



Acting at the side of those excluded from access to water

Recommendations for an inclusive, efficient and sustainable water management
the example of Chad



© SIF/Mail FAUCHEUX

Acting at the side of those excluded from access to water

Recommendations for an inclusive, efficient and sustainable water management - the example of Chad

Summary and recommendations

When taking stock of the situation in sub-Saharan African countries, one can notice a huge discrepancy between them and the rest of the world when it comes to access to drinking water and basic sanitation facilities. The region as a whole suffers from **significant and increasing water stress**. In Chad, the country which this report focuses on, the noticeable progress one has been able to notice as regards access to drinking water is still woefully insufficient to meet the needs of the population as a whole. There exist significant differences in particular between rural and urban areas and **huge shortages when it comes to sanitation**.

The **impact of global warming** is more significant than elsewhere, in particular in the Sahel where it is compounded by drought and its impact on farming, grazing and the spread of deserts. Those upheavals are exacerbated by two factors:

- **Population growth** which, in sub-Saharan Africa and the countries of the Sahel, is one of the most significant in the world (with a 2.5% yearly increase and a 3.5% one for Chad) and thus increases the imbalance between the population and natural resources.
- **Spatial and temporal irregular distribution of water resources** in a country like Chad, with surface water resources which are very erratic and that only a small percentage of the population can have access to on a small part of the territory, and significant underground aquifers whose renewal speed nobody knows much about.

There are **clear and multiple impacts** of this difficulty in having access to water and sanitation for the populations concerned. The consumption of unclean water, the germ contamination linked to the lack of sanitation naturally have an impact on **health**, and the diseases linked to water are a real plague in these areas: in Chad, diarrhoea thus remains one of the main causes of infant mortality. There is also an impact on **children's education and economic activities**: the time devoted to fetching water is increasingly encroaching on other activities. Besides, water plays a decisive role in the economy and in particular in activities such as farming or grazing. The impact of water shortage is also particularly serious when it comes to **food security**. In 2011, in the area of the Sahel, water shortages and the uneven distribution of rain have entailed a decrease by 43 % in the surfaces cultivated and a 56 % overall decrease in production in comparison to the average of the past five years. A food crisis is foreseen for the summer of 2012.

The scarcity of water triggers off **conflicts** between sedentary farmers and nomadic graziers and also entails tension as regards the management of water resources across borders.

Last but not least, water shortage is a global source of poverty and increases inequalities. The most severely hit populations are the most vulnerable ones, and in particular women, children, elderly people or persons with disabilities, and rural populations.

In the face of growing water shortages and the impact of the populations' lack of access to water, it is indispensable to put in place all the necessary conditions to ensure a more equal distribution of water resources between different areas, different uses and different kinds of population, through a **more efficient and enduring management of the water resource sector**. Actual improvement of access to water and sanitation will be achieved through solutions concerning all aspects and all levels:

- Putting in place a clear and coherent **political, legal and institutional framework**;
- **Users' participation** and the involvement of all those concerned;
- Developing **techniques** which are adapted to the context, accessible to all and accepted by users;
- Putting sufficient **financial means** at people's disposal, meaning mobilizing national resources as well as respecting international commitments regarding official development aid and developing innovative financial tools;
- Maintaining the long-term availability of water resources while safeguarding the **environment** and biodiversity.

The study of the strategies and policies implemented in Chad by those concerned enables us to highlight or illustrate a **number of recommendations to the most important people** involved in improving access to water and sanitation in the poorest countries:

General recommendations to the governments of aid recipient countries concerning the adoption of a legal, political and institutional framework that makes efficient and long-lasting management easier

- **Ensuring fair distribution of water resources between different users, areas and kinds of population**
 - ▶ Adopting a fair policy in favour of the most vulnerable and poorest populations: supporting first and foremost the creation of water facilities in rural areas that lag behind MDGs (Millennium Development Goals); adopting a financial policy that takes the poorest populations into account
 - ▶ Adopting water management involving the different ministries of the country and the different water stakeholders (public authorities, NGOs and the private sector), which takes social, economic and environmental goals into account
- **Putting in place a clear and coherent legal and political framework**
 - ▶ By reinforcing the laws concerning the water sector, in particular by enshrining the right to water and sanitation into domestic laws
 - ▶ In order to create a legal environment facilitating the adoption of strategic frameworks: a participative management strategy, an operational strategy, a sustainable financial strategy and an environmental strategy (sustainable management of resources and respect for the environment)

Recommendations to promote the participation of all actors involved in access to water at all levels and build their capacity

