

Achievements to date:

- Following successful implementation by WaterAid and local partners, the community-led total sanitation approach was included in the National Sanitation Strategy in 2009.
- WaterAid organised the country's first National Sanitation Forum in 2008, further building the profile of this neglected sector.
- Following campaigning by WaterAid, Burkina Faso's Head of State announced in 2010 that he will pilot a National Campaign on Sanitation to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal sanitation target.
- WaterAid reports about the use of rope pumps and rainwater harvesting were broadcast on national television.



WaterAid/Lisa Martin

Laurentine Yaméogo from Bayandi Palogo at the new handpump.



WaterAid/Suzanne Porter

“Before WaterAid and AMUS [our partner] rehabilitated our well we were afraid to collect the water from the pond because of the crocodiles. When the pond dried up we would go to another one further on. But it was a lot steeper which made it harder to get the water. Before we had the safe water we had lots of illness – especially stomach problems. Often my children couldn't go to school. Since the well was rehabilitated we haven't had these illnesses.”

Sophie Zongo from Bayandi Palogo cleaning her latrine.



WaterAid/Suzanne Porter

“Now I can hope that my children will grow up in good health. That they will grow up and do well. Now we have learnt a lot about hygiene. I have learnt how to store drinking water. We need to wash pots properly. Always close the pots again so things don't go inside and flies don't get in. We taught children the same thing and also how to clean the latrines. And as soon as we have finished in the latrines we use soap and wash our hands. We keep soap next to the latrine.”

Burkina Faso



WaterAid/Mark Bushnell

Burkina Faso is a small, densely populated former French colony in West Africa. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranked 177 out of 182 by the United Nations. Although water and sanitation are considered among the top national priorities, very little investment has been made in these vital services. As a result, diarrhoeal diseases are widespread and kill more than 24,000 children every year.

Amongst the water facilities that do exist, there is a high rate of breakdown due to poor maintenance and repeated droughts are causing water tables to drop. In towns and cities, increasing rural-urban migration is leading to the rapid growth of unplanned urban slum and squatter settlements with no access to water and sanitation services.

£10 could pay for a toolkit to maintain a village water point

£17 could pay for a hygiene education puppet show

£37 could pay for a tap

£105 could pay for a locally manufactured rope pump

£5,600 could pay for a borehole providing water for 300 people



WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.



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WaterAid in Burkina Faso



WaterAid/Suzanne Porter

WaterAid has worked in Burkina Faso since 2001. We work with seven local partner organisations helping vulnerable communities in rural and urban areas to set up sustainable water supplies and improve their hygiene and sanitation. We also help 40 local governments to improve their planning and monitoring of water and sanitation services. At the national level we support the government's development of effective water and sanitation policies.

Recently the responsibility for water and sanitation services has transferred from Burkina Faso's state governments to local governments. WaterAid is helping local governments to set up technical units dedicated to water and sanitation which will lead on promoting and implementing sustainable approaches and fully involve local communities in decisions regarding their facilities. We help to ensure the sustainability of projects in a variety of ways including helping communities

to form groups to manage water facilities and setting up maintenance contracts with skilled artisans.

Water

Water scarcity is becoming more acute in Burkina Faso due to dramatically reducing rainfall, falling water tables and increasing demand for water. Our partners work with communities to plan, build and maintain water supplies using sustainable technologies that are appropriate to local

conditions. After successful trials in other African countries, WaterAid has been promoting rope pumps in rural areas. This simple water pump (pictured on the front cover) can be easily maintained using spare parts that are available in remote areas, such as bicycle wheels and rope.

In the Northern and Sahel regions of the country, where arsenic is naturally present in groundwater, WaterAid and partners are helping communities to build rainwater harvesting structures. In urban centres, communal standpipes are established.

Sanitation

Very few people in Burkina Faso have access to adequate sanitation. Open defecation is widespread and there is a lot of resistance to stopping this long established behaviour, known as 'using the bush'. WaterAid's local partners focus on drumming up demand for latrines, often through an approach known as community-led total sanitation. They raise awareness of the fact that poor hygiene and a lack of sanitation cause disease and, once local people have expressed a desire to build latrines, offer training in the construction of affordable facilities.

Hygiene

To ensure the benefits of new water and sanitation facilities are felt long term, our partners promote good hygiene practices. One innovative way of increasing hand-washing is through soap production schemes that enable women to make money selling homemade soap while encouraging the

washing of hands. WaterAid's partners invest funds for the initial set-up costs, which the women repay once the soap has been sold.

School health clubs enable children to become key advocates for good hygiene. Children usually take on board new lessons and change their behaviour more quickly than adults whose habits have been ingrained through years of practice.

Equity and inclusion

We seek to ensure vulnerable people are able to benefit from our water and sanitation projects, through measures such as providing access ramps to water points and undertaking research into how the design of latrines could be improved to cater to the needs of disabled people.

Advocacy

We have helped to form national and regional coalitions of organisations involved in delivering water and sanitation services, such as other NGOs, government departments and the private sector. These coalitions feed into reviews of government water and sanitation policies, discussing matters such as how to spread the community-led total sanitation approach throughout the country. They also undertake awareness-raising activities including radio and television broadcasts about the importance of safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation. WaterAid runs training sessions for the media and other civil society organisations on how to monitor government water and sanitation budgets and advocate for more effective budgeting.

Marie Edith Kinda from Seguedin village.



WaterAid/Suzanne Porter

"Before, we had to go to the toilet in the bushes. The pigs would always trample the dirt back into the village and our homes. When women had diarrhoea they couldn't get far from home and had to go to the toilet in front of everyone else. It was embarrassing. Having latrines has not only helped our health, it has restored our dignity and pride."

Burkina Faso

Area:	144,000 km ²
Capital:	Ouagadougou
Other main cities:	Bobo-Dioulasso, Ouahigouya, Koudougou, Banfora
Population	15.2m
Infant mortality	169/1,000
Life expectancy	53 yrs
Water supply coverage	76%
Sanitation coverage	11%
Below poverty line	46%
Human development index	177
Adult literacy	29%
Annual child deaths from diarrhoeal diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation	20,000

Official statistics tend to understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large factor. There are not sufficient resources available for accurate monitoring of either population or coverage. Varying definitions of water and sanitation coverage are used and national figures mask large regional differences in coverage.

