



for every child



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IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE WATER ACCESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GUINEA

The Annual Progress Report

APRIL 2021

Summary of 2020 Results

- 14,114 people gained access to sustainable, safe drinking water in N'Zérékoré (for a total of 57,192 people gaining access in N'Zérékoré and Labé since 2019).
- 46 manually drilled boreholes were completed in 43 villages in N'Zérékoré (for a total of 86 manually drilled boreholes and 5 solar powered water systems retrofitted onto existing boreholes since 2019).
- 3 solar powered drinking water supply (AEPS) systems are being finalized in the regions of N'Zérékoré and Labé.
- 43 water committees with a total of 258 members (including 172 women) were established in 43 villages and trained to maintain their water points and solar powered water systems.
- 91 hygiene promotion sessions were organized in 91 villages (including some villages from Phase 1), mobilizing 16 women's groups and 6 youth groups.
- 4,774 community members, including 3,010 women, were empowered to promote good hygiene practices.

Overview

In Guinea, about 70 percent of rural households have access to an improved water source. However, at the current rate of progress in water indicators (less than 1 percent per year), Guinea will not meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal target for universal access to sustainable drinking water services.

In the project regions of N'Zérékoré and Labé, the indicators are much worse – UNICEF surveys from 2018 found that 75 percent of households in these regions do not have access to safe drinking water at home. In 87 percent of households in Labé and 73 percent in N'Zérékoré, girls 15 years or older are tasked with collecting water for their families from sources often far from home.

Since 2014, UNICEF has been collaborating to support the improvement of access to sustainable, safe water by building supply systems for vulnerable communities in rural Guinea. This current second phase runs from 2019 to 2022 and covers 187 villages in 34 rural communes in the regions of N'Zérékoré and Labé. Phase 2 is not only continuing to manually drill boreholes, but will also repair existing non-functional boreholes in 20 villages and equip them with solar water pumping systems. Community water committees will also be trained, and social mobilization will continue to be used to raise community awareness about improved hygiene practices, focusing on water safety.

During the first 2 years of Phase 2 (2019 - 2020), 86 manual boreholes and 5 solar powered water systems were constructed, benefitting 57,192 people out of the 220,048 targeted by 2022. In 2020, despite the context of COVID-19, 46 manual boreholes were drilled benefitting an additional 14,114 people in the N'Zérékoré area. In addition, three larger Solar Drinking Water Supply systems (AEPs) with solar powered systems retrofitted onto existing boreholes are being completed in the regions of N'Zérékoré and Labé.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF is working toward three specific objectives during Phase 2 of this project (2019 – 2022) in N'Zérékoré and Labé:

- Scaling up access to safe water for rural communities/villages through low cost water supply technology options;
- Empowering rural communities to adopt good hygiene practices; and
- Strengthening the community-based management of water facilities and water supply infrastructure.

Phase 2 covers 34 rural municipalities in the regions of N'Zérékoré and Labé over four years and aims to benefit at least 210,148 people. This number includes 20 municipalities in which existing boreholes will be retrofitted with solar powered pumping and water systems and at least 167 villages where up to 200 boreholes will be drilled.¹

Supporting activities to reach these goals over four years include:

