

GDA PARTNERSHIPS SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS AND PARTNERSHIPS BROKERAGE IN NIGER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program commissioned a stakeholder and context analysis in Niger. The analysis was conducted by BPD; one of the Program's implementing partners. The objective of the analysis was to identify new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships in the WASH sector among the public, private, and civil society organizations in geographical areas where USAID WA-WASH partners work. The analysis was exploratory in nature and it initiated a dialogue with less conventional potential partners to assess the possibility of engaging them in the WASH sector. It also aimed to examine the potential of existing partnerships to sufficiently tackle the challenges in the WASH sector.

The analysis was achieved through a comprehensive framework that comprised four components namely: country context, partnership practices, potential for partnerships, and stakeholder roles. The country context entails an overview of each country in terms of legislative/regulatory; economic; political; social; geographic and environmental factors that influence the WASH sector. The current partnership practice component seeks to identify and analyze the existing experiences of WASH-related multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) operating in the country. The component also identifies the roles played by these partnerships, the degree of involvement of the different partners, the nature of and commitment of their contribution, the national, regional, and local interaction within these partnerships, and the influence of centralization/decentralization. The potential for the partnership part of the analytical framework focuses on the gaps an MSP approach may fill in the WASH sector and how the gaps plays out at the local, regional, and national levels. The analysis of stakeholder roles seeks to identify on which part(s) of the WASH service chain their contribution could be made. The element of stakeholder roles of the framework also focuses on existing relationships among the public, private, and civil society sectors. This aims to identify public sector agencies interested in contributing to WASH activities, review of their current obligations around WASH and public sector incentives/constraints and attitudes towards convening and engaging in MSPs. The framework also assesses the technical support that may be required for some partnerships highlighting the traditional roles played by civil society organizations. Finally, barriers to (non-traditional) private sector participation in WASH sector (e.g. insufficient incentive; regulatory or other official constraints) were analyzed.

Niger is a land locked West African nation. It has a surface area of 1,267,000 km² of which 80% is a desert. The population of Niger was estimated at 16,274,738 in 2012 out of which 63% were poor. The main economic activities are subsistence agriculture and mining of uranium for export. Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world; it ranks 186 out of 187 in the United Nations Human Development Index based on its national health, education and income levels. Social development indicators are low, for example, life expectancy at birth is 44.7 years, the under-five mortality rate is 167/1000 live births, high rates of malnutrition (47%) and high illiteracy rates (71%). In addition, there are frequent severe food security crises aggravated by drought, locust invasions, and floods. Potential partners may explore the possibility of designing activities that may improve the oversight of rural water schemes through an inventory of water points, their status, and functionality. Partnerships may also explore the relevance of income-generating activities led by women groups in combination with USAID WA-WASH's MUS approach.

The WASH policy administration in Niger is divided into three ministries and several departments with overlapping responsibilities and competences. The ministries include the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Sanitation. Niger's WASH mandate is outlined in a number of policy documents, notably: the Poverty Reduction Strategy Document (PRSD), the Rural Development Strategy, the National Urban Development Strategy, the National Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas (PN/AEPA 2010-2020), the Sanitation Development Plan (PDS 2011-2015) and the 10 Year Education Development Plan in addition to various sectorial policy letters, supporting codes of water and public health, and parallel policies on mining, water resource management, and environmental management. The legislative context is different for the urban and rural areas; the urban water sector was reorganized in 2001 with a new policy entitled the Water Sector Project. The roles and responsibilities of the key sector agencies were revised and articulated. For instance, the replacement of the former national water company (SNE) with a public asset holding company (SPEN) and private water service provider (SEEN). For sanitation, the policy framework remains weak and lacks the detail and mechanism needed to systematically decentralize and implement sanitation services. However, the PRSD and the PN/AEPA are useful strategy tools in terms of defining the roles and responsibilities within the water sector. Future partnerships need to align their strategies and activities with these official institutional frameworks.

