



For a human development incorporating environmental protection

NEWSLETTER N° 21

SPECIAL EVALUATION

JULY 2011

EDITORIAL

Two new Fact Sheets are available on the Foundation Website.

ECOSAN LATRINES WECF

Find out how a latrine can become a generator of organic fertilizers and liquid fertilizers rich in nutrients and 100% natural!

MICRO-IRRIGATION iDE

Find out how International Development Enterprise (iDE) allows the poorest farmers to increase the return on their plots by 30%...

More information on www.fondationensemble.org
Category : News / Releases / Technical Information

Dear Reader,

'Rushing is useless. One has to leave on time'... In introducing this new issue, devoted to the evaluation of our programs, this quotation from Jean de La Fontaine resonates to me across the centuries. Still today, it makes us think.

Immersed as we are in the race against the clock to safeguard our planet and its occupants, each one of us has our eyes fixed on 2015, the finishing line! We should take the time to pause for reflection, while continuing at full speed: The time to observe the progress already made and the path looming before us and the time to analyze the results. Evaluations, regularly conducted on the projects, provide precious tools to help our thinking (see the interview with Rachel Vetterhoeffer - SOS SAHEL, Page 2). And even after projects are closed, as Gilles Burkhardt demonstrates for us on his return from mission in Burkina Faso (Page 3).

I am also happy to give voice, in this issue of 'Special Evaluation', to the beneficiaries of our projects (see Page 4). Their stories provide us with essential insights into their lives, their needs and their environment. These meetings regularly nourish the meaning of our actions, throughout the life of the projects. And not only at the finishing line...

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Vice-President

SUMMARY



The Foundation thanks all the participants in this Competition. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 15 December next.

Interview: 'With the Foundation, We Are in a Logic of Co-Construction'. (Rachel Vetterhoeffer SOS SAHEL).

Ex-Post Evaluation: Gilles Burkhardt visited the program of Water Aid / SASO, closed by the Foundation in March 2009.

On the Spot: Beneficiaries testify on the impact of the programs and the changes introduced into their daily lives.

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▲ Nothing can replace the contacts on the ground to understand and overcome the misconceptions ... Here, Mrs. J. Délia Brémont visiting Burkina Faso.

▲ Market garden basins in the Region of Niayes, which supply 60% of the fruits and vegetables of the country. (SOS SAHEL - Senegal)



BECOME A SIGNATORY OF THE ADMICAL CHARTER

Open to all players in corporate sponsorship, this charter conceived by ADMICAL opens the doors to all to a responsible approach nurtured over 30 years of experience and sharing.

www.admical.org

INTERVIEW



On May 10th, on the occasion of the last International Assizes of Patronage, organized by Admical, SOS SAHEL and Fondation Ensemble presented their joint experience of program evaluation. Rachel Vetterhoeffer Head of Partnership at SOS SAHEL, recalls the key points for us...

SOS SAHEL and the Foundation have been working together since 2006. How do we describe these partnerships?

The Foundation supported a first project in Senegal, in the Region of Niayes, now completed. In 2008, we began a second partnership in Burkina Faso. In one case, as in the other, we work in a logic of co-construction, with the permanent goal being the expected impacts for the beneficiaries... Each project is monitored and evaluated throughout its development. The Team of Fondation Ensemble, and even the Founders, make regular trips into the field. For it is on the spot that we can understand how to go beyond the conventional wisdom.

Irène Sérot Almeras, Director of the Foundation, emphasized the importance of evaluating the actions taken throughout the life of a project...

'With Fondation Ensemble, We Are in a Logic of Co-Construction'

Evaluation varies, depending on the stages of a project. Irène Sérot Almeras recalled for us the four key stages. *Pre Evaluation* is conducted before the project. Evaluation parameters are fixed at this stage, which allows for setting the bar at a certain height and gives the project a real assessment. The *Mid-Term Review*, conducted by an outside expert, allows for a pause for reflection along the way, eventually influencing the direction and permitting adaptation of the means of action... This assessment is, in the case of the Fondation Ensemble, foreseen from the date of signature of the Partnership Agreement. At the closure of the project, the *Final Evaluation* helps to build on the progress achieved, the successes as well as the failures... What happened to the project, a year later, or more? The *Ex-Post Evaluation* aims to capitalize on the findings at the end of the project and assure its viability over time.

potential of fruits and vegetables in market garden basins by reducing water consumption, to improve revenues and, eventually, to impact the poorest, young farmers and women with individual farms. Thanks to a mid-term review, we were able to assess the limits of the drip system in place. Too expensive, it was clearly ill-suited to the poorest farms and was of more interest to wealthier farms. As part of the next phase of the project, alternative solutions were proposed for the most disadvantaged (including the creation of an irrigation pond).

