

# Synergy of action initiated by IRC in Banfora

Working together for sustainable WASH services

## Capitalisation Sheet

### BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

Article 103 of the General Code of Local Authorities reviewed in December 2009 in Burkina Faso, states, among other things, that municipalities are given the competencies to build and manage water supply facilities, participate in the production and distribution of drinking water, and develop and implement local drinking water supply and sanitation plans. Since 2017, IRC has been supporting the municipality of Banfora in the achievement of this vision while remaining convinced that it cannot achieve this alone. That is why IRC has decided to create a synergy of action between all the stakeholders in the WASH sector in Banfora to improve progress.

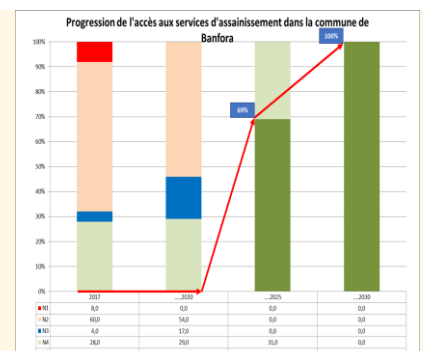
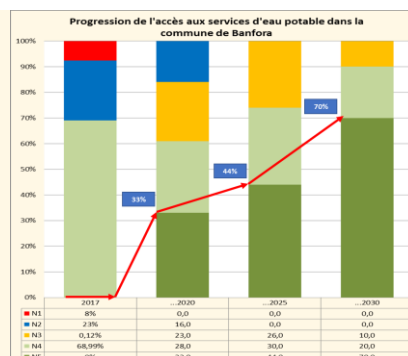
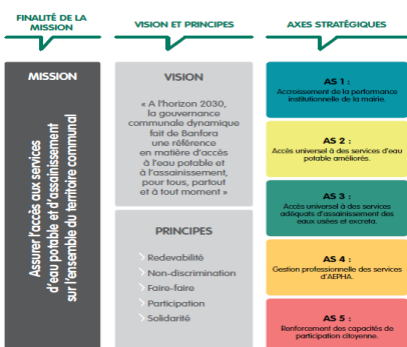
### WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

**Banfora's Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan: a jointly developed and shared guiding document.**

In 2017, IRC supported the municipality of Banfora in the development of its strategic plan for 2030. Several sector actors were involved in this process including, WaterAid, the Consumers' League, Catholic Relief Services Burkina Faso, Eau Vive, the Regional Directorate for Water and Sanitation (Cascades), the Association for the Socio-Economic Development of Cascades Region, school directors, service providers, and the Association of Water Users. The idea is to improve WASH access indicators significantly and sustainably by providing a common framework for local initiatives and actors to move in the same direction.

"We wanted this plan to be inclusive because we need everyone to reach our goal by 2030. It's not about 'water and sanitation specialists' but really about everyone, whether they're in the field or not." We want to establish a system where everyone's roles and responsibilities are clearly identified. The plan is our guideline. Now we have to implement it." **Aboubakar HEMA, Mayor of the municipality of Banfora.**

### One mission, one vision, five principles, four areas of focus



## Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IRC, CRS, the GCC, and the CDC.



A collaboration was initiated between IRC, the Gambidi Cultural Centre (GCC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the CDC Foundation for implementing the Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Strategic Plan of the municipality of Banfora. The collaboration aims to create synergy between the various actions of these partners in the water and sanitation sector in Banfora, to achieve the common objective of "Making Banfora the national reference in the water and sanitation sector by 2030." This has resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties. Monthly and quarterly meetings are organised for monitoring and joint planning of actions. This collaboration has allowed IRC, CRS and the GCC to work together on several initiatives such as the incubation programme for young WASH project leaders in Banfora.

### Establishment of a common learning platform: Annual and mid-term reviews of the Banfora WASH strategic plan.



Mariétou Ouattara, Director of Water, Sanitation and Public Hygiene at Banfora Town Hall, presenting the municipality's progress toward its WASH goals at the 2020 annual review meeting.



