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REPUBLIC OF NIGER MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION (MHA)

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MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION (MHA)

PROJECT TO SUPPORT RESILIENT DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS IN MARADI, TAHOUA, TILLABÉRI AND ZINDER REGIONS (PASEPAR-MR)

APPRAISAL REPORT
P-N-E00-005

December 2022

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REPUBLIC OF NIGER

PROJECT TO SUPPORT RESILIENT DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS IN MARADI, TAHOUA, TILLABERI AND ZINDER REGIONS (PASEPAR-MR)

AHWS DEPARTMENT

December 2022

Translated document

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS
(June 2022)

UA 1 = EUR 1.23179
EUR 1 = UA 0.81182
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PROVISIONAL MILESTONES

Project Appraisal	July 2022
Project Appraisal Report	15 October 2022
Validation by AWF Internal Working Group	21 November 2022
Validation by the Bank's Interdepartmental Working Group	30 November 2022
Project Approval by AfDB	15 December 2022
Signing of the Grant Agreement	15 January 2023
Effectiveness	15 January 2023
Start-up	30 January 2023
Completion	30 January 2026
Last Disbursement	30 July 2026

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABN	Niger Basin Authority
AWF	African Water Facility
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
BD	Bidding Document
BNEE	National Environmental and Social Assessment Office
CFTEA	Water and Sanitation Training Centre
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CRFA	Country Risk and Fragility Assessment
DESB	Department of Budget Execution and Monitoring
DGA	General Directorate of Sanitation
DGH	General Directorate of Hydraulics
DRH/A	General/ Regional Directorate of Hydraulics and Sanitation
DWSHS	Drinking Water Supply, Hygiene, and Sanitation
DWSS	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
EOD	End Open Defecation
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FD	Final Design
HPP	Human-Powered Pump
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HWF	Hand-Washing Facility
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
IGA	Income-Generating Activity
INS	National Institute of Statistics
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
IWRM/NAP	IWRM National Action Plan
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
MHA	Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation
MP	Ministry of Planning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PD	Preliminary Design
PDES	Economic and Social Development Plan
PLEA	Local Water and Sanitation Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
PP	Procurement Plan
PROSEHA	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme
SAWS	Stand-Alone Water Station
SDDCI	Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDR	Rural Development Strategy
SNHP	National Pastoral Water Supply Strategy
SOPHAB	Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion Operational Strategy
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
ToR	Terms of Reference
WWF	World Water Forum

LIST OF TABLES

RESULTS LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

RESULTS FRAMEWORK					
A	**PROJECT INFORMATION**				
PROJECT NAME AND SAP CODE: **SUPPORT PROJECT FOR RESILIENT DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS IN MARADI, TAHOUA, TILLABÉRI AND ZINDER REGIONS (PASEPAR-MR), REPUBLIC OF NIGER: P-NE-E00-005**				COUNTRY/REGION: Niger/RDGW	
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE: **Improve the living conditions and build the climate and health resilience of poor and vulnerable rural populations in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions**					
ALIGNMENT INDICATOR(S): **Access rates to drinking water and sanitation in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Tillabéri regions**					
B	**RESULTS MATRIX**				
RESULTS CHAIN AND DESCRIPTION OF INDICATORS	**RMF/ADOA INDICATOR**	**UNIT OF MEASURE**	**BASELINE (2021)**	**TARGET AT COMPLETION (2025)**	**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**
OUTCOME 1: Access by target populations to sustainable and climate-resilient drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services in rural areas is improved in Tahoua and Zinder regions					
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.1: Additional people with access to improved drinking water services in rural areas in Tahoua and Zinder regions, including at least 50% women	□	Number	0	189 300	MHA annual report on DWSS subsector indicators
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.2: Additional people with access to improved hygiene and sanitation services in rural areas in Tahoua and Zinder regions, including at least 50% women	□	Number	0	7 200	MHA annual report on DWSS subsector indicators
OUTCOME 2: A climate-resilient and low-carbon investment project to improve access to drinking water in rural areas is developed for Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions, and made available to the Government of Niger and donors					
OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.1: Feasibility document and implementation file for a new investment project for 150 mini or multi-village DWS prepared	□	Number	0	2	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity report; Project Completion Report
OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.2: Document on improving knowledge of groundwater resources and upgrading the observation network taking into account the impact of climate change is prepared	□	Number	0	1	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity report; Project Completion Report
OUTCOME 3: The capacity of actors in the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene sector in rural areas are strengthened					
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.1: People with strengthened capacity in water, sanitation, and hygiene utility management, and climate resilience mainstreaming in the RDWSS subsector, including at least 30% women	□	Number	0	228	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity report; Project Completion Report
OUTPUT 1: Drinking water supply and sanitation facilities are built and hygiene services are improved					
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.1: Stand-alone water stations	□	Number	0	21	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.2: Mini-DWS systems	□	Number	0	12	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports

OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.3: Multi-village DWS systems	□	Number	0	14	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.4: Water connections in schools and health facilities	□	Number	0	20	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.5: Number of people informed about the project and sensitised on water management, including gender aspects including at least 50% women	□	Number	0	226	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.6: Latrine blocks (3 stalls) constructed/rehabilitated, including hand-washing facilities (HWF) in schools, health facilities, and public places	□	Number	0	84 (54/30) 168	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.7: EOD-certified villages through CLTS implementation	□	Number	0	1327	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICAT 1.8: Sales points (shops) for hygiene and sanitation materials and equipment established in the 8 municipalities	□	Number	0	8	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT 2: Development of a climate-resilient and low-carbon rural DWS investment project and tools for mainstreaming climate resilience in the RDWSS subsector are prepared					
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.1: Report on the technical and economic feasibility studies and PD for 150 water supply systems (mini water supply and multi-village water supply) validated	□	Number	0	1	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.2: Reports on the conduct of the FD and BD studies for 150 water supply systems (mini water supply and multi-village water supply) validated	□	Number	0	2	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.3: Environmental and social assessments and RAP reports for the construction of 150 water systems validated	□	Number	0	2	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.4: Study report on the hydro-climatic vulnerability and climate risks of the rural water supply subsector prepared and validated	□	Number	0	1	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.5: Reports on a gender-resilient and climate change adaptation strategy and plan for rural water supply operations validated	□	Number	0	2	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.6: Study reports on improving knowledge of groundwater resources (GWR) taking into account the impact of climate change, and on optimising/upgrading the GWR observation network in the 4 regions validated	□	Number	0	2	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.7: Study reports on the sanitation sector, sanitation and climate change, and sludge management systems validated	□	Number	0	3	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT 3: The capacity of actors in the DWSS and rural hygiene subsector are strengthened					
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.1: Staff and managers trained in the implementation of the Public Water Service Guide and in mainstreaming climate resilience in the RDWSS subsector, including at least 30% women	□	Number	0	128	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.2: Workers trained in hygiene and sanitation management, including at least 30% women	□	Number	0	95	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Validation workshop reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.3: People who have adopted good practices for behavioural change in water, hygiene, and sanitation related to COVID-19, menstrual hygiene in schools, and gender-based violence (GBV), including at least 52% are women	□	Number	0	400 800	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Campaign reports; MHA annual activity reports
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.4: Officers trained in sanitation marketing at the municipal level	□	Number	0	64	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Training reports; MHA annual activity report

OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.5: Young girls trained in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools and equipped with menstrual hygiene kits	□	Number	0	1200	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Training reports; MHA annual activity report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.6: Women trained in the techniques of making reusable sanitary towels organised in an association and equipped with materials for making them	□	Number	0	40	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.7: MHA managers and staff trained in climate change and gender mainstreaming in the DWSS subsector and rural hygiene	□	Number	0	10	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Training reports; MHA annual activity report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.8: Local water and sanitation plans developed (new) and updated	□	Number	0	20	
OUTPUT 4: Project coordination and management is provided					
OUTPUT INDICATOR 4.4: Communication and visibility products on the implementation of the approved project	□	All	0	1	Quarterly and annual progress reports; MHA annual activity report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 4.5: Meeting to mobilise funding for the new investment project (Donor Round Table) held	□	Number	0	1	Quarterly and annual progress reports; Training reports; MHA annual activity report

KEY ACTIVITIES	**INPUTS**
Component 1: Improving access to water, hygiene, and sanitation in Tahoua and Zinder regions 1.1 Establish 21 DWS systems, 12 mini-DWS systems, 14 multi-village DWS systems, and 20 water connections 1.2: Conduct an IEC campaign on project and water management, including gender aspects for 226 people 1.3: Build the capacity of MHA's Water and Sanitation Training Centre (CFTEA) 1.4: Build the capacity of 128 senior staff and workers involved in PWS Guide implementation in rural areas 1.5: Build 84 blocks with 3-stall latrines (54 new, 30 rehabilitated) for schools, health facilities, and public places 1.6: Provide 168 hand-washing facilities (HWF) for schools, health facilities, and public places 1.7: Implement CLTS, certify 1,327 EOD villages, and carry out IEC activities for behavioural change in water, hygiene and sanitation related to COVID-19 1.8: Train 1,200 girls in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools and provide 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits 1.9: Train 40 women in techniques for making reusable sanitary towels, organise them into associations, and provide them with the required equipment 1.10: Establish 8 sales points (shops) for hygiene and sanitation materials and equipment 1.11: Support the preparation and updating of 20 local water and sanitation plans 1.12: Ensure on-the-spot monitoring and control of works and various services. **Component 2: Preparation of a climate-resilient and low-carbon DWS project and capacity building of rural WASH actors** 2.1: Conduct studies (feasibility, PD, FD, BD, ESIA) for preparation of a future investment project for 150 water systems 2.2: Prepare a resilience and climate change adaptation strategy and plan for rural water supply operations, including gender aspects 2.3: Conduct a study on the knowledge of groundwater resources (GWR) taking into account the impact of climate change, and upgrade the GWR observation network 2.4: Conduct a study on the hydro-climatic vulnerability and climate risks of the rural water supply subsector 2.5: Conduct studies on (i) the management of on-site sanitation in rural areas; (ii) sanitation and climate change; (iii) mini management systems for faecal sludge, wastewater, and excreta at departmental level 2.6: Build the capacity of 100 senior staff and workers in hygiene and sanitation, wastewater, and excreta management, as well as waste management 2.7: Support 8 municipalities in solid waste management and septic tank emptying by providing equipment and tools 2.8: Organise 12 workshops to validate the results of the studies. **Component 3: Project coordination and management** 3.1: Prepare the workshop to launch the project 3.2: Procure 3 4X4 pick-up vehicles, 7 laptops, 3 printers/photocopiers/scanners and computer accessories	**INPUT (EUR):** **Total project cost: EUR 7 640 590** - AWF Grant: **EUR 4 779 237** - ADF Grant: **EUR 2 463 580/ 2 000 000 UA** - GoN**:** **EUR 397 773**

3.3: Ensure the operation of the Project Management Unit and the Monitoring and Steering Committee 3.4: Carry out project coordination, monitoring, and supervision activities 3.5: Train 10 MHA senior staff and workers in mainstreaming climate change and gender in DWSS operations in rural areas 3.6: Carry out communication and visibility activities on project implementation 3.7: Organise a donor round table 3.8: Conduct the various audits of the project 3.9: Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports and the project completion report.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Context and Rationale

This project was identified in Niger during the implementation of the Partnership Programme between the African Water Facility (AWF), the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark (GoDk) in 5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) and in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia) and under the African Development Fund operations in Niger/ADF-15.
The project seeks to improve the living and health conditions of the rural population in 33 priority municipalities in Tahoua and Zinder region, prevent the spread of COVID-19 by helping beneficiary communities to improve access to sustainable water, hygiene, and sanitation services, and build the climate resilience of the rural water and sanitation subsector. The project also includes studies for an investment project for 150 water systems in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions.

