

**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 EDITOR**



**A New Year ... New Challenges.**

Another year comes to a close! The month of December is often a month where most of us take the time to reflect on what we have accomplished during the past 12 months and to plan for the coming year. It is also the time when people spend cherished moments with family and friends to celebrate and think about what the New Year will bring. For us the New Year means the end of the USAID WA-WASH Program soon. We are down the stretch, only few more months before the end of the program and still lots to do.

We completed our third implementation year and I am glad to report that, so far, we have exceeded our targets for many of our indicators. These accomplishments are the fruit of the hard work and dedication of the Florida International University staff and that of our partners. We are proud of the work we do day-in-and day-out to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in our areas of intervention in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger.

Our results are centered on providing access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, improving food security and better adaptation to climate change in our areas of intervention. We are also focused on building the capacity of various stakeholders among them decision-makers, private enterprises, students, university and professional school faculty. So far, we have hosted 108 interns from 13 countries. We have organized capacity building workshops on

various topics related to gender, WASH governance, adaptation to climate change. These workshops have been attended by more than 4,920 persons this year.

We have been working very closely with various government entities to address WASH issues and advocate for better access to water, sanitation and hygiene, better monitoring of the water services and infrastructures at the municipal level, and promoting the development of human resources

We are also contributing with other technical and financial partners to improving the dialogue and promoting collaboration with the relevant ministers and in particular the Ministry of Water Resources. The idea is to ensure sustainability of our activities beyond USAID WA-WASH.

The report of the sustainability evaluation conducted by an independent consulting firm shows that our activities for the most part have a good chance to be continued by others as we come to a close of the program. We received a score of 88%, 84% and 93% for Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger, respectively. This is encouraging us to continue to work hard to ensure the sustainability of our activities.

The year we are going to concentrate a number of our activities on knowledge management and information sharing including the organization of a number of "small" conferences on water technologies, adaptation to climate change, and WASH careers. While continuing the capacity building training and the follow-up with our training alumni.

Visit our website for up-to-date information on the indicators, to read various reports, and to learn about future and current activities and events. You will also find geo-referenced data for all infrastructures built by the Program (wells, latrines, etc.).

I want to wish a happy and prosperous New Year with the hope that you enjoyed the holiday season and look forward to seeing you in Ouagadougou or hearing from you.

**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

## CAPACITY BUILDING: USAID WA-WASH SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS UNDERTAKE INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH IN WASH FIELDS

Since 2013, the USAID WA-WASH Program has granted scholarships to students pursuing Master's degrees at local universities in fields related to Program areas of intervention including water and sanitation, climate change and food security. Implemented by Florida International University (FIU), the scholarship program has benefited 30 students from Burkina Faso, Niger and Ghana for the 2013-2014 academic year. In September 2014, 42 new scholarships were granted in Burkina Faso and Ghana for the 2014-2015 academic year. The scholarships for students in Burkina Faso are co-funded by the National Lottery of Burkina Faso (LONAB, in French).

Abibata Ouattara and Benedicte Traore are two beneficiaries of the USAID WA-WASH scholarship program. Abibata is specializing in humanitarian WASH at the International Institute for Engineering in Water and Environment (2IE, in French) and Benedicte is pursuing a Master's in project management at New Dawn University (Université Aube Nouvelle in French). Through the scholarship program, they also received internships with PROMACO, one of USAID WA-WASH implementing partners in Burkina Faso.

The four-month internships they performed with PROMACO gave them valuable professional experience. Through the internships, they were able to experience the challenging living conditions in the rural areas of Burkina Faso.

With PROMACO's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team, they learned about M&E tools including distribution analysis, audience analysis and access and performance measurement methods. This hands-on approach of



Abibata (left), leading a focus group discussion in the village of Yalo.

the internship really impressed these two students; for the first time, they had the opportunity to be directly

involved in field work.

