

WASH ACTION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2014 IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARBINDA IN BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rural municipality of Aribinda is located in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso. According to the 2006 census data, the municipality has a population of 91,020 people distributed in 43 villages within a total area of 2,543 km². The municipality has 277 improved water points. The 2004 decentralization laws established the general code of municipalities in Burkina Faso. The laws transferred 11 state roles to the municipalities including the water supply and sanitation. This includes the construction and management of water infrastructure and governance of public drinking water. However the municipalities do not have adequate resources to effectively plan, monitor, and evaluate the water services. To support the municipalities, the USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program, through IRC, assisted the municipality of Aribinda to develop an action plan for the year 2014 for improved WASH services. This contributes to the primary goal of the (USAID WA-WASH) Program, to increase sustainable access to safe water and sanitation in West Africa. The action plan was developed in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Water Resources and Sanitation (DREAHA in French), Eau Vive, FasoHydro, and the water users associations (WUAs) in the municipality.

In 2014, the municipality aimed: (1) to improve access to drinking water by maintaining the water points; (2) to improve the water points' management by water users associations (WUA) and service providers including the collection of contributions and eradication of price fluctuations; (3) to improve monitoring of WUAs and service providers including the remittance of the 40% management fees to the municipality; (4) to analyze water quality from the water points; (5) to assess the satisfaction of water users and to identify needs for improvement; (6) to improve access to sanitation; and (7) to engage in partnerships to mobilize resources for WASH sector development.

First, the municipality and the partner organizations presented their respective activity plans for the year 2014. The partner organizations include the national water company (ONEA in French), DREAHA, Eau Vive, IRC, FasoHydro and, ASSS (a Sahel based NGO). The national water company (ONEA) planned to install 35 private water connections, open an office in the municipality, construct new boreholes, establish public taps, and rehabilitate the major water tower in the municipality. The regional directorate of water resources of the Sahel region planned to develop a WASH development plan for the municipality, construct 1,000 household latrines for the Sahel region, construct three simplified piped water systems in the region, rehabilitate five piped water systems and dig 20 boreholes equipped with hand-pumps. The municipality planned to rehabilitate three community hand-pumps and monitor the water users associations using the municipality's technicians.

The planned activities by Eau Vive for 2014 included the refresher training of 15 water users associations, establishment of a support plan for technicians with equipment and tools, training and supervision of the technicians of the municipality on record keeping and reporting, support for decentralized cooperation, development of a public latrine management guide, construction of 100 household latrines, equip the three boreholes drilled in 2013 with hand-pumps, and construction of a simplified piped water systems following the revision of the EauSahel budget program. In 2014, IRC planned to continue with monitoring and evaluation of public drinking water services in collaboration with the municipality. This training the technicians and other members of the water and sanitation committee of the municipality contributed to a better understanding of the responsibilities of the municipalities in the WASH sector. In addition, IRC plans to support the municipality to systematically incorporate in its plans the maintenance sector and supply chain of the hand-pumps using the data gathered during the monitoring activities. Other stakeholders planned to maintain water points, train water users associations in six villages, and train the municipality staff on computer applications.

Secondly, based on the 2013 performance assessment of the provision of water services, the joint planning identified the various challenges and the measures to address them. The challenges identified include: ineffective functioning of water users associations, poor users' registration, low participation of the community members in the annual general meetings, poor governance by the water users associations, and poor water point management. Other challenges were inadequate sanitation facilities (latrines), low rate of access to potable water, low rate of construction and rehabilitation of hand pumps, inadequate data on water infrastructures within the municipality, and inadequate preventive monitoring and maintenance. In addition, the lack of development plan, the lack of a WASH sector status report, and inadequate equipment for maintenance of water points as well as serious budget limitations constrained water services provision within the municipality.

The plans for the WASH stakeholders in the municipality and the 2013 performance evaluation informed the planning of activities of the 2014 municipality action plan. The action plan includes activities at the community level such as: (1) mobilizing community members to form water users associations; (2) training the WUAs' executive board members on record keeping and financial management; (3) sensitizing water users on the activities of the WUAs; (4) official installation of the WUA executive board by the Mayor; (5) signing management contracts between the WUAs and the water point managers; and (6) sensitizing community members to participate in the WUAs' annual general meetings.

The activities/actions to address the challenges at the municipality level aim to: (1) improve the collection of fees from WUAs and other service providers; (2) develop an annual report on the WASH sector for the years 2013 and 2014; (3) support the development of a supply chain for spare parts; (4) elaborate a development plan for the municipality; (5) conduct an inventory of all the water infrastructures within the municipality; (6) organize quarterly monitoring visits; (7) sensitize community members to construct household latrines and sensitize the WUAs on hygiene practices around the water points; (8) construct new water points and rehabilitate existing water points; (9) train the municipality WASH committee on monitoring and evaluation; and (10) mobilize financial resources for the development of the WASH sector within the municipality. The joint planning assigned the activities to the various stakeholders, set the duration of implementation of activities and identified the sources of financing for a successful implementation of the action plan.

The detailed action plan is available (in French) upon request via our website. For more information about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>.

This publication was funded by the people of the United States through the Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Agency for International Development of the United States Government.