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CONTEXT

Mali has made modest progress in expanding access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to its rapidly growing population of 22 million people. Access to drinking water increased in Mali over the past 10 years, but approximately 37 percent of the rural population still use unprotected water sources or surface water for drinking and domestic purposes. An estimated 30 percent of existing water facilities in rural areas and small towns are not operational for reasons including inadequate construction, aging infrastructure, lack of maintenance, and difficulty harnessing water resources.

ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

USAID Anka Jiko advances Malian development priorities and benefits rural Malian communities through two complementary and mutually reinforcing approaches:

- 1) Support communes to design, construct, and rehabilitate rural water and fecal sludge infrastructure identified as priorities in their local development plans;
- 2) Provide technical assistance to water and sanitation stakeholders to develop and implement Strategic Sanitation Plans and strengthen the ability of water service providers to finance, operate, collect revenue, maintain, and repair rural water infrastructure for the full design life of the facilities.

The activity builds the capacity of key stakeholders in rural Malian communities to construct, maintain, and sustainably manage safe and reliable water systems, and plan and implement Commune-level Water and Sanitation Strategic Plans. In addition, USAID Anka Jiko improves access to and quality of rural domestic and productive water and sanitation services in Mali's Sikasso, Bougouni, and Koutiala regions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

- 60 communes selected to receive USAID Anka Jiko support.
- Baseline survey data collected in all 60 communes. Surveys reached 15 households per village in 60 villages (one per commune).
- Desk review and analysis of all 60 *Programme de Développement Social, Economique, et Culturel* (PDSECs) in supported communes.
- Development of an Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) to establish baseline capacity across several domains for the Decentralized Technical Services and commune councils.
- Rapid Infrastructure Scoping Assessments in most of the 56 Cohort I villages to fully analyze the different modes of water point management, understand water point functionality, verify the presence and status of water point management committees, and assess the associated risks for infrastructure sustainability.
- Selection of five local, civil society organizations to support WASH citizen engagement in target communes.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Tetra Tech
Associates in Rural Development
B360