Abibata reflects, *"I have completed a very rewarding internship full of experience at PROMACO."* Her colleague Benedicte agrees, adding, *"The objective of the USAID WA-WASH program through this internship is commendable because it will not only reduce the risk of diseases and infant mortality related to unsafe water but also increase the number of households with access to potable water services."*



When they drink water from unprotected wells, people are exposed to waterborne diseases.

In addition to the scholarships and internships, the students benefited from a research stipend to carry out field studies in six Program intervention villages in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre and Centre-Ouest regions of Burkina Faso. During the data collection process, they were



With the use of Aquatabs, people can treat their drinking water and avoid many waterborne diseases.

allow us to make recommendations and propose solutions to improve the Program's activities and the living conditions of rural people. This study will be beneficial not only for the people of these different communities but for the whole country." Said Benedicte.

Florida International University through the USAID WA-WASH scholarship program offers internships and research grant opportunities for all its scholarship beneficiaries. Since July 2014, 15 students have obtained internships and funds to conduct actionable research in areas related to the Program's thematic areas.

The Program will continue to support all of its scholarship recipients so that they can benefit from practical experience and contribute to the development of their respective countries.

able to put into practice the approaches and tools they had learned during their internship at PROMACO. The surveys they conducted with the population enabled them to collect data for their research papers.

Abibata is focusing her research on monitoring and evaluation processes

while Benedicte is assessing the factors that could inhibit the use of the point of use treatment product Aquatabs.

Abibata and Benedicte are very grateful to the USAID WA-WASH program for the opportunities it offers them. "The internship and the research work will

**Edwige Tia (USAID WA-WASH Capacity building Coordinator)**



Benedicte (left), conducting a survey in Tanghin-Dassouri.

## USAID WA-WASH SECURES FARMLAND FOR WOMEN IN THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA

Benedicta Kyaa is a USAID WA-WASH Program beneficiary in the community of Kamba-Tangzu, a small village located about 14 km from Nandom in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Thanks to USAID WA-WASH activities, women like Benedicta now have access to land.



As Benedicta, many women of the Upper West region have access to land, thanks to the USAID WA-WASH awareness activities.

*food crops, we did not have our own farmland. When the USAID WA-WASH people came and educated us, my husband gave me a piece of land and I started my own groundnut and maize farm. As of today, I have harvested one and a half bags of groundnuts, but for the maize I cannot say because I am still threshing it. My husband is old and can no longer work actively. I intend to sell some of my farm products in order to support my children's education and use the rest for food."*

**Alexander A. D Buunaaim (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CARE Ghana)**

Benedicta Kyaa, is a 39 year-old woman and a mother of five children. Before, she did not have her access to farmland plot. This year, she was very excited that she was able to harvest corn and groundnuts from her own farm in Kamba-Tangzu.

Benedicta reflects, *"Before the USAID WA-WASH people came here, we were mainly working on the farms of our husbands. Although our husbands used to share land with us to cultivate*

In Kamba-Tangzu, it was difficult for women to access land for farming. However, after a gender analysis in the community and the subsequent development and implementation of gender action plans by the USAID WA-WASH Program in 10 communities, women in Kamba-Tangzu can now be proud of the harvests from their own fields.

The training, which brought together chiefs and elders of the participating communities, employed strategies such as theater and resource control mapping to educate the traditional authorities on the role of women in community development. At the same time, these tools addressed the need to allocate farm lands to women for cultivation.



Benedicta, proudly displaying her first maize harvest.

## PROMOTING THE COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION APPROACH: USAID WA-WASH BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN BURKINA FASO

The activity to improve hygiene and sanitation using the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach in the Centre, Centre-Ouest and Boucle du Mouhoun regions of Burkina Faso is beginning to take shape. After building the capacity of facilitators and masons, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized from November 25 to 28, 2014 two capacity building workshops for members of sanitation shop (sani-shop) management committees in the beneficiary villages.

The first training session took place November 25 to 26, 2014 in the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri. It involved the members of sani-shop management committees in the Centre region (the communes of Tanghin-Dassouri and Komki-Ipala). The second session, held for the benefit of Centre-Ouest region (the communes of Koudougou and Tenado) management committees members, was held November 27 to 28, 2014.