In 2020, the national household access rate to basic drinking water services stood at 49.6%. This rate conceals the disparity between urban (45.4%) and rural (50.4%) populations, and the inter-regional disparity (from 31.2% in Zinder to 63.7% in Maradi). As regards sanitation, the household access rate to basic sanitation services was 7.1% at the national level, with 3.7% in rural areas and 26.6% in urban areas. The rate varies from one region to another (from 3.7% in Dosso to 14.9% in Niamey). Concerning hygiene, 84.7% of the population in rural areas practise open defecation, compared to a national average of 73.7% (9.9% in urban areas and 84.7% in rural areas), and 71.2% of the rural population use hand-washing facilities with soap, compared to a national average of 68.5%. Furthermore, the project area was selected in an effort to reduce the existing inter-regional and intra-municipal disparities.

The Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme (PROSEHA) (2016-2030) is a nationwide sustainable development goals approach for access to drinking water and sanitation in Niger. Its objective is 100% household access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and end-open-defecation services (all end-open-defecation villages).

Project Description and Benefits

The project has three (3) components: (i) immediate priority activities to build and/or rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure in Tahoua and Zinder regions; (ii) feasibility and implementation studies for an investment project for 150 climate-resilient and low-carbon water systems in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions; and (iii) capacity building activities for the rural DWSS subsector.

The project will provide an immediate response to the low coverage of water and sanitation needs in these areas, thereby helping to reduce the exposure of their mostly poor and vulnerable residents to waterborne diseases and COVID-19. As a result, nearly 189,300 more people in Tahoua and Zinder regions (50% women), including nearly 36,596 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tahoua region, will have access to drinking water, and about 7,200 people (50% women) will have access to sanitation facilities. In addition, more than 400,800 people (at least 52% women) will be sensitised on good practices for behaviour change in water, hygiene, and sanitation related to COVID-19, menstrual hygiene in schools, and gender-based violence (GBV).

Furthermore, nearly 128 senior staff and workers (at least 30% women) will receive training in the implementation of the Public Water Service (PWS) Guide and mainstreaming of climate risk management, gender, and HRBA in the DWSHS subsector in rural areas. The capacity of about 100 people (including at least 30% women) will be strengthened in rural hygiene and sanitation management. Women and girls will benefit from special attention for menstrual hygiene management (MHM) (sensitisation and training of 1,200 young female students in MHM, distribution of 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits to young female students, and training and support for 40 women in the production of reusable sanitary towels). The targeted municipalities will benefit from support and coaching in the sale of sanitation materials and equipment, waste management, and septic tank emptying. The preparation or updating of 20 local water and sanitation plans will reinforce the planning and intervention framework of municipalities. The project will also create about 1,100 direct jobs (600 temporary and 500 permanent).

In addition, with the implementation of the new project that will be prepared, Niger and donors will have an investment project with consultation files of providers for the complete operationalisation of 150 mini-DWS or multi-village DWS systems ready to be financed, as well as tools for water resources management and mainstreaming of climate resilience in the DWSS subsector. About 1,500,000 more people in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Tillabéri regions, including IDPs, will benefit from sustainable and climate-resilient drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services, and fight against COVID-19 more effectively. Finally, the results of the sanitation studies will allow for a better understanding of challenges in the management of the sanitation sector in rural areas.

Project Duration and Cost

With an implementation period of 36 months, the total project cost stands at **EUR 7,640,590 or UA 6,220,800** This cost is financed by AWF to the tune of **EUR 4,779,237** or UA 3,879 880 (62.55%), ADF for an amount of **EUR 2,463, 580** or UA 2,000,000 (32.24%), and the Government of Niger for **EUR 397,773** (5.21%). The cost includes miscellaneous contingencies.

Disbursements and payments of funds from the grants (AWF and ADF) will be subject to fulfilment of the conditions mentioned in paragraph 5.2.2.

1. STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

1.1. Project Origin

1.1.1 This project was identified in Niger during the implementation of the Partnership Programme between the African Water Facility (AWF), the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark (GoDk) in 5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) and in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia) and under the African Development Fund operations in Niger/ADF-15. . The programme's objective is to facilitate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and improve the quality of life for poor, marginalised, vulnerable, and displaced communities by providing investments for climate-resilient water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and water resource management activities in rural areas. Each project has an "immediate priority actions" component, a "project preparation" component with studies for medium-term strategic investments, and a "project management" component.

1.1.2 Several similar projects/programmes have been implemented in the country with the contribution of several development partners. The overall objective of these projects/programmes is to ensure access to water and sanitation for all, ensure sustainable management of water resources, and provide effective and sustainable leadership in the development of the DWSS sector. As regards AfDB, the 2nd Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Programme (PAEPA-MR) in Dosso and Tillabéri regions was implemented between 2012 and 2017. The lessons learned from that project have been reflected in this project to improve its effectiveness and efficiency.

1.1.3 At the institutional level, the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (MHA) is responsible, in conjunction with the ministries concerned, for designing, developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the national water, hygiene and sanitation policy. As such, it performs regalian tasks related to the structuring, regulation, and coordination of the sector, as well as the management of the public water service. However, the Territorial Communities (Regional Councils and Municipalities) are responsible for managing the public water, sanitation, and hygiene service.

1.1.4 In 2017, the Government of Niger adopted the Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Sector Programme (PROSEHA) for 2016-2030 and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme comprises 5 subprogrammes corresponding to each of the specific objectives: (i) the Drinking Water Supply Sub-Programme; (ii) the Sanitation Sub-Programme; (iii) the Water Resources Knowledge, Monitoring, and Protection Sub-Programme; (iv) the Governance Sub-Programme; and (v) the Pastoral Water Supply Sub-Programme.

1.1.5 The theoretical **drinking water** access rate in rural areas, defined in relation to the population served[1], is the indicator used to monitor and measure progress in the PROSEHA implementation. In 2020, the national household access rate to basic drinking water services stood at 49.6%. This rate conceals the disparity between urban (45.4%) and rural (50.4%) populations, and the inter-regional disparity (from 31.2% in Zinder to 63.7% in Maradi). As regards **sanitation**, the household access rate to basic sanitation services in 2020 was 7.1% at the national level, with 3.7% in rural areas and 26.6% in urban areas. The rate varies from one region to another (from 3.7% in Dosso to 14.9% in Niamey). Concerning **hygiene**, 84.7% of the rural population practice open defecation, compared to a national average of 73.7% (9.9% in urban areas and 84.7% in rural areas), and 71.2% of the rural population use hand-washing facilities with soap, compared to a national average of 68.5%. In addition to these indicators on access to basic services, the access rate to improved services (optimal rate) is also monitored in light of the SDG framework scales. All these indicators, which are presented in Table 1 below, show the need, relevance, and urgency of intervention in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéry regions.

[1] The population served is calculated on the basis of 250 people served per modern water point equivalent (MWPE) (cemented well, HPP, or DWS tap) and 10 people per private connection (PC). It is capped at the number of inhabitants in the locality concerned.

Table 1: Household access rate to drinking water, sanitation, end-open-defecation (EOD) campaign, and hand-washing facilities in 2020

Areas and Regions	Access rate to drinking water (%)		Access rate to sanitation (%)		Proportion of people with access to EOD campaign (%)	Proportion of people using hand washing facilities
	Basic	Optimal	Basic	Optimal		
Rural areas	45.4	1.8	3.7	1.4	84.7	71.2
Urban areas	50.4	48.8	26.6	33.1	9.9	53.9
Regions						
Agadez	31.2	19.3	8.1	11.3	64.8	64.0
Diffa	55.5	1.0	4.1	2.4	88.4	40.9
Dosso	41.6	7.1	3.7	1.0	82.6	70.4
Maradi	63.7	3.8	8.0	9.0	74.6	70.9
Niamey	23.8	67.3	14.9	45.5	5.8	68.3
Tahoua	34.9	2.1	6.7	2.0	70.2	69.2
Tillabéri	56.6	8.6	6.1	2.8	80.2	67.2
Zinder	31.2	6.7	7.5	2.4	82.1	70.3
Total (national)	**49.6**	**9.2**	**7.1**	**6.2**	**73.7**	**68.5**

Source: INS/MHA, 2020

1.1.6 The project will help improve household access rates to basic drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas towards the PROSEHA targets, which are, by 2030, 100% for basic access to drinking water and basic sanitation, and 80% and 50% for access to optimal drinking water service and access to optimal sanitation service respectively. The project will make significant contribution to the achievement of these targets.

1.1.7 The project will be implemented in two regions (Tahoua and Zinder for immediate priority actions, and in four (4) regions (Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri) for investment studies. Fourteen (14) municipalities in Tahoua Region and nineteen (19) municipalities in Zinder region have been selected for immediate priority actions in water supply and eight (8) municipalities (4 in each region) for immediate priority actions in sanitation and hygiene. The list of the municipalities concerned is presented in Annex 3.

1.1.8 Regarding schools, the basic access rates to drinking water and sanitation are 48.5% and 35.1% respectively. In health facilities, these rates are 58.3% and 5.5% respectively. Table 2 below presents the situation of schools and health facilities in Tahoua and Zinder regions. The details are presented in Annex 2.

Table 2: Access rate of schools and health facilities to drinking water and sanitation

Region	Access to basic drinking water	Access to basic sanitation
Schools		
Tahoua	53.8%	29.8%
Zinder	46.1%	42.4%
National	**48.5%**	**35.1%**
Health Facilities		
Tahoua	62.3%	4.9%
Zinder	57.3%	8.1%
National	**58.3%**	**5.5%**

Source: INS PROSEHA Survey 2021

1.1.9 Since PROSEHA Phase 1 prioritises the reduction of disparities in drinking water supply and sanitation, the project area was selected to reduce the existing inter-regional and intra-municipal disparities. In addition, the local water and sanitation plans have been used as a basis for determining the needs of the municipalities. The selected municipalities have theoretical access rates to drinking water below 50%. As regards sanitation, the open defecation level is quite alarming, and to remedy the

situation, two (2) documents have been produced for 2020-2025, namely (i) a roadmap for ending open defecation in Niger through CLTS implementation; and (ii) a plan for accelerating the roadmap implementation. The municipalities selected for the project are among those that have not experienced CLTS.

1.1.10 The National Guide for Public Water Services (PWS) in rural areas, adopted in 2010 and revised in 2019, aims to support local authorities in PWS development in Niger and the project management of all basic systems (mini-DWS, Pastoral Pumping Stations, and stand-alone water stations) and other modern water points in their districts. The main stakeholders are the local authorities, the PWS delegates (private companies), and the beneficiary populations through Associations of Public Water Service Users (AUSPE). The implementation of the PWS Guide has several shortcomings, including the poor management of financial resources from the sale of water (charges), the weak capacity of the actors to fully play their respective roles and the poor level of governance that hampers efficiency in PWS management. This situation justifies the capacity-building activities.

1.1.11 The municipalities in the project area also record low levels of achievement of the objectives of ending open defecation, limited access to domestic sanitation, lack of optimal management and recovery of wastewater and faecal sludge as regards environmental and social protection, and weak intervention capacity of actors in the sanitation chain. However, the objective of the Roadmap for Ending Open Defecation in Niger is to end open defecation in Niger by 2030. To achieve this, the project will help to stop, or at least slowdown, institutional defecation, promote positive behavioural change among the population by encouraging the use of hygienic latrines, enable actors to build their own latrines, and facilitate the population's access to sustainable sanitation services and facilities.

1.1.12 Furthermore, Tahoua and Zinder regions receive many internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to recurrent insecurity and acts of terrorism in the Lake Chad area. These internally displaced persons (IDPs) put more pressure on available water resources and water supply systems, which are already unable to meet the needs of the indigenous populations. This situation worsens the health status of the population, exposing them to COVID-19 and other diseases caused by inadequate water and sanitation services.

