

MALI PROGRAM 2015-2020

BACKGROUND

Even today, nearly 784 billion people (11% of world population) are drinking non-potable water and 2.5 billion do not have access to basic sanitation facilities¹. There is a particularly concerning situation in sub-Saharan Africa where access to drinking water is less than 60%, which means that 327 million people² do not have water; this jeopardizes efforts and investments that would promote development, well-being and health for these populations³. In the sanitation sector, the situation is equally alarming, and progress is extremely slow, barely 42% of the population has access to sanitary facilities at the sub-regional level.

The situation in Mali is critical and has been deteriorating over the past few years. According to estimates, approximately 7.2 million men and women in Mali live below the poverty level, particularly in rural areas. A situation of particular concern is caused by a population growth rate that is among the highest in the world, and lack of access to water for drinking and growing food. This is exacerbated by the impact of climate change, further jeopardizing food security⁴.

To this already difficult situation is added political instability following a 2012 coup d'etat; this led to the displacement of thousands of people, paralyzed Mali institutions and froze international aid. The improved stability following the 2013 elections marked the restart of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). However, the national economy has suffered a sharp decline and the lack of investment in essential services for nearly two years has increased poverty and decreased the number of people who have access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Latest estimates from 2013 indicate that national access to drinking water is only 65.4 % and only 21.6% of sanitation needs are covered⁵. UNICEF also estimates that only 57% of the schools have sanitary facilities and barely 12% have separate girls and boys restrooms⁶. The difficult conditions and high incidence of waterborne diseases are the main reason for the high infant mortality rate. Additionally, according to UNICEF, it is estimated that in Mali one child in five dies before age five, and 80% of those deaths are related to waterborne diseases.



Mali does, however, have many advantages for development. Civil society is relatively well developed and organized; local organizations generally have a good level of expertise and are well connected with the local populations. Its role as an actor in development is understood and recognized by government agencies; this facilitates cooperation and contributes to synergy for local development, an essential asset in the context of decentralized responsibilities water and sanitation management.

This asset is further strengthened by a rich, internationally recognized artistic and cultural diversity that plays a significant role in society, shapes the Mali identity and provides national cohesion.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The Program's areas of intervention are identified based on their needs with respect to water, the ability of local organizations to provide long term management of the project's actions and into account the presence of the One Drop/Oxfam Quebec project in Burkina Faso for Sikasso and the active presence to Rotary Clubs for the Bamako area.

SIKASSO

¹ UNDP, 2014, Report on human development, Sustaining human advancement: reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience.

² WHO/UNICEF, 2014: http://www.inegalites.fr/spip.php?article1225&id_groupe=20&id_mot=128

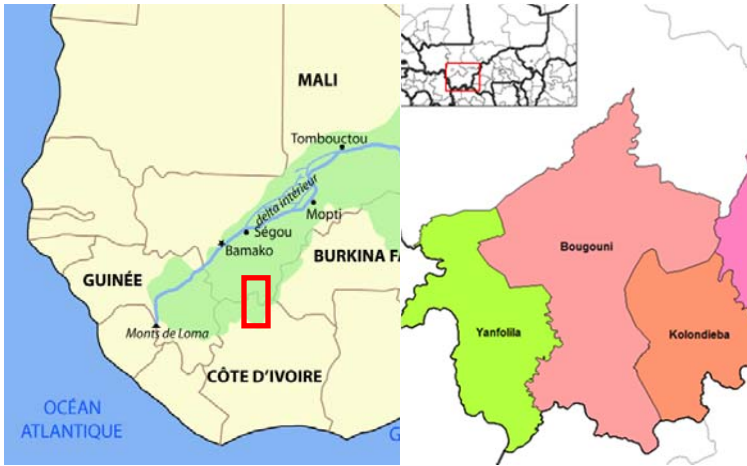
³ United Nations, African Union, March 2014, 2014 report on progress towards achieving MDGs in Africa.

⁴ World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mali/overview>

⁵ WHO, 2013, Worldwide Statistics 2013. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/81965/1/9789241564588_eng.pdf

⁶ *Ibid*

The Sikasso region, considered to be safe and stable, was not directly impacted by the conflict that ravaged the northern part of the country. However, it is a haven for political and climatic refugees because its natural conditions facilitate the development of commercial and agricultural activities. The region plays a key role in development and food security of the country, however, its potential does not benefit the local population, which remains the poorest of Mali⁷; they have the highest malnutrition rate in the country⁸ and the least access to drinking water and sanitation⁹.