NGOs, CSOs, decentralised technical services, and partners, all responded to the Town Hall's invitation to review the implementation of WASH projects and programmes. (Ph NR. Zohoun)

The WASH project and programme review sessions were initiated to create a synergy of action between all actors involved in the WASH sector at the municipality level in Banfora, and to promote the implementation of the strategic plan in perfect harmony.

This municipal framework for consultation, learning and capitalisation for the monitoring and improvement of public drinking water and sanitation services provides an opportunity to review the progress of the implementation of the budgeted work plans developed each year and to make any necessary adjustments.

*"Together, we will achieve this ambitious water and sanitation strategic plan. One finger cannot pick up the flour. We will only have reached our goals if the beneficiaries are satisfied with the achievements. I hope that within two years' time we will be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel so that in 2030 we can all celebrate together,"*

**Fulgence Koné, First Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Banfora.**



*"The review of projects and programmes is a monitoring mechanism that is part of a process of sharing experiences between actors in the WASH sector, who support the municipality of Banfora in its development actions and to align them with the national commitments. This exercise is vital for the effective implementation of a project. I encourage the partners to follow this dynamic and monitor what has become their roadmap: the WASH municipal strategic plan.*

**Josephine Kouara Apiou/Kaboré, Governor of the Cascades region**

### **Advocacy to engage more partners**

IRC is committed to supporting the municipality of Banfora in the engagement of partners and fundraising for the development of its WASH strategic plan to achieve the municipality's vision to provide access to at least primary WASH services.

CRS, GCC and OXFAM have already been engaged in the strategic plan through, respectively, the Saniya So project funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to improve drinking water and sanitation services in CEB4 schools and health centres; the Saniya So+ project on WASH in health centres funded by the One Drop Foundation; and the OXFAM-funded Yélémani Ji project on community-level drinking water.

IRC has supported the Banfora Town Hall in the pursuit of partner engagement by involving its decentralised cooperation partners, namely the French cities of Bonnes, Mauprévoir, Pessac, Chauvigny and Trino in Italy.



*"In the beginning, when we developed our strategic plan, we wondered how we would manage to fundraise for its implementation. We were even worried because we thought we couldn't do it. But with IRC's continuous coaching and support, we were able to attract partners such as Oxfam, CRS and many others. If this type of support existed in all sectors, our municipality would be highly developed in all aspects. I would like to thank IRC once again for this continuous support"*

**Aboubakar HEMA, Mayor of the municipality of Banfora.**

## LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESSES

1. The WASH strategic plan is a pragmatic tool that can be used to improve WASH services in a municipality;
2. A synergy of action between all the stakeholders at various levels such as, state actors, NGOs/CSOs, etc. makes it possible to move forward together more quickly, to place the interests of the population at the centre of the interventions, to avoid duplication of interventions, to limit overlapping and waste, and to focus on one goal: the municipality's vision;
3. In terms of sustainability, it is essential to fully support the municipality in playing its role as project owner. It is therefore advisable to concentrate efforts both on infrastructure and municipal project management;
4. The periodic meetings between stakeholders working in the same municipality provide a platform for exchange on the different interventions, appreciate what is done well, and review together what should be improved;
5. This synergy of action allows IRC to create frameworks for dialogue where partners get familiar with the language of access to services rather than construction, and where they get to understand that it is now time for the tap and not for drilling;
6. Combining the actions of different actors makes it possible to raise additional funding, broadening the coverage or scale of the action, and strengthening the expertise of the stakeholders;
7. Roles are divided between the actors based on their core expertise;
8. Synergy facilitates learning, sharing of experiences and best practices. It improves communication and transparency by limiting competition between stakeholders.

## THE LIMITATIONS OF THE EXPERIMENT

- The stakeholders manage to collaborate on the implementation of some activities, but there are often schedule conflicts;
- The stakeholders are diverse, and each one often pursues different objectives;
- The individual efforts are not promoted well enough;
- The departure of a key stakeholder, or a conflict between stakeholders, can have negative consequences for the whole sector;
- The specific procedures and constraints of each type of stakeholder can be a major challenge.