- Engaging the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in N'Zérékoré equipped and trained during Phase 1 to execute the manual drilling in N'Zérékoré in Phase 2 under the technical supervision of the National Water Point Management Service (SNAPE).
- For the new areas of intervention in Labé region, UNICEF will support the selection of SMEs to construct the manually drilled boreholes under the technical supervision of SNAPE, as well as support water quality monitoring and surveillance.
- Protection measures will be taken to ensure the quality of construction, water quality monitoring and surveillance, such as the creation of a water safety plan that local communities will use to maintain water quality, including through the disinfection of water points (with the support of municipal water technicians).
- For regular maintenance of water points, two local pump minders (also called mechanics) will be trained and equipped with tools in each municipality.
- A water committee will be established in each village and trained on the operation and maintenance of water facilities, water safety (storage and utilization) and promoting behavior change on environmental and climate change issues, such as the contamination of water reserves and a reduction in the quantity of water.² Water committees will oversee water system management (for boreholes with hand pumps and solar powered water systems), and will collect funds from water users for pump and system maintenance. Committees will work under the guidance of the municipal water officer during and after project activities take place.
- Community awareness campaigns will be carried out in villages throughout the various phases of the project, engaging approximately 330,930 people (120,782 from Phase 1 and 210,148 from Phase 2) from core social groups (community and religious leaders, women and youth groups), encouraging their participation in project activities. Social mobilization will be articulated around three main actions:
 1. Organizing an official launch of the project to present the expected results and request the community's full support;
 2. Working with community leaders and building their accountability; and
 3. Working with existing youth groups to ensure their active engagement in the project.
- SNAPE will oversee the social and community mobilization and hygiene promotion components of Phase 2, preparing local social mobilizers to better organize people in their villages and train them for the maintenance of their water systems and facilities. Four technicians from the regional offices of SNAPE (two from N'Zérékoré and two from Labé) will be trained on community mobilization techniques and the Information, Education and Communication approach (IEC), which is a community engagement model that stresses community ownership water facility maintenance, water safety (storage and utilization) and behavior change. Addressing environmental and climate change issues such as the contamination of water reserves and water scarcity are key components of the IEC approach.
- UNICEF will support SNAPE in conducting knowledge management activities, updating the mapping of existing manual boreholes and advocating for additional funding to scale up manual drilling in Guinea.
- UNICEF will support the design and manufacture of local pumps with a private Guinean company.

¹ Thirty-three of the villages to benefit from this project have yet to be determined – UNICEF is in the process of evaluating where the additional boreholes could be drilled and then determining the additional number of beneficiaries that will be reached (in the original proposal, UNICEF anticipated reaching an additional 9,900 people in these 33 villages for a total of approximately 220,048 beneficiaries.

² Floods related to climate change can cause contamination of water supplies in several ways, including by excreta runoff from latrines, other contaminants washing into otherwise safe water supplies and seawater intrusion.

The Impact of Your Support

INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH MANUALLY DRILLED BOREHOLES WITH HAND PUMPS

- 14,114 people gained access to safe drinking water through the construction of 46 manually drilled boreholes in 43 villages in N'Zérékoré.
- 43 water committees were established in 43 villages (with 258 members, including 172 women) and trained to manage their water points in sustainable manner.

In 2020, UNICEF completed construction of 46 manually drilled boreholes, including 10 that were started ahead of schedule at the end of 2019.³ Four SMEs were selected to carry out the work, and SNAPE was responsible for project management. Of the four contracted SMEs, two from Phase 1 were rehired based on their performance; EDICO and EECF are the two new SMEs that were contracted in 2020.

For the sustainable management of water points, a total of 43 water management committees (composed of 246 members, including 164 women) were established in 43 villages and trained by SNAPE – one water committee per village with a new manually drilled borehole. These water management committees were trained to work with municipal councils to sustain the operational management of water points and solar pumping systems. The management committees are responsible for all new and existing water points in their villages, and are comprised of a president, secretary, treasurer, hygienist, village pump repairer, and water seller.



Manual borehole drilling in the village of Gbassadou, municipality of Fangamadou.

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INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR POWERED WATER SYSTEMS

- Two rural communes in N'Zérékoré, Moussadou and Kobela, were selected for two solar powered water systems to be retrofitted on existing boreholes.

³ See Annex II for the list of villages with manually drilled boreholes in 2020.

- One rural commune in Labé, Sanou, is also in the process of receiving a solar powered water system retrofitted on an existing borehole.

AEPs, or larger solar powered water systems, are comprised of a borehole that can service multiple water towers, pipes and taps to different areas of a village and typically have several solar panels powering the water pump. For this project, all AEPs will have solar powered systems retrofitted onto existing boreholes. Simplified solar powered water systems typically have a single solar panel, one water tower and one or two taps in one area of the village. For this project, simplified solar powered water systems will be installed on newly manually drilled boreholes.

In 2020, UNICEF anticipated retrofitting five boreholes with AEPs. COVID-19 travel restrictions, however, delayed the national team from conducting the feasibility studies necessary for siting these systems, as the team was not allowed to leave Conakry until late 2020. Once the team was able to go to the field, technical studies were conducted on three existing boreholes in the N'Zérékoré communes of Gbakedou, Moussadou and Kobela. These technical studies consisted of two components: solar siting and blowing/yield testing. The results of the yield tests enabled SNAPE engineers to design AEPs for two boreholes, one in Kobela and one in Moussadou; the borehole yield in Gbakedou was not suitable for the solar powered system.⁴ In addition to retrofitting these two boreholes in N'Zérékoré with solar powered water systems, one borehole in Sanou (Labé) is also being retrofitted for an AEP.

