

Case study

Urban water supply – Niger

<u>Project Identification</u>	
Where (country/City):	Niger Urban water Supply
When and contract length :	2001 - 20 years contract / recent extension until end of 2022
Goal: Construction and or operations?	Operations
Scope: Water/ Wastewater?	water supply
Scope: Plant and or Network?	Plants and Network
People served:	1.8 million in 2001, 4 million in 2020
Brief description of the project	
The Niger government wanted to drastically improve the coverage with drinking water. It also wanted to enhance the professionalism of the teams, and the water quality	
What have been the major outcomes or successes?	
The population in the served area almost tripled during the contract and the coverage rate increased from 73% in 2001 to 92% in 2020, thanks to 96,000 social connections and 4,000 standpipes. The workforce remained fairly stable, and the 713 staff were trained according to a precise and function-based skills development program, which enabled this stable workforce to serve four times more people than at the beginning.	
Has “working in partnership” helped to make the project successful?	
The partnership is well structured with a government regulation, a public asset company called SPEN and the operating company, SEEN, which is owned 49% by local stakeholders (5% State of Niger, 10 % SEEN employees, 34% private Niger shareholders), Veolia detaining the remaining 51% stake.	
<u>Contribution to the United Nations 2023 Conference themes</u>	
1) What Interactive Dialogue themes does the project contribute to?	

Water for Health: Access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation	Yes, as the dominant feature of this project is the development of access to good quality water
Water for Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development	Yes, high rate of increase in the number of clients, with direct connections (social connections programs by the IFIs). Each year, numerous families switch from standpipes delivery to individual connection to their slots. Access to water is easier
Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction	Resilience : improving the access to water in urban areas contributes positively to the growth challenge being faced by Niger, a country with limited resources.
What topic of the “Global Acceleration Framework” does the project contribute to?	
1. Optimized financing – did you improve targeting or utilize existing resources more efficiently, or mobilize additional funds	YES: with a very good network efficiency (from 87% in 2001 up to 87% in 2022). SEEN makes the best out of existing production assets. The sharing of responsibilities between SPEN (public asset company in charge of investments) and SEEN, private operator, has created a positive move in the urban water sector and gained the trust of IFIs, who have financed network & connections extension programs as well as new water production facilities like Goudel IV.
2. Improved data and information – how did you use data and information to improve the service and increase accountability and transparency	YES: The contract between SEEN , SPEN and the MHA has defined many KPI's that have been followed since 2001. On top, a “performance contract” is attached to the main lease contract and summarizes the respective targets for SEEN and SPEN.
3. Capacity development - did you create new jobs or developed local people's skills and talents?	Yes, job creation since 2001 to follow the development of the activity (173 jobs created at SEEN alone, plus the impact on subcontractors and suppliers).
4. Innovation – how have you used innovation and technologies to make the service better?	YES: Test of prepaid meters. Payments by phone thanks to agreements signed with banks and cell phones operators. Digitalisation of meter reading (pictures of the meter index taken).
5. Governance – what have you done to maintain and strengthen governance around the project?	YES: The design with a clear performance-based contract between the public asset owner and the private operator, the decision that half of the private operator would belong to local actors are governance settings which ensure 1) public

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	interests and chairing are duly enforced, 2) the goal of developing access and the quality of service are central to the operations. In addition, regular contacts with the media and the population are organized to ensure that the initiatives are well understood by the civil society in general
Has the project in any way supported the development and involvement of young people and/or supported gender equality, and if yes, how ?	
Providing access to potable water and improving its quality are priority gender equality measures. In addition, the SEEN created in Niamey the <i>Oasis</i> , a structure dedicated to the support of women entrepreneurship.	