The training workshops aimed to build the capacity of members of sani-shop management committees so that they gain expertise in sanitation management and service provision. These workshops preceded the establishment of a sani-shop in each of the 21 beneficiary villages.

Sani-shops are points of storage and sale that will allow people to access all the available materials and tools in order to build their latrines. Through



The members of sanitation shop management committees from the communes of Tanghin-Dassouri and Komki-Ipala, during a plenary session

these sani-shops, the USAID WA-WASH Program aims to ensure the accessibility and availability of construction materials

to beneficiaries. People who wish to build latrines can supply themselves with building materials, (such as cement, iron, PVC pipes, roof-sheets), via a financial contribution which will be defined by local management committees.

According to Noëlie Pitroipa, project manager, *“this financial contribution will allow the maintenance and repair of the tools and will also help stock each shop with new material.”*



The participants of the training organized in the commune of Tenado exchanging ideas on sanitation shops management.

The local management committees were set up by the communities themselves. It is therefore their responsibility to organize and manage the operation of the sani-shops in each village. To do this, the participants were trained on human resources management, financial management and inventory management by Mr. Abdoul Karim Bary (accountant at the WSA national office in Burkina Faso). *“I am happy*



A latrine built in Yaoghin, in the commune of Komki-Ipala.

open defecation free status. He says, “the training allowed us to understand the harmful consequences that the lack of sanitation can have on our lives. In our respective villages, we are going to educate people who do not yet have a latrine to get one with the help of the sani-shops. The positive result of this will contribute to reaching zero open defecation.”

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

about the training I received because I am now well-equipped and I will be able to correctly perform my job as a sani-shop manager,” said Mr. Hamado Bonkougou from the village of Taongho.

*allow us to educate people on the good management of their latrines.”*

Likewise, Mr. Adama Ouédraogo from the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri thinks that he will be able to educate people on the importance of achieving the goal of

The participants also benefited from new knowledge in the domain of sanitation and hygiene. Noélie Pitroipa conversed with them on topics such as hygiene, ecological sanitation and an introduction to the different types of latrines, hand washing stations and sumps. She also introduced practical outreach tools such as: the ways of contamination and barriers, the three assorted card stacks on water hygiene and history hiatus on hygiene habitat.

With these training materials, in addition to being shop managers, the members of the various management committees will be local information relays to educate the population on behavior change in hygiene and sanitation.

According to Sambo Zoungrana from the village of Tampoussoum, “the training is going to help me to solve people’s hygiene and sanitation problems. The lack of latrines was caused by ignorance and we now have new knowledge so that we can avoid diseases. What we learned will also



Group photo of the members of sanitation shop management committees after training they received in Tangin-Dassouri.

## AQUATABS PROMOTION IN BURKINA FASO: RAISING AWARENESS FOR GREATER SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE

The USAID WA-WASH Program, through the Social Marketing and Health Communication Program (PROMACO, in French), has undertaken outreach activities to raise awareness and promote Aquatabs in 132 villages of the Centre, Boucle du Mouhoun and Sud-Ouest regions of Burkina Faso. The goal of these activities is to raise awareness among the people of these regions about the benefits of using Aquatabs.



An outreach session in the village of Bolembar (Sud-Ouest region).

This strategy has paid off because more than 5,850 people were informed about the benefits of using Aquatabs to treat drinking water and 3,547 people were able to taste water treated with Aquatabs, from November 20 to December 07, 2014. In Bolembar (Sud-Ouest region), Francine was among those who tasted water treated with Aquatabs for the first time. *"I knew we could find Aquatabs in our market. But frankly, I was not interested in the product. However, after receiving all the information and tasting the water treated with this product, from now on, I will buy Aquatabs for use in my household,"* she says.