1.1.13 Finally, the current fragile context of the country, combined with weak local technical and institutional capacity, compounds the challenges in the rural water subsector, including PWS inadequacies. This situation reduces the capacity to recover from COVID-19 and the population's resilience to climate change. The project's intervention in these targeted regions and municipalities will also help reduce regional disparities in access to drinking water and sanitation facilities. The project will seek to improve the living and health conditions of the rural populations living in these two regions through immediate actions, and in all four (4) regions through the preparation of a new investment project.

1.2 Sector Strategies and Priorities

1.2.1 In 2017, Niger adopted a Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI) for 2035 ("Niger 2035"). The water and sanitation subsector falls under two strategic pillars, namely (i) human capital development; and (2) boosting and modernisation of the rural world. The Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) for 2012-2021 (2012-2015 and 2017-2021) is the common reference framework for the development agenda of the Government of Niger and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IWRM National Action Plan (IWRM/NAP) adopted in 2017 defines the national framework for action in the water sector.

1.2.2 The development of the drinking water and sanitation subsector in Niger is based on two (2) reference documents: (i) Water and Sanitation Policy and Strategies (1999) (a new policy is currently being adopted); and (ii) Integrated Water Resources Management National Action Plan (IWRM/NAP). The latter is one of the key elements of the climate change adaptation strategy in the water sector. As regards sanitation, the National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy (PNHA, 2020-2030) aims to strengthen the organisational and regulatory framework, as well as guide sanitation and hygiene interventions.

1.2.3 Several sector strategies have been developed to make access to drinking water and sanitation a national priority for human capital development, poverty reduction, and sustainable socioeconomic development. The strategies include: (i) the Basic Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion Operational Strategy (SOPHAB 2014-2018), which promotes behavioural change, synergy of intervention between actors, and support to the population for equitable access to infrastructure; (ii) the National Pastoral Water Supply Strategy (SNHP, 2014); (iii) the Rural Development Strategy (SDR, 2003); and (iv) the Water Resources Development and Management Master Plan (2019), which is the reference framework for the water and sanitation sector in Niger.

1.2.4 The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Sector Programme (PROSEHA) has set a target of 100% household access to basic drinking water, sanitation, and end-open-defecation (EOD) services (all EOD villages). It responds to Niger's commitment to implement the SDGs. It aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all through five (5) subprogrammes, including the drinking water supply subprogramme and the sanitation and hygiene subprogramme.

1.2.5 The specific objective of the drinking water supply subprogramme (SO11) is to ensure universal and equitable access to affordable drinking water, while that of the sanitation and hygiene subprogramme (SO12) is to ensure equitable access to adequate sanitation and hygiene services for all and to end open defecation, with particular attention to the needs of women and girls, as well as people in vulnerable situations. The DWS order of priority to achieve the MDGs is as follows: (i) multi-village DWS systems; (ii) simple mini-DWS systems; (iii) stand-alone water stations (SAWS).

1.2.6 Concerning rural areas, the drinking water supply subprogramme has the following key activities: (i) construction of structures to develop services for households, schools, and health facilities; (ii) efficient management of services; (iii) sustainable financing of investments; and (iv) effective regulation of village water services. The hygiene and sanitation subprogramme has the following key activities: (i) widespread implementation of the "Community-Led Total Sanitation" (CLTS) approach; (ii) priority establishment of sanitation and hygiene systems in health facilities and schools that do not have them; (iii) promotion of sanitation at all levels; (iv) sanitation marketing activities focused on building operators' capacity; (v) promotion of private operators for sanitation and hygiene services; (vi) construction and operation of sludge and wastewater treatment plants (STBVEU) and reuse of the by-products; (vii) promotion of non-institutional solidarity for the most vulnerable people; (viii) granting of micro-credits to households to facilitate access to equipment and construction materials; (ix) action research to identify low-cost technologies; and (x) preparation and implementation of collective sanitation master plans.

1.2.7 By signing the Programme Agreement "Integrated Platform for Water Security in Niger (PISEN)" in 2021, Niger demonstrated its determination to place water at the core of its development and resilience strategy. PISEN’s objective is to address the challenges of mainstreaming fragility and climate resilience in water and sanitation sector planning, policies, and investments. It builds on recent policy reforms and initiatives to implement a systematic approach to water security, recognising its central role in human capital and development. It comprises four (4) components: (i) Integrated Water Security Investments; (ii) Expansion of Integrated Water Services; (iii) Project Management and Capacity Building; and (iv) Emergency Responses.

1.2.8 The Report on the Fourth National Communication on Climate Change[2] indicates that future impacts on water resources require appropriate adaptation measures to meet the water needs of the population in general, and of poor and vulnerable communities, in particular.

1.2.9 Since 2006, the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan has made water control an action area for adaptation measures. The implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through the IWRM National Action Plan will expand adaptation potential in the water sector.

1.2.10 The project is aligned with Niger's Country Strategy Paper 2018-2022 which has two pillars as follows: (i) promoting economic competitiveness to unlock its potential and foster job creation; and

[2] Study report on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the water resources sector (UNCED, UNDP, GEF, 2020)

(ii) promoting the development of resilient agriculture for strong sustainable and inclusive growth. The project's activities and measures will help build Niger's resilience to fragility factors and accelerate its economic growth to achieve the sustainable and inclusive economic growth objectives set out in PDES 2022-2026[3] "Programme 3: Improving access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation" under the strategic pillar on human capital development, inclusion, and solidarity.

1.3. Rationale for AWF and ADF Intervention

1.3.1 The project follows a request to the Bank from the Government of Niger on 17 March 2022. The project preparation was led by MHA's General Directorate of Water and Sanitation (DGH & DGA), in close consultation with other relevant structures within the Ministry at central and decentralised levels, and with the water and sanitation subsector stakeholders operating in the target municipalities.

1.3.2 The project, which aims to develop climate-resilient water and sanitation services for the poor and vulnerable rural populations, is aligned with three (3) strategic priorities of AWF's 2017-2025 strategy. Indeed, the reinforcement of systems and services for access to drinking water and sanitation in Tahoua and Zinder regions and the conduct of studies to prepare a new investment-ready DWSS project in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéry regions fall under strategic priorities (1), (3) and (4), namely Project Preparation and Promotion, Investment Promotion, and Water Governance respectively.

1.3.3 The project is also aligned with the Bank Group's new Water Policy[4] for which water supply and sanitation is a priority intervention area. It will help to deliver on the strategic pillar of the Bank Group's Strategy 2017-2025 on improving water supply, sanitation, and hygiene to become inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient. Furthermore, the project will contribute to the achievement of two of the Bank's High 5s, namely "Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa" and "Feed Africa". It is also consistent with the Bank's Gender Strategy 2021-2025, particularly Pillar 2 "Accelerating Women's Employment and Job Creation through Skills Development" and Pillar 3 "Improving Women's Access to Social Services through Infrastructure". In addition, it will help implement the Bank's new Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience (2022-2026). Finally, the project is aligned with the Bank's new Ten-Year Strategic Framework on Climate Change and Green Growth (2021-2030), particularly Pillar I (adaptation and resilience) and Pillar II (mitigation and low-carbon), which aim to promote climate-resilient and low-carbon infrastructure in sectors vulnerable to climate change.

1.3.4 The project's relevance is reinforced by the 9th World Water Forum Declaration in march-Dakar 2022, for a **Blue Deal for Water Security and Sanitation for Peace and Development**. The Declaration calls for the mobilisation of adequate public financial resources, as well as partnerships, to invest in water and sanitation infrastructure and to create "blue" and "green" jobs, especially for young people, women, and the rural population.

1.4. Stakeholder and donor alignment

1.4.1 The main project stakeholders are the Ministry of Planning, which is the Delegated Authorising Structure, the Ministry of Finance (MF) which is the financial supervisor, the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (MHA) which is the technical supervisor, the local authorities (Regional Councils and Municipalities) which are responsible for the project and DWSS management, the beneficiary populations, the private sector, and the technical and financial partners (TFPs).

1.4.2 Several TFPs (bilateral and multilateral) in the water and sanitation sector are involved in Niger. Official development assistance is coordinated through the PDES consultative and consultation bodies. The Government/TFP Committee serves as a framework for dialogue between the Government and partners on DWSS monitoring. The Government/TFP consultation framework for the water and sanitation subsector, established in 2013, helps to coordinate investment programming and financing activities in the sub-sector.

[3] This document contains the general and sector guidelines for PDES 2022-2026 (draft version, January 2022).
[4] The Bank Group's new water policy was adopted in May 2021.

1.4.3 To mobilise funding for the sub-sector and coordinate spending to achieve sector objectives, MHA in 2017 established a multi-donor Joint Financing Mechanism (JFM) that is programme-based and complies with national programming, budgeting, procurement, monitoring and evaluation procedures.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Project Objectives and Outcomes

2.1.1. The project's development objective is to improve access for the rural, poor, and vulnerable populations of Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions to sustainable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services in support of post-COVID-19 prevention and recovery efforts and build the climate resilience of the rural water and sanitation subsector.

2.1.2 The specific objectives of the project are to (i) strengthen and improve people's access to sustainable climate-resilient drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services and reduce open defecation using the municipal end-open-defecation approach; (ii) conduct feasibility studies and prepare implementation files for funding a new climate-resilient DWS investment project in rural areas; (iii) develop tools for mainstreaming climate resilience and gender in the RDWSS subsector; and (iv) build the capacity of RDWSS subsector actors in sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, climate resilience, and hygiene behaviour change, particularly COVID-19 and water-related diseases.

2.1.3 The long-term outcomes are: (i) equitable access for the rural, poor, and vulnerable population to improved and sustainable drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services that contribute to improved living and health conditions and enhanced climate resilience; (ii) climate-resilient DWSS systems and hygiene and sanitation facilities are managed sustainably through capacity building for RDWSS subsector actors.

2.1.4 The medium-term outcomes are: The project will enable about 189,300 and 7,200 poor and vulnerable people, including 50% women, to benefit from improved and climate-resilient drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services respectively. About 36,596 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tahoua Region (Bagaroua, Takanamat, and Tillia municipalities) will benefit from improved access to drinking water. Nearly 400,800 people, including 52% women, will be sensitised on the adoption of good practices for behavioural change in water, hygiene and sanitation related to COVID-19, menstrual hygiene in schools, and gender-based violence (GBV).

2.1.5 The project will also help to create about 1,100 direct jobs (temporary and permanent). In addition, the capacity of 128 people (including at least 30% women) and 100 people (including at least 30% women) will be strengthened in the management of public water service and hygiene and sanitation in rural areas respectively. Women and young girls will receive special attention as regards menstrual hygiene management (sensitisation and training in MHM, supply of 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits to young girls who are students, as well as training and support for the production of reusable sanitary towels).

2.1.6 The availability of a feasibility and implementation document for a new climate-resilient DWS investment project, covering 150 DWSS systems (single mini-DWS systems or multi-village DWS systems) in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions, will help mobilise the funds needed to extend drinking water services. Nearly 1,500,000 people, including IDPs, will also benefit from the project. In addition, the availability of tools for mainstreaming climate resilience in the RDWSS subsector will help build the capacity of subsector actors.

