Monitoring for enhanced climate change adaptation in the Sahel

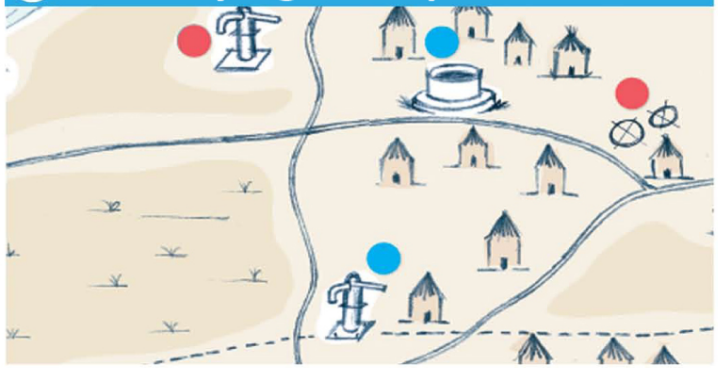
Lucien Damiba. WaterAid West Africa Regional Learning Centre for Water Resource Management

This poster describes an approach to climate change adaptation and outlines how ongoing community measurement of threats to water resources is used to enhance adaptation effectiveness in three Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger). Communities living in these countries face multiple threats to their water resources, livelihoods, food security and health. Climate change brings greater uncertainty to their daily lives.

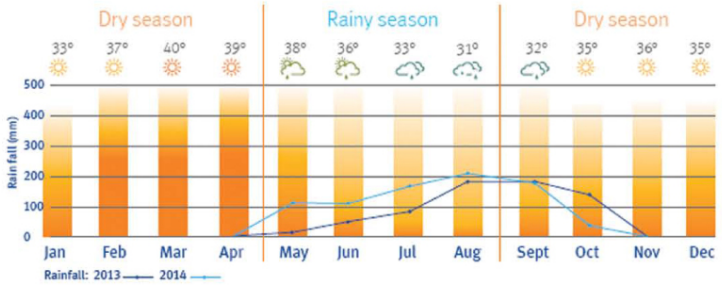
① Understanding the threats

WaterAid's Securing Water Resources Approach (SWRA) involves participatory risk assessment. Through a mapping exercise, people identify different water uses and when different water sources are likely to dry up or become contaminated throughout the year. They identify threats likely to affect water availability.

② Identifying flash points



③ Ongoing monitoring of risk



Monitoring information is shared among the wider community and district government. It is used to inform allocation of water between different water users. It acts as an early warning system, alerting communities to the possibility of certain wells drying up, droughts or failed harvests. It helps to indicate when water rationing might be necessary, when certain water uses may need to be banned and when assistance is required from district local government. The information is used to make the case for investment in better water supply services for all uses.

④ Sharing risk information

These adjustments to services and water allocations represent a progressively evolving approach to adaptation. For this to be sucessful, it is crucial that information about risks is fed upwards through government, enabling the right assistance to be given. It also needs to be implemented at catchment level.

⑤ Enhancing adaptation

This poster was presented by:
Lucien Damiba luciendamiba@wateraid.org with support from tidianediallo@wateraid.org and vincentcasey@wateraid.org