Sanou was not on the original list of villages to benefit from the project, but it is replacing Kollet, where another donor financed the completion of an AEP. Sanou has a population of 3,900 while Kollet has a population of 3,992; the overall number of project beneficiaries will therefore remain approximately the same.

Sanou was a good candidate to replace Kollet not only because of population size, but also because it is what UNICEF calls a “commune of convergence” because of the complementary WASH and other UNICEF programming that is ongoing in that commune. For example, Sanou is now an open defecation free (ODF) commune, and bringing a water system to this ODF commune is a way to build on the successful UNICEF WASH program there and complement its success; the same synergy can be found with ongoing UNICEF nutrition and health programs in Sanou, making it an ideal candidate for the AEP.

UNICEF anticipates being able to complete the three AEPs that were started in 2020 by the end of May 2021. Two additional AEPs were supposed to have been completed in 2020 (for a total of five in 2020), and five AEPs were originally planned for 2021. However, due to delays in project implementation, UNICEF expects to complete a total of seven AEPs by the end of 2021.

For simplified solar powered water systems, the original project plan for 2020 was to manually drill 20 new boreholes and equip them with simple solar powered water systems. Because of travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, these activities did not take place. However, once the engineering teams could go to the field in late 2020, feasibility studies were started on nine sites. UNICEF hopes that these will yield at least four suitable locations for simplified solar powered systems in the coming months.

The project originally anticipated completing 10 manually drilled boreholes with simple solar powered water systems for 2021. Combined with the 20 that were supposed to be completed in 2020 (including the four UNICEF hopes to identify with feasibility studies started in 2020), that means that UNICEF should complete a total of 30 manually drilled boreholes with simple solar powered water systems by the end of 2021.

⁴ UNICEF Guinea shared that the average rate for manually drilling a borehole with sufficient yield to be successful is approximately 35 percent.

SATISFACTION SURVEY CONDUCTED

- A satisfaction survey was conducted in 204 villages on the use and condition of 208 manually drilled boreholes in 27 municipalities.
- A report on the data collected from the survey was transmitted and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, and the recommendations are already being taken into account in the implementation process.

In 2020, UNICEF conducted a survey to evaluate the level of satisfaction of the beneficiaries on the functionality of the boreholes drilled in Phase 1 and currently completed through Phase 2. For the survey to be independent, a consultant that specializes in community surveys was recruited under the leadership of a technical committee⁵ set up for this purpose, and four local NGOs were selected to conduct the survey in project communities. The survey covered 204 villages and their 208 manually drilled boreholes in 27 municipalities.

Survey results showed that the pump functionality rate was 79 percent, with 7 percent water turbidity at the boreholes, both of which are results that are well above the average results for pumps that have been in operation for months and in some cases, years. The recommendations from the final report were analyzed to formulate actions for reinforcing the results and for adjusting the project's social mobilization activities.

The report provided three major recommendations: 1) Educate community members on the importance of minimal water use fees and how those fees are used to maintain and sustain safe water service; 2) Establish a regular schedule for SNAPE agents to check in with and support local Municipal Water and Sanitation Officers (CCEA);⁶ and 3) Train new local elected officials, sub-prefectural authorities and CCEAs on the national water utility strategy. The report is currently being translated from French into English and will be shared when the translation is completed.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO EMPOWER RURAL COMMUNITIES TO ADOPT GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES AND TO SUSTAINABLY IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER FACILITIES

- Training was provided to 59 municipal leaders and 8 municipal water and sanitation technicians.
- 91 water management committees – composed of 546 members, including 364 women – were trained.
- 16 community consultations were carried out in 8 rural municipalities, with 259 local stakeholders participating.
- 91 hygiene promotion sessions were organized in 91 villages, mobilizing 16 women's groups and 6 youth groups.
- 4,774 community members, including 3,010 women, were empowered to promote good hygiene practices.

