



Sustainable Water Services for Rural Mali - The UDUMA concept

“A 5-year programme to offer sustainable water supply to 540.000 people in rural Sikasso, Mali”

The **overall objective** of the UDUMA Mali project is:

“The rural population in Sikasso (Mali) has continuous access to and consumes safe and affordable drinking water that is managed sustainably.”

Description

The project aims at solving the problem of high non-functionality of manual pumps in rural areas. This leads to unnecessary time and efforts for households to take care of their water needs and to large investments in boreholes unutilised.

The project introduces a water services delivery model for manual pumps driven by a viable business case. A private operator, Vergnet Hydro - contracted by local government - will finance 40% of the project, will take care of rehabilitation, operations and maintenance of about 1400 pumps and will ensure the functioning of the pumps for a period of 15 years, with a maximum downtime of 72 hours per incident. In return, the local operator will be allowed to charge a water tariff, for which a new, user-friendly electronic payment system will be implemented. All pumps will be converted to “E-pumps” equipped with a water meter and data logger to monitor water consumption. Households will pay according to volumes of water consumed. They will experience better service and pump functionality compared to the past, against an affordable tariff. The water services system is based on a paid caretaker at each pump and a network of well-trained pump mechanics. Both for the caretakers and for the pump mechanics, their rewards will be linked to volumes of water sold, hence they will have incentives to keep the pumps running.

The project is fully aligned to the Malian government’s water strategy and has enormous potential to scale up to other regions within and outside Mali.

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

UDUMA Mali contributes in achieving the following SDGs for Mali:

Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure

Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Duration

September 2017 - September 2022

FDW theme

Sustainable access to clean drinking water and sanitation

Project area

The Cercles of Bougouni, Kolondiéba and Yanfolila in Sikasso region, southern Mali.

Target group

540.000 men, women and children living in villages in remote and rural areas.

Implementing partners

- Vergnet-Hydro (Lead party)
- Aqua for All
- SNV Mali
- Akvo
- Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique (DNH)
- Directions Régionale de l'Hydraulique (DRH)

Outputs

- Public service delegation contract signed with communes
- 1400 manual pumps rehabilitated
- Public awareness raised in selected villages and 1450 caretakers and mechanics trained
- Development of electronic payment system O&M of 1400 manual pumps

Budget

Total budget: EUR 5mln

Contact

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