Access to drinking water is determined by the correlation of two main factors: the number of inhabitants and the number of operational equipment to supply them. With a sustained increasing population growth rate of 3.6% annually between 1998 and 2009¹⁰ and increasing migratory pressure, associated with a high birth rate and with population movement due to droughts in the Sahel and conflicts in northern Côte d'Ivoire, the current total population is estimated at more than 3 million inhabitants. Kadiolo (+83%), Koutiala and Yorosso (+50%) districts¹¹ have seen the largest growth, while the Sikasso urban area has expanded significantly over the past few years.

The Sikasso area was retained for project intervention due to the significant lack of investment in drinking water infrastructure, and for the population growth that inevitably translates into increased pressure on existing waterworks, causing increased outages and inducing decreased service coverage.

In the Sikasso and Kadiolo districts, 11 communities (**Sikasso, Finkolo, Sokourani Missikoro, Kaboila, Kapala, Kadiolo, Zegoua, Loulouni, Nimbougou, Kai**) were all chosen due to the obvious need for water infrastructure and the potential for economic development tied to the farming in these communities. In these communities at least three villages have no modern source of water, and the average coverage for the population for drinking water is less than 50%.

Moreover, most of the existing waterworks date back to the mid-1980s and more than 30% of the pumps do not work. Data from Regional Water Management Office (RWM) and civil society organizations lead us to believe that at least 400 to 500 pumps will fail or need to be rebuilt in the Sikasso and Kadiolo districts. The region has approximately 200 known skilled repair people, however they do not receive continuing education and they don't always have the technical skills or tools required to properly perform the job.

Information gathered on the ground reveals that this paucity of infrastructure means long distances between homes and water sources, often 1 to 4 km, particularly in areas surrounding cities and rural areas. The distance may be more than 8 km for the 13 villages which do not have a Modern Water Point (MWP). During the dry season, the public water system in suburban areas often only operates between 4 am and 6 am.

⁷ UNDP 2014: <http://www.ml.undp.org/content/mali/fr/home/mdgoverview/overview/mdg1/>

⁸ Dury, S and Bocoum, 2012, Le « paradoxe » de Sikasso (Mali) : pourquoi « produire plus » ne suffit-il pas pour bien nourrir les enfants des familles d'agriculteurs ? { The Sikasso (Mali) paradox: why "grow more", isn't it enough to feed the farmer's children? }

⁹ WASH Cluster Mali 2013.

¹⁰ Mali Government, Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat (2009) {General Census of the Population and the Habitat (2009)}

¹¹ *Ibid*



Hygiene and sanitation issues are equally dire. In the Sikasso region, the use of an improved sanitation facility in rural areas fluctuates between 14% and 22%; at a nationally it is 36%¹². In rural areas, between 85% and 90% practice open defecation (OD).

BAMAKO

Bamako, is Mali's capital and its largest city, has a growing population that is estimated at 2.4 million expected to reach 4 million in 2015 (estimates based on 1.8 million recorded in the 2009). Bamako is considered the African city with the highest population growth rate: 6% annually. The soaring population, which is largely due to the rural exodus caused by unemployment, puts significant pressure on already inadequate infrastructures which in turn reduces access to safe drinking water and sanitation. To this problematic scenario, add road traffic, pollution and waste management. Additionally, there is a seasonal migration to Bamako in October and

May, even though there is little farming; this also increases the strain on the infrastructure.

The Bamako District is divided into six municipalities that are each divided into "quartiers". In the 66 quartiers of the Bamako District, 19 (29%) have insufficient water access for their population. Furthermore, the number of households with latrines is extremely low. Residents typically relieve themselves outside which contributes to pollution of rivers and streams where quarter residents get their water when there is limited access to safe drinking water.

Based on the data from DHR, it is estimated that Bamako suburbs urgently needs: 20 new wells, 40 new pumps, restoration of 40 pumps and 4 water towers to meet critical needs for safe drinking water. With the support of the Rotary clubs, 8 towns around Bamako in the Coulibaly and Kati "cercles" were targeted: **Diallakoradji/Titibougou, Kalabancoro, Sangarebougou, Moribadougou, Marka Coungo, Mountougoula, Moribabougou and Baguineda.**

Regarding sanitation, there are significant needs for latrines. Statistics show that access to latrines is estimated at 35.2% in urban areas, it can be assumed that access in suburban areas is significantly lower.

¹² DRACP Annual report, UNICEF (2012) Mali Joint Monitoring Programme.



INTERVENTIONS

COMPONENT A: ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

WATER

To meet the needs for access to safe drinking water in the targeted areas in Sikasso and Bamako, the following interventions are anticipated. Note that the numbers serve to provide an idea of order magnitude of the intervention, exact figures will be determined following the detailed Community Needs Assessment performed on location. The activities and objectives will be detailed in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP).

- ◆ **Construction of 50 water points** (35 wells in Sikasso and 15 in Bamako), **15 water standpipes** (Sikasso) serving 26,000 people.
- ◆ **Refurbishing of 70 water points** (40 in Sikasso and 30 in Bamako), 15 water standpipes (Sikasso) serving 45,500 people.
- ◆ Provide **safe containers** and water filters designed to improve water quality and transportation conditions.

The water access effort will be accompanied by significant support in terms of strengthening management skills for public water points and public latrines. This support provides the primary assurance for the sustainability of the infrastructures and activities of the project. Priority actions, associated with managing the projects, will be as follows:

- ◆ **Training and skills building for Local Management Committees** and users, and putting in place infrastructure maintenance and service protocols; Training for maintenance technicians.
- ◆ **Training and skills building** in management, self-funding, and governance for the **Water Point Committees**.
- ◆ **Training and skills building** for organizations in charge of water management (towns, CLE and DRH), for monitoring and evaluation, such as, IWRM, conflict resolution and good governance.
- ◆ Establish a Sector Working Group for water made up of stakeholder organizations.

When possible, the local committee management training and community information and awareness training will be help prior to well drilling activities to ensure members of the community have proper ownership of the activities.

SANITATION

Regarding sanitation, efforts will be focused on building public latrines in schools, health centers and markets where the need is greatest. Approximately **26 public latrines are to be built (16 in Sikasso and 10 in Bamako)** to benefit 41,600 people. A large part of the work will also take place at schools to raise awareness of the importance hygiene and sanitation. UNICEF studies show a significant correlation between the lack of latrines at school and the dropout rate for girls, particularly after puberty. Awareness campaigns will be developed to discuss and demystify the issues and challenges associated with feminine hygiene to help keep girls in school.

In Bamako, support will be offered to encourage entrepreneurial development associated with construction of the latrines. This activity will be described in component C.

COMPONENT B. CHANGING BEHAVIORS THROUGH SOCIAL ART

AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Several studies have shown the importance of changing behavior to ensure sustainability of WASH projects. Using the ONE DROP A-B-C approach, the behaviors component will be centered on using social art activities to increase the population's awareness of best practices for water, hygiene and sanitation. The specific themes to be covered will be identified during development of the Implementation Plan-IP. Planned activities are as follows;

- ◆ Production of multidisciplinary interactive performances about WASH issues.
- ◆ Organizing **tours** in the **neighborhoods, villages, and schools** in synergy with implementation of the infrastructures and activities under UNICEF's Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).
- ◆ Support creation and distribution of **art work, and artistic and cultural activities** in public spaces using a water theme (murals, songs, radio broadcast stories, shows, video clips, short films, etc.).
- ◆ Organize **artistic-educational workshops** in **schools** about conserving environmental and water resources, best practices for purchasing, waterborne diseases, and gender-based distribution of work. **Training** for teacher so they become multiplying agents for the issues and challenges of WASH.
- ◆ Implementation of school **engagement programs** and **peer educators** for best practices for WASH and waterborne diseases prevention.

The activities will for the most part be developed by our partners in Sikasso and will then be customized to suite the culture in the Bamako region. Given the large migration towards the city, multiple ethnic groups are present, and up to 13 dialects are spoken within certain communities. The urban influence of the communities will be considered in adapting the awareness outreach tools.

STRENGTHENING SKILLS

This part also includes activities to strengthen the skills of the partners to help them continue their outreach work after the project has ended:

- ◆ Training and strengthening of **local troupes** through technical, artistic and playwriting **workshops**, as well as providing stage design equipment.
- ◆ **Consulting-support** for the troupes continues through trainers and professional artistic consultants.