**David Telliano (Aquatabs Project Assistant, PROMACO)**

Through market outreach sessions, USAID WA-WASH aims to sensitize the inhabitants of the intervention villages on the need to use Aquatabs to treat their drinking water. Adama Ouédraogo of PROMACO says, *"In most of the villages where we work, the quality of the drinking water is sometimes inadequate. When people are not aware of the risk of diseases due to unsafe water consumption, they consume water that can be hazardous to their health."*

wareness campaigns complement other interpersonal communication efforts like door-to-door outreach led by field facilitators. In order to reach a large portion of the targeted population, the Program used the support of the leaders of village development committees and the water and sanitation focal points of the municipalities where the villages are located.

Awareness campaigns and outreach activities took place in 55 village marketplaces. These activities are organized in three stages: outreach, sales promotion, and tasting water treated with Aquatabs. The outreach sessions highlight water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, cholera and typhoid fever to teach people about the necessity of drinking potable water. Through the sales promotion, the USAID WA-WASH campaigners were able to demonstrate the use of the product, inform people about the price and show them the places where Aquatabs are sold. The tasting stage allows people to experience water treated with Aquatabs.



Women tasting water treated with Aquatabs.

## A BENEFICIARY LAUDS VSLA PROMOTION IN THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA

Mrs. Bepagri Domepigrea, a USAID WA-WASH Program beneficiary in Ghana, tells her story of empowerment through the village savings and loan association (VSLA).



Through the sale of her fish, Bepagri is currently able to contribute to the charges of her family.

*on credit from the fishermen, I pay them right away. When I sell the fish, I keep the profit and the fishermen are ready to sell to me because they know I can pay. Recently, when my son started college, we spent a total of two thousand cedis (GHC 2,000.00 approximately USD 600) .I was able to contribute eight hundred cedis (GHC 800.00 approximately USD 247), for the payment of our son's school fees at Valley View University in Techiman. Actually, my husband consults me for money whenever he is in need. We now also have fish available for household consumption."*

*"I thank the USAID WA-WASH Program for introducing the VLSA into my community. Almost all the women in the community are members of the VSLA groups."*

**Alexander A. D Buunaaim**  
(Monitoring and Evaluation Officer,  
CARE Ghana)

Bagri is a USAID WA-WASH intervention community in the Lawra district (Upper West region of Ghana). It is located along the Black Volta river. It has a population of over 1,600 inhabitants, who make their living primarily by farming as well as through fishing related trade.

*not earn enough money to buy fish to resell. I used to buy fish on credit, sell it and pay the fishermen later. Although they agreed to give me the fish on credit, I could not buy it in large quantities. But now, I can because I have access to credit from the VSLA. I no longer buy fish*

Bepagri Domepigrea, 51 years old and mother of six children, is a native of Bagri. Bepagri has no basic education but her dream is to see all her children reach higher levels of education. Before, she was not recognized in her family because she could not contribute to the livelihood of the household. Today, her husband consults her before any decision making in the house and she contributes to the development of the household.



Fish, a source of income for Bepagri.

According to Bepagri, *"I was a fish seller before the introduction of the village savings and loan association (VSLA) here in Bagri. At that time, I did*



## SERVICE SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNE OF GORGADJI AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE USAID WA-WASH PROGRAM

Since 2011, the USAID WA-WASH Program, through IRC, has supported the commune of Gorgadji to improve public drinking water services. A few months before the end of the Program, the commune of Gorgadji has been judged capable of ensuring the sustainability of services, even without external support.



The members of the communal water and sanitation commission (CCEA, in French), during the elaboration of an actions plan of the commune of Gorgadji.

In 2012, a diagnostic study carried out by IRC in Gorgadji and seven other municipalities in the Sahel region revealed many shortcomings in the operation of public water services.

These included non-compliance of water users' associations (WUA) with current regulations, a lack of service management tools, weak coordination of municipal water services, limited understanding of stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, and a lack of a monitoring and evaluation system, amongst other deficiencies. These results were given to Gorgadji's communal water and sanitation commission (CCEA, in French), which handles the municipality's water and sanitation technical service.

This was done in order to allow the municipality to recognize its situation and to inspire the adoption of corrective measures, with the support of the USAID WA-WASH Program.

