**PROJECT NAME AND COUNTRY**

Fada Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Burkina Faso (Global Grant #1418148)

**PROJECT DATES**

October 1, 2013 - November 30, 2015 Grant final report is in the final approval process.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION: NEEDS ADDRESSED**

Burkina Faso is a small landlocked country in West Africa, with a population of about 17 million, the vast majority (about 80%) reside in rural areas and practice subsistence agriculture.

The health situation in Burkina Faso is characterized by high mortality and morbidity. A recent government study estimates the sanitation coverage nationally at 10% but in the rural areas only 3%. Despite considerable progress made in recent years, Burkina was unable to reach its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to health, especially infant, child and maternal mortality. Child mortality caused by preventable diseases, is one of the biggest problems of the country.

Lack of access to clean water, especially in rural areas with an impoverished population, is a major cause of this chronic crisis of public health. The problem is exacerbated by insufficient knowledge among the rural population about the principles of hygiene and lack of sanitation facilities.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The WASH project is intended to improve the situation in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in villages in greatest need in ​​eastern Burkina Faso. The specific objective was to increase access to clean water, improve sanitation and shape awareness of basic hygiene in five villages. To achieve this, the project team established several partnerships with NGOs, relevant government ministries and especially with the beneficiaries of the villages themselves. All project activities took place in the spirit of collaboration between these partners, using the latest best practices to ensure the sustainability of achievements.

**SCOPE OF THE PROJECT**

In general, there is a great need for WASH interventions in the region. The project addressed the urgent need for drinking water and improved sanitation from 5 villages in eastern Burkina Faso. They were chosen because of their commitment to partner with the project team and because they demonstrated the greatest need for drinking water and sanitation in the region. In addition, each village had a primary school which featured an acute need for a 'WASH in School’ project. One of those practices, water accounting, allowed us to identify the areas with the greatest needs.

The "water accounting" tool was used to identify areas with the greatest needs in the villages selected for the project. For this reason, four surveys were created:

* Village Survey to identify the villages in greatest need, resource people available in the designated villages and in each neighborhood;
* Water Source Survey to identify the amount of water now available and what uses are made of it;
* Investigation Area to estimate the total water need for personal and other uses;
* School Survey to identify water and sanitation needs in schools in the beneficiary villages.

**COMMUNITY INPUT**

It’s believed that positive change of marginalized populations can be achieved only by making long-term commitments in a true partnership with recipient municipalities. The ''holistic'' WASH approach project allowed us to address a number of problems related to the field of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

**ADVANCING ROTARY’S WASH STRATEGY**

Over the years, Rotary has evolved and refined a WASH strategy that now incorporates sustainability, community involvement, and a holistic approach. This project utilized these elements and have added three more for consideration by the Rotary community.

1. We employed “theater arts” to improve hygiene awareness. A cooperating partner, One Drop Foundation, a Canadian NGO created by Cirque Du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté, trained a traveling theater troupe on the use of theatre to reinforce hygiene training. It “show” was performed before 13,000+ members of the community. After performance surveys showed an understanding of the importance of hygiene.
2. We worked with USAID already working on other projects in the region. They introduced us to regional government officials, trained some of our workers, introduced us to new technology and were very supportive. They also directed some of their funding to complementary projects nearby.
3. Creating a permanent record of the project was an important early consideration. We taped about 100TB of video and photos which, when edited, will help contributing Rotarians better understand how their foundation giving is used and possibly encourage future projects.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS - MEASURABLE RESULTS**

A brief summary of the project successes are as follows:

* Water - 4 deep wells drilled providing 3,563 villagers with clean water
* Sanitation - 938 students plus 20 teachers in 4 schools now have use of 6 gender specific latrines (each with 3 doors)
* Students and villagers now have the use of 10 wash stations for clean hands
* Hygiene Training - 1,036 people were trained in safe hygienic practices in 20 training sessions followed by 16 monitoring visits.
* Hygiene Awareness - 13,331 people, including 5,333 students in the high schools of Fada and 7,998 people in the villages of the region saw a social arts play preformed 32 times in 45 days in 15 villages.  The additional performances beyond the intervention area were financed by One Drop Foundation, a Cooperating Partner.

**ROTARY CLUB PARTICIPATION**

The project was created by Bill Korstad (the Rotary Club of Denver) and Davy Yago Ouagadougou Crystal Rotary Club, Burkina Faso. The International Club developed the project, raise the funds and directed the project. No other Denver club members were involved. The Host Club assisted in vendor selection, directly managed the project, visited the sites often, supervised the project manager and were responsible for disbursement and accounting of all funds. Several Rotary clubs, districts and private individuals contributed to the project. Funds were raised from 12 clubs in 7 districts and 4 countries.

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION**

The communities completed the water accounting tools, assisted in site selection, provided financial and in-kind contributions, did some work not requiring specialists or heavy equipment. All the other labor was from the community.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Each community created a Water Point Committees for management of the well and to provide sustainable funding for the wells. After each harvest, funds are collected from the community and placed in a bank account managed by the village’s Water Point Committee. It’s a common model in the region. The project manager, Barka Foundation and the local Rotary club have continuing contacts with the communities.

Construction of boreholes and latrines by themselves are insufficient to ensure sustainability of a positive change in the communities and schools. A strong awareness component is needed. This is achieved by training leaders, teachers, water committees and hygienists both at the community level and in rural schools. This training, monitoring and ongoing technical support during the 13-month duration of the project allowed the villages and schools to take ownership of the results. The gain in local skills

**HOW HAS THIS PROJECT PROMOTED WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE?**

This project employed Rotary’s best practices in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. It also developed a few more practices that should be considered. It addressed one of Rotary’s primary areas of focus and one of the U.N.’s Millennium Development Goals. These goals have been the main focus of NGO humanitarian organizations for the past 25 years. They have raised the health and well being of disadvantaged communities so they can contribute to building a healthier, prosperous, more peaceful world.

Living standards have risen dramatically in the last quarter century for four billion people in the developing world. Within the lifetime of many alive today, it is expected they will achieve living standards roughly equivalent to those in the developed world. Recent history indicates that will be the case.

But that still leaves a billion people in poverty including most of Burkina Faso. This project addressed those in the undeveloped world who are unfortunately making no progress or continuing their long, slow slide towards chaos and suffering. Projects like this – and many, many more are needed – will help to reverse this slide. Ultimately, these countries will turn around, grow and prosper, and eventually these bottom billion will take their rightful place in the world community. True world peace can only be achieved when all humankind has freedom from want. This project is but one small step along that path.

**POTENTIAL FUTURE ROTARY PROJECTS IN BURKINA FASO**

This was The Rotary Club of Denver’s third WASH project in Burkina Faso. Prior projects identified the needs and established the relationships necessary to make this project possible. Feasibility of building an advanced Model School in one of the communities that would draw students from around the country is in the planning stages and may be considered as a Rotary project. Plans beyond that have not been made.