We can clearly see the importance of being in direct contact with those on the ground...

In Burkina Faso, the partnership undertaken with Fondation Ensemble followed the policy of decentralization, in progress, which gives municipalities new responsibilities. In this context, how to increase the rate of access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the communities of Dedougou, Bousse and the Province of Bam? How to give them sustainable access? In 2009, after some months of implementation, an on-site evaluation conducted with the Foundation highlighted the difficulty of the towns to sign on project management. It proved to be appropriate to suspend the implementation of physical works to strengthen the capacity of municipal staff and elected officials, who bear the responsibility for the project and guarantee the durability of the works built or rehabilitated.

These experiences demonstrate the importance of a shoulder-to-shoulder partnership. Not to mention the phase of setting up projects, another fundamental pillar!



These phases are essential for a perspective of sustainability.

Our partnerships with the Foundation can provide illuminating examples here. Let us consider the project in Niayes. This project, set up in 2006, had 3 goals: to promote sustainable production



For more information:
www.sossahel.org



Two years after the end of support by the Foundation, the infrastructures are still functional.



Rehabilitation and extension of the irrigated perimeter of Guere.

Drilling conducted in the village of Thanghin.

SAHEL SOLIDARITE / WATER AID
Burkina Faso

Livestock watering throughout the year.

One of the 1,600 latrines provided.

RETURN FROM MISSION

Ex-Post Evaluation:

Providing the Means to Go Further

Once projects are closed, how many of them will receive an ex-post evaluation to verify, on the spot, if the results obtained prove sustainable over the long term, even suggesting eventual improvements if necessary?

Seven years after its creation and with the hindsight which it has today, the Foundation is mobilizing all its attention on this approach, which has often proved very successful.

Gilles Burkhardt* reports his field experience to us.

'Last April, during my follow-up mission to Burkina Faso, I was able to carry out an ex-post evaluation for 3 days, in the Province of Passore, on the project of improvement of access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation conducted by the local NGO Sahel Solidarité (SASO) and Water Aid. The objectives of the project were the following: Construction and rehabilitation of 40 boreholes and a potable water system; construction of 1,600 latrines, digging a trough, or a small dam, to allow the cattle to drink throughout

the year; rehabilitation and extension of an irrigated perimeter; formation of community groups for the manufacture of soap and livestock breeding. Over the course of this mission, I was able to verify that all the infrastructures built are still functional and – another very encouraging sign – the villagers continue to pay for their water, monthly, in order to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of equipment.

The project has certainly made an improvement in the living conditions of 16,000 beneficiaries in extreme poverty.

A strong point of the project is its diversity. Indeed, in addition to the works of 'classic' water supply, infrastructures had been built which allowed improvement not only of the harvests but equally of livestock watering throughout the year. However, certain activities like soap making were not well formulated, because beyond the equipment provided and the training given, no initial investment was provided to enable the women to start their business. Finally, the village of Guimba would benefit from the expertise of SASO over the long term in order to guarantee its sustainability (establishing a system of fees, accommodation).

There are so many paths to be cleared, to open up new partnership opportunities for a project and to provide well-rooted support for the beneficiaries over the long term.'