The municipality of Gorgadji and USAID WA-WASH agreed to improve the management, governance and provision of public water services at the municipal level. This entailed

setting up a municipal monitoring and evaluation system that involves all stakeholders and holds them responsible. *"You can only manage what you know, and in order to have this knowledge you must monitor,"* acknowledged Sadio Ouedraogo, former mayor of the commune of Gorgadji.

The objective of monitoring and evaluation is to periodically measure

the performance of public water services in the municipalities of Arbinda and Gorgadji so that decisions and actions undertaken by different stakeholders (local authorities, service providers, consumers, supporting structures, and financial partners) are improved. Monitoring is a cyclical, continuous, and integrated element in the decision-making process, and not solely a one-off operation.

### The municipality at the heart of the system

The monitoring and evaluation system is accompanied by a scheme to build the capacity of stakeholders on public water services governance. The monitoring comprises five major categories of indicators: technical performance, financial performance, governance, activities and outcomes.

In order to support municipalities and WUAs, a support plan was put in place. To start with, IRC and the Regional Directorate of the Sahel trained the municipal technician and the CCEA on the use of information-gathering tools. These individuals are responsible for supporting



The Water Users' Association of Boundougoudji with a USAID WA-WASH delegation.

WUAs in the organization, convening and reporting of meetings. Following three monitoring cycles, service management has improved considerably. As a result, the municipality has also succeeded in developing an annual action plan.

WUAs members have been renewed revitalized and trained in the use of management tools (meeting reporting as well as revenue and expenditure tracking).

The maintenance staffs have received booklets for writing out receipts and currently work closely with the municipal technician. As a result, there are minimal long-term break downs of water equipment. Consumers like Aïssata Barry are satisfied. *"We do not have breakdown problems anymore and our hand pumps do not break down as often. Even if a break down does occur, it is almost immediately repaired,"* she says.

### Complete autonomy

Six months before the end of the USAID WA-WASH Program, the municipality of Gorgadji says it will be able to continue the monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure the sustainability of public water services. *"We are ready to continue the work started under USAID WA-WASH. All structures are already in place and we have a budget line to fund monitoring and evaluation,"* says Mr. Sadio Ouédraogo former mayor of the commune of Gorgadji.



Water Users like the boy (middle) are satisfied with the service.

At the village level, ownership is nearly complete. The WUAs are more or less able to ensure the daily monitoring of services. *"We can currently monitor autonomously. Even if the municipal technician will no longer support us, we will continue our work"* says Mariam Dicko, Treasurer of the village of Boundougnoudji's WUA. *"All we need is to receive paper in order to record our information,"* she continues.

The same holds true for the municipal engineer. *"I have developed strong skills that allow me to aggregate information from the municipality's 16 villages and the monthly records of maintenance personnel,"* asserts Sambo Sebgo, Gorgadji's municipal technician. However, he admits he will need computer equipment and training for improved interpretation and analysis of information.

This request has already been taken into account by USAID WA-WASH, who will shortly organize a training on data processing and analysis intended for municipal actors and staff members of the Regional Directorate of Water, Hydraulic Infrastructure, and Sanitation (DREAHA, in French).

DREAHA will continue to support municipalities in the implementation of local monitoring at the end of the Program in order to ensure its sustainability.

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



Family photo of the members of communal water and sanitation commission (CCEA), of Gorgadji.

## THE USAID WA-WASH PROGRAM APPLIES THE CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE APPROACH IN 10 COMMUNITIES IN BURKINA FASO

Within the framework of the climate smart agriculture (CSA) implementation, the USAID WA-WASH Program supported 10 communities in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre and Centre-Ouest regions of Burkina Faso during the 2014 agricultural season. Through the CSA approach, the Program aims to introduce farmers to agricultural techniques and practices that allow improved water management in order to restore or improve soil fertility. At the end of the agricultural season, many farmers were pleased with the benefits they gained from this experience.

Mostapha Nikiéma lives in the village of Tama in the rural commune of Tanghin-Dassouri. Agriculture is the main livelihood of this father of a family of nine mouths to feed. He was one of the 10 lead farmers identified in May 2014 by the USAID WA-WASH Program to participate in training on the CSA approach.

This training aimed to equip farmers with techniques that would allow them to better manage rainwater on their farms, in order to face to climate change.

In fact, in Burkina Faso, most farmers practice agriculture using traditional methods that impoverish soils, from which they cannot get good yields. The effects of climate change play a bigger and bigger role in increasing the vulnerability of many already vulnerable people and subjecting them to food insecurity.

Before his experience with the USAID WA-WASH Program, Moustapha remembers the hard labor he put in every year just to feed his family. One



Farmers applying the technique of zai, by digging planting holes.

of Moustapha's plots of about half of a hectare, has gravelly soil located at the foot of a hill where runoff washed out the top-soil and reduced its fertility. Because he did not understand the importance of soil texture, Moustapha hoped that more rainfall would lead to a good harvest on his unproductive land.

Indeed, even if they cannot explain it

rationally, most farmers experienced the effects of climate change, through the reduction of the amount of rain or changes in its distribution.

The training initiated by the USAID WA-WASH Program was an opportunity for farmers in the intervention areas in the three regions to acquire new knowledge in order to increase their crop yields, within the context of climate change. Under the leadership of Mr. Zakari Saley Bana (USAID WA-WASH Food Security Coordinator) and Mr. Ezéchiél Pouahoukiga (Climate Change Coordinator) the 10 lead farmers benefited from training on : -

- the local climate and its constraints for agriculture,
- the dynamics of rainwater in the cultivation areas,
- options to better manage water in the fields,
- options to better manage climate risk in rain-fed agriculture.



A group of beneficiary farmers of the CSA approach.



Moustapha Nikiéma, in the field of corn where he applied the CSA approach.

The field activities that took place during this training allowed the participants to implement the theoretical knowledge acquired. They had the opportunity to diagnose the main effects (water and wind erosion) caused by climate on crop land and also took note of the beneficial effects of some agricultural practices on soil quality (texture, etc.), its infiltration and its water retention capacity.

The farmers learned how to apply various agricultural techniques for water and soil conservation such as zaï, stone bunds and half-moons, depending on the field slope.

Moustapha was very receptive to using the techniques that USAID WA-WASH proposed. *“After the training that I received, I began digging planting holes to do zaï on this poor soil, and many people said that I had time to waste. But the training convinced me and I had no doubt about the profits that I would reap,”* says Moustapha.

Mr. Yinki Gnomou from the village of Yaro (in the Boucle du Mouhoun region) received the same mockery as Moustapha when he applied the techniques promoted by the USAID WA-WASH Program.

He recalls, *“Because our region generally receives a lot of rain, most of the people who did not participate in the training mocked me when I began practicing the zaï technique. When there was a long period without rain and the leaves of my corn remained green, those who were skeptics saw*

*that I did not waste my time because thanks to the planting holes, the land was able to conserve rainwater and preserve its moisture.”*

At the end of the first campaign of CSA implementation, this approach comes as a solution that responds to farmers' needs. Farmers who adopted it really appreciate its results. *“Thanks to the CSA approach, I was able to harvest 5 bags of 100 kg of corn from the field I cultivated, with only 18 kg of fertilizer. In 2012, on the same field, with 100 kg of fertilizer, I got only two bags of 100 Kg,”* says Yinki Gnomou, who plans to continue the CSA approach next year.



Mr. Zakari Saley Bana, USAID WA-WASH Food Security Coordinator (left) with farmers who applied the CSA approach, presenting their maize harvest.

Mrs. Kaboré Fatoumata is one of 45 women who learned about the CSA approach. Although, the use of the CSA approach required more effort on her part, Fatoumata is happy because of the good quality of corn she harvested: *“The benefits are tremendous for me. I harvested more corn this year and the grains are larger.”*

A total of 200 farmers from 10 communities received training on the CSA approach. Given the enthusiasm of people for this approach, the USAID WA-WASH Program intends to continue this activity during the next rainy season.

**Souleymane Zaré (Public relations and communication Officer)**

## GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY CELEBRATION IN THE UPPER WEST REGION OF GHANA

In collaboration with the Lawra and Nandom district assemblies, Ghana Health Service and the Ghana Education Office, the USAID WA-WASH Program organized public events to commemorate the celebration of global hand washing day 2014. These celebrations constitute a day of global advocacy dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases.

Global hand washing day falls on October 15 each year. The theme for this year's celebration was "choose hand washing, choose health." In Lawra and Nandom, students, parents and school district officials participated in the public festivities, which took place simultaneously in the two towns.

The participants first marched through the main streets waving signs with messages on hand washing. The school children numbered about 1,500 drawn from 22 primary and junior high Schools in the Nandom District and 120 from 10 primary and junior high schools in Lawra district participated to this march.

During the ceremonies, the USAID WA-WASH representatives in Lawra and Nandom addressed the pupils, saying that the Program was pleased to be part of the organization of this year's global hand washing day celebration in the two districts.

The annual global hand washing day celebration emphasis the need for people to wash their hands before meals, after using the toilet, before



Pupils of the Upper West region, during the world hand washing day celebration.

servicing food and before caring for an infant. The USAID WA-WASH representatives explained that children were powerful agents of behavior change at school and at home.

The district public health officer stressed the need for everyone to know that water alone is not enough to have good hygiene. "Soap is required and it does not have to be an

expensive soap," she said.

During the ceremonies, school health education programme (SHEP) coordinators and pupils led hand washing demonstration sessions with soap using a tippy tap. Pupils also sang hand washing and hygiene songs they composed themselves.

The Nandom District Director of education thanked the organizers of the ceremony and especially USAID WA-WASH (through CARE International) for the support and successes achieved so far during the hand washing campaign with schools as the focal point. She said that this was the first time the district was celebrating the day in such a colorful way. She called for the teachers and students to be ambassadors of hand washing and agents of behavior change in schools and at home.

### Radio Program

The celebration concluded with a radio talk show held in the evening to provide an opportunity for community members



A group of pupils during the march.



A hand washing outreach session.

and the general public to share ideas about hand washing and the benefits of observing proper hygiene practices.

The program allowed listeners to contribute to the discussion via a call-in session. This radio program brought together staff from the environmental health and sanitation units of the two district assemblies, USAID WA-WASH Program representatives and SHEP coordinators from the Ghana education service.

### Why hand washing

Human feces are the main source of diarrheal pathogens. They are the source of shigellosis, typhoid, cholera and all other common endemic gastroenteric infections. A single gram of human feces can contain 10 million viruses and one million bacteria.

Removing excreta and cleaning hands with soap after contact with fecal material – from using the toilet or cleaning a child – prevents the transmission of the bacteria, viruses and protozoa that cause diarrheal diseases.

Other measures (food handling, water purification and fly control) have an

impact on these diseases as well, but sanitation and hand washing provide the necessary protection against fecal contact. They start by creating initial barriers to fecal pathogens to prevent them from reaching the domestic environment.

Because hand washing can prevent the transmission of a variety of pathogens, it may be more effective

than any single vaccine. Ingraining the habit of hand washing could save more lives than any single vaccine or medical intervention.

**Peter Claver Yabepone (Community Mobilization Officer, CARE-Ghana)**



Pupils during a hand washing demonstration session.

## MRS. PAULINE KANGORO: A MODEL WHO INSPIRES WOMEN FROM KOUKOULDI IN BURKINA FASO

In the Centre-Ouest region of Burkina Faso, the implementation of the multiple-use water services (MUS) approach by the USAID WA-WASH Program helped to develop the cultivation of moringa as a livelihood activity for women from the village of Koukouldi. In this village, the example of Mrs. Pauline Kangoro inspired many women who seek to improve the livelihood of their families.



Pauline Kangoro, in a moringa field in Koukouldi.

The 60 years old, Pauline Kangoro is leading a movement in her village. Pauline heads a women's group of 30 moringa producers and together they are raising moringa frenzy in their village, Koukouldi in the Centre West region of Burkina Faso.

In 2013, USAID WA-WASH through Winrock International identified the married mother of four children as a leader in her community for the production of moringa and sent her for training at the ICRISAT center in Niger along with a group of nine lead gardeners. One year later, Pauline was invited to the Ghana Permaculture Institute to learn how to process moringa for cosmetic uses.

Pauline's accomplishments in promoting moringa demonstrate the effectiveness of the MUS approach, which includes a gender mainstreaming component to improve sustainable

access to water for food security. In addition to the components on water,



Mr. Yassia Kané and Mrs. Francine Ki (squatting right) from USAID WA-WASH, with women who cultivate moringa in the village of Koukouldi.

sanitation and hygiene, the USAID WA-WASH Program creates opportunities for women to develop livelihood activities such as agriculture or livestock. Livelihood activities, like growing moringa, allow women to improve nutrition and food security for their families, as well as to gain more financial resources to invest in water, sanitation, hygiene and health. Overall, this ensures the well-being of their families.

Thanks to the production and processing of moringa, Pauline became the "head of the household." Through the sale of moringa leaves, seeds and processed products including powder, soap, and ointment, she is able to meet many of the needs of her family. "Thanks to the Program, my family has not known famine for two years and I have even just registered my son at the private college of Koukouldi for 72,000 FCFA," said Pauline. "Before the Program, I would not have even dreamed of this enrollment."

By sharing the costs with the USAID WA-WASH program, Pauline has even managed to improve the water points in her household for safe drinking water.

Pauline also serves as an example of a successful community development volunteer. She has parlayed her decades of experience as a community health facilitator into serving as one of two relay hygienists trained to promote hygiene and health in the community. For years,

Pauline volunteered to support malnourished children in her village based on training she received from the Peace Corps to fight malnutrition using moringa. *"I told Peace Corps that with them I had the impression of having gone to America without boarding a flight, but with USAID WA-WASH I even took the plane,"* said Pauline.

Pauline plans to continue growing and processing moringa as an income generation activity with her women's group. Together, they will move from market to market in neighboring villages to promote moringa and different moringa-based products.



Pauline (tee-shirt) and other women from Koukouldi showing products made with moringa.

So far, her perseverance and passion has paid off; in March 2014, she won first place in the "environment and sustainable development" category at the agriculture fair Agro of Tenado.

**Francine Ki (WASH and Gender Specialist, Winrock International)**



A sample of products made with moringa by women of Koukouldi.



### UP COMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATES
WASH Governance training workshop, Tamale, Ghana	January 19-22
Martin Luther King Day, United States, Regional Office closed	January 20
Training of General Directors on climate change adaptation, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	January 21-23
Training of trainers in pedagogy for school of hygiene, Tamale, Ghana	January 28-30
Training of trainers in pedagogy for CEMEAU, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	February 3-5
Regional Gender workshop, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	February 9-10
Water and sanitation national forum, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	February 12-14
WASH Governance training workshop, Tamale, Ghana	February 16- 19
Training workshop on integrating climate change adaptation in development strategies for Legislators of Ghana, Accra, Ghana	February 23-25
Conference on water quality plan development for Ghana and Burkina Faso water agencies, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	February 23-27
Climate change adaptation forum, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	March 25-26

### PHOTO TOUR



World Toilet Day celebrated on November 19, 2014 in the Upper West region of Ghana



In Burkina Faso, the CSA approach allowed farmers like Pascaline Nikiéma (left) to have good harvest.



A sample of cosmetic products made from Moringa by Pauline and women of the village of Koukouldi (Burkina Faso)



The U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso, inaugurating a water public tap funded by the USAID WA-WASH in the commune of Dori.



Pupils from the Upper West region of Ghana, during a hand washing session demonstration.



Dr. Lakhdar Boukerrou and the USAID WA-WASH staff wish you a happy new year 2015

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

