



***Helping rural communities in less developed countries build sustainable drinking water supply systems.***

Access to drinking water is one of the most important challenges facing the developing world. Contaminated water causes many serious diseases. Each year, about 4 billion cases of diarrhea cause the death of more than 2 million people, mostly children under 5 years of age: 4,500 children are dying each day. The combination of safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygienic practices is a precondition for human health and for overall reductions in morbidity and mortality rates, especially amongst children. It is now estimated that 1.2 billion do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.2 billion do not have access to proper sanitation.

We decided to create IDO to help these populations in a practical way.

***Governance***

Created in 2008, IDO is an association under French law "Law of 1901". IDO has 4 founding members from Schlumberger and the water industry.



Members of IDO are individuals or legal persons that support its mission. IDO is led by a board of directors elected by the general assembly. The founding members are legal directors if they so choose. The Board comprises 3 to 7 members, including a chairman, a vice-president and treasurer. A director position is for 3 years and renewable. The Board meets every 6 months, defines the strategy of IDO and monitors its implementation. The general assembly of IDO is composed of the four founding members plus the elected members.

***Principles and Operational Modes***

Our mission is to provide support to villagers that allow them to maintain their drinking water wells in a sustainable manner while encouraging them to become independent and take over full responsibility for ongoing maintenance. We are opposed to any initiative that would promote a dependence attitude.

Educating villagers about the importance of drinking water on human health and on the need to maintain their water wells is also at the heart of our mission. This is to respond to the situation prevailing in the vast majority of villages where the level of ownership by the populations of their water wells is very low. Creating the conditions for a high level of autonomy requires that the responsibility of the wells and of ensuring that hygiene standards are respected is transferred to local based structures composed of people specially trained for that mission



We also provide technical and operational support to village communities

Main actions in practical terms:

Awareness campaigns on water fresh related issues in villages, setting of water management committees and support them until they are fully operational and efficient.

Inventory of drinking water facilities in rural areas and the local structures  
Faulty pump diagnostics on certain type of manual pumps preparing decisions to repair  
Logistic and technical support for all activities related to the physical maintenance of pumps and wells

The beneficiaries are directly the village populations. IDO is not a lender, it does not fund NGOs or government organizations.

IDO is currently conducting several collaborative actions in Chad and the Republic of Congo.

## **Operations**

### ***Tchad***

IDO operates in the provinces of Logone Oriental (since late 2009) and Logone Occidental (since late 2012) regions in the south of the country. This area is well equipped with water wells (boreholes with hand pumps), but inventories made between 2009 and 2013 showed that the vast majority of communities had no local structures in place capable of managing their wells and about 65% of the installed pumps were not functioning.

Our operations are performed under the context of an engagement letter issued by the Ministry of Livestock and Water Resources of the Republic of Chad. Partnerships have been signed with a number of organizations in the water domain that are operating from Doba (BELACD, WorldVision) and others are being prepared with those operating from Moundou. Coordinating with all actors involved in efforts in raising public awareness, and particularly in the establishment of necessary autonomous Water Management Committees (WMC's) in the villages is at the heart of our strategy.

The local structure consists of 3 permanent local managers, 6 consultants specialized in village structures deployment and 55 Chadian volunteers who perform technical operations in the villages.

Two logistics bases in Komé have been opened, in Doba and Moundou which is our operational head office, and representatives have been recruited in Goré and Baibokoum.

Our records at end 2015 show the following results:

- more than 1600 wells on inventory
- 957 well diagnostics,
- 593 repairs

Studies have been conducted to determine the best solution to refurbish the "India" pump model by eliminating mechanical problems inherent in the design of the pump, as well as those related to water contamination. These studies were financed by government funds.

A project has launched in partnership with UNICEF to restore wells and install water management structures in villages located near the Central Africa refugee's camps or hosting Chadians returning to Chad from Central Africa. IDO will continue to support them after they have been created.

A partnership is being created with 5 Chadian partners for a two-step project to implement and monitor water point management committees in 1500 villages in throughout the Logone Oriental and Logone Occidental.



## **The CONGO Republic**

From contacts with local authorities and some of the actors in the domain of rural water and the observation of problems to access of drinking water in the Kouilou region, IDO has developed a two stage strategy centered on the inventory of the situation in the villages and the support to the authorities to define and provide the most appropriate solutions.

Between October 2011 and March 2012, 133 water wells in 74 villages were surveyed by 12 volunteers from the Congolese IDO. The results show that access to rural drinking water is difficult for two reasons:

- a) Little investment has been made to give the villagers properly located and functioning water wells
- b) Lack of village management committees, technical and logistics support structure fails to ensure proper maintenance of existing structures
- c) Open water sources (springs, ponds, rivers) and dug-out wells provide very uneven quality of water and are often remote and difficult to access from the villages.

In partnership with the Kouilou Departmental council, Caritas Congo and Doctors of Africa, IDO responded to a call for proposals to the European Union by presenting the project MAZA NA BOUALA (water in the village) which aims to develop sustainable access to safe drinking water in the Kouilou region and this proposal was selected by the EU to begin in early 2014. The total cost of the project amounts to 1,006,600 Euros for the 4 year plan. The contribution from the European Union amounts to 490,000 Euros (48.68%) of the amount.

The project's main goals are to establish village WMC's and to target a population of about 100 000 beneficiaries. It includes the following:

- A comprehensive awareness and training program, establishment of about 200 WMC's and monitoring their operation
- The establishment of technical and logistical resources to support the WMC's
- A refurbishing program for existing drilled wells and open water sources, plus new water well construction which will complement a large-scale drilling program launched by the Government at the end of 2013



The project team including technical and management resources have been implemented at the beginning of 2014. 24 people are mobilized to intervene on the ground.

The operations began in April 2014.

Progress at end of 2015 are:

- 576 Water sources (including drilled wells and open wells) inventoried in 222 villages
- 161 WMC's established
- 61 traditional wells and springs rehabilitated

## **Donations**

This important work can only be completed with continued donations from supporters of IDO. To become a supporter of IDO please donate at [www.ido-ong.org/Donations](http://www.ido-ong.org/Donations) .