2.1.7 **The short-term outcomes** will be the outputs achieved by the components. Under **Component 1**, "***Securing access to water, hygiene and sanitation in Tahoua and Zinder regions* - DWS subcomponent: "Strengthening access to drinking water services"**: (i) 21 stand-alone water stations (SAWS) (16 in Zinder, 5 in Tahoua), (ii) 12 mini-DWS systems (6 in Tahoua and 6 in Zinder), (iii) 14 multi-village DWS systems; (iv) 20 water connections (schools and health facilities); (v)

experimentation of the water service prepayment card on 8 standpipes in 4 municipalities (2 per region); (vi) study and learning tour for 12 people to Maradi and Togo on the prepayment card; (vii) protection of 14 multi-village DWS borehole catchment areas with a metal fence; (viii) sensitisation, information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on project and social intermediation for the construction of structures and water management; the campaign will involve 226 people (113 villages), including at least 50% women; (ix) capacity building for MHA's Water and Sanitation Training Centre (CFTEA); (x) capacity building for 128 actors, including at least 30% women (municipal contracting authority, management, operation and maintenance under the PWS Guide in rural areas; (xi) preparation and/or updating of 20 local water and sanitation plans. – "**Sanitation and Hygiene subcomponent: Strengthening access to gender-sensitive hygiene and sanitation services**": (i) 84 blocks of institutional and public three-stall, gender-sensitive latrines (MHM) (54 new blocks and 30 blocks to be rehabilitated); (ii) Provision of 168 hand-washing facilities; (iii) 1,327 EOD villages; (iv) 64 people trained in sanitation marketing; (v) 8 sales points (shops) for sanitation materials and equipment as regards sanitation marketing; (vi) 1,200 young girls trained in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools; (vii) 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits; and (viii) 40 women trained in the manufacture of reusable sanitary towels.

2.1.8 Short-term outcomes of **Component 2: Preparation of a climate-resilient project and capacity building for WASH actors** - DWS subcomponent: (i) a new project on 150 climate-resilient and low-carbon DWS systems (mini-DWS systems and multi-village DWS systems) in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions; (ii) the results and reports of the studies on the 150 DWS project; (iii) the results and reports of the study on improving knowledge on groundwater resources (GWR) taking into account the impact of climate change and optimising/upgrading the GWR observation network in the four (4) regions; (iv) the results and reports of the study on hydro-climatic vulnerability and climate risks of the rural water supply subsector, together with a general climate resilience and adaptation plan in the project area; (v) 10 workshops to validate the results of the studies. - **Sanitation and Hygiene subcomponent**: (i) the results and reports of the study on the sanitation value chain and management of the sanitation sector in rural areas; (ii) results and reports of the study on the impact of climate change on hygiene and sanitation and the impact of wastewater and excreta sanitation facilities on water resources; (iii) the results and reports of the study on the development of mini faecal sludge, wastewater, and excreta management systems at departmental level; (iv) 100 workers and senior staff trained in several themes relating to hygiene and wastewater sanitation; (v) support to eight (8) municipalities for solid waste management and emptying of septic tanks (supply of equipment and tools); and (vi) 2 workshops to validate the results of the studies.

2.1.9 The short-term results of **Component 3: *Project Coordination and Management***: (i) a functional and adequately resourced Project Management Unit (PMU), including a financial management software (TOMPRO) and an Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures Manual that meets AfDB requirements and is based on an update of that of the Joint Financing Mechanism within MHA; (ii) a Project Steering and Monitoring Committee (COPILS); (iii) rolling stock, materials and equipment for managing the project implementation (three 4X4 vehicles, 7 micro-computers (laptops), 3 photocopiers/printers/scanners, computer accessories); (iv) 10 MHA workers and senior staff trained in climate change and gender mainstreaming in DWSS and rural hygiene operations; (v) a set of communication and visibility products on project implementation; (vi) timely periodic progress reports (technical, financial, environmental, social and climate); (vii) timely annual environmental and social compliance audit reports; (viii) timely climate compliance and carbon footprint reduction audit reports; (ix) timely accounts and procurement audit reports; and (x) a project completion report.

2.2. Project Activities

2.2.1 The project activities are organised by component and presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Description of project components and activities

Component 1: Securing access to water, hygiene, and sanitation for poor and vulnerable rural populations in Tahoua and Zinder regions.

Sub-component 1: Optimising DWS systems and increasing access to drinking water services

Activity 1.1.1: Construction of 21 stand-alone water stations (SAWS), 12 mini DWS systems, 14 multi-village DWS systems, provide 20 water connections in schools and health facilities, and fence the 14 multi-village DWS system areas.

This involves preparing and launching an open competitive bidding process in two lots as follows:

- Lot A: Tahoua Region: 5 SAWS, 6 mini-DWS systems, 11 multi-village DWS systems, 10 water connections (5 schools and 5 health facilities), and 11 metal fences for multi-village DWS systems.
- Lot B: Zinder Region: 16 SAWS, 6 mini-DWS systems, 3 multi-village DWs systems, 10 water connections (5 schools and 5 health facilities), 3 metal fences for multi-village DWS systems

The PMU will ensure that environmental, social, gender, safety, and health specifications, as well as budget considerations, are included in the bidding documents and their bills of quantities framework and estimates**.**

Activity 1.1.2: Recruitment of a consulting firm to control the works.

The works will be supervised by a national consultant (firm) recruited through open competitive bidding. The firm will also be responsible for supervising the construction/rehabilitation works of 84 latrine blocks presented in Activity 1.2.1 below.

Activity 1.1.3: Recruitment of delegates for operating the water supply systems established.

MHA, through its decentralised services, will provide municipalities with technical assistance in using the PWS Guide in rural areas.

Activity 1.1.4: Organising a study and learning tour for 12 people to Maradi and Togo on prepaid cards

After selecting the 4 municipalities and 8 standpipes to experiment the water service prepayment card, 12 people will be appointed to undertake the study and learning tour.

Activity 1.1.5: Conducting an information, communication and sensitisation campaign on the project and social intermediation for the construction of water supply facilities and management of the facilities to be built or optimised.

The campaign concerns the 113 villages of the 33 municipalities of the two regions, with 2 persons per village, i.e., 226 persons, including at least 50% women. It will take place in the chief towns of the municipalities and will be conducted by the municipalities with the support of MHA's Regional and Departmental Directorates (DR/DR/MHA).

Activity 1.1.6: Capacity building for MHA's Water and Sanitation Training Centre (CFTEA).

This concerns capacity in terms of the acquisition of scientific and pedagogical materials/equipment and training of trainers to enable it to strengthen its capacity.

Activity 1.1.7: Training of 128 actors (30% women) in PWS Guide implementation and the functions of Project Owner of rural water supply systems.

The training, which will be defined by the PMU and stakeholders, will be provided by a national consultant (firm) recruited through limited competitive bidding.

Activity 1.1.8: Preparation and/or updating of 20 local water and sanitation plans.

The PMU, in consultation with stakeholders, will identify the 20 municipalities concerned. With MHA technical assistance, the municipalities concerned will prepare the ToRs for recruiting a national consultant (firm) through limited competitive bidding.

Sub-component 2: Improving access to gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene services

Activity 1.2.1: Construction of 84 blocks of gender sensitive (MHM) institutional and public latrines with three stalls.

This involves building 54 new latrine blocks (25 per region) and rehabilitating 30 latrine blocks (15 per region) in schools, health facilities, and public places. Each latrine block will have 3 stalls/compartments, including a shower for women and girls.

A national open competitive bidding process will be launched to select a contractor to build/rehabilitate 84 latrine blocks. On-site supervision of the works will be conducted by a consultant (firm), the same consultant responsible for supervising the water supply works of subcomponent 1 under Activity 1.1.2 above.

Activity 1.2.2: Providing 168 hand-washing facilities (HWF) in schools, health facilities, and public places.

This activity requires that the PMU procures and supplies 168 HWFs, with 2 HWFs per block of latrines built or rehabilitated.

Activity 1.2.3: CLTS implementation (municipal WASH approach) in 8 municipalities for 1,327 EOD villages.

The content of the municipal CLTS approach and its implementation process are described in the CLTS Guide for Niger (2019). The municipal WASH approach will be supplemented by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on water management, hygiene, and sanitation in connection with COVID-19, water safety management, menstrual hygiene in schools, and combating violence against women (GBV). The approach includes a 6-month post-EOD follow-up to monitor and consolidate what has been learned. These services will be provided by training agencies or NGOs specialised in CLTS implementation (1 agency per region) to be recruited through limited national competitive bidding. The PMU will prepare the ToRs and monitor implementation in collaboration with CLTS Committees.

Activity 1.2.4: Training of 64 people in sanitation marketing in 8 municipalities.

Sixty-four (64) people, including at least 30% women (8 people per municipality), will be proposed by municipalities to receive training in methods and techniques for sanitation marketing development. The training will be provided by an appropriate specialised training agency recruited through limited national competitive bidding.

Activity 1.2.5: Establishment of 8 shops for the sale of sanitation equipment and materials

This will entail giving grants to 8 municipalities to start selling materials, equipment, or prefabricated slabs through masons already trained in sanitation marketing (Activity 1.2.4 above) to facilitate people's access to sustainable materials. The shops will be owned by the municipalities and managed by the Municipal Water and Sanitation Services (SMEA).

Activity 1.2.6: Training of 1,200 young girls in Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and provision of 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits.

One thousand two hundred (1,200) girls in schools will receive 1,200 menstrual hygiene kits. The training will be provided by appropriate specialised training agencies or NGOs recruited through limited national competitive bidding.

Activity 1.2.7: Training of 40 women in the manufacture of reusable sanitary towels

This will involve training 40 women (20 per region, 5 per municipality) in the manufacture of reusable sanitary towels. The training will be supplemented by support for them to organise themselves into associations per municipality, and provide them with inputs, materials, equipment, and consumables to start manufacturing reusable sanitary towels. The training will be entrusted to an NGO with the required expertise and capacity.

Component 2: Preparation of a climate-resilient WASH project and capacity building for WASH actors in rural areas

Sub-component 1: Investment studies for a climate-resilient and low-carbon rural water supply project in four (4) regions (Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Tillabéri)

The PMU will prepare ToRs for all the studies using a participatory approach and submit them to the Bank for no-objection opinion.

Activity 2.1.1: Organising an information and validation workshop on studies ToRs for 150 water supply systems.

The investment studies concern 150 climate-resilient and low-carbon water supply systems (mini water supply systems and multi-village water supply systems). They consist of: (i) technical and economic feasibility studies, preliminary design studies, and final design studies; (ii) financial and economic assessment studies; (iii) environmental and social assessment studies (ESIA/ESIN, RAP) including the hydro-climatic vulnerability of the project area; and (iv) preparation of bidding documents (BDs) for the works and works supervision/control. Upon approval of the project, the PMU will organise an information and validation workshop on the draft terms of reference with the participation of the relevant stakeholders and submit the finalised version to the Bank for no-objection opinion under the related limited competitive bidding. A workshop report will be prepared.

Activity 2.1.2: Recruitment of a consultant to conduct feasibility studies, technical studies, economic and financial assessment, and hydro-climatic vulnerability study for the 150 water supply systems.

This activity involves the publication of an expression of interest notice for competitive bidding through the required channels for a short list of candidates to be consulted, the consultation of candidates, the receipt and evaluation of technical and financial proposals, including proposals for the contract award, any negotiations, the signing of the contract, and the recruitment of the consultant. The studies will be conducted by a consultant (firm) based on the ToRs, the draft version of which is provided in Annex 10.

Activity 2.1.3: Organising information and validation meetings at key study progress stages.

The PMU, in close consultation with the consultant, will organise information meetings on the progress of the studies, as well as workshops to validate the selected solutions as they are formulated. ToRs for each meeting will be prepared, specifying at least its purpose, its goals and expected results, and the list of participants; a meeting report will be prepared after each meeting.

Activity 2.1.4 Conduct of studies on the new investment project for 150 systems by the selected consultant.

The consultant will, under the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water security approach, pay particular attention to cross-cutting aspects (vulnerability and climate-change resilience, energy transition/low carbon, health security, combating COVID-19, gender, right to water and sanitation for all, etc.), and those related to sustainability (consolidation of experiences, technological approaches, financing, and management systems, etc.). The studies will be conducted in three (3) main phases as follows:

Phase 1: Conduct of studies on the technical and economic feasibility, as well as hydro-climatic vulnerability of the project area and the preliminary design (PD).

