

CASE STUDY

MORE WATER, LESS WALKING

GCCA+ SECTOR:
GENDER



FACT FILE

PROJECT NAME	Local Climate-Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL-UNCDF)
REGIONS	Africa, Asia and the Pacific
COUNTRIES	Twelve countries across regions including Niger, Dosso district
GCCA+ PRIORITY AREAS	Adaptation, mainstreaming
SECTOR	Adaptation, governance
FUNDING INSTRUMENTS	Project approach, joint management. Other financing entities across countries: SIDA; the governments of Bangladesh, Benin, Belgium, Bhutan and Liechtenstein; UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF); and UNCDF.
WEBSITE	www.local-uncdf.org/more-water-less-walking www.local-uncdf.org



In Niger's remote communes, the rising issue of water scarcity is a concern for many. As the weather patterns shift, the people of the Dosso district are finding it harder to have safe and secure sources of water. With a limited number of options, many are willing to go to great lengths to find water, in order to get by day to day. With the rain patterns changing, there is no telling which wells will provide water. This unpredictability makes the need greater. For women, especially, the act of fetching water may entail a whole day's work.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Overall objective:

- Promote climate change resilient communities by increasing financing for and investment in climate change adaptation at the local level in the least-developed countries.

Specific objective:

- Increase local authorities' access to climate finance to implement climate change adaptation activities in target countries.

The programme will achieve these objectives by providing performance-based climate resilience grants, targeting rural local authorities especially.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In its first year of implementation, LoCAL Niger has provided performance-based climate resilience grants to two communes of Niger representing an estimated 100,000 people. Among the dozen climate-resilient investments undertaken, there was the rehabilitation of well water in the rural community of Dan Kassari, department of Dogondoutchi in the region of Dosso.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

In Niger, women are the main beneficiaries of a number of investments made during the pilot phase. Many of the water projects in Niger specifically benefit women, as they spend a disproportionate amount of their time each day fetching water. The rehabilitation of a number of wells through LoCAL has greatly improved access to water and thus reduced the amount of time women have to spend walking to the nearest wells, as these used to be further away.

In the example, the rehabilitated well is designed in a way to ensure minimum loss of water when drawing. A drain encircles the well where most of the falling water drips down the edges of the construction and is collected in pan-shaped structure for the transportation animals and livestock to sip on. This design not only supplies fresh water to the animals, but also decreases the amount of water carried back, as it no longer needs to be split.

This rehabilitation work increased the water level, protected the wells from climate variation by raising their coping by 0.5 metres, and included the installation of gates and troughs to help village women draw water.

An organisational mechanism and management committee for the rehabilitated wells have been established in each village.

The activities are focused on maximizing synergies between adaptation and poverty eradication.

The project eases the care burdens of women and girls, which will not only lessen the labour and time commitment required to provide basic services for their families, but can also strengthen communities by allowing for women to offer their talents and labour to adaptation and mitigation efforts, and economic activities more broadly.

Another investment – the rehabilitation of degraded land – specifically benefited women by providing 200 women with temporary jobs in rehabilitating the land and planting new trees. The project simultaneously reduced the risk of flooding and provided additional income to women and their families.

LESSONS LEARNED

LoCAL recognises the different ways in which women and men can be affected by climate change, as well as the importance of their particular contributions to solutions. Whilst the specific criteria for the perfor-

mance-based climate resilience grant system vary from one country to another, a number of LoCAL countries have systems with specific gender-sensitive performance measures.

In the example chosen, women and men access, manage, use and benefit from water differently, and because of gender discrimination and disparity, women and men's relationship to water is unequal. In many households, women are the primary users and managers of water for domestic activities including cooking, cleaning, subsistence agriculture, health and sanitation; men primarily use water resources for income-generating activities (agriculture or livestock).

Climate change threatens to exacerbate the inequalities between women and men's relationship to water and as such, the burden of women's work in unpredictable climate conditions is strongly affected.

Investing in basic needs and supporting women in far-away regions results in an improvement to quality of life for their families and communities.

A new well in a remote region improves the quality of life of neighbour 'last mile' communities.

THE WAY FORWARD

In 2017, LoCAL will consolidate its portfolio across local governments in all 12 participating countries.

Niger will consolidate their work through a second cycle of investments in their pilot phase while exploring partnerships for Phase II, which aims to provide support to more communes throughout the country.

The programme is working on a system to monitor and evaluate the impact of activities on the resilience of women and men in 'last mile' communities.

The planning and implementing of new activities – with local governments answering to livelihood needs but also increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable communities – is underway, involving 64 local governments across Africa, Asia and the Pacific and representing five million people.

ONE KEY MESSAGE

The pragmatic approach of LoCAL in promoting immediate benefits for livelihoods is also improving knowledge about climate impacts and vulnerabilities, creating a sustainable pathway to a climate and gender change.



Women taking well water, Dogondoutchi, Dosso, Niger.