



BURKINA FASO  
Unité-Progrès-Justice

# **MONITORING AND REGULATION OF THE PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS OF BURINA FASO**

**Ouagadougou, from 26 to 28 November 2024**

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## **OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION**

INTRODUCTION: A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF SAWES AND THE AREAS IN WHICH IT OPERATES ;

I. SAWES' EXPERIENCE OF MONITORING AND REGULATING THE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN RURAL AREAS OF BURKINA FASO ;

II. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES DEFINED THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORING AND REGULATION ;

III. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES ADOPTED TO IMPLEMENT MONITORING AND REGULATION ;

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CONCLUSION :

## INTRODUCTION

- SAWES is a limited liability company founded in 2000. It operates in the fields of water, hygiene, sanitation and the environment, and provides the following services:

| • Areas of intervention                    | • Significant work   |
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| • Project and programme management         | • Various projects: EU, UEMOA, ADB, UNICEF, DANIDA   |
| • Work control                             | • Hydraulic projects, Yakouta dam, Soum dam, construction of AEPS, boreholes, etc. in the upper basins                     |
| • Urban and industrial services management | • Management of AEPS in the Centre, Centre-East, Centre-West and Centre-South regions. Management of other public services |
| • At AEPS level                            | • Carrying out AEP repair work   |
| • Work on behalf of third parties          | • Work to extend the water supply networks (32 km of network)  |

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It has 21 years' experience in managing simplified drinking water supply systems (AEPS), dating back to 2003 in the towns of Béguédo, Mogtédo and Niaogho, where it signed operating contracts with the water users' associations (AUE) of these localities. This experience was extended in 2008-2009 with the signing of leasing contracts with municipalities in the Centre, Centre-East and Centre-West regions. Today, the number of AEPS managed by SAWES is around 90, spread across 44 communes in 6 regions: Centre, Centre-East, Centre-South, Centre-North, Centre-West and Plateau Central.

## **I. SAWES' EXPERIENCE OF MONITORING AND REGULATING THE SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN RURAL AREAS OF BURKINA FASO ;**

SAWES has experience of managing AEPSs since 2003, when it was involved in 3 AEPSs (Béguédo, Niaogho and Mogtédo) in the Centre-Est and Plateau Central regions, after signing leasing contracts with the water users' associations in the municipalities concerned.

The stakeholders signing the contracts are the operator (SAWES), the water users' association (AUE), the regional water authority for the Centre-Est region, the project manager who built the works, and the prefect of each locality.

Since 2009, this experience has been extended to the Centre, Centre-West and Centre-South regions, with standard leasing contracts drawn up by the authorities and signed by SAWES and the mayors of the communes.

The various contracts provide for half-yearly technical and financial reports, which have always been filed with the town halls and regional water departments. Following the example of these reports, physical meetings are held at communal and regional level at the invitation of the project owner and the administration to report on the management of the AEPS to the various stakeholders. At these meetings, the difficulties and recommendations mentioned in the management reports are discussed with a view to improving the public drinking water service.

## **II. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES DEFINED THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORING AND REGULATION**

The performance targets defined and included in the leasing contracts are as follows:

- Achieving performance targets depends above all on the quality of drinking water supply facilities. This is why the administration and the contracting authority must ensure the quality of the work carried out on the drinking water supply facilities. To achieve this, the works delegated must be in good working order.
- The operator, for its part, ensures the continuity of the drinking water service in rural areas and, in the event of a breakdown, carries out the necessary repairs within 72 hours of the breakdown occurring; the project owner is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this measure in accordance with the provisions of the leasing contract (over 90% of results achieved);
- The operator will report regularly on the management of the delegated facilities to the project owner and the administration, which will define a framework for regular exchanges (management reports sent regularly and meetings with the players in certain communes and regions);

- The farmer will achieve indicators such as 80% plant efficiency, 90% recovery rate and 100% water quality (these indicators are not always achieved in all localities because of unpaid utilities and water leaks);
- Performance also requires a better choice of energy source, eliminating generators in favour of solar power and SONABEL electricity.

### **III. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES ADOPTED TO IMPLEMENT MONITORING AND REGULATION**

Prior to 2009 and Decree 2009-107..... transferring powers and resources from the State to the communes in the area of water supply, all waterworks were the property of the central State. As management was left in the hands of the communities, recurrent breakdowns over long periods without repair deprived the population of the benefits of the public drinking water service. Repairs, which were the responsibility of the State, took a long time to be carried out, given the administrative red tape involved, not to mention the fact that some were left abandoned without repair.

Since this reform, there has been better management of water supply facilities, with the introduction of new players, in particular the contractors, who ensure the continuity of the public water service, the municipalities and the regional departments responsible for water. In this configuration, the roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Local authorities: as contracting authorities, they entrust the management of their AEPS to a contractor, while monitoring the contractual provisions;
- The regional departments in charge of water play the role of assistants to local authorities;
- The contractor operates the works, distributes the drinking water, carries out routine repairs and reports regularly to the project owner on its management.

The farmers maintain good working relations with the two (02) other stakeholders, namely the municipalities and the regional departments in charge of water.

### **IV. RESULTS OBTAINED: CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES IN TERMS OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PUBLIC WATER SERVICE.**

- The functionality rate of delegated water supply facilities exceeds 95%;
- The rate of access to drinking water is increasing every year;

- The bacteriological quality of the water supplied is 100%;
- The overall efficiency of the facilities is over 80%;
- The overall recovery rate is 85%;
- Job creation in rural areas, in particular through the recruitment of centre managers and water engineers, with a corresponding reduction in the unemployment rate;
- Providing financial resources to local authorities through the payment of local taxes.

As far as the quality of water supplied to users is concerned, it should be emphasised that the water supplied complies with health standards (regular chlorine treatment and physico-chemical and bacteriological analyses);

Financially, the average price of a cubic metre of water is 450 francs, a price that barely covers the increasingly exorbitant operating costs, the cost of energy and spare parts;

From a technical point of view, the quality of the work carried out to build water supply systems is inadequate, compromising their durability;

On the social front, the security threat is preventing the proper operation of certain facilities in certain localities because of the inaccessibility of the sites. Land speculation will also compromise the construction of new facilities over time, as it is increasingly difficult to find land for the work in terms of availability and cost.

There has also been the uncontrolled, large-scale construction of water supply systems by illegal private operators for public and commercial use. Specifications have been drawn up to standardise the activities of these operators, and implementation is imminent.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Burkina Faso, the public water service in rural areas is governed by legal provisions designed to provide the best possible service. The service has improved since 2009 with the introduction of new players, but there are still many challenges to be met if we are to achieve the desired results in terms of universal access to drinking water and the technical and financial sustainability of the facilities. With the combined efforts of all the stakeholders, even more convincing results will be achieved.