In 2020, social mobilization activities in the communities included:

- **Capacity building.** 59 municipal leaders (heads of districts) and 8 municipal water and sanitation technicians were trained on the national strategy of public water service. In addition, 91 water management committees (comprised of 546 members, including 364 women) were trained on ensuring the sustainability of water service. SNAPE also arranged and led exchange visits between mayors and municipal water and sanitation technicians in eight rural municipalities.

⁵ The technical committee was comprised of the following members: President – SNAPE; Vice-President – Regional Service for Community Support and Coordination of NGOs (SERACCO); Secretary – UNICEF; Members – Regional Planning Directorate, Regional Inspectorate of the Environment Water and Forests, Regional Health Department, Regional Office for Humanitarian Action and Regional Inspectorate of Education.

⁶ The support and training of SNAPE agents who regularly work with communities is one way that UNICEF ensures their presence remains in communities where water infrastructure is built.

- **Community consultations.** 16 consultative community meetings were held in 8 rural municipalities ; 259 local stakeholders (district leaders, heads of quarters, etc.) participated in these meetings. In addition, 91 hygiene promotion sessions focusing on water safety were organized in 91 targeted villages, mobilizing 16 women's groups and 6 youth associations.
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices.** 4,774 community members, including 3,010 women, were empowered to promote good hygiene practices.
- **Communication to communities.** A radio spot on water and hygiene was translated into seven local languages and is being broadcast on rural radio stations in Gueckedou and Lola.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MUNICIPAL WATER TECHNICIANS AND JOINT MONITORING AND SUPERVISION

- The WASH coordination framework in the N'Zérékoré region was revitalized.
- The management of village hydraulics was strengthened in the municipalities of Bolodou and Fangamadou, thanks to the holding of a capitalization meeting.
- The local authorities in the municipalities of Bolodou and Fangamadou gained a better understanding of the documentation and protocol needed to carry out community works of public interest.
- FAPEL tool kits were positioned in the municipalities of Gbackedou, Bolodou, Gbessoba and Fangamadou to facilitate pump repair.

There is a regional WASH coordination framework for actors working in the WASH sector in the N'Zérékoré region. This group held three meetings in 2020, in which each actor provided updates on the implementation of their projects. SNAPE and UNICEF use this coordination framework to communicate on the progress of this project in the region.

The monitoring and supervision of field activities were carried out at several levels. At the local level, communes made their CCEAs responsible for monitoring activities, such as the daily activities of water committees and repair workers, reporting to the municipality on their findings. SNAPE ensured the technical supervision of the works by deploying its technicians to the field to monitor the construction companies. SNAPE provided support and advice to the communes, and, along with UNICEF, validated the technical acceptance reports of the works. Satisfied with the impact of manual drilling in the Gueckedou prefecture, the Prefect carried out a follow-up mission in the field to learn more about the achievements and mobilize the communities for the proper use of the boreholes.

In 2019, SNAPE trained more than 100 pump mechanics and therefore there was no need to train additional technicians on pump repair in 2020. However, four FAPEL pump tool kits were positioned in the municipalities of Gbackedou, Bolodou, Gbessoba and Fangamadou in 2020 (one tool kit per municipality) to facilitate the repair of FAPEL hand pumps.

SMEs	Main activities			Employees		
	Local pump manufacturer	Manual driller	Solar water constructor	Qualified staff	Workers	Total
EDICO		X	X	3	54	57
SOUMCOPRES		X	X	3	22	25
EPICO		X		2	8	10
EECP		X		5	22	27
FAPEL Guinee	X			45	33	78
IDEAL BATI			X	6	20	26
HOULMA ET FILS			X	16	13	29
Total	1	4	4	80	172	252

Coordination and Partnership

- **Partnership with municipalities.** In accordance with local government codes, UNICEF is aligning itself with and supporting the Guinean government in the effective implementation of the transfer of powers to decentralized authorities. UNICEF has therefore transferred resources to project municipalities, which are the project owners. In addition, the municipalities regularly receive guidance and technical support for the correct use of the resources allocated to them.
- **Partnership with SNAPE/SERACCO.** In collaboration with UNICEF, SNAPE provides advisory support to municipalities through a working agreement. This agreement allows SNAPE to ensure the management of all project activities through the support of municipalities in the choice of villages, the identification of sites, the technical supervision of works and the certification of the FAPEL hand pump. As a State entity, SERACCO piloted the satisfaction survey and mobilized the authorities at the grassroots level for the implementation of activities in the communities.
- **Partnership with NGOs.** NGOs provided the lead in the implementation of social mobilization activities in project communities. Under the leadership of SERACCO, the NGOs facilitated the sensitization of the communities on good hygiene practices and the recycling/training of UGSPE to ensure the sustainable management of the facilities. For a better harmonization of interventions and sharing of innovations, a WhatsApp group comprising the different actors (UNICEF, SNAPE, NGOs, SERACCO, SMEs, etc.) was created among the different NGO partners.