This phase will consist of three (3) stages:

1. <u>Preliminary diagnosis of the existing situation</u>

The diagnosis will start with the collection and analysis of available basic data (gender, health, demography, socioeconomic, topography, water supply, climatology, hydrology, hydrogeology, and environment). It will specify the needs and assess the socioeconomic situation, the structure of the habitat and the state of the water supply systems that may be in place, the vulnerability and the hydro-climatic risks of the project area and the vulnerability of the population to access to water, taking into account the effects of climate change. The diagnosis will focus on a critical analysis of the PWS Guide implementation to identify problems that can be solved by the design and establishment of efficient water supply systems. It should then make it possible to understand the population's ability to pay for drinking water services, as well as the institutional, land, environmental and social issues involved, and the water-related education and health issues (including COVID-19). The diagnosis should also select design standards for water systems, including those for mainstreaming resilience to climate variability and change, and make it possible to prepare a diagnostic report establishing the baseline situation. In addition, a gender analysis will be conducted to assess: (i) good practices regarding the project's response to the water and sanitation needs of women and girls; (ii) the role of women and girls in the management and maintenance of the public infrastructure and equipment provided; and (iii) gender mainstreaming in the governance mechanisms of the water and sanitation sector, and prospects for strengthening women's representation, leadership, and decision-making power in the water sector. The

diagnostic report will be validated during a workshop with the main project stakeholders, and its validated version will serve as the inception report for the studies.

2. Identification of feasible climate-resilient and low-carbon DWS system options.

Based on the diagnosis, the consultant will identify feasible options for climate-resilient and low-carbon water supply systems, with estimated capital, maintenance, and operating costs. A technical/economic, financial, and institutional viability comparison will then be made between these different options; this will allow for the selection of optimal water supply solutions from the economic, financial, institutional, social, and environmental/climate perspectives. Preference will be given to nature-based solutions, as well as low-carbon and energy transition technologies. DWS system options include infrastructure and services. Optimal solutions will be identified in a workshop involving key project stakeholders.

3. Preparation of PDs and Economic and Financial Assessment

Finally, the preliminary designs will be prepared taking into account the guidelines and prescriptions of the IWRM National Action Plan and the results of the assessment of the vulnerability and hydro-climatic risks of the project area. The PDs will be supplemented by an institutional, economic, and financial analysis of the management options for the proposed water supply systems. At this stage, a note on the environmental and social categorisation of the investments will be prepared to provide guidance on the significance of their potential effects on the environment, population displacement, and land expropriation. A stakeholder workshop will be organised to validate the study reports.

Phase 2: Conduct of the final design studies and the economic and financial assessment.

Based on the previous results, this phase will consist in conducting final design studies on the water systems, as well as appropriate economic and financial studies. During this phase, operational measures for climate resilience (based on the results of the hydro-climatic vulnerability study of the project area), carbon sobriety, and protection of water abstraction catchment areas will also be identified and included in the works quantity and cost estimate framework so that, where appropriate, measures can be implemented through collaboration agreements with relevant local stakeholders. The guidelines of the strategic and operational framework for water resources development and management in terms of climate change adaptation and resilience, environmental protection, gender, and green growth will be taken into account. The cost of environmental and social safeguard measures will be included in the cost of the new 150 water systems project. The environmental and social assessment will be conducted by a separate consultant. A project stakeholder workshop will validate the outputs of this phase, which will be used for the Government's application to donors for funding of the 150 DWS systems in the new investment project.

Phase 3: Preparation of BDs for contractors and business consultation files for consultants for works control and supervision.

This phase will be devoted to the preparation of: (i) a bidding document for the recruitment of the contractor that will be in charge of the works; and (ii) a Request for Proposals (RFP) document for the recruitment of the works supervision/monitoring consulting firm. A stakeholder workshop will be organised to validate the BD and BCF documents.

Activity 2.1.5: Conduct of environmental, social and climate assessments for the new investment project for 150 water systems.

This activity will consist of environmental and social assessments, including Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) where appropriate, for the new 150 DWS investment project. It will entail a thorough environmental and social assessment of the implementation of the various works, taking into account climate change concerns. The environmental and social assessment reports (ESIA/ESIN) and RAPs (if required) will be submitted to the Bank for review and approval, and then to BNEE for opinion and validation. The reports of the environmental and social assessments will be available after the PDs so that the results can be taken into account in the FD studies. Two (2) separate stakeholder workshops will be organised to validate the outputs of this phase. A consultant (firm) will be recruited through international competitive bidding.

Activity 2.1.6: Conduct of a study to improve knowledge and monitor groundwater resources

This will involve conducting a study to improve knowledge of groundwater resources within the context of climate change, and to optimise and upgrade the groundwater observation network, as well as strengthen their monitoring in the 4 regions (Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Tillabéri). A stakeholder workshop will be organised

to validate the study report. A consultant (firm) will be recruited through limited international competitive bidding.

Activity 2.1.7: Conduct of a study on the hydro-climatic vulnerability and climate risks of the rural water supply subsector along with a general climate adaptation and resilience plan in the project area

This study seeks to better understand the challenges of the rural water supply subsector in relation to climate change. It will involve an in-depth analysis of the current status of water resources, climate projections, and current and future supply and demand in the said area. It will also prepare a comprehensive climate resilience and adaptation plan for the water and sanitation subsector that includes gender and carbon sobriety. The results of this study will also inform the new DWS project in terms of measures and investments needed to ensure the long-term resilience of water and sanitation services to the impacts of climate change. A stakeholder workshop will be held to validate the study report. A consultant (firm) will be recruited through limited international competitive bidding.

Sub-component 2: Capacity building for RDWSS subsector stakeholders

The PMU will prepare terms of reference for all the studies using a participatory approach and will submit them to the Bank for no-objection opinion.

Activity 2.2.1: Conduct of a study on the management of on-site sanitation in rural areas

This study will seek to improve knowledge on the problem of sanitation in rural areas, as well as strengthen its management and development framework. It involves - but will not be limited to - defining the sanitation value chain, identifying, and analysing the factors that hamper the sustainability of the EOD status, developing a sustainable financing mechanism for hygiene and sanitation based on the realities of the rural world, and developing mini faecal sludge, wastewater, and excreta management systems at divisional ("*département*") level, including the use of the final products. Regarding the establishment of mini systems for faecal sludge, wastewater, and excreta management, the study will make proposals for systems at the divisional ("département") level and adapted to Niger's context.

A stakeholder workshop will be organised to validate the study reports. A consultant (firm) will be recruited through limited national competitive bidding.

Activity 2.2.2: Conduct of a study on the impact of climate change on hygiene and sanitation, as well as the impact of sanitation facilities (wastewater and excreta) on water resources.

This study has two complementary components and seeks to understand how climate change is taken into account in the design and construction of sanitation infrastructure, and interactions between wastewater and water resources. A stakeholder workshop will be organised to validate the study report. A consultant (firm) will be recruited through limited national competitive bidding or open competitive bidding.

Activity 2.2.3: Building the capacity of about 100 workers (30% women) in sanitation and hygiene

This will involve specific training for 40 latrine and septic tank emptiers on emptying techniques in rural areas, 20 managers of public latrines in rural areas, 35 government workers (central and deconcentrated levels) for ownership and harmonisation of CLTS implementation, a study and learning tour for 5 people from the MHA in Burkina Faso on sludge and excreta management in rural areas. Training will be provided by a consultant (firm) or an NGO at the national level.

Activity 2.2.4: Building the capacity of municipalities in solid waste management and septic tank emptying.

The project will provide financial support to 8 municipalities by procuring a set of small equipment and tools that will be owned by the municipality and will be managed by the Municipal Water and Sanitation Services (SMEA). The set of equipment for each municipality will comprise 5 donkey carts equipped with a 200-litre tank, 10 pickaxes, 10 shovels, 10 rakes, 25 brushes, 10 wheelbarrows, etc.

Component 3: Project Coordination and Management

This component concerns the coordination of various activities and interventions of the various stakeholders, as well as the administrative and financial management of the project implementation. The specific activities of the component are as follows:

Activity 3.1: Establishment of the PMU and the Project Steering and Monitoring Committee (COPILS)

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established within MHA and will be responsible for managing the project. It will be established before project start-up. Its composition is presented in Section 3.1 of this report. The project implementation will be overseen by a Steering and Monitoring Committee (COPILS) composed of key stakeholders. Its composition is presented in section 3.1.

Activity 3.2: Project coordination and management

The PMU will be responsible for coordinating and managing the project based on the Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures Manual, which meets AfDB requirements and is based on an update of that of the Joint Financing Mechanism (JFM) within MHA.

Activity 3.3: Conduct of annual environmental and social compliance audits, as well as climate compliance and carbon footprint reduction audits

The executing agency will recruit an individual consultant to conduct annual environmental and social compliance audits to comply with the Bank's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) requirements. The audit reports will be produced within the required timeframe. The terms of reference and audit reports will be submitted to the Bank for review and approval.

Activity 3.4: Conduct of external audit of accounts and procurement audit.

The project accounts will be audited twice, one at midterm (i.e., 18 months after the first disbursement) and the other at project completion, based on the Bank's current terms of reference, by an independent firm recruited by AWF. The end-of-project audit report will be submitted to the Bank within six (6) months following project completion. The PMU will take all appropriate measures to prepare the project's consolidated financial statements on time and submit them to the firm. The same will apply to procurement, which will be subject to two audits, one at midterm and the other at project completion.

Activity 3.5: Organising a donor round table.

The PMU will internally prepare and organise a donor meeting to mobilise resources and secure financing for the new investment project. To that end, MHA will need to develop a strategy to sensitise and mobilise the Government, donors, and any other relevant partners on time. It is also recommended that the partners in the water sector in Niger be involved in monitoring the project through COPILS and the various existing sector consultation frameworks.

Activity 3.6: Capacity building for climate resilience and gender mainstreaming in rural DWS projects.

This activity will consist of training ten (10) MHA senior staff/workers (at least 30% women) in the following areas: (i) managing and mainstreaming climate risks and gender in the drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation subsector; and (ii) enhanced gender mainstreaming in drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation projects/programmes. The climate risk management and gender mainstreaming training, in which five (5) senior staff from the Niger Water Corporation (SPEN) will participate, will be provided by AWF, while a service provider will be recruited at the national level for gender mainstreaming.

Activity 3.7: Project communication and visibility.

This activity will consist in communicating the progress (outcomes) or impact of the project to the various target audiences, through impact stories, fact sheets, press releases, press conferences, photos, videos, etc. Special attention will be given to the relationship with local media. A part-time Communication Specialist will be hired at the local level to ensure the implementation of communications activities, sharing project content regularly with the AWF Communication Specialist and local media. The Communication Specialist will work under PMU supervision. Using the SPEN Urban Project's Specialist could be considered.

Activity 3.7: Production of progress reports and the completion report.

The PMU will produce quarterly progress reports and the completion report within the required timeframe and format.

2.3 Project Area and Beneficiaries

2.3.1 The project area will include Tahoua and Zinder regions for immediate interventions, as well as Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions for investment studies for a water supply project, and at the national level for capacity building for the rural sanitation and hygiene subsector. The project area covers 33 municipalities (14 in Tahoua Region and 19 in Zinder region) for immediate water supply priority activities and 8 municipalities (4 in each region) for immediate sanitation and hygiene priority activities.

2.3.2 The direct project beneficiaries are estimated at 600,000 people (at least 50% women) including 40,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) for immediate interventions, and about 1,500,000 people (50% women) after the investment project is completed. The choice of the project area was guided by the priority needs of the population, the production capacity of existing boreholes, and the need to consolidate achievements and extend previous Bank operations.

2.4. Project Cost and Financing Plan

2.4.1 The total project cost is estimated at EUR 7,640,590 or UA 6,220,800. This cost is financed by AWF to the tune of EUR 4,779,237 or UA 3,879 880 (62,55%), ADF for EUR or UA 2 000 000 (32.24%), and the Government of Niger for EUR 397 773 (5.21%). The cost includes miscellaneous contingencies. The detailed costs are presented in Annex 3.

