

2014 WASH ACTION PLAN FOR MUNICIPALITY OF GORGADJI, BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of the USAID West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) Program is to increase sustainable access to safe water and sanitation and improve hygiene in West Africa. The program is designed to strengthen the regional policy environment and build capacity in the WASH sector to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on WASH in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger. In Burkina Faso, the decentralization laws transferred water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services among other services from the central government to the municipalities. However, the municipalities do not have adequate resources to effectively plan, monitor, and evaluate water supply services. The USAID WA-WASH Program through its partner IRC, supported the municipality of Gorgadji to develop an action plan for 2014 to improve WASH services in the municipality. The action plan was developed in collaboration with the Regional Water and Sanitation Directorate (DREAHA in French), Eau Vive, FasoHydro, and the water users associations (WUAs) operating in the municipality. The joint planning meeting was held February 3 and 4, 2014 at the offices of the municipality of Gorgadji. The meetings aimed to: harmonize activity planning, create synergy to avoid duplication of activities among the various partners in the municipality for effective use of the water sector resources.

The specific objectives of the municipality for the year 2014 include: (1) to improve access to drinking water by increasing the production capacity of the simplified piped water systems; (2) to improve water point management by supporting the water users associations (WUAs) to effectively collect water tariffs from users and eliminate water price fluctuations; (3) to improve monitoring of WUAs and service providers by the municipality (including the collection of fees); (4) to evaluate the satisfaction of water users in order to identify needs for improvement; and (5) to engage in partnerships to mobilize resources for water sector development. The stakeholders present in the planning meeting played an important role and contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the municipality. During the planning meeting, The partners presented, to the water and sanitation committee of the municipality their respective action plans indicating specific activities to be undertaken in 2014.. In the Sahel region and for 2014, DREAHA planned to construct of 20 boreholes, three simplified piped water systems, rehabilitate five simplified piped-water systems and help the municipalities prepare their development plans. With the support from the Ministry of Water Resources through DREAHA, the municipality of Gorgadji planned to construct two boreholes, one for the community and the other for Bounounoundji school complex. The municipality further aimed to support water users associations to develop guidelines to resolve conflicts related to water resources and follow-up on the masons' activities and the hygiene promoters in the communities.

For 2014, under the WA-WASH Program, the International Center for Water and Sanitation (IRC) planned to monitor and evaluate public drinking water in collaboration with the municipality and DREAHA. The activities of IRC include the support of the construction of water infrastructures and the building of the capacity of municipal technicians and other members of the water and sanitation committee of the municipality. Further, IRC aimed to support the municipalities on the new regulations stipulated in the water sector reform framework and decentralized laws. This includes strengthening the capacities of the municipalities through trainings and organizing the service and maintenance program and the spare parts supply chain.

Eau Vive's activities included the construction and rehabilitation of water points, the construction of 100 latrines and the development of the supply chain for water and sanitation spare parts. In addition, EauVive planned to build the capacity of the members of the Executive Board of WUAs and the municipality's water and sanitation council on their roles and particularly on gender inclusion in the management of water points. Including gender in the management of water points includes activities such as training women on functional literacy, raising awareness in the communities to involve both men and women in the management of water services and increasing the number of women to at least two in the Executive Board of WUAs, and training on the financial empowerment of women.

The FasoHydro, as service provider, intended to effectively supply drinking water to consumers by ensuring that the water points are functional at all times, to support the municipality with information on the daily water supply and deficits, and to conduct a technical study on the feasibility of a network expansion in collaboration with IRC.

Based on the respective action plans and the results of the 2013 performance assessment, the participants proceeded to develop the municipality's 2014 action plan. The findings of the 2013 performance assessment identified challenges related to the management of the water points. The challenges included water services price fluctuations and water hoarding at water points, lack of payment of water tariffs by users to WUAs and lack of onward remittance by WUAs to municipalities, lack of financial records among the WUAs, and ineffective management within the water users associations. At the level of the municipality, the major challenges identified were the lack of a development plan, inadequate budgetary allocation for monitoring of water services that hinder preventive monitoring and contributes to increased duration of water points' breakdowns, and the lack of maintenance tools for technicians. Challenges such of low potable water access are in the municipality, inadequate water resources, and poor water quality were also identified.

For each of the challenges, the joint planning identified measures to address them. This formed the basis for the activities included in the 2014 action plan. At the community level, the measures include raising awareness and prohibiting price speculation among the service providers, WUAs; and the community; limiting the distribution of water to 100 liters per household per day and developing sanctions on offenders; developing by-laws to fix the price of water to address the problem of water price speculation; and sensitizing the users on the payment of water tariffs to maintain water points and support the municipality's monitoring activities. At the municipality level, corrective measures include the periodic monitoring of WUAs to ensure they hold quarterly and annual general meetings, and train them on their roles and responsibilities with regard to water point management and particularly on record-keeping and financial management to improve the management at the water points. For inadequate water resources, measures include construction of additional boreholes and plans were made to contact the National Water and Sanitation Agency (ONEA in French) for the construction of a dam in the municipality. The 2014 action plan for the municipality of Gorgadji was completed by filling out the implementation plans in terms of the organizations responsible for each of the activities identified and the timelines to implement the activities.

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