



Initiative: Eau | P.O. Box 380726, Cambridge, MA 02238-0725

www.initiativeeau.org | info@initiativeeau.org | +1 617 520 4875

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Initiative: Eau Press Office

Telephone: +1 617 520 4875

Initiative: Eau receives community development grant from U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou for H2Odata.city.fada

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO – Initiative: Eau is pleased to announce it has received a \$10 000 USD grant from the Embassy of the United States of America to Burkina Faso. These funds will support H2Odata.city.fada, a water infrastructure sustainability project to improve local water infrastructure monitoring and maintenance capacity through the training and responsabilization of maintenance entities in Fada N'gourma, Burkina Faso.

Fortified local monitoring and maintenance capacity improves quality and reliability of drinking water services. As such, H2Odata.city.fada is projected to result in a 66% reduction in the number of water source breakdowns and an 83% reduction in the amount of time a water source remains non-functional after breaking in the city. These reductions lead to increased access to safe water and diminished use of unimproved water sources. Safe water use drastically reduces rates of water-borne disease, diseases that are responsible for lost economic productivity, disability, and death.

Initiative: Eau's approach is to work with existing drinking water infrastructure, not to implement new built features. Instead, the organization 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, Initiative: Eau ensures that existing water infrastructure operates at full capacity and is led by local actors, goals that are in direct alignment with its mission.

"This community development grant from U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou will have a permanent and lasting effect on access to safe, potable water in the city of Fada N'gourma. We are grateful for this support from the American people in Initiative: Eau's pursuit of safe water access for all. This grant will finance 33% of the H2Odata.city.fada project, set to begin within the next few months," said Donald Brooks, Chief Executive Officer of Initiative: Eau.

H2Odata.city.fada will be implemented by Initiative: Eau and its partners beginning in September 2018 and will run for a projected duration of 6 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 areas. The organization currently conducts programming in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. Its vision is a world where everyone has access to safe drinking water.

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Initiative: Eau's approach is human-centered, and data-driven. As such, data represents a common thread that links its programs. Each uses data to inform strategic decision-making whereby rendering available financial and human resources for development efforts better targeted and more effective.

Initiative: Eau is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The organization is a member of the following global NGO networks: a) the Global Water Partnership, b) Sanitation and Water for All, c) the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and d) the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction.