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**ID 328 FINAL REPORT**

**Integrated Water Resources Management in the Inner Delta of the Niger (IDN) and peripheral areas in Mali**

1. **Short description of the project**

To improve the sustainable access to water and sanitation to the disadvantaged populations of the IDN and peripheral areas through participatory, innovative, appropriate methods, in a context of Integrated Water Resources Management by local actors.

General objectives of the project:

- to improve the drinking water and sanitation situation of the rural population;

- to contribute to an adequate management of water resources;

- to strengthen the capacities for planning and management of the local authorities and civil society.

1. **Explanation why the project was running over time.**

The project proposal was submitted in the PWX system in July 2010 and reviewed by the PWX-partners during august 2010.

It was approved for funding by PWX in November 2010.

The starting date was 2011-01-01

The original end date was 2011-12-31

The final end date is 2013-12-31

The delay is due to a more than 2 years period of serious safety issues and war situation in Mali.

Already early 2011, a French foundation who had made the commitment to co-fund the project, announced to immediately stop its funding for projects in Mali, since French citizens were kidnapped by AQMI terrorist. At the same time, due to impasse in the political situation in Belgium, PROTOS got its subsidies from DGD (the Belgian development agency) for its development programs only in November, instead of January 2010. By that lack of funds of the 2 primarily funders of the program 2011 was as “lost year”, in terms of building hardware.

Beginning 2012, rebel troupes (AQMI, MNLA and Ançar Dine) conquered the North of Mali, which resulted in a “coup d’état” in March. The insecurity had great impact on the execution of our program in the inner Niger delta in the Mopti region: we had to withdraw our project staff for several weeks. Unfortunately, due to the delay caused by the political and safety situation, the 2012 building time frame left was too short, and we had to decide to postpone the construction campaign to the next dry season, which is in the period January-July 2013. The risks were too high: safety risks for contractor personnel due to infiltrations of rebels and the risk that the heavy drilling trucks could not leave the area before raining season starts (July) and flooding season in the Inner Delta starts (August).

Beginning 2013, rebels suddenly marched on further South and conquered the town of Konna (some 50 kms from Mopti), French troops entered Mali and drove the rebels back to the North during January-February. For the second time, our local staff had to leave the area and shelter in Bamako.

Peace was more or less restored end March 2013.

Which left us with only 3-4 months for the building season in 2013.

Our project team, together with our local partners, made a risk assessment (safety for staff of PROTOS, local partners and construction companies) combined with a feasibility study (what was achievable in a short period) . It was decided, in agreement with local authorities, to re-focus our infrastructure building plan to only 4 municipalities instead of 6.

Finally works were done in 4 municipalities:

* Drinking water: Fatoma, Korombana, Koubaye and Ourobédoudé (cercle of Mopti) +
* Sanitation and hygiene: Kewa (cercle of Djenné ) and Mopti (cercle of Mopti)

We repeat that during long periods in 2011 and 2012, our local team and local partners were able to execute “soft” actions in the villages like sanitation and hygiene training, and specific community sanitation actions like Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): we refer to our updates of June 2011 and February 2013. Also, during 2011, the municipalities were trained in the first phases of local contractor ship, focussing on the guidance of feasibility and technical studies, tendering process and evaluation of proposals made by local construction companies.

1. **Summary of the achieved results**

* Number of People with access to safe Drinking Water: 6.042 people in 12 villages in the 4 municipalities Fatoma, Korombana, Koubaye and Ourobédoudé. About 3.000 beneficiaries are younger than 16 years.
* Number of People that received hygiene formation: 14,000 people in 9 villages of the municipality Kewa.
* Number of People with access to Sanitation: 1,960 people equals 280 families in 9 villages of the municipality Kewa.
* Number of pupils that received hygiene formation at school and getting access to improved sanitation facilities: 1,700 pupils in 4 schools in the municipalities of Fatoma and Mopti.
* Number of municipalities strengthened: 4
* Number of drinking water user committees (WUC’s) set up and trained: 12
* Number of People Getting Other Benefits: The entire population of the 4 municipalities (80,000 people) benefits from the increased management capacities of their local government

1. **Report by result**

1) Construction and rehabilitation of drinking water points

Due to the safety situation, infrastructure building could only start in June 2013; final acceptance of the works was done in October- November2013.

Overview of infrastructure works executed :

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Works** | | | |
| **Drinking water** | **number** | **Municipality** | **Village** | **Number of beneficiaries** |
| Rehabilitation of pump | 3 | Fatoma | Fatoma, Diaborki en Niancongo | 400+400+400 |
| 3 | Korombana | Touncana, Ankoye en Siti | 577+614+630 |
| Borehole with pump (new) | 2 | Fatoma | Déou en Papara | 541+400 |
| 2 | Koubaye | Windé Taiki en Windé Kolé | 400+400 |
| 2 | Ourobédoudé | Doye Marka en Dera | 716+564 |
| **Total** | **12** |  |  | **6.042** |

2) Creation and training drinking water and sanitation committees

12 drinking water committees (WUP or Water Users Committees) have been installed and trained in the 12 villages.

These water users committees :

* Were involved at the follow-up, the control and the acceptance of the infrastructure works.
* Members have been trained in operation and maintenance. The importance of management of the infrastructure, roles and responsibilities of the members of the committee, and the use of tools were demonstrated (sheets with users and water consumption, sheet stock of materials, cashbook treasurers, manager book, financial reporting, inventory).
* Members have participated in consultation rounds with municipalities, operational partners, the state actor on water, the construction companies and PROTOS staff. These consultation rounds have led to an understanding of the framework and principle of decentralization, the Water Code, the transfer of skills, roles / responsibilities / interrelations between actors of the institutional framework to ensure that all participants realize that decentralization must be assumed by a chain of actors which they are part of. If one the players does not play its role, the effectiveness of the decentralization process is not possible. The contents of a "STANDARD" management delegation contract with all participants was validated, and the price of water, the amount of the fee paid to the municipality, the obligations in terms of accountability has been discussed. Management delegation Contracts were signed at Koubaye and Ouroumody : for other villages the process is ongoing.

The water committees will be further followed and guided during 2014.

3) Construction of individual latrines

PROTOS started at the beginning of 2012, in partnership with UNICEF, a CLTS program in 9 villages in the municipality of Kewa.

The goal of this approach is raising the awareness about the issue of sanitation in their living space and change the behaviour of the population in relation to bad hygiene practices, and particularly defecation in open air. The CLTS initiatives encourage the community to analyse by themselves flaws and threats to their health situation and substantially promotes local solutions to reduce and ultimately eliminate the defecation in open air.

The CLTS approach focuses on the use of participatory rural appraisal methods. This approach leads to a quick collective local action of communities for achieving the status of End of Defecation in Open Air (EDOA).

9 Villages in Kewa finally got these status.

By this CLTS approach, all inhabitants were reaches, in total 14.000 persons.

See also update posted in February 2013.

As a result , in Kewa, 280 new pit latrines were constructed, 1.960 persons got access to basic sanitation. Inhabitants funded for 100% the costs for their latrines.

The PROTOS –UNICEF project funded for the formation of local craftsmen and funded for the purchase of moulds, so that craftsmen were able to produce “sanplats”. A “sanplat” is a floorboard in reinforced concrete to be installed above the pit latrine.

4) Construction of public latrines in schools

In 2011-2012 a HAMS program (Hygiene and Sanitation formation program at schools) was held together with JCI (a local organization) in four schools in the municipalities of Mopti and Fatoma: 1700 pupil were reached.

16 Latrines (4 blocks of 4 toilets) were repaired, 16 hand washing facilities installed, en 50 dustbins were installed in classrooms and playground.

Pupils and teachers made an analysis of their environment and indicate how they could improve hygienic situation at their school. This process led to the adoption of 4 groups of activities:

* Improving the access to, and management of, school water facilities.
* Improving the state and management of school latrines.
* Improving waste management.
* Improving hygiene at the school canteens and food vendors.

Good sanitation in schools makes a big difference, especially for girls. By lack of such facilities, they often stay away from school during their menstrual period. Teachers play an important role in hygiene promotion and disease prevention.

Schoolchildren take this information home, which we also reach their families.

The 4 schools made considerable progress:

* Accessibility latrines are ensured by the fact that school latrines are maintained in good shape and are well managed by school management committees .
* An increase in attendance is most visible in latrines for girls.
* Over 85% of pupil regularly wash their hands with soap after using the toilet.
* school courtyards are cleaner without sewage water and garbage on the courtyard of supervised schools.