2.4.2 The project cost breakdown by component, expenditure category, and source of financing is presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6 below.

Table 4: Project Cost and Financing Plan (EUR) – Excl. Taxes

No.	Components	TOTAL	AWF	ADF	GOVT	%
1	**Component 1:** Securing access to water, hygiene, and sanitation	5,363,364	3,537,350	1,826,014		70,2
2	**Component 2:** Preparation of a water supply investment project and capacity building for RDWSS subsector actors	1 130 562	1 130 562	0	0	14.8
3	**Component 3:** Project coordination and management	1 146 664	111,325	637 566	397 773	15
	Grand Total	**7 640 590**	**4 779 237**	**2 463 580**	**397 773**	**100**

Table 5: Project Cost Estimates by Expenditure Category (EUR, excl. VAT)

Expenditure Categories	Total Cost in XOF	Total Cost in EUR	Total Cost in UA	%
Works	2 906 884 596	4 431 517	3 597 624	58
Goods	200 474 234	305 621	248 112	4
Services	1 403 323 575	2 139 353	1 736 784	28
Operating Costs/Miscellaneous	501 216 088	764 099	620 280	10
Cost total	**5,011,898,493**	**7 640 590**	**6,202,800**	**100**

Table 6: Project Cost in Foreign Exchange

Sources of Financing	Total Cost (XOF)	Total Cost (EUR)	Total Cost (UA)	%
AWF	3 134 973 964	4 779 237	3 879 880	62,55
ADF	1 616 002 546	2 463 580	2 000 000	32,24
Government	260 921 983	397 773	322 920	5,21
TOTAL COST	**5,011,898,493**	**7 640 590**	**6,202,800**	**100**

2.5 Technical, Economic, and Financial Viability

2.5.1 The project's technical viability depends on the solutions adopted to address the problems. Poor people's access to rural drinking water and sanitation in the regions concerned will be improved by reinforcing infrastructure and DWSS systems. The infrastructure to be built and the operation and management methods will comply with current techniques, approaches, and methods, such as the PWS Guide in rural areas, the municipal CLTS approach, and stakeholder capacity building. However, the project will improve the quality of materials, particularly for sanitation works, as well as the implementation to obtain climate-resilient infrastructure.

2.5.2 Given the social nature of the project and the fact that it is funded by a grant, the economic and financial viability of the project has not been addressed.

2.6 Environmental and social impact

2.6.1 **Categorization:** the PASEPAR-MR Project is classified in category B at the country level with regard to the scale of the planned investments, the environmental& social risks and impacts ranging from low to moderate, and in category 2 in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Safeguard System (ISS) of the Bank.

2.6.2 **Environmental and social safeguard documents:** one (1) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed under the said project. This safeguards instrument prepared by the government was reviewed and approved by the Bank and published by the country on November 30, 2022, then by the Bank on December 1, 2022 after the government's authorization on November 30, 2022, in accordance with the requirements of the ISS.

2.6.3 **Public consultations:** public consultations were organized between October 2 and 21, 2022 in the four Regions of the Project intervention areas (Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder). All the stakeholders, in particular the local populations, the local authorities, the technical services at the central and decentralized level (BNEE, General Directorates of: Hydraulics (DGH), Sanitation (DGA), etc.), elected officials premises, etc., were consulted during the preparation of the project. This process will be maintained during implementation. The Bank also ensured that the government carried out the public consultations in an adequate manner and the minutes of the consultations are appended to the prepared ESMF. This consultation saw the participation of 265 people including 191 men (62.08%) and 74 women (27.92%).

2.6.4 **Major environmental and social risks and impacts**: At the environmental level, these include: (i) Risks of soil and water pollution (solid and liquid), and (ii) the risk of pressure on water resources (decrease in the reserve). At the social level, these are mainly: (i) Risk of disease transmission (STI/HIV. AIDS) and COVID 19; and (iii) the risk of worksite accidents during the construction of the pipeline for the laying of the pipes, or during the welding and assembly operations of the water towers.

2.6.5 **Measures to mitigate environmental and social risks and impacts**: the following environmental measures are planned in the ESMFs: (i) Develop a waste management plan; (ii) Enforce regulatory measures for the opening and rehabilitation of quarries and lodges; (iii) sensitize the

population on the importance of rational water management and environmental protection; and (iv) sensitize workers on the mandatory use of personal protective equipment. The social measures planned in the ESMF are: (i) sensitizing workers, local populations and users on health, STIs and HIV-AIDS, and (ii) sensitizing populations on the importance of using the mechanism of Complaints management (MCM). The overall budget for the implementation of environmental and social measures (ESMF) of the PASEPAR-MR Project is estimated at CFA 212,500,000. This amount also includes the costs of the complaint management mechanism (14,000,000 CFA).

2.6.6 **Involuntary resettlement:** The work to be carried out under the PASEPAR-MR Project will not cause loss of land or disruption of commercial activities. Therefore, there will be no Project Affected Persons (PAPs) who will benefit from indemnification/compensation or resettlement assistance.

2.6.7 **Overall institutional arrangement for ESMF implementation:** The DGH and DGA of MH/A do not have specialists in environmental and social safeguards. This is why it is planned within the framework of this project, the recruitment of an expert in environmental safeguard and an expert in social and gender safeguard who will be responsible for the E&S monitoring of the works within the framework of this project. In addition, the Project Management Unit will recruit on a competitive basis independent expert who will carry out the annual environmental and social performance audit. The BNEE will play an external monitoring-control role in the implementation of safeguard measures and the Bank, for its part, will carry out implementation supervision missions at least twice a year.

2.6.8 **Environmental and Social Compliance:** Project environmental management activities will be coordinated by the two experts in environmental and social safeguards recruited for the project. They will produce, no later than the 15th of the month following the end of each quarter, a quarterly ESMP implementation report. It will be produced no later than January 31 of each year, the annual environmental and social performance audit report for the previous year carried out by an independent auditor. NOCES will confirm the project's compliance with the Bank's environmental and social requirements before approval; such requirements will be reflected in the funding agreement.

2.7 Climate change and green growth

PASEPAR-MR is classified in Category 1 per the Bank's climate safeguard system. Niger is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change has increased the scarcity of water resources over the past few decades, making access for both human consumption and agro-pastoral production more difficult. Rainfall trends are highly uncertain, and forecasts range from a slight decline to a sharp increase in rainfall. Despite forecasts of increasing rainfall, per capita water availability in Niger is expected to drop by 85% by 2080 compared to the year 2000[5]. Dry and wet periods are expected to become more extreme[6], and this could have greater consequences on meeting water and sanitation needs, especially in rural areas where water mobilisation and sanitation infrastructure is severely deficient, and the population depends on surface water or groundwater.

Therefore, PASEPAR-MR is a response to Niger's climate vulnerability in the water and sanitation sector. The project will construct climate-resilient and low-carbon water supply infrastructure to facilitate the mobilisation of deeper groundwater sources inaccessible to rural populations through wells. Project activities will strongly support climate resilience and the move towards energy transition and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the water and sanitation sector through the construction of climate-resilient structures and infrastructure for sanitation and water access, promotion of solar and low-carbon pumping systems, treatment of liquid waste (wastewater and excreta, faecal sludge, etc.), etc. The project will also support the conduct of several technical and hydro-climatic feasibility studies aimed at scaling up investments in climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure in the water sector.

However, the outcomes could be significantly affected by climate change. Indeed, climate change strongly affects groundwater resources, which will become increasingly scarce due to the drying up of

[5] Climate Risk Profile: Niger 2021
[6] Climate Risk Profile: Niger 2021

natural springs, low rainfall and infiltration, falling groundwater levels, etc. Hence, it is highly likely that some boreholes and water supply systems will not be productive soon after their construction or in the long term due to the drying up of water tables and/or underground recharge deficits due to global warming.

Consequently, to ensure the sustainability of investments despite potential climate threats, the project will conduct specific hydro-climatic vulnerability studies to identify and assess feasible options for climate-resilient and low-carbon DWS systems, with an estimate of the respective investment, maintenance, and operating costs. The reports of these studies will be used as the basis for selecting the types of DWS systems to be established and the locations to be selected to optimise the use of the infrastructure, as well as the spatial and temporal availability of water resources[7]. The works will be validated following the results of the technical and hydro-climatic studies, particularly as regards their location, dimensions, etc. A technical/economic and financial/institutional viability comparison will then be made between the various options, and this will help identify the optimal water supply solutions from the economic, financial, institutional, social, environmental, and climatic perspectives. Preference will be given to nature-based solutions, as well as low-carbon and energy transition technologies. The project will also support the conduct of a broader study on the hydro-climatic vulnerability of the rural water and sanitation subsector, together with proposals for measures to build the climate resilience of water infrastructure and the prevention of hydro-climatic risks in rural areas.

The project will directly contribute to the implementation of several actions of Niger's NDC to the Paris Climate Agreement. The project is also fully consistent with the Bank's Climate Change and Green Growth Strategic Framework, particularly its pillars I and II on promoting climate-resilient and low-carbon infrastructure in climate-sensitive/vulnerable sectors, including the water and sanitation sector. Climate compliance and carbon footprint assessment audits will be conducted to monitor the implementation of climate safeguards.

2.8. Opportunities for building resilience

2.8.1 The regions targeted by PASEPAR-MR are confronted with numerous fragility factors, including inadequate access to water, hygiene and sanitation services, insecurity, and involuntary population movements. In 2022, more than 1,236,000 people need water, hygiene, and sanitation assistance in Niger. WASH needs are even greater in insecure areas and areas hosting IDPs, particularly in Tahoua, which in January 2022 hosted nearly 3,292 IDP households. Pressure on water and sanitation facilities creates conflicts, and the lack of sanitation creates several health challenges, including cholera.

2.8.2 PASEPAR-MR will help improve the people's resilience by aligning with the Bank's new Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa (2022-2026). At the institutional level, it will help improve the rural water management framework. At the community level, the project will improve social cohesion between host populations and IDPs by relieving pressure on WASH facilities. About 189,000 households will benefit from improved access to safe water, including 36,596 IDPs. The project will promote the private sector by supporting sanitation marketing with the creation of 8 outlets for selling sanitation materials and equipment and by creating income-generating activities for 40 women. The project will pilot cash-water technology to improve the management and sustainability of water supply systems.

[7] The list of sites for the various structures with their hydro-climatic characteristics should be shared once the sites are known.

Box 1: Cash water a transparent and resilient water supply management tool

En milieu rural au Niger, c'est le modèle de gestion par délégation qui est appliqué aux ouvrages d'adduction en eau potable. Le délégataire doit dégager un bénéfice, reverser une redevance à la mairie et assurer la continuité du service d'eau en prenant en charge la maintenance et les réparations nécessaires. Toutefois, cette gestion est peu transparente car la commune n'a pas de visibilité sur les chiffres d'affaires dégagés par le délégataire qui à son tour est contraint d'assurer la maintenance des ouvrages à tout moment, même lorsque les recettes générées ne sont pas suffisantes pour couvrir ses charges d'exploitation. Lorsque les recettes ne sont pas suffisantes, les pannes qui ne sont pas prises en charge entravent l'accès à la ressource. Le cash-water pourrait contribuer à l'amélioration de la transparence dans la gestion de l'eau tout en améliorant l'accès à la ressource. Dans le cadre du PASEPAR-MR, la Banque introduira le cash-water en format pilote sur 8 bornes fontaines dans 4 communes de la zone d'intervention. Le cash-water permettra au niveau des mairies, d'avoir une meilleure visibilité sur les recettes issues de l'exploitation. Au niveau des délégataires il permettra de (i) réduire les charges d'exploitations avec la réduction du temps de présence du gérant, (ii) d'augmenter les recettes du fait de la vente 24h/24h et (iii) de diminuer les pertes d'eau. Le cash water est susceptible de contribuer à l'amélioration de la durabilité des AEP en permettant de dégager des recettes suffisantes pour garantir l'entretien des ouvrages et situer les niveaux de responsabilité en cas de panne.

