

# NIGER PARTNER'S NEW CAPACITY IN WATER AND SANITATION: A CASE FROM NIGER

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Analyses conducted in 2012 have shown that many of Oxfam partners had no capacity in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH). Oxfam has undertaken actions for capacity building of partners in this area. This case study describes how a partner organization – Adkoul – became remarkably successful in this field.

This Case Study was a background briefing for Oxfam Novib's 2013 Annual Review, prepared in partnership with Adkoul, and describes the programme in Niger. Although it is not a formal evaluation it does consider lessons learned by both Oxfam Novib and its partner organisations.

These Case Studies are shared in the form in which they were submitted, often written by partners whose first language is not English, and have not been edited since submission. We believe that the meaning is clear enough, and the authenticity of the reporting and the availability of Southern Voices on development makes their inclusion in the Oxfam iLibrary worthwhile for sharing with external readers.

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**Programme Partner: Adkoul**



# AIM OF THE PROJECT

The main objective of the project was to strengthen the capacities of Oxfam's partners in Niger to have competences in implementing water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) projects.

## CONTEXT

Oxfam operates in Niger since 1992. Oxfam's work aims to fight social injustice and poverty by increasing the resilience of affected communities and supporting local partners to implementing their initiatives targeting the most vulnerable.

Oxfam's mandate is to strengthen the capacities of local civil society organizations to make them able to effectively contribute in fighting poverty and injustice.

Thus, to fulfil its mission, Oxfam works in partnership with local civil society organizations. Oxfam's humanitarian partners consist of Niger NGOs, Associations and National Federations, together with which it is involved in the preparation and implementation of programs to reduce poverty. Partners have the advantage of having knowledge of the country and for most rooted in local communities.

Under humanitarian programs to date Oxfam works in partnership with 13 organizations and consortia. Since its establishment in Niger Oxfam participated alongside its partners in the organization and implementation of several humanitarian assistance projects.

The studies conducted on the capacities of Oxfam and partners in the development of strategies and contingency plans, and capitalization workshops revealed a lack of competences of partners in humanitarian WaSH. The recommendations from these studies have proposed to strengthen the capacity of partners in this area. To address this issue, Oxfam has undertaken several actions to strengthen the capacities of its partners through partners' staff training and remote support. To date two trainings have been performed for two partner organizations – namely Adkoul and Idela – and another training is scheduled for 3 more partners.

## METHODOLOGY

This case study focuses on the case of Adkoul which was remarkably successful in the WaSH domain with the support of Oxfam. The capacity analysis of Oxfam and partners in the development of strategies and contingency plans, and capitalization workshops held in 2012 revealed that most of the partners had no WaSH officer. In 2013, Adkoul received a proposal from UNHCR to implement a WaSH project in the refugee camps of Tazalite in Tahoua region (Niger) for 3000 Malian refugees. With no capacity in the field of humanitarian WaSH, Adkoul requested the support of Oxfam. First, the WaSH team of Oxfam assisted Adkoul in needs analysis in the camp of Tazalite, the design of the project and the setting up of a team to conduct WaSH activities. Oxfam made available survey questionnaires, WaSH staff profiles to facilitate the recruitment and all documentation and tools to implement a project. Once the team was in place, training in humanitarian WaSH was organized to strengthen their capacities. The team set up consisted of a WaSH project coordinator, an assistant to the coordinator and 5 public health promoters. This WaSH team of Adkoul benefited from a remote support throughout the execution of this project.

## RESULTS

The activities performed by Adkoul in this project are:

- Building of five platforms to install 5 water bladders
- Distribution of water using water trucking
- Treatment of water with chlorine
- Construction of 55 latrines and 55 showers

- Management of solid waste on the camp by providing bins and 6 donkey carts, and excavation of landfills for solid waste
- Distribution of hygiene kits to every household
- Promotion of good hygiene practices

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Successes & failures

The implementation of these activities allowed Adkoul gain good experience in WaSH with the recruitment of 7 WaSH staff, acquisition of WaSH equipment and knowledge building in the WaSH sector. Adkoul is now one of our partners with good capacity in WaSH.

### Tips and more

Practice makes perfect.  
WaSH capacity is humanitarian capacity.

## HUMAN INTEREST



*The WaSH coordinator inspecting the water bladder and the water tap*



*The WaSH team had serious problems with children playing with the water taps*



*Water trucking*



Waiting for the water truck: from left to right, the, Adkoul WaSH Assistant, Adkoul Program Officer and Oxfam WaSH Officer



Inside the tent of the refugees



Adkoul sign with logo

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The Oxfam Novib Programme Case Studies are documents prepared as background to the Annual Reports from the organisation. They are shared here mainly in the form in which they were submitted, often written by partners whose first language is not English, and they have not been extensively edited since submission. We believe that the meaning of the text is clear enough, and the authenticity of the reporting and the availability of Southern Voices on development makes their inclusion in the Oxfam iLibrary worthwhile for sharing with external readers. If you want to ask for more information or need clarification on meaning for any title in the series, please email [info@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:info@oxfamnovib.nl)

This case study was written by Abdoul Aziz Idé.

For further information on the issues raised in this paper please e-mail [info@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:info@oxfamnovib.nl)

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Oxfam GB, Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2JY, United Kingdom

Oxfam Novib, P.O. Box 30919, 2500 GX The Hague, The Netherlands  
ADKOUL, BP 161 Tahoua, Niger

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