

October 2011 - March 2012

# Niger Rural Water Project

Increasing access to clean, safe water

---

**A SEMIANNUAL REPORT FOR**

Wells Bring Hope

Barbara Goldberg, President and Founder

June 11, 2012



## **NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT**

### **On the cover**

*Women and girls gather near the Mekaka village well in the Maradi region of Niger. On average, a woman from the village of Mekaka spends four hours a day fetching water and drawing it by hand from the 130-foot-deep, unprotected well.*

### **Above right**

*Women return home after fetching water at the well in Guidan Ara village in the Chadokori Area Development Program, a community slated to benefit from the Niger Rural Water Project.*



## **World Vision Representatives:**

### **Point of Contact**

Samuel K. Jackson  
National Director, Philanthropy  
World Vision, Inc.  
800 Chestnut, Mail Stop 744  
Monrovia, California 91016

### **Niger Rural Water Project**

Mamane Amadou  
Manager

### **Niger Microfinance**

Esperance Klugan  
National Director, World Vision Niger

### **World Vision U.S. Technical Adviser**

Randy Strash  
Senior Manager, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

# **water**



## NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT



### Above right

*The dry and desolate landscape in Tabouche village, Niger.*

## Table of contents

- 1 Summary
- 2 Background Information
- 2 Project Description
- 3 Well-Drilling Accomplishments
- 4 Other Accomplishments
- 4 A Story of Success
- 5 Next Steps
- 6 Thank You

### Below right

*Members of the West Africa Water Initiative staff perform an inspection on a new well in the village of Rura in southcentral Niger to ensure that everything is working properly. Inspection teams also make sure wells are being properly maintained and that the water quality adheres to World Health Organization standards.*



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



[bbb.org/charity](http://bbb.org/charity)



## NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT



“The work of Wells Bring Hope is greatly admired and appreciated by World Vision and the villagers benefiting from your generosity.”

—Jean-Baptiste Kamate  
Vice President  
World Vision Africa

## Summary

Thank you, Wells Bring Hope (WBH), for generously supporting World Vision’s work to increase access to clean water for rural communities in Niger. WBH contributions to fund well-drilling through World Vision’s Niger Rural Water Project are helping to prevent water-related diseases and death by providing impoverished communities with access to permanent sources of safe, clean drinking water.

Nearly two-thirds of people living in rural areas of Niger have no safe water to drink, and 96 percent have no access to improved sanitation facilities (WHO/UNICEF, 2010). In many of these areas, the main sources of water are unprotected wells, dugouts, and rivers or streams. Often, this water is contaminated, placing all those using the water at risk of disease and death. In addition, 46 percent of children younger than 5 suffer from moderate to severe stunting, an indicator of chronic malnutrition (UNICEF, 2011).

Most child deaths are directly or indirectly a result of water- and sanitation-related illnesses such as diarrhea and pneumonia, which are among the leading causes of death in children under 5 globally. Half of all chronic malnutrition is associated with diarrhea or intestinal infections that are a result of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, or insufficient hygiene (WHO, 2008).

Through the Niger Rural Water Project, World Vision is working to prevent disease and death by providing hundreds of thousands of people with clean water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education. World Vision’s comprehensive model includes sanitation and hygiene interventions because they dramatically increase the impact and benefits of clean water. In combination, these interventions have the power to reduce child death by half.

Over the five years that ended in March 2012, WBH has contributed \$837,200 to provide 129 wells, of which 111 have been drilled to date. Three of these wells are in Mali, which are not included in this report, and 108 are in Niger. These wells are located in nine Area Development Programs (ADPs), which are clusters of communities where World Vision focuses on long-term development activities, across three regions.

- **Maradi region:** Chadakori, Gobir Yamma, Goulbi N’Kaba, and Kornaka West ADPs
- **Tillaberi region:** Isame, Ouallam, and Simiri ADPs
- **Zinder region:** Damagaram Takaya and Gamou ADPs

Since inception of the relationship between WBH and World Vision, nearly 100,000 people in Niger have benefited from access to permanent sources of clean drinking water.

The following report summarizes achievements between October 2011 and March 2012, program-to-date accomplishments, and plans for the upcoming quarter.

## NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT



©2011 Chris Sitarich for World Vision

*"I feel really bad when I'm hungry," said Aicha, who lives in Tabouche village, Niger. As is the case throughout much of West Africa, an ongoing drought continues to fuel a hunger crisis. The Niger Rural Water Project is helping children like Aicha by providing safe, clean water for drinking and food production.*

## Background Information

The West African nation of Niger is the second poorest country in the world, ranking next to last, at 186 of 187 countries on the 2011 United Nations Human Development Index, which measures a country's achievements in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment, and income. Sixty-six percent of the population lives on less than \$1.25 per day (UNICEF, 2011). The world's highest rates of child mortality are found in the region of West Africa, and Niger's rate is significantly worse than the West Africa average.

West Africa is the region with the lowest coverage of improved drinking water and sanitation on the continent—and indeed in the entire world (UNICEF, 2011). Climate change is resulting in increased drought and flooding, adding to concerns about water supply and food security. Since 1970, West Africa has experienced a decline in annual rainfall. Niger experiences seven-month-long dry seasons, which severely affect agricultural production, nutrition, and income.

As many as 15 million people in West Africa are currently affected by severe drought resulting in poor harvests, high food prices, and declining food stocks. The crisis has led to an exodus of rural Nigeriens to urban areas where food is more readily available. In addition, one of the regions of Niger that has been impacted by the drought, Tillaberi, which borders Mali to the west, experienced an influx of thousands of refugees from Mali due to the civil war that recently broke out there. At the same time, an outbreak of cholera in this region, which began with last year's flooding, is threatening the lives and health of these displaced people.

## Project Description

World Vision has been working since March 2004 to increase safe water access for impoverished, rural populations in Niger through its West Africa Water Initiative. The addition of donor support from WBH in 2008, along with significant contributions from other partners, has enabled the Niger Rural Water Project to expand its well-drilling capacity significantly.

The project aims to reduce the prevalence of WASH-related diseases by increasing access to safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education between October 1, 2010, and September 30, 2016.

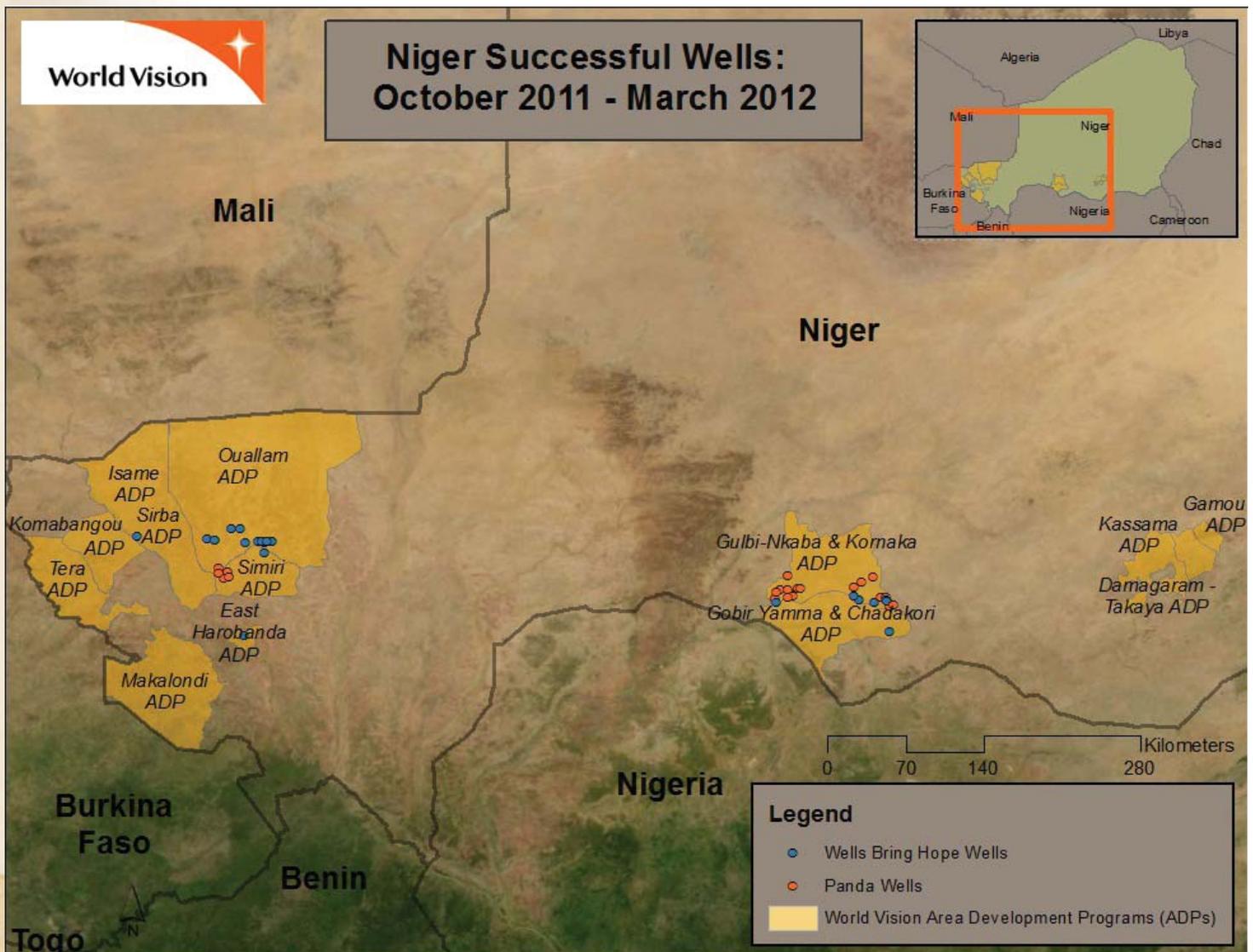
The intended outcomes of the Niger Rural Water Project are:

- Increase access to safe water from 53 percent to 82 percent
- Increase access to sanitation facilities from 13 percent to 50 percent
- Increase awareness of improved hygiene in 50 percent of households
- Empower 540 communities to use and manage WASH facilities
- Develop and strengthen partnerships for coordination of project implementation

## Well-Drilling Accomplishments

Since our last report to WBH in August 2011 through March 2012, your contributions total \$375,200. (This includes \$16,800 that was received between July and September 2011.) These contributions, along with additional matching funds from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Dornisfe Family Foundation, have funded 67 wells in Niger. The contributions from other foundations represent a 2 to 1 match for every dollar contributed by WBH. Of the 67 wells funded during this period, a total of 49 have been drilled as of March.

During the first half of fiscal 2012, drilling activities were carried out in the Isame, Ouallam, and Simiri ADPs in the Tillaberi region, and in the ADPs of Kornaka West and Goulbi N’Kaba in the Maradi region. So far this year, your support has brought clean water to more than 41,000 individuals. The following map shows the exact GPS locations of each of the wells drilled during the current reporting period. Of the 49 wells drilled, contributions from Panda funded 27 wells.



## NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT



©2011 World Vision

*Haoua Salifou, the attendant at the new borehole well in Betche village, Niger, helped another resident pump water. She explained the impact of World Vision's water and sanitation activities in her village. "With the borehole and the latrines, our lives have really changed; our children are healthy and attend school without having waterborne diseases as before."*

## Other Accomplishments

In addition to wells drilled, the following activities were accomplished by the Niger Rural Water Project during the first half of fiscal 2012:

### Increased access to safe water

- Mobilized 109 schools for water-related activities
- Rehabilitated 20 nonfunctioning wells
- Conducted 109 water treatment educational trainings
- Empowered 1,138 households to treat water at the household level
- Installed two community water-treatment systems

### Increased access to sanitation facilities

- Constructed 327 demonstration latrines
- Trained 46 communities in sanitation benefits and technologies
- Implemented the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach in 14 communities, motivating residents to construct 600 latrines
- Educated 38 communities in solid waste management

### Increased awareness of improved hygiene behavior

- Trained 38 communities in hygiene benefits and practices
- Trained teachers and schoolchildren from 30 schools in the awareness of hygiene benefits and practices
- Distributed 46 hand-washing kits in schools
- Trained 104 communities in safe water handling, storage, and use; handwashing with soap; food storage; and solid waste management

### Empowered communities to manage WASH facilities

- Trained 21 communities in pump maintenance and repair, and equipped volunteers with pump-maintenance tools
- Established 91 WASH committees with fee-collection systems

### Developed partnerships for synergy and coordination

- Developed a strategic relationship with a corporation that produces hygiene products
- Developed two strategic relationships with national government entities

