



2009 PROJECT SUMMARY

Niger Rural Water Project

Saving lives by providing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene

Nearly 8 million people in the West African nation of Niger lack access to safe drinking water, and more than 12.7 million have inadequate or nonexistent basic sanitation. Through the Niger Rural Water Project, World Vision is working to prevent disease and death by providing access to clean water and sanitation, as well as hygiene education.

Unsafe water and inadequate sanitation contribute to high rates of disease and death in Niger, especially among children. Diarrhea affects more than 40 percent of boys and girls in Niger. Trachoma, a blinding disease that is prevalent in areas where water and sanitation services are not readily available, affects more than one-third of children younger than 10 (International Trachoma Initiative, 2008).

Furthermore, when women and children spend time and energy securing water for daily needs, they lack the opportunity to pursue other endeavors such as literacy classes, education, and income-generating activities.

World Vision's response

With the support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and other major donors, World Vision launched the Niger Rural Water Project (NRWP) in March 2004 to help improve the lives of poor and vulnerable rural populations in Niger. In its first phase (ending in September 2008), this project, which is part of the West Africa Water Initiative, is implementing potable water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and integrated water resources management activities in Niger.

Project goal and objectives

The NRWP employs an integrated, holistic strategy with a focus on safe water as the entry point for long-term development in Niger. The project's goal is to help improve the overall health and socioeconomic well-being of targeted beneficiaries.

Objectives include the following:

- Increase the level of access to sustainable, safe water and environmental sanitation services among poor and vulnerable populations

World Vision®

QUICK FACTS ABOUT NIGER

Population: **13 million**

Niger's Human Development Index rating: **174th of 177 countries**

Niger's annual mortality of children younger than 5: **256 per 1,000**

Percent of rural population with access to an improved water source: **32**

Percent of rural population with access to improved sanitation: **3**

Physicians per 100,000 people: **2**

Life expectancy: **55 years**

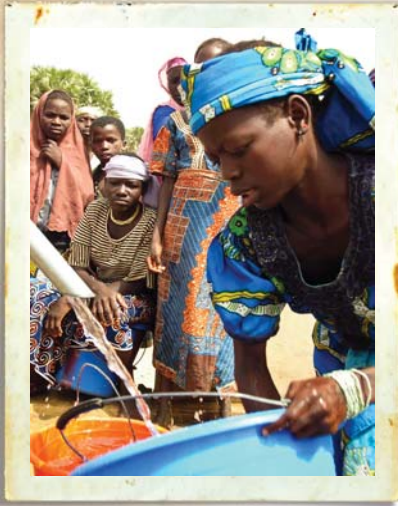
People living below the poverty line: **63 percent**

Adult literacy rate: **28.7 percent**

Sources:
UNICEF, 2006 and
United Nations, 2007



water



Villagers in Niger access water from a borehole drilled by World Vision.

How you can help

In fiscal 2009, World Vision needs \$4.26 million to launch Phase II, a five-year expansion of this life-saving project. Thanks to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, donations to the NRWP are multiplied to increase the number of children who can be provided with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Please prayerfully consider sharing your blessings with struggling communities in Niger.

May God bless you.



- Reduce the prevalence of waterborne and water-related diseases, including trachoma, guinea worm, and diarrheal illnesses
- Ensure ecologically and financially sustainable management of water quantity and quality
- Foster a new model of partnership and institutional synergy to ensure technical excellence, programmatic innovation, and long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability in water management that can be replicated elsewhere

Inception-to-date accomplishments

Following are some of the NRWP's accomplishments from March 2004 through March 2008:

- 173 boreholes have been drilled, of which 150 were successful—an overall drilling success rate of 87 percent.
- 86 percent of the targeted 175 boreholes have been drilled.
- 1,852 latrines have been constructed in 122 communities.
- 192 communities have been educated on the prevention of water-related diseases.
- 181 water and sanitation committees have been established or reactivated.
- 96 volunteers have been trained to repair and maintain hand pumps.
- 296 volunteers have been trained to construct latrines.

NRWP Phase II planned activities

By September 30, 2013, Phase II of the NRWP will drill 400 successful wells and equip them with hand pumps, providing safe, potable water to 160,000 Nigeriens. Strategic emphasis will be placed on improving health through the prevention of guinea worm, trachoma, and diarrhea; improving nutrition; and promoting hygiene. In addition, project sustainability will be achieved and benefits optimized through collaboration with other agencies, local capacity building, education, and small-scale irrigation. Project partners will be encouraged to carry out complementary activities that will sustain the impact of the project's water and sanitation initiatives.