*Gilles Burkhardt

Responsible for Monitoring the Programs of the Fondation Ensemble

PROJECT FILE

Improvement of Drinking Water Services, Hygiene and Sanitation in the Province of Passore

Country: Burkina Faso

Executed by: Water Aid/SASO

Beneficiaries: 16,000 people

Duration: 2005 - 2009

Grants: 470,220 Euros (58% by Fondation Ensemble)

SHARING EXPERIENCE

EVPA

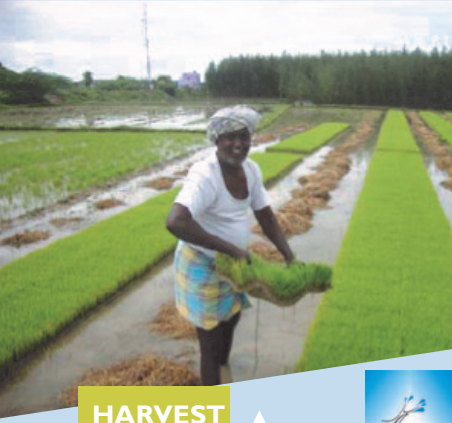
Last June 15 and 16, in Brussels, the EVPA (European Venture Philanthropy) organized a Workshop on the evaluation of the social impact of the company, with the aim of helping participants to share their best practices and to acquire new ones, thanks to the intervention of experts in this field. For more information on this Workshop, to be kept up to date on the EVPA, or to become an active member...

www.evpa.eu.om

CONVERGENCE 2015

The 4th Forum of Convergence 2015 was held on 3, 4 and 5 May last, in Paris. This discussion Forum was created to promote an economy focused on greater social impact and to bring together the multiple stakeholders involved in this path. It aims to create synergies between different supportive and public economic actors for poverty reduction and hopes to provoke debates, proposals for alternatives and other innovative action plans. For more information on this Forum, to know the winners of the Prizes of Convergence 2015, or to participate in this process...

www.convergences2015.org



HARVEST

(India)

Dry Land Farming and Income Generation.



'We knew the utility of an alternate crop for water deficit but after the Auroville Water Harvest - Fondation Ensemble project was realized, we saw it as an alternate source of income as well.'

HELVETAS

(Benin)



Providing Drinking Water for the Schools and Health Centres (EPECS) of Nikki and Sinende.

'We have benefited from the construction of a water tower to have drinking water available full time, which allows the school children not only to drink clean water but also to learn to wash their hands at critical times. We can say without fear of exaggeration that the project has significantly reduced the rate of absence due to illness in the school children.'

MORA Bio :
Director of the Public Primary School of Daroukpara (Municipality of Nikki).



Women, the Keystone to Water Reform in Burkina Faso.



WSP

(Peru)

Alternative Solutions for Sanitation in 5 Pilot Municipalities (Cusco, Chinchero, Anta, Pachacutec, Cajamarca).

'Thanks to new facilities, I have been able to reduce my water bill from 40 soles (10.16 €) to 30 soles per month (7.6 €). Before having a well-sealed tank, I kept the water in the open air and it became contaminated. I therefore had to throw it away and buy water more often. With my new installations, I buy less water and I use every drop!'

Resident of Pachacutec.



www.wsp.org



GERES

(India)

Improving the Living Conditions of Rural Populations in the Desert Regions of the Indian Himalayas.

'Now, we can use all the space in our room, instead of being all gathered around the bukhari!'

'Before, we used to spend 30 days to collect the dung in the mountains. Now, the dung we collect in the surroundings is sufficient!'

'We used to go ten times per winter to the Medical Aid Center. This year we went only once.'



www.geres.free.fr

ON THE SPOT TESTIMONY



AVSF

(Mali)

Project for Food Security for Human and Livestock Populations in the Nomad Region (North Timbuktu).

'Visibly, it is the arrival of new plant species, notably cram cram, which disappeared years ago and which has come back with this action. We are seeing the back cover return where in the past there was only sand. The bare sand moves and during storms it is found in our unprotected wells. With this plant cover the sand no longer moves. And, especially, we have more fodder for our animals, notably the dromedaries and the donkeys, who appreciate the cram cram.'

Mr. ALHASSANE Ag Mohamed Elkher, Project Leader, Family Chief in Tin Tamagayen in the project intervention zone of North East Timbuktu.



www.avsf.org

ACF

(Burkina Faso)

Improving Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation for Schools in the Province of Tapoa.

'In the past, each child had to manage to bring his water from home. Today, the children complain less of stomach ache and attend school more regularly.'

Tenkodogo Wendyam,
Director of the School of Boupiena.



www.actioncontrelafaim.org

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