## A Story of Success

The following beneficiary story highlights Niger Rural Water Project activities that support the productive use of water. The Zinder region of Niger is one of the driest regions of this normally dry country, now stricken by drought. This

## NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT



©2012 World Vision



©2012 World Vision

*Despite the drought and hunger plaguing much of Niger and West Africa, Ayouba Ali and hundreds of other farmers in Kassama village are producing enough food for their families thanks to the Niger Rural Water Project's small-scale irrigation activities*

year, the rainfall is not adequate to produce enough food for the many who reside in the area. Families in villages throughout the region are experiencing hunger and starvation, and many are leaving the area to stay with relatives in other parts of the country, or to squat near food distribution centers.

A new, small-scale irrigation project is bringing hope to Kassama village, where, previously, families had been experiencing a major food shortage. One farmer, Ayouba Ali, 50, shared, “We know we can’t rely on the rainy season anymore; drought is chronic in our area.” The Niger Rural Water Project provided the Kassama community with a new water source along with irrigation pumps and fertilizers.

When the initiative first began, only 30 farmers were involved. Today, 600 farmers from the village are involved in small-scale irrigation. These efforts have resulted in a food surplus, leading to increased food security and disposable income within the community. Mr. Ali explained the impact the project has had on his community.

“Before this initiative of World Vision, we were not aware of the small-scale irrigation activity, and we ignored the benefits it could bring. In fact, we didn’t have the capacity to engage in such activity because of the very limited resources we had. Then World Vision came and opened our mind and gave us the necessary support to start. Now the door is opened for anyone who is ready to work . . . . With this activity we are experiencing amazing things. We produce many vegetables for our own consumption and for selling . . . . Our deep thanks to World Vision for this unique opportunity.”

---

## Next Steps

During the third quarter of fiscal 2012 (April 1 through June 30, 2012), the project is scheduled to implement the following activities:

### Increase access to safe water

- Drill 34 successful wells
- Conduct pumping tests and sample water quality on 34 wells
- Request contractor bids to construct four mechanized water systems
- Educate 50 communities on the importance of animal fencing

### Increase access to sanitation facilities

- Facilitate the construction of 400 household latrines
- Construct 10 institutional latrines in schools and/or health centers
- Train 72 community leaders on hygiene and sanitation promotion

### Increase awareness of improved hygiene behavior

- Educate 750 households on waterborne and water-related diseases
- Organize 500 sanitation and hygiene days in communities

## **NIGER RURAL WATER PROJECT**

- Conduct 40 hygiene and sanitation training sessions for schoolchildren
- Organize four radio broadcasts on WASH
- Educate 500 mothers on personal hygiene
- Conduct 20 sessions in schools on appropriate hygiene practices
- Train 500 households on WASH through a door-to-door campaign

### **Empower communities to manage WASH facilities**

- Train 150 WASH committee members to manage WASH facilities
- Train and equip 100 masons to construct latrines

### **Develop partnerships for synergy and coordination**

- Identify three development agencies to partner with in the target areas
- Organize a WASH information-sharing workshop at the national level
- Participate in partner meetings with the government and UNICEF

---

## **Thank You**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership with World Vision to improve the health and well-being of children and families in Niger by providing nearly 100,000 individuals with permanent sources of clean water. Because of your generosity, children and families are being protected from water-related disease, malnutrition, and death. You are helping to create food security and to improve the quality of life for the rural population of this impoverished nation. World Vision and families in Niger thank you for helping make this possible.

### **REDUCING DISEASE**

An independent evaluation of World Vision's 2009 and 2010 WASH projects in Niger, Ghana, and Mali found a positive effect in reducing disease and improving access to water and sanitation for families in our target ADPs.

In Niger, the study found that year-round access to protected water increased from 35 percent to 76 percent in World Vision's project areas where drilling occurred. Findings also showed a significant decrease in open defecation, from 83 percent to 74 percent.

As a result of these and other successful WASH interventions, "There was a remarkable decrease of diarrheal diseases in the project areas." Niger also experienced a significant reduction in the number of families with a known incidence of blindness-causing trachoma.



P.O. Box 9716  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716  
worldvision.org

NER12FECREP-WASH\_WBH  
© 2012 World Vision, Inc.

*World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.*