

# RAIN Increases Access to Water Resources in Niger

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On May 11, The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation and USAID inaugurated a joint project of the Water & Development Alliance (WADA) in Zinder, Niger (West Africa). Since December 2008, the Company has worked with partners such as Winrock International to install 53 locally made rope pumps in rural villages in Niger's Zinder region, providing more than 14,000 people with access to potable water.

However, the project used an integrated approach to provide villagers with more than access to increase their monthly income by creating systems where they can productively use the water for multiple village needs such as household use, livestock and irrigation. The project installed four market pumps, 515 hand-washing stations, eight aquaculture ponds and tanks, three vegetable gardens managed by women and 200 irrigation pumps made locally in workshops organized by Winrock. The project continues through November 2010 to build sustainability and share best practices among the project partners.

"As a corporate citizen, it is our aim to support sustainable development everywhere that Coca-Cola operates," said Don Dussey, Senior Public Affairs and Communications Representative, Coca-Cola West Africa. "Today's event is a testament to the commitment of the Coca-Cola system to increase access to potable water in local communities through the Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation's six-year, \$30 million commitment to increase access across the Continent."

Dr. Gary Cramer, USAID West Africa General Development Officer, added, "Winrock International's approach of targeting *multiple* water needs, from drinking to hand-washing to irrigation, is an innovative approach that can contribute to improved health and income generation. USAID is pleased to be partnering with Coca-Cola to support these efforts in Niger."

Zinder Region officials, representatives from other project partners and NGOs participated in the launch.



**Don Dussey, Senior PAC Manager West Africa, makes use of the new hand washing station.**



**A Maradi woman uses the village pump.**



**Village children draw water from the new locally made hand pump.**



**A Zinder woman's income is increased thanks to new access to water used to grow vegetables sold in the local market.**



**Increased water access provides irrigation for tree seedlings that will be used in reforestation projects that fight desertification in Upper Niger.**