Constraints and Challenges

- **COVID-19.** Like other countries around the world, Guinea was not spared from COVID-19, and the first cases were detected on March 12, 2020. Measures taken to limit the spread of the virus have impacted the implementation of activities, in particular the conducting of the feasibility studies for the retrofitting of solar powered water systems (AEPS).
- **Recording of negative drilling cases (non-productive drilling).** Construction companies recorded 81 cases of negative drilling: 65 cases in the municipality of Bolodou and 16 cases in the municipality of Fangamadou. This high failure rate increased the time required to monitor and supervise activities, and consequently increased the cost of completing the manual drilling.

Expense report

Activities	Unit Cost	Qty	Total Cost, 4 Years	Year 1 Actual Expenses	Year 1 Results	Year 2 Budget	Year 2 Actual Expenses	Year 2 Results	Total Results Years 1 & 2
Water supply systems									
Drilling of manual boreholes equipped with hand pumps	\$5,000	160	\$800,000	\$252,867	40	\$200,000	\$213,455	46	86
Drilling of manual boreholes equipped with simple solar powered system	\$25,000	40	\$1,000,000	--	--	\$500,000	--*	--	--
Retrofitting existing boreholes with solar powered system and water distribution network	\$50,000	20	\$1,000,000	\$233,479	5	\$250,000	\$263,089**	--	5
Feasibility studies and technical assessment	\$20,000	1	\$20,000	--	5 localities	\$5,000	--	--	5 localities
Subtotal			\$2,820,000	\$486,346		\$955,000	\$476,544		
Community empowerment									
Social mobilization in villages	\$200	220	\$44,000	\$18,979	27,978 people, including 16,155 women	\$17,000	\$23,378***	4,774 people, including 3,010 women	32,752 people, including 19,165 women
Establishment and training of water committees	\$300	220	\$66,000	\$10,650	43	\$25,500	\$47,858****	43	86
Subtotal			\$110,000	\$29,629		\$42,500	\$71,236		
Capacity building									
Training SNAPE agents on community mobilization and geophysical drilling site selection	\$1,000	6	\$6,000	--		--	--		
Training municipal water officer for community guidance, works supervision and monitoring	\$1,000	34	\$34,000	--	29 people trained	\$24,000	--^	67 people trained	96 people trained
Support the design and manufacturing of a local pump with a private promoter	\$5,000	1	\$5,000	--	Achieved	\$5,000	--^^	Achieved in 2019	Achieved
Training local pump minders and maintenance tools	\$1,000	34	\$34,000	\$15,238	More than 100 people trained on local pump maintenance	\$24,000	--^		More than 100 people trained on local pump maintenance

Geophysical kits for site selection and training	\$10,000	2	\$20,000	--		--	--		
Subtotal			\$99,000	\$15,238		\$53,000	--		
Project monitoring and evaluation									
Coordination and monitoring cost/year	\$3,750	4	\$15,000	\$5,590		\$3,750	\$10,948^^		
Evaluation cost (mid-term and final)	\$20,000	2	\$40,000	--		--	--		
Subtotal			\$55,000	\$5,590		\$3,750	\$10,948		
Technical assistance									
2 national WASH staff (N'Zérékoré and Labé) per month	\$10,000	48	\$480,000	\$120,000		\$120,000	\$118,216		
International P3 staff (70% for 1 year)	\$135,000	1	\$135,000	\$135,000		--	\$14,305		
Visibility costs	\$3,000	4	\$12,000	--		\$3,000	--		
Operation support cost	\$15,000	4	\$60,000	--		\$15,000	\$18,256		
Subtotal			\$687,000	\$255,000		\$138,000	\$150,777		
Total program cost			\$3,771,000	\$791,803		\$1,192,250	\$709,505		
UNICEF/UUSA Administrative costs			\$216,281	\$80,796		\$121,658	\$72,398		
TOTAL			\$3,987,281	\$872,599		\$1,313,908	\$781,903		

*See the Impact of Your Support section for more details on why these activities did not take place in 2020.

** While construction of the three AEPs that were started in 2020 were not completed by the end of the year, the funds for construction were fully disbursed in 2020.

***In addition to the \$23,378 in UUSA support to this line item, UNICEF also provided \$38,629 in support. The social mobilization line item required additional funding in 2020 because activities included villages the project impacted in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

****Actual water committee expenses were higher than anticipated in the budget because of additional trainings and sensitization sessions provided to committees from Phases 1 and 2 of the project for opening accounts to better manage the funds of the committees. As a result of these sessions and trainings, more than 56 committees have opened bank accounts for the management of their water points.

^No funds were spent in 2020 for the *training municipal water officer for community guidance, works supervision and monitoring* expense line because of the large training session that took place in 2019. On the job support was provided instead, which was expensed from a different expense line. Similarly, no funds were spent in 2020 for line item *training local pump minders and maintenance tools* because those expenses were incorporated into the establishing and training water committees expense line.

^^No funds were spent in 2020 on developing a locally designed water pump because the pump was developed in 2019.

^^^In addition to the \$10,948 in UUSA support to this line item, UNICEF also provided \$16,988 in support. The reason expenses for coordinating and monitoring were higher than anticipated in 2020 is because the original need and cost for these activities were underestimated in the project's budget. UNICEF now sees the need to ensure that SNAPE and UNICEF are both monitoring expenditures and solar powered water systems, which has required additional resources.

The Way Forward

The following activities are planned for Year Three of phase 2, 2021:

- Conduct manual drilling feasibility studies and train SNAPE agents – quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Undertake technical receptions of the boreholes – quarter 2.
- Complete the three AEPs started in 2020 but not completed before the end of May 2021 – quarter 2.
- Carry out 60 manual drillings and install 5 AEPs and 10 simple solar powered water systems in N'Zérékoré – quarters 1, 2 and 3.
- Install at least 5 AEPs and 10 simple solar powered water systems in Labé – quarters 1, 2 and 3.
- Implement social mobilization activities – quarters 2, 3 and 4.
- Engage in supervisory activities – quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Ensure the coordination of interventions in N'Zérékoré and Labé – quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and other constraints, in the coming months UNICEF will be revising the work plan for the final project year. The number of beneficiaries to be reached will remain approximately the same, regardless of any changes in project activities.

UNICEF would like to thank all of its generous partners for their ongoing support of Water for Guinea. Because of your support, in 2020 an additional 14,114 people in rural Guinea gained access to a safe and sustainable supply of water. On behalf of the children of Guinea, thank you!

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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood. For more information, visit unicefusa.org.

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Annex I: Human Interest Stories

Koumba Mama Kamano now lives next to a water fountain, a dream come true



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This water fountain puts an end to morning awakenings and hours of waiting for collecting drinking water. Koumba Mama will now devote this saved time to the preparation of her Certificate of Professional Studies.

Koumba Mama Kamano is 19 years old and lives in the rural commune of Bolodou, in the prefecture of Guéckédou, in the Forest Region. She lives with her 2-year old son and her grandmother Martine, a housewife in her sixties. In 2018, when Koumba Mama returned from Kankan with her 4-month old child, her integration was very difficult in the rural commune of Bolodou because of the water shortage: "When I arrived here in Bolodou, my first remark was about the lack of drinking water. My grandmother being old, I had to get up at 5:00 am to collect water from the marigot, and when I came back, I took at least 30 minutes to filter the water before using it," she testifies.

Until 2018, Bolodou center had only one manual drilling for a population of more than 1,000 inhabitants. In order to be among the first served, it was necessary to get up early, otherwise it was an endless queue: "I got up at 6:00 am to stand in line at the health center's drilling and I could stay until 8:00 am. Because of this, I was arriving very late at school" adds Koumba Mama.

