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Initiative: Eau receives grant from the Roddenberry Foundation for H2O-reinforce.fada

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A. – Initiative: Eau is pleased to announce it has received a \$10 025 USD grant from the Roddenberry Foundation Catalyst Fund. These funds will support H2O-reinforce.fada, a project to improve drinking water infrastructure monitoring and maintenance capacity through the training and responsabilization of local groups in Fada N'Gourma, Burkina Faso.

Fortified local monitoring and maintenance capacity improves quality and reliability of drinking water services. As such, H2O-reinforce.fada is projected to result in a 66% reduction in the number of water infrastructure breakdowns and an 83% reduction in the amount of time water infrastructure remains non-functional after breaking. These reductions lead to increased access to safe water and diminished use of unimproved water sources, whereby reducing rates of water-borne disease.

The project's approach is to work with existing drinking water infrastructure, not to implement new built features. Instead, the project builds local capacity to monitor and maintain existing water infrastructure by transferring knowledge of adequate monitoring and maintenance practices to appropriate local groups. In this way, the project ensures that existing water infrastructure operates at full capacity, while being led by local actors. These are two objectives that are in direct alignment with Initiative: Eau's mission.

"This grant from the Roddenberry Foundation will enable Initiative: Eau to reinforce access to safe drinking water for thousands of citizens living in Fada N'Gourma. We will be able to do so while also strengthening local governance structures crucial to a robust democracy. We are grateful for this support in our pursuit of safe water access for all. This grant will finance the H2O-reinforce.fada project jointly with other support coming from the International Foundation and U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou," said Donald Brooks, Chief Executive Officer of Initiative: Eau.

Established in 2010 by Rod Roddenberry, son of the creator of Star Trek, the Roddenberry Foundation's philosophy is to promote inclusion, diversity, and respect for life, to drive social change, and meaningfully improve the lives of people around the world. The Foundation's Catalyst Fund makes grants between \$2,500- \$15,000 to anyone, anywhere in the world who has an idea or early-stage project that has a high potential for large-scale impact and sustainable change.

H2O-reinforce.fada is implemented by Initiative: Eau and its partners and will run for a projected duration of 9 months.

[About Initiative: Eau](#)

Initiative: Eau is an American 501(c)3 non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to increase the safety and quality of drinking water services in developing urban areas. The organization

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currently conducts programming in Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Its vision is a world where everyone has access to safe drinking water. Initiative: Eau is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Initiative: Eau's approach is human-centered, and data-driven. As such, data represents a common thread that links its programs. Each uses data and evidence-based methodologies to affect change whereby rendering available financial and human resources better targeted and more effective.