2.9 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The project is classified in Category 2 in line with the Bank's Gender Marker System (GMS) and, therefore, has a strong focus on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Improving access to water and sanitation is essential to providing more time to women and girls and enabling them to focus on their education and economic activities. Similarly, the lack of sanitation facilities, especially in schools and maternal health services, affects efforts to retain girls in school, particularly due to stigmatisation during menstruation and/or girls' absenteeism from school, as well as access to quality maternal health care. Project activities will take into account: (i) gender-sensitive planning (gender mainstreaming in the climate change resilience and adaptation strategy and plan in rural water supply operations, gender analysis of the preparation of the future climate-resilient WASH project); (ii) capacity building for actors in gender issues; (iii) gender mainstreaming in the project's IEC campaigns and social intermediation for works implementation and water management; (iv) taking into account the specific hygiene needs of women (gender-sensitive latrine blocks in schools, health facilities and public places, training in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools, and training of 40 women in reusable sanitary towel making techniques and organising them into an association. The PMU will include a Gender Expert.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Implementation Arrangements

3.1.1. The main project stakeholders are (i) the Ministry of Planning (MINIPLAN), beneficiary of the AWF and ADF funding on behalf of the Government of Niger; (ii) the Ministry of Finance (MINIFIN), which is responsible for financial supervision, will approve the various contracts and participate in the project's supervision missions; (iii) the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (MHA) acting through the General Directorates of Water Supply (DGH) and Sanitation (DGA), for the project coordination and management; (iv) the Town Halls of the municipalities concerned; and (v) the beneficiary populations. The MHA organisational chart is presented in Annex 6.

3.1.2 A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established within MHA and will be responsible for managing, coordinating, and monitoring the project implementation. The PMU will be AfDB's focal point and interface for all technical, institutional, and financial issues related to the project implementation. The PMU will prepare quarterly progress reports on project activities. The PMU Manager, supported by the other staff members, will perform the following main tasks:

(a) ensure technical, administrative, financial, and accounting management;
(b) coordinate the activities of the various actors involved in the project;
(c) procure, coordinate, and supervise the consulting services for the studies;

(d) organise, in liaison with the consultants, the workshops and consultations required during the studies and provide secretarial services;
(e) build the capacity of institutional stakeholders and ensure communication and visibility on project activities;
(f) develop and implement a plan for preparing the donor round table;
(g) organise the donor round table; and
(h) liaise with the Bank and monitor the project.

3.1.3 The PMU will be established by a Joint Order of the Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation and the Minister of Finance, specifying its operation. The PMU team will comprise MHA workers at the central and deconcentrated levels (Tahoua and Zinder regions) and will be reinforced with two (2) consultants (Accounting/Financial Management and Procurement). The MHA staff will work part-time, while the two consultants will be recruited full-time. The consultants will be placed under the supervision of the PMU Coordinator with an objectives-based contract.

3.1.4 At the central level, the PMU will be staffed as follows: (i) a Coordinator, Hydrogeologist/Water Engineer; (ii) a Hygiene and Sanitation Specialist; (iii) an Environmentalist with a good knowledge of climate resilience; (iv) a Gender Specialist; (v) a Procurement Officer; (vi) a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; (vii) an Accounting Officer; (viii) a Procurement Consultant; (ix) an Accounting/Financial Management Consultant. The team will be reinforced with support staff comprising one (1) Driver, one (1) Executive Secretary and Cashier, and one Liaison Officer. At the regional level, the PMU will be reinforced with: (i) two (2) Water/Sanitation Engineers for the two regions (Tahoua and Zinder); (ii) eleven (11) Water/Sanitation Engineers for the eleven (11) departments of the two regions; (iii) two (2) Drivers (one for each region); (iv) municipal workers for municipalities that have them. As regards the appointment of the Project Coordinator, MHA will select, based on the terms of reference accepted by the Bank, three (3) CVs for AWF's no-objection opinion.

3.1.5 MHA staff at the central and deconcentrated levels have good experience in the implementation of sanitation and water projects and programmes. The establishment of the PMU, as well as the appointment of all the specialists within the PMU, except those to be recruited (2 consultants), will be a condition precedent to the first disbursement. All PMU activities will be carried out in line with a performance contract for each staff member throughout the project implementation.

3.1.6 MHA will establish a Project Steering Committee (COPIL) chaired by the Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation or his representative. COPIL will ensure the proper implementation of the project. COPIL will also be responsible for: (i) approving the planning and budgeting documents; (ii) ensuring that the approved annual budgets are consolidated and included each year in the Finance Law; and (iii) monitoring the overall progress of the project based on progress reports provided by the PMU.

3.1.7 COPIL comprises all the key stakeholders (relevant technical structures, local authorities, technical and financial partners, etc.). It comprises representatives from the following Ministries and structures: Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (6 persons: DGH, DGA, DMP, DEP, DRFM, SP/PANGIRE), Ministry of Environment and the Fight Against Desertification, Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, Ministry of interior and Decentralisation, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Protection, Association of Municipalities of Niger (AMN),); a representative of active civil society organizations (women's organizations); Lead TFP in the Water and Sanitation Sector (UNICEF, Observer); Lead NGO in the Water and Sanitation Sector (WATERAID, Observer).

3.2. Procurement Arrangements

3.2.1 Applicable Procurement Policy and Framework

Per the provisions of paragraph 10.2 of the Procurement Policy for Bank Group-Funded Operations, all goods, works, and consulting services financed by the Bank's resources will be procured in line with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group-Funded Operations ("AfDB Procurement Policy"), October 2015,

and in accordance with the provisions of the Financing Agreement. Pursuant to this Policy and following the various assessments conducted, it has been agreed that:

(a) The works and goods listed in paragraph 4.5.2.1(a) of Technical Annex 4. 5 will be procured per the country's procurement system **("National System")** embodied in Law No. 2011/037 of 28 October 2011 on the general principles, control and regulation of public procurement and public service delegations and Decree No. 2016-641/PRN/PM of 1 December 2016 on the Public Procurement Code and Public Service Delegations, as well as its various implementing texts, using Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs).

(b) The goods and consulting services listed in paragraph 4.5.2.1(b) of Technical Annex 4.5 will be procured in line with the procurement methods and procedures of the Bank's Procurement Framework ("Bank's System"). Such procurement, financed partially or wholly from the Bank's resources, will be made using the Bank's most appropriate Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs).

3.2.2 Bank's Reservation Right

The use of **the National System for at least 60% of the project amount (UA 3.73 million out of UA 6.20 million**) will improve efficiency mainly through: (i) better ownership of the procurement system to be used by the executing agency; (ii) time saved with the absence of a second control (after that of the national entities) through the Bank's *a priori* review. **However, the Bank reserves the right to request the Borrower to revert to the use of the Bank's System if** (a) Niger's legal public procurement framework was to change to a system not satisfactory to the Bank; (b) the Executing Agency failed to comply with the provisions in force; or (c) the appropriate risk mitigation measures in the risk assessment action plan were not implemented.

3.2.3 Procurement Risk and Capacity Assessment (PRCA)

In light of the project's specificities, the Bank assessed: (i) the risks at country, sector, and project levels; and (ii) the capacity of the executing agency. The results of the assessments concluded that the procurement risk level was ***"moderate"*** and made it possible to determine, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed in paragraph 4.5.9 of Technical Annex 4.5, the group of procurement to be made under the Bank's System and those that could be made, without major risk, per the National System.

3.2.4 Procurement Arrangements

The procurement arrangements have been considered in light of the market situation, the scale of the needs, the capacity of the actors, the risks involved, and the constraints of the relevant applicable texts. The details of the procurement arrangements, particularly the applicable procurement system, cost estimates, procurement method, type of control, and schedule agreed between the Borrower and the Bank, are described in Annex 4.5 of the Technical Annexes to this Project Appraisal Report.

3.2.5 Special Arrangements

3.2.5.1 ***Procurement Audit***: As regards the use of the National Procurement System, an annual procurement audit, to be financed from the project resources, will be conducted by a specialised private firm. **This audit will enable the Bank to continue exercising its fiduciary responsibilities despite the use of the National System** and to form an opinion on the performance of the National System in the project implementation.

3.3 Financial Management, Audit, and Disbursement

MHA will be responsible for the administrative, accounting, and financial management of PASEPAR-MR through a Project Management Unit (PMU), which will be established for that purpose by Ministerial Order and will comprise MHA workers and officers on contract who will be recruited in line

with the required profiles. An Accounting Officer has been proposed by MHA to keep the project accounts, but the officer does not have adequate experience in private accounting. A multi-project software, TOM2PRO, is used by the Joint Financing Mechanism (JFM) within MHA. The JFM also has an administrative, accounting, and financial procedures manual which is currently being revised. Although MHA lacks experience in the management of projects and programmes financed by the Bank, it is familiar with the financial management rules of certain donors such as Luxembourg, the Sahel Alliance, the Swiss Cooperation, UNICEF, and the Danish Cooperation through the JFM. An assessment of MHA's financial management capacity showed substantial fiduciary risk. The following measures will be taken to mitigate the fiduciary risk and keep it at an acceptable level: (i) a Project Financial Management Officer will be appointed before the first disbursement and an Accounting Officer will be recruited before the project launching, to assist the Accounting Officer assigned to the project; (ii) the TOM2PRO software used by the JFM will be configured to take into account the project, allow for the use of the three (3) types of accounting (general, budget and cost), and facilitate the production of annual financial statements to be audited; (iii) training of financial management staff on the use of the software and capacity building in the Bank's financial management and disbursement rules and procedures; (iv) introduction of a private accrual accounting system in accordance with the revised SYSCOHADA standards; (v) revision of JFM's administrative, accounting and financial procedures manual to take into account PASEPAR-MR and its submission to the Bank for no-objection opinion; (vi) coverage of project activities by MHA's Financial Controller; (vii) preparation of quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports (FMRs) which will be transmitted to the Bank within forty-five (45) days following the end of the quarter; and (viii) the project accounts will be audited twice, one at midterm (i.e. 18 months after the first disbursement) and the other at project completion based on the current terms of reference at the Bank, by an independent firm recruited by AWF within six months following project completion. The auditor's fees will be covered by AWF. The audit report will be submitted to the Bank within six months following the end of the audited fiscal year, per the provisions of the General Conditions.

Disbursement

Disbursements from the Bank's resources will be made through four (4) methods: (a) the special account or revolving capital method as authorised; (b) the direct payment method; (c) the reimbursement method; and (d) the method of payment under a refund guarantee, if applicable. Under the special account method, the project will open a special account in local currency with a commercial bank acceptable to the Bank to receive the funds.

3.4. Risk Management

The main project risks and mitigation measures are presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Risks and Mitigation Measures

No.	Risks	Mitigation Measures
1	Delays due to lack of or late mobilisation of national counterpart funds	MHA will require a strong commitment from the national authorities. It will closely monitor the effective validation of the project for counterpart funds by DESB during budget arbitration for the preparation of the State budget.
2	Weak ownership of the project due to the low capacity of the PMU, the mobility of senior staff, and the slow pace of procurement.	MHA will establish an experienced team, and the PMU will work with careful planning. However, a workshop to inform and upgrade PMU staff on the Bank's rules and procedures will be organised at project start-up.
3	Rising costs	The costs include provisions for physical contingencies and price escalation.
4	Security risk: difficulty in accessing project areas	Arrangements will be made with local authorities to regularly monitor the security situation. The country has already established a security protocol consisting of grouped convoys escorted by defence and security forces for movements in the said zone. Arrange for support from the forces of law and order. Provide for a security system for the sites, if necessary.