5) Strengthening of 1 drinking water association (federation above the WUC’s) to federate the individual drinking water committees

Due to the delay in the project, and the fact that only in 2013 infrastructure could be built and Water Users Committees put in place, the creation of the water association will be taken up during 2014.

This federation will give support to the individual WUC’s in organizational, technical and financial matters.

6) Strengthening the municipalities so that they can play their role in the planning, implementing and management of the drinking water sector

In 2011 detailed participatory analyses were made ​​on the degree of appropriation of concepts and responsibilities of local contractor ship in 18 partner municipalities and needs were identified for further staffing and capacity building. This was done on the basis of self-assessment workshops with following main results:

* analysis of the present state on drinking water and sanitation in the municipalities;
* making an action plan for improvement of management of existing infrastructure;
* making an investment plan with the available funds.

In the second half of 2011, these plans were presented at workshops, and conventions were signed.

The cities where infrastructure would be built, decided to manage the process together. Recruitment and follow-up of works through an inter-municipal cooperation . This has the advantage that by means of one large tender and one contract, a bigger scale of economy could be reached. Larger construction companies are interested to submit their bids. The mayor of Fatoma was appointed to administer the funds .

During 2011 and 2012 PROTOS guided all actors involved in the first steps of the process of local contractor ship (municipal administration and staff, technical services of the state government, representatives of user associations and private sector) in the early phases of the local contractor ship, especially:

* selection of villages according to national politics and the rules of good governance;
* mobilization of financial contribution by the villages in accordance with the national strategy;
* tender procedures;
* assessing the technical feasibility studies done by local engineering companies.

Since the planned infrastructure only began in May-June 2013, was also had to adjust the guidance of the municipalities during the implementation phase. The last training given in 2013 was about the provisional and final acceptance of the works.

7) Developing and testing an integrated water management plan in one municipality

The multiplicity of approaches for the development of Local Conventions and not clarifying their legal framework does not often allow communities to make the best use of these instruments for decentralized management of natural resources. Often the juxtaposition of many local conventions in the same territory lead to difficulties of implementation of these conventions, and often the development process is insufficiently accompanied.

In 2013 PROTOS and its partner PNE-MALI (PNE=National Water Partnership) have compiled an overview of the functionality of conventions for managing natural water resources in Koubaye sites.

The inventory is part of a set of activities that will continue in 2014 and have as goal :

* to analyse the state of functionality of these management agreements and functionality;
* to make recommendations and proposals for improving the functionality of conventions;
* to boost and / or to create consultative frameworks that empower the implementation of these conventions.

8) Initiating a consultative platform between different water actors

One of the main strategies PROTOS has in all these programs is the involvement and active participation of all local stakeholders who have a role to play in the sector: municipalities, technical services, consumer organizations, NGOs, the private sector. This multi-stakeholder scheme lies in the different phases of action:

* in the implementation phase of actions, a steering committee is created in which local authorities, technical services and water users organizations (WUC) agree on the planning and the monitoring of realizations. PROTOS and its strategic partners play a facilitating role here. The steering committee meets two times a year.
* in the management of drinking water and sanitation facilities, which are formalized by agreements between municipalities, consumers and the private sector. Again PROTOS and its strategic partners play a facilitating role, but based on a close and much more frequent support.

1. **Sustainability Plan creating long-term impact**

Maintenance: in the municipalities, local technicians were formed in maintenance techniques and repair of pumps, and the water users committees (WUCs) were set up and trained to manage the infrastructure.

Payment for water.

1. For the hand pumps, it is agreed to pay an monthly fee of 50 FCFA by married woman : this can be paid in money or in cereals. This contribution is to cover maintenance and future repair costs.

People using a hand pump are not paying a tax for the municipality.

2. For small distribution networks, the price is fixed at 50 FCFA/ bucket (15 à 20l). The tax for the municipality is 3% on this price. The price of water is not only used for maintenance and repair works, but also for the amortisation of costs of the network.

During 2013 work was done to clarify and operationalize conventions and agreements between local management committees and councils of municipalities, in order to ensure the quality and continuity of the service. This are the last steps in the guidance PROTOS is giving by the local contractor ship approach.

However, most municipalities still have a strong focus on the construction phase and the capacities/competences necessary to focus on sustainable management are still weak.

In 2014, further supervision and guidance of the municipalities and WUCs will be given on the establishment of a sustainable management structure, creating a drinking water association, with adequate control and monitoring mechanisms.

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