In a village the lack of water creates dependency and exposes children to many diseases. Koumba Mama can't remember how many times in 2018 she had to hospitalize her child because of the use of unsafe water from the marigot: "Once, I came back from school, and I found that my child had diarrhea that wouldn't stop. If I had not brought him to the health center in time, he was going to die that day. These same complications kept recurring, and that's when the doctor told me that the water we were drinking was not safe," she adds.

One year later, Koumba Mama is very happy to have a water fountain right next to her home. It's also a great relief for the whole village, but for her, it brought a big change in her life: "Since this water fountain was installed in my village, you can't imagine how happy I am. Now, my only priority is how to continue my studies and take care of my child and not to collect safe water, and this is thanks to UNICEF and donors. I thank them very much for thinking about the community and the children of Bolodou," she says.

Between 2019 and 2020, the rural commune of Bolodou benefited from 45 manual boreholes and a solar drinking water supply. These works were financed by UNICEF USA. This support from UNICEF will remain engraved for a long time in the memory of Koumba Mama, because as it is often said: "Water is the source of life."

Thanks to manual drilling, Sitan Tolno spends less money on his children's health



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Sitan Tolno is a 30-year-old housewife who lives with her husband Sâa Emmanuel Komano, a farmer, and her three children, aged 15, 13 and 10, in the district of Massamodou, the convergence commune of Bolodou. With an estimated population of 226, Massamodou is a landlocked district. Its inhabitants live largely from agriculture.

The health center is located in the chief town of the rural Commune of Bolodou, about 4 km from the district. Sitan was experiencing serious difficulties in obtaining drinking water. She traveled long distances before arriving at the water source. "Every day, I traveled 2 km between the village and the water source. This chore was exhausting, even forgetting the risks of snake bites. At the spring, we noticed that the water source was covered with algae and impurities, but we had no choice, it was the only source in the village," says Sitan.

Because of the unsafe water they drank, Sitan spent an average of 100,000 GNF (about \$10) for each hospitalization of her children. This situation increased her vulnerability. "At one point, I was forced to sell our supplies to deal with the children's health problems. When they recovered, we had nothing left to eat at home. This caused another crisis in the family," she adds.

It's now a huge relief for this mother to have a borehole located just a few meters from her house. Today, the ordeal and the chores of fetching water are nothing but a sad memory for her: "We thank UNICEF very much for this borehole. Today, thanks to this borehole, our children are no longer ill. We face our daily activities in peace and tranquility. And with the little we earn, we are saving money, because diarrheal diseases have been greatly reduced," she rejoices.

Today, Sitan is president of the management committee for the Massamodou borehole. She has an eye on the functioning of the borehole and on the rational use of water, for the well-being of the community and the children. Under her leadership, the sale of water is ensured, to perpetuate the project's achievements. Thanks to the financial support of UNICEF USA, the children of Massamodou are drinking safe water to enable them to grow up in good health and realize their dreams.

Annex II: List of 43 villages with 46 manually drilled boreholes completed, 2020

10 BOREHOLES STARTED IN 2019 AND COMPLETED IN 2020

	Rural Prefecture	Rural Municipality	Village	Population	Depth (m)	Water Level (m)	Yield (m ³ /h)
1	Beyla	Gbessoba	Konkoinon	300	20.30	9.50	1.5
2			Frégbédou	280	26	10.40	0.7
3			Gnamadou	322	26.50	12.80	1.4
4			Djémenèn centre	350	17	6	1.5
5			Goima	238	18	6.50	1.5
6	Gueckeddou	Bolodou	Soumtou	375	19,0	5	0.8
7			Gbogboma	170	23.50	5	1
8			Yombou	210	19.50	7	0.7
9			Manoh	600	18.50	5	1
10			Teldou	243	20	6	0.9
Total				3,088			

