios which could be applied in the context of the two municipalities. Following long discussions in plenary and in groups, participants at the workshop recognized the fifth scenario to be the best suited to the realities of the region. In this scenario, users should contribute between 6,000 F CFA and 10,000 F CFA annually, as opposed to the current 2,500 F CFA contribution. This relatively high cost is the price to pay to enjoy higher quality services.

However, some participants voiced their skepticism, such as Kibsibila Koueala, from DREAHA Sahel, who pointed out that *"We are already having trouble collecting the 2,500F contribution. Just imagine when you ask households to pay triple this amount"*. The solution to this problem is through the pooling of funds between municipalities. *"The greater the pool, the lesser the costs,"* explains Michel Coulibaly of FASO HYDRO.

Nonetheless, the regulatory environment remains a challenge, as the implementation of such a system will lead to profound changes in the functioning of almost all entities involved, and will also alter the relationship between the different

actors.

Aspects not yet covered by the study therefore need further clarification in order to operationalize a system in which a private operator takes on full responsibility of water and sanitation services. Although the researchers have not yet finalized their study, the parties involved have already positively



Family photo of the workshop participants.

## HYGIENE AND SANITATION: STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDERS' CAPACITY FOR MORE BENEFICIARY INVOLVEMENT

From June 23 to 28 and August 6 to 12, 2014, the USAID WA-WASH Program, through Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA), organized training sessions for the benefit of stakeholders involved in the implementation of hygiene and sanitation improvement through the CLTS approach in 30 villages in the Centre, Centre-Ouest and Boucle du Mouhoun regions in Burkina Faso. These sessions aimed to strengthen the stakeholders' capacity so that they are able to act more effectively.



A plenary session at the training workshop on hygiene, sanitation, CLTS and participatory communication approaches.

The first capacity building session was devoted to topics related to hygiene, sanitation and participatory communication approaches. Led by Mrs. Noëlie Pitroipa (Project Manager at WSA), the session aimed to train the animators to be able to intervene effectively on the ground. Organized from June 23 to 28, 2014 in Ouagadougou, the workshop brought together participants from four municipalities covered by the project (Tanghin-Dassouri, Tenado, Komki-Ipala and Koudougou). The session gathered community animators from the intervention villages of the project, representatives of decentralized technical services and municipality focal points in the project area. Throughout the week, they were equipped with the different concepts and approaches related to hygiene, sanitation and health. Thus, approaches such as community led total sanitation (CLTS) and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation

(PHAST) were explored for the benefit of participants.

According to Mrs. Noëlie Pitroipa, beyond the opportunity for learning, the training was more an exchange where each participant contributed to the discussion by sharing their own experiences with others. For this purpose, practical cases have been tested on the ground. Thus, a triggering session was organized in the village of Koudié. This activity made real for the participants the situation of a village where the population has no other place to defecate other than in the open, and allowed them to bring the community to commit to abandon this practice.

For Amelie Tiendrebéogo, community animator in Tanghin Dassouri: *"The training allowed me to strengthen my capacity in mobilization and behavior change. The different approaches that I learned will help me a lot in my work as a mobilizer to bring the population to a sustainable behavior change for hygiene and sanitation."*

### Local expertise valued

The other aspect of these capacity building activities was to train 30



A mobilizer during a demonstration exercise of calculating excreta and medical expenses for the people of Koudié.



masons from 15 villages of the four project intervention municipalities. During the first phase of the project, at least 750 latrines are planned to be built in the communes of Tanghin-Dassouri, Tenado, Komki-Ipala and Koudougou. For this purpose, the project focused on the promotion of local expertise by identifying two masons from each village to participate in the training. The training session was held in Komki-Ipala from August 6 to 12, 2014.

Between the theory and practice sessions, the masons were able to acquire essential skills for the construction of ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines. Three demonstration latrines were built during the training session. Participants also learned about hygiene and sanitation concepts. Mr. Honoré Néya, the trainer for this session said, "The masons have learned how to read and review the latrine plans. The materials used for the construction of the latrine were also discussed. So, we insisted on respect for the dimensions of the latrine, the quality of materials used and the system for dosing the aggregates."

Back in their respective municipalities, each mason will be responsible for building the latrines on behalf of the



A team of masons building a VIP latrine in the municipality of Komki-Ipala.

beneficiary households as well as other latrines for households that do not receive a subsidy from the USAID WA-WASH Program.

This series of capacity building activities is one of the catalyzing elements of the project. It allowed the program to ensure that all stakeholders had the proper level of knowledge for project success. To properly manage the project, a monitoring committee has been set up in each of the intervention villages. It is composed of an officer from the health service, an officer from the environment service and the water and sanitation focal point of each municipality.

This project is co-funded by the USAID WA-WASH Program and the Burkinabe National Lottery (LONAB).

**Emmanuel Tilkar Kambou**  
(Communication Officer at WSA-Burkina Faso)



A single pit VIP latrine built for vulnerable people by masons during the training.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATES
Training workshop on water accounting for NGOs partners USAID WA-WASH, Koudougou, Burkina Faso	October 21-23
USAID WA-WASH Scholarship award ceremony, WA (Upper West Region), Ghana	October 31
Veteran's day, United States, Regional Office closed	November 11
Training workshop on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Into Development Strategies for Legislators, Ghana	November 11-14
Thanksgiving day, United States, Regional Office closed	November 27
National Forum on Water and Sanitation, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	November 27-29
Independence Day, Burkina Faso, Regional Office closed	December 11
Christmas, Regional Office closed	December 25

## PHOTO TOUR



Participants at the partners' meeting visiting a rope pump manufacturer's shop in the commune of Koudougou.



Bernard Ouedraogo and Martha Kiendrebéogo, two student beneficiaries of USAID WA-WASH and LONAB scholarships.



Family photo of AFRICOM symposium participants.



The Ambassador of the United States to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture (right) during his visit to Ouéglega on August 15, 2014.



Mrs. Pauline Kangoro presenting the advantages of Moringa production for the women of Koukouildi.



Hand washing station installed for total sanitation and hygiene after using latrines.

## PARTENAIRES D'EXECUTION



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