The economic context is composed of development aid, state budget, internal funds (local authorities and the private sector), and user contributions. Annual costs to reach the millennium development goals are estimated at \$78.2 million for water and \$8.3 for sanitation services. Ideally, government is the primary sources of funds but because state funding is usually not adequate, donors contribute 90% of the funds for WASH activities. The donor funded activities primarily focus on rural areas where 78% of Niger's population live and the rates of access to water and sanitation facilities are low. Rural poverty and long dry seasons hinder farmers from investing in better production systems to improve agricultural production. Partnerships may develop improved cost recovery strategies, improved self-supply mechanisms, and supporting small scale service providers to become less reliant on donors by improving their access to financial services and microcredit.

The decentralization laws of 2004 transferred provision of water services from the central government to municipalities. However, water users' associations are responsible for the management and operation of local water infrastructures with limited involvement of the municipalities. During this analysis, political commitment to improve the sanitation situation in Niamey was evident through an ambitious, long-term renovation project called Niamey Nyala initiated by the President and led by the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Sanitation. The Niamey Nyala program is of significant importance to USAID WA-WASH program as it includes a component funded by the World Bank, to construct a sewerage treatment plant as well as public latrines operated by private operators under management contracts by the municipality.

The opportunities for partnerships include interventions to support the national strategy through capacity building activities and political goodwill to improve urban sanitation in the context of Niamey Nyala project. In addition, recurrent natural disasters (floods, drought, and cholera) make it difficult to draw clear-cut boundaries between emergency and development work; partnership activities can support a greater alignment of development and emergency efforts. Finally, high institutional fragmentation in the WASH sector makes it difficult to identify the right institutional representative. There are several coalitions working to improve the macro WASH framework. These coalitions could be useful for validating the partnership activities in the appropriate institutional setting and to ensure that they are aligned with national policy.

Key partners were identified prior to BPD's visit to Niamey; they were identified based on their profiles, their past experiences, and their commercial and corporate social responsibility interests. They include centralized public institutions, service providers, civil society, private sector, major donors, coordination bodies, and training institutions. The centralized public institutions include the Ministry of Water and Environment and its departments, the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Sanitation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the multi-sector regulatory authority. Public service providers include the Niger Water Resources Company (SPEN in French) and municipalities. Private service providers include the Niger Water Exploitation Company (SEEN in French), small private water service providers, and small scale sanitation service providers. The major donors include the World Bank, the French Development Agency, the Bank of West African Development (BOAD) and the Chinese government. Other key donors include: USAID, DANIDA, Swiss Cooperation, AfDB, IFRC, WaterAid, GIZ, JICA, the Belgian Cooperation, the European Union, and UNICEF. The civil society includes international and local NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs), village water committees, and water users associations. Dialogues were initiated among identified WASH sector players especially representatives of the different ministries and local authorities to gain state support. The stakeholder and situational analysis emphasized existing partnerships; which were mainly focused on the private sector, involved in WASH initiatives.

USAID WA-WASH elaborated the candidate analysis tool that is made up of four components namely: profile of the partner candidate for partnership, possible partnership interventions, partnerships enabling environment, and partnership results. Furthermore, the analysis identified existing partnerships in the WASH sector such as the public-private partnership between SPEN and SEEN initiated by the World Bank, partnerships between water users associations and municipalities, private sector grants that sponsor WASH activities e.g. Veolia water foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation and Orange Foundation. Civil society organizations that support small scale WASH activities and non-WASH sector development partners such as Ecobank.

The analysis identified key partnership enabling drivers which include strong political support in the WASH sector, numerous civil society organizations, delegated management models for water with promising results, business development support for small-scale private service providers in urban sanitation, and large scale private sector investment in WASH. Finally, the analysis identified risks to partnerships such as poor alignment between emergency and development actors, geological and geographical constraints, high cost of infrastructure construction, chronically low capacity to absorb funds, inadequate community ownership of infrastructure, poor management capacity, poor contribution by users, lack of sensitization, lack of monitoring of sanitation and hygiene activities, and lack of awareness and demand for WASH services. In conclusion, the analytical approach complemented by the candidate analysis tool led to the identification of potential partners and development of activities for implementation in future partnerships in Niger.

The full report is available (in English) upon request via our website. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>.

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