36 BOREHOLES STARTED AND COMPLETED IN 2020

	Rural Prefecture	Rural Municipality	Village	Population	Depth (m)	Water Level (m)	Yield (m ³ /h)
1	Gueckeddou	Bolodou	Kongoma centre	160	17	5	1.4
2			Konian	550	30	10	0.6
3			Kondou	405	27	8.3	1
4			Kondou Tomadou	475	17	9	0.6
5			Ouéné Boumboukoro	185	17	7	0.6
6			Boodou centre	560	17	6.2	0.8
7			Gbandou 2	207	17	6	0.7
8			Gbandou 1	215	17	4	0.8
9			Teldou	240	17	5.5	0.7
10			Malla	180	17	8	0.6
11			Koléadou centre	185	17	7.5	1
12*			Beddou centre	175	17	6.5	0.6
13*			Beddou Ecole	530	17	3.5	1.6
14			Yilandou	108	17	6	1
15*			Nongoa F1	220	17	5.5	0.6
16*			Nongoa F2	450	17	10	0.6
17			Sallet	177	17	10	0.6
18			Gbenko	230	17	5.5	0.7
19			Yelendou	215	17	4	0.7
20			Kondobhè	200	17	6.5	0.6

21			Tèmèssadou	190	17	7.5	0.8
22*			Koumoni F1	150	17	7	0.7
23*			Koumoni F2	130	17	6.5	0.7
24			Wondetoh	220	17	8	0.8
25			Belessa	160	17	5	0.8
26			Kantabadou	550	17	5	0.8
27			Ecole Primaire	405	17	6.5	0.9
28			Kankankoura	475	17	6	0.7
29			Tinguidou	185	17	6	0.7
30			Mano	560	17	7	0.6
31			Eglise	230	17	5	0.6
32		Fangamadou	Nongoa Pompo	392	17	5	0.7
33			Gbandé-Kamadou	315	17	6	0.7
34			Poundidou	345	17	5.7	0.7
35			Dawa Ecike	432	17	4	1.4
36			Gbassadou	620	17	4	1
Total				11,026			

*Boreholes in red represent two unique boreholes drilled in the same village; therefore, there are 43 villages with 46 completed boreholes.

Annex III: List of 38 villages with 40 manually drilled boreholes completed, 2019

	Rural Municipality	Village, from proposal	Number of boreholes, from proposal	Replacement village, actual drilling site, 2019	Number of boreholes drilled, 2019	Reason for change in village
1	Gbackedou	Kouyakroudou	1		1	
2		Kossoulédou	1		1	
3		Kassoundou	1		1	
4		Damama	1		1	
5		Wariedou	1	Koulougbedou	1	Negative drilling in Wariedou
6		Kounaédou	1		1	
7		Koubéla	1	Kamaladeni	1	Negative drilling in Koubéla
8		Kafobaro	2		2	
9		Djamounifrandou	1		1	
10		Banko	1		1	
11		Lafékémodou	1		1	
12		Moribadou	1	Kamalaba	1	Negative drilling in Moribadou
13		Cécédou Centre	1		1	
14		Kaniandou	1		1	
15		N'gouacé-doua	1		1	
16		Sanambala	1		1	
17		Missiboro	1		1	
18		Filadou	1	Daoudadou	1	Negative drilling in Filadou
19	Gbèssoba	Tonodou	2		2	
20		Kesséso (Djémenèn)	1		1	
21		Fatounzo	1	Vafindou	1	Negative drilling in Fatounzo
22		Lagbèso	1		1	
23		Vanamadou	1		1	
24		Lassilandou	1	Bakokoro centre	1	Negative drilling in Lassilandou
25		Souakédou	1		1	
26		Morigba	1		1	
27		Kesséso (Facinedou)	1		1	
28		Siadou 1	1		1	
29		Gnigbedou	1	Blassana	1	Negative drilling in Gnigbedou
30	Bolodou	Koindou	1		1	
31		Jerusalem	1	Djoulouadou	1	Negative drilling in Jerusalem
32		Massamoudou	1		1	
33		Wolian	1	Woléyan	1	Spelling issue
34		Boadou	1	Bouwadou	1	Spelling issue
35		Tongolo	1	Tongoron	1	Spelling issue

36		N'mako	1	Makho	1	Spelling issue
37		Kouanko	1		1	
38		Kamadou	1		1	
Total			40			

Annex III: 5 Completed Solar Powered Water Systems, 2019

Region	Village	SME	# of Water Points	# of Beneficiaries
N'Zérékoré	Nionsomoridou	EDICO	5	6,250
	Bolodou	EOCO	3	1,358
	Fangamadou	Nimba Cooperative	3	4,400
Labé	Donghel Sigon	Idéale Bâti	5	11,428
	Fello Koundouwa	Halima Construction	3	3,394
Total	5	5		26,830