To the governments of the aid recipient countries

- **Guaranteeing participative management of water by involving all stakeholders and by structuring the coordination between them**
 - ▶ Ensuring beneficiaries involvement and developing their ownership of the water and sanitation projects through water management committees or other community bodies
- **Putting in place a legal framework and regulations to organize and structure the management and maintenance of water facilities**
 - ▶ Making the legal identity of community bodies clear in order to ensure the transfer of official responsibility
 - ▶ Urging the private sector to create networks, for instance craftsmen's associations with a legal identity, and supporting those networks
 - ▶ Ensuring there are stocks of spare parts for pumps on a regional basis all over the territory
 - ▶ Making sure there is no overlap of jurisdictional rights between community associations, private firms, craftsmen's associations and the different local authorities
 - ▶ Making communities and the associations that have a legal status and/or private firms fully aware of the management systems as regards water supplies and of the people in charge of the work to be done
- **Building capacity of stakeholders through**
 - ▶ User trainings, within the committees in charge of water management or any other community association, to maintain, keep up and manage the facilities with a special emphasis on women
 - ▶ Training local contractors and technicians in order to develop reliable local expertise
 - ▶ Building capacity of public national stakeholders: water and environment Ministry at the national level, and its representative bodies at the local level
 - ▶ Supporting decentralisation and building capacity of local authorities
- **Making sure the sector is monitored through**
 - ▶ The creation of a regulatory independent authority acting at the national and local levels including all water stakeholders
 - ▶ The creation of a multi-stakeholders framework for dialogue and cooperation in order to make the integrated management of water resources easier
 - ▶ Drafting practical guide-books for all those involved

To the actors of international aid (institutional donors and NGOs)

- Making sure there is a continuous exchange with the public authorities of the countries where intervention is necessary as regards the implementation of aid programs
- Working with public authorities in order to put in place a clear legal and institutional framework
- Respecting and implementing the political strategy the State concerned has put in place

Recommendations to states and other stakeholders involved in drinking water supply in order to find adapted, accessible and sustainable technical solutions

- Before setting up any facilities, making sure the solution is acceptable to the population and adapted to the context by taking natural, demographic and social factors into account
- Giving the populations that are still deprived of adequate facilities access to drinking water supply services including the most vulnerable populations, in particular the populations living in the rural areas, and while trying to bridge regional gaps
- In urban and suburban areas, privileging the connection to already existing networks, which guarantees a better quality service

Recommendations to ensure fair and sustainable funding

To aid donor countries

- Providing the funds necessary to fulfil engagements and increasing funding of the water and sanitation sector in a completely transparent way
- Publishing an annual review of the bilateral and multilateral aid granted to the water sector showing clearly the different fields concerned and drawing the line between what is included in the "drinking water and sanitation" subsector, loans and donations, the main schemes and the recipient countries
- Channelling international funding towards the most destitute populations through
 - ▶ A new balance between loans and grants
 - ▶ A new balance between projects meant for big cities and basic drinking water and sanitation supplies in rural areas
 - ▶ Using official development aid to target the countries that need it the most, in particular the poorest and Least Developed Countries
- Promoting and developing new funding tools additional to existing ones (without replacing them), such as
 - ▶ A tax on international financial transactions
 - ▶ Decentralized solidarity mechanisms making it possible to fund projects through taxes raised on water services in the North
 - ▶ Specific funds: strengthening the European Union Water Facility, using the adaptation fund created within the framework of the Kyoto protocol for the water and sanitation sector

To the governments of aid recipient countries

- More mobilization of national budgets in favour of the water and sanitation sector, by making this sector a national priority
- Channelling international funding towards the most destitute populations by privileging water supplies and sanitation in rural areas
- Making sure the funding is efficient by investing more in the implementation of support measures aiming to give the facilities created a permanent framework
- Putting in place a fair rating system, which is not a disproportionate burden for the poorest populations
- Creating an innovative funding mechanism at the local level, which creates a direct link between users and local authorities and reinforces community management

Recommendations to the governments of the aid recipient countries to ensure sustainability and good quality of the water resource

- Assessing and creating a monitoring of water resources through systems enabling people to watch and study the impact of global warming on risks linked to water and through mechanisms enabling people to know more and be better informed about water, which would be harmonized at a national and regional level and at the level of hydrographical basins to make it easier to have integrated management and use of the resources
- Adopting policies to safeguard the water resource
 - ▶ Thinking about the development of alternative resources in arid areas and the recycling of used waters
 - ▶ Informing, training and raising the awareness of users, managers, and the authorities concerned as regards water savings and individual responsibility
- Adopting international, national and local schemes to adapt to global warming in particular as regards water
- Putting in place national policies to reduce the risks linked to water