

# »» Project Information

Implemented by:



## Water supply and sanitation – Burkina Faso

Standpipes and house connections in small and medium-sized towns

Clean drinking water is by no means matter of course for the inhabitants of Burkina Faso. The supply is poor particularly outside the cities and the situation is even worse when it comes to sanitation, i.e. the population's access to clean sanitary facilities. KfW Development Bank therefore finances water supply systems, standpipes in small and medium-sized towns, as well as sanitary facilities and sewerage systems.

### Context

Between 20 and 30 percent of all incidences of illness in Burkina Faso are attributable to contaminated drinking water. Many children die of diarrhoeal diseases or cannot attend school regularly due to frequent illness. In urban areas alone, only close to 30 percent of the population have appropriate sanitary amenities at their disposal. Daily "business" is done in places that are not adequately segregated from nearby wells. Contaminated drinking water is the consequence. Clean drinking water from deep wells is expensive and public standpipes are often a long distance away. Poorer groups of the populations who have settled in shanty towns on the margins of the city are especially affected by this.

During the rainy season, waste water used to inundate whole residential areas. For many years, contaminated and toxic waste water from breweries, the abattoir and soap factories in the industrial zone of Bobo-Dioulasso caused many of that city's residents to fall ill.

### Project approach

To solve these problems, on behalf of the German government, KfW Development Bank first financed the construction of a treatment plant and a closed sewerage system in Bobo-Dioulasso. The main aim was to remove industrial waste water from the streets and treat it. At present, KfW Development Bank is supporting the construction of water supply systems, public standpipes, house connections and improved sanitary facilities in small and medium-sized towns.

<b>Project name</b>	Programme Water Supply and Sanitation in Small and Medium-Sized Towns
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Country/Region</b>	Burkina Faso
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	The urban water utility ONEA and the local government administrations of the towns





The families profit from the improved water supply right where they live – at fair prices. Source: KfW Photo archive, Photographer: Joerg Boethling

Alimatou Sawadogo, for example, lives with her family in a little house in the medium-sized town of Houndé, in "Sector 5", which is three kilometres from the edge of the city. They share the plot on which they live with four other families. The communal yard is swept clean and the children not yet of school age play catch around a mango tree. The cesspool is concealed behind a barn, while the well is located on the other side of the yard.

Until recently, the five families drew their water for drinking, cooking and washing, from the open well. Alimatou's children often suffered from diarrhoea. A doctor advised her to boil the water for at least 20 minutes, but that took a lot of time and firewood. Medication against diarrhoea was already dear enough. At an appearance in their district by a local theatre group, typical for Burkina Faso, a play was being performed in which a family had a house connection installed that they had not previously been able to afford, but which now costs just the equivalent of EUR 46, thanks to support from Germany. This prompted her to talk with her family and co-residents. In view of the low connection charge, it was not hard to convince them to apply to the water utility for such a connection. They went even further and applied for funding for the construction of a cesspool, since the five families had always had to "go" behind the trees, several hundred metres away, where the city ends.

### Impact

The unsafe water supply in Burkina Faso has improved. With funds and expertise provided in part by KfW, drinking water systems and sewerage systems have been constructed in Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso and eleven medium-sized towns, including Houndé in the

past years. In these towns alone, more than 2 million people now enjoy clean drinking water, while the risk of contamination from industrial waste water in Bobo-Dioulasso has been reduced considerably. The civil works on water supply systems and sanitary facilities in further towns will begin soon.

Needy users such as Mrs. Sawadogo and her neighbours benefit from a tariff system that favours poorer families and was established as part of an earlier DC project. Today Alimatou's family and her neighbours have clean drinking water in the yard, a basin is there for them to wash their hands before meals and nobody has to leave the yard at night when there are urgent needs to be met.

Overall, since 2000 German DC has contributed to the provision of 1.4 million people with clean drinking water, while there has been a substantial decrease in the risk posed by industrial waste water to the health of a further approx. 500,000 people.

German DC has therefore made a significant contribution to the execution of the Burkinabe programme for water supply and sanitation, whose main aim was to, by 2015, halve the number of those still without access to improved drinking water provision and appropriate sanitation.



#### Contact

KfW Group  
KfW Development Bank  
Competence Centre XYZ  
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9  
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Phone +49 69 7431 8497  
alice.elfert@kfw.de

KfW Office Ouagadougou  
BP 1485 Rue Jacqueline Ki-Zerbo 01  
Ouagadougou  
Burkina Faso  
kfw.burkina@kfw.de