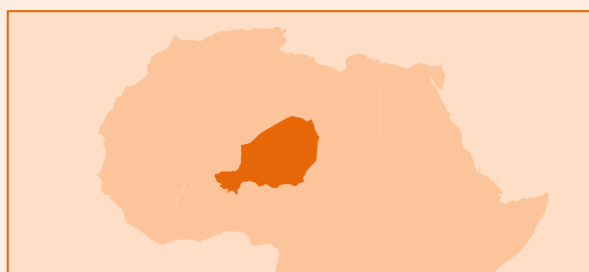


SUCCESS STORY

Support for the G5 Sahel regional emergency programme for the development of local infrastructure, water and sanitation component for the North Tillabéri and West Tahoua zones in Niger (PDU PROSEHA)



EU Trust Fund for Africa - Sahel & Lake Chad



EUTF PARTNER:
LuxDev



COUNTRY: Niger



BUDGET:
EUR 8.0M



From **01/2020**
to **06/2022**

Objective of the project

To ensure access for all to water and sanitation and sustainable water resource management.

Key successes

- > 215 new public latrines in schools, health centres, public places, and 8,500 households newly served by the basic drinking water services.
- > Improved social cohesion with the development of social agreements and concertation frameworks between users.
- > Programme aligned with the government's sectoral policy and implemented through national actors.

PDU PROSEHA¹ is part of three projects² implemented by LuxDev, in support of the Sectoral Programme for Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation (PROSEHA)³ of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation (MHA)⁴ in Niger. In line with PROSEHA's objective, these projects aimed to ensure access for all to water and sanitation and sustainable water resource management. PDU PROSEHA was specifically designed to support populations in two areas afflicted by insecurity: North Tillabéri and West Tahoua.

Aligning with the government's sectoral policy, the action was structured to ensure universal and equitable access to 1) water and 2) sanitation and hygiene services; 3) water for all users of the pastoral space; and to 4) strengthen governance, national capacities, and citizen participation in water and sanitation management.

How did the EUTF help?

Although it is difficult to trace exclusive causality with the project, MHA's annual reports^{5,6}, show an increase in access to basic drinking water services in PDU PROSEHA areas of intervention between 2018 and 2021, from 29% to 42% in Tahoua, and from 14% to 47% in Tillabéri. The project contributed to reduce disparities and insecurities in access to water through broader territorial coverage. PDU PROSEHA rehabilitated or established water- and sanitation-related structures, including nine multi-village water supply

systems, providing 8,500 new households with basic drinking water services in intervention areas. These multi-village supply systems allow water to be supplied to several villages from a single borehole. In regions where hydrogeology makes it difficult to drill, these systems allow water to reach a larger number of households. In areas of intervention, prone to population displacements, the project interventions addressed the needs of both host communities and displaced individuals whose presence tends to generate increased pressure on basic social services. The broader distribution network reduced the average distance to water supply points, which is even more important in areas prone to high insecurity. This mostly benefitted women and young people, who primarily bear the burden of water collection, making the task easier and freeing up additional time for economic and social activities.

Improved access to water is directly linked to greater social cohesion in areas prone to water-related conflicts. This is true for domestic use and even more so for pastoral use, which can be a source of tensions in arid environments such as that of Niger. The project rehabilitated or built 43 pastoral water points. Overall, these pastoral water infrastructures helped mitigate tensions related to the use of pastoral resources.



Keys to success

Aligned with the government's sectoral policy, the project was implemented through national mechanisms: PDU PROSEHA was designed to support the Nigerien PROSEHA programme. As a result, the project opted for the deployment of funds through the national Common Financing Mechanism (MCF)⁷ for the Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation sector. This innovative financial instrument was created in 2017 (by the MHA, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning) to strengthen the alignment and harmonisation of sector financing by providing technical and financial partners with a reliable, transparent, and efficient tool to support the government's ambitions. The funds are placed in a secure account in the name of the Public Treasury and spent according to national expenditure procedures by the MHA. The alignment of LuxDev's actions with public policies and national instruments facilitated the implementation of actions and government participation. This multi-donor mechanism facilitated stakeholders' interventions encouraging them to work towards a common goal and delivering outcomes in the sector.

Bottom-up participatory planning approach: The MHA identified intervention areas through the development of annual action plans (PAA)⁸ designed at the municipal and regional levels in close consultation with local stakeholders (local authorities, religious leaders, associations, local administrative services, populations). These PAA were consolidated into a global action plan and then, incorporated into the annual state budget. The way in which this planning exercise was built up from the municipal level to the national level helped effectively address water supply needs where they were felt most acutely.

Building on success

Supporting ownership and sustainability by developing local policies and tools: Through PDU PROSEHA, five new Local Water and Sanitation Plans (PLEA) were developed in Tillabéri, bringing the number of municipalities in the region equipped with this planning tool to 39 out of 44.⁹ PLEAs provide a comprehensive inventory of existing facilities and a list of priority localities to be equipped with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Despite providing a solid basis for the programme design of national and technical and financial partners, they also contribute to strengthening the capacities and autonomy of local authorities by providing them with precise estimates of needs on which to base the programming of upcoming infrastructure projects.

Learning from the high efficiency of coordinated actions and funding: In Niger, the WASH MCF proved highly effective enabling for a threefold increase in the sectoral budget between 2019 and 2022. This multi-donors tool highlighted the importance of a well-coordinated action to engage actors, and the effectiveness of using existing national mechanisms and procedures to streamline interventions.

¹ *Soutien au programme régional d'urgence d'aménagement d'infrastructures de proximité (PDU) du G5 Sahel, composante hydraulique et assainissement pour les zones Nord Tillabéri et Ouest Tahoua au Niger, dans le cadre du PROSEHA (PDU PROSEHA).*

² NIG/026 – *Programme d'Appui au Secteur de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement, phase 3 ; PASEHA 3 (Luxembourg, Danemark)* and NIG/703 – *Soutien au programme d'appui au secteur de l'eau et de l'assainissement au Niger dans le cadre du PROSEHA – SPROSEHA (Pays-Bas).*

³ *Programme sectoriel de l'Eau, de l'Hygiène et de l'Assainissement (PROSEHA).*

⁴ *Ministère de l'Hygiène et de l'Assainissement (MHA).*

⁵ *République du Niger – Ministère de l'hydraulique et de l'assainissement, « Rapport sur les indicateurs de l'eau et de l'assainissement pour l'année 2018 », March 2019.*

⁶ *République du Niger – Ministère de l'hydraulique et de l'assainissement, « Rapport sur les indicateurs de l'eau et de l'assainissement pour l'année 2021 », 30 June 2022.*

⁷ *Mécanisme Commun de Financement (MCF).*

⁸ *Plan d'action annuel.*

⁹ The last five remaining municipalities are in a chronically insecure area making it particularly challenging to envision implementing a PLEA.



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Disclaimer

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