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The development of the new water supply system in Toma city, Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries worldwide, with GDP/capita 300 USD. According to the human development index of the UNDP, Burkina Faso took 175th place out of 177 countries evaluated. In general, people in Central Africa suffer from depletion of water sources and low quality of drinking water. In the past, the citizens of Toma city, the capital of Nayala province, used to have problems with non-sufficient quantity and quality of drinking water. The wet/raining season lasts only four months and within the rest of the year the average temperature exceeds 35°C. In addition, there is an enormous evaporation and no single source of safe potable water within the walking distance from the town centre. Local people used to get drinking water only from underground sources, such as traditional dug wells of various depths and diameters, mostly un-protected against contamination from domestic animals. A few deeper wells with simple manual pump system were used as well. However, more than a half of these

wells were out of order due to mechanical defects on the pumping equipment and due to bad conditions of the building constructions. As a response to this urgent situation, Czech Official Development Assistance (ODA) project was implemented in 2007. This project was financed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic within its ODA programme with partial co-financing from the National Office of Water and Sanitation (ONEA), Burkina Faso. The project was focused on strengthening the access of local citizens to drinking water in Toma and previous Czech ODA activities implemented in this city. There were three main objectives of the project. The first one was to develop connection of newly identified water sources Toma-north to the elevated water tank through a new delivery pipeline (approx. 3 km). Secondly, three wells, each 60-80m deep, were equipped with new pumps and lastly the new pumping system for the newly constructed technical service house was built and put into operation. Based on the best environmental practice approached, local supplies



of the individual equipments such as pumps, electro valves, tubes and others were arranged through local companies. Also the main water supply line in the city was prolonged and 138 new individual connections were built. Connections were drawn to a group of houses, which were usually occupied by families. In co-operation with the project partner, the Poyry Environment Inc., detailed drawings and project documentations were also prepared and given to the recipient of the project. Thanks to the implementation of the project, the majority of inhabitants have instant un-interrupted approach to safe drinking water these days, with low maintenance and operation costs.



**Supported by the Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic within the Official
Development Assistance**





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- 1 Meeting the official representatives of the Toma municipality.
- 2 The construction of technical house in water source area Toma-North.
- 3 A traditional dug well with the simple manual pumping system in Toma suburb.
- 4 The newly equipped drill well no. A1 in water source area Toma-North. Laying of new water main and individual service pipes, Toma.
- 5 The laying of new water main and individual service pipes, Toma.



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