No.	Risks	Mitigation Measures
5	Little donor interest in financing the investment project after the studies	A donor round table has been scheduled. In addition, the TFPs will participate in monitoring and management through COSPIL. They will also be informed of the project's progress in sector consultations.
6	Delays in the execution of works due to the weak capacity of contractors	Strictly apply procurement procedures for works, goods, and services to select contractors with the required capacity.

3.5. Project Implementation Schedule

3.5.1 The total duration for the project implementation is estimated at thirty-six (36) months from the date of grant approval. The Bank will undertake a launching mission, as well as regular supervision missions, in line with the provisions in force. The detailed provisional schedule for the project implementation is presented in Annex 9.

3.6. Project Monitoring Plan

3.6.1 The project monitoring and evaluation falls within the overall monitoring and evaluation process of projects implemented by MHA.

3.6.2 The PMU will prepare quarterly reports on the progress of project activities (physical and financial) to be submitted to the Bank within fifteen (15) days following the end of the quarter concerned. In line with the MHA project monitoring and evaluation system in force, a monitoring and evaluation plan will also be prepared by the PMU, based on the project results framework and describing the indicators, tools, data collection methods and plans, the data quality control system, the indicator monitoring table, the information circuit, the data dissemination plan, and the monitoring and evaluation activities.

3.6.3 The PMU will also produce a quarterly report on the implementation of environmental and social measures, including the implementation progress of the complaints management mechanism, to be submitted to the Bank for review and approval no later than fifteen (15) days after the end of the quarter concerned.

3.6.4 AWF will undertake half-yearly supervision missions to monitor the implementation of project activities. It will maintain regular correspondence with the executing agency and will diligently review the quarterly activity reports. A midterm review mission will be undertaken.

3.6.5 A project completion report covering the activities carried out and the financial situation will be prepared at project completion by the executing agency. In line with these rules, the Bank will prepare its completion report in line with the standard format no later than 6 months following project closure.

3.7 Project Performance Plan

3.7.1 The project implementation supervision will be based on the results-based management model in which the logical framework approach principles play a key role. The project’s logical framework matrix shown in this report describes the goal, objectives, and expected outcomes. Table 8 below presents the project performance plan.

Table 8: Project Performance Plan

	DELIVERABLES	PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE
1.	Grant approval	M0
2.	Signing of the Grant Agreement	M0+1
3.	Establishment of the PMU and COPIL	M0+1
4.	Signing of agreements with CFTEA	M0+1
5.	Fulfilment of conditions precedent to the first disbursement	M0+2
6.	Project launching workshop	M0+2
7.	General Procurement Note	M0+2
8.	Procurement Plan	M0+3
9.	Implementation of DWS works in Tahoua and Zinder regions	M0+33
10.	Implementation of sanitation works and capacity building in Tahoua and Zinder regions	M0+24
11.	Conduct of investment studies for 150 water supply systems in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéri regions	M0+30
12.	Conduct of environmental, social, and climatic studies for the 150 water systems project	M0+27
13.	Conduct of studies and capacity-building activities for stakeholders of the hygiene and sanitation subsector	M0+30
14.	Holding of the Donor Round Table	M0+35
15.	Completion Report by SPEN	M0+36

3.7.2 The key performance indicators for the studies (Feasibility, PD, FD, ESIA and BDs) will be specified in the terms of reference to be developed.

3.8 Legal Instrument

3.8.1 The legal instruments governing the project are: (i) an ADF Protocol Agreement between the African Development Fund (the "Fund") and the Republic of Niger (the "Recipient"); and (ii) an AWF Grant Agreement between the African Development Bank (in its capacity as Trustee of the African Wacility Special Fund) and the Beneficiary.

Conditions of the Grant Agreements

3.8.2 Effectiveness of the Grant Agreements (AWF and ADF) shall be subject to signature by AWF, ADF, and the Beneficiary.

3.8.3 The first disbursement of funds shall be subject to effectiveness of the Grant Agreements, as well as the beneficiary's fulfilment, to the satisfaction of the Bank, of the following conditions:

i. Establishment of the PMU and appointment of its Coordinator and the financial manager;
ii. Establishment of the Steering Committee (COPIL); and
iii. Presentation of the AWPB for the first year and the Procurement Plan.

3.8.4 Conditions precedent to disbursements relating to works. Disbursement of Grant resources for works involving the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is subject to: (i) the submission for a specific site of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the works, prepared in accordance with the EESS and the Bank's Safeguards Policies and satisfactory in substance and form to the Fund/Bank; and (ii) submission of satisfactory evidence of approval for a specific site of the ESIA and ESMP by the competent national authority, the Recipient.

3.8.5 Beneficiary Consideration. The Beneficiary shall contribute an amount of three hundred and twenty thousand and nine hundred and twenty-two units of account (UA 320,922), equivalent to 260,921,983 CFA Francs as counterpart (the "Counterpart") to participate in the costs of the Project and for this purpose , shall no later than six (6) months following the Date of the Agreement or any other later date acceptable to the Fund/Bank, ensure that the Counterpart is entered in the national budget in accordance with the Finance Law and shall submit to the Funds: to the Bank, no later than forty-five (45) days after the date of approval of the budget by Parliament, a copy of the national budget.

Compliance with Bank Policies

☒
This project complies with all applicable Fund/Bank policies.

Per Presidential Directive PD2, MHA need to plan for the start of the following processes: (i) the appointment of the Coordinator, as well as the recruitment of the Procurement Consultant and Accounting/Financial Management Specialist (Consultant); (ii) launching of the expression of interest notice for the recruitment of the consulting firm responsible for works control, the consulting firm responsible for the feasibility and implementation studies for the 150 DWS systems, and the consulting firm responsible for the environmental and social assessments (SESA, ESIA, etc.).

4. SUSTAINABILITY

4.1. Benefits

4.1.1. With improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, the poor and vulnerable rural population will enjoy better living conditions and be more resilient to the climate and COVID-19. The proposed DWSS infrastructure will be climate-resilient and low-carbon. The capacity of stakeholders and beneficiaries will be strengthened through specific training in (i) management of the public water, sanitation, and hygiene service, particularly for women and young girls; (ii) management, maintenance, and operation of the infrastructure; and (iii) development of tools for mainstreaming climate change in the RDWSS subsector.

4.1.2. The project was designed using a participatory and inclusive approach and took into account infrastructure management and maintenance needs based on the PWS Guide, as well as hygiene promotion through sensitisation for behavioural change to ensure the sustainability of services. In addition, the project will have a specific positive impact on women, girls, and marginalised and vulnerable people by reducing the time taken to collect water for domestic needs, improving girls' access to school, sanitary conditions and quality of life, and reducing poverty.

4.2. Sustainability

4.2.1 Sustainability depends on the effective resolution of project-related risks during project implementation and the adoption of mechanisms to ensure the continued flow of benefits after project completion. For the first aspect, arrangements have been made to ensure that the project is implemented under the required safety conditions, particularly in Tahoua and Tillabéry regions, and that the hydro-climatic vulnerability of water resources is taken into account. For the second aspect, measures have been taken to build the capacity of the actors concerned (MHA, local authorities, sectoral public services, private sector, etc.), so that they can properly manage and operate the infrastructure that will be built, and that they participate in the design and preparation of the investment project.

4.2.2 Project sustainability depends on (i) stakeholder level of participation and ownership (men and women) and especially the communities and direct beneficiaries throughout the planning and implementation process; (ii) the quality of the works and facilities provided to the beneficiaries; (iii) the population's willingness and ability to pay for the drinking water and access to sanitation facilities; and

(iv) the functionality and efficiency of local authorities and their ability to include women in the management of the facilities.

4.3 Knowledge Building

4.3.1 The project will contribute to current knowledge on climate resilient DWSS infrastructure. Such knowledge is still quite theoretical, and appropriate tools are little known or used. Furthermore, the project is expected to generate new knowledge on mainstreaming climate resilience and COVID-19 control in RDWSS infrastructure. The knowledge also concerns resilience of the targeted poor populations, social inclusion, implementation approaches and methods, and capacity building for beneficiaries and senior staff for behavioural change in water, hygiene, and sanitation in relation to COVID-19. In addition, the knowledge will be leveraged and consolidated in the Bank's experience, particularly in the design and implementation of integrated multi-sector programmes in situations of extreme fragility.

4.3.2 Finally, the project provides for communication and visibility activities through the development of knowledge and communication products relating to the project outcomes, lessons learned, good practices and impacts on the quality of life of the populations. The knowledge will be shared and used by stakeholders and will contribute to knowledge building on the AWF/NDF/GoDk Programme.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

5.1.1 The Project consists of appropriate AWF and ADF support to strengthen and improve access to sustainable DWSS and hygiene services in Tahoua and Zinder regions, as well as provide MHA with investment studies for a new project for 150 DWS systems in Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi and Tillabéry regions. It is well justified given its impacts on improving the quality of life of the population concerned, recovery from COVID-19, food security, increasing the incomes of the population of the project area, and building the population’s resilience to the impacts of climate change.

5.1.2 The project is fully consistent with the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI) for 2035 or "Niger 2035", with the priority areas of AWF's Operational Strategy 2017-2025, and with the Bank's "High 5s".

5.1.3 The total project cost stands at EUR 7 640 590 or UA 6 202 800 This cost is financed by AWF to the tune of EUR 4 779 237 or UA 3 879 880 (62,55%), ADF for an amount of EUR 2 463 580 or UA 2 000 000 (32.24%), and the Government of Niger for EUR 397 773 (5.21%). The cost includes miscellaneous contingencies. The detailed costs are presented in Annex 4.

5.2. Recommendations

5.2.1 Based on the analysis of the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the project, it is recommended that the Board of Directors approve: (i) an AWF grant of an amount not exceeding Four Million Seven One Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand and Two Hundred and Thirty Seven Euros (EUR 4,779,237), and (ii) an ADF grant of an amount not exceeding Two Million Units of Account (UA 2,000,000) for the benefit of the Republic of Niger to contribute to the financing of the project as described in this evaluation report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMPLIANCE NOTE (ESCON)

AFRICAN DEVELOPPEMENT BANK GROUP

A. Basic Information[8]

Project Title: Project to Support Resilient Drinking Water and Sanitation Services in Rural Areas in Maradi, Tahoua, Tillaberi and Zinder Regions (PASEPAR-MR)		**Project SAP code :** P-NE-E00-005
Country: Niger	**Lending Instrument[9]**: DI ☒ FI ☐ CL ☐ BS ☐ GU ☐ RPA ☐ EF ☐ RBF ☐	
Project Managing Sector: Water and sanitation	**Task Team Leader**: Liliane Sandra KENTE	
Appraisal date: 19 to 25 June 2022	**Estimated Approval Date**: 15/12/2022	
Environmental Safeguards Officer: DJIBO Maman/BONI Gratien		
Social Safeguards Officer: xxx		
Environmental and Social Category: 2	**Date of categorization**: 08/12/2022	**Operation type**: SO ☒ NSO ☐ PBO ☐
Is this project processed under rapid responses to crises and emergencies?		Yes ☐ No ☒
Is this project processed under a waiver to the Integrated Safeguards System?		Yes ☐ No ☒

B. Disclosure and Compliance Monitoring

B.1 Mandatory disclosure

Environmental Assessment/Audit/System/Others (specify: 1 ESMF)	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes ☐ No ☒ NA ☐
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	30/11/2022
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	30/11/2022
Date of disclosure by the Bank	1/12/2022
Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Others (specify: NA.	
Was/Were the document (s) disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes ☐ No ☐ NA ☒
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	[Date]
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	[Date]
Date of disclosure by the Bank	[Date]
Vulnerable Peoples Plan/Framework/Others (specify: NA.	
Was the document disclosed ***prior to appraisal?***	Yes ☐ No ☐ NA ☒
Date of "in-country" disclosure by the borrower/client	[Date]
Date of receipt, by the Bank, of the authorization to disclose	[Date]
Date of disclosure by the Bank	[Date]
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, as per the country's legislation, please explain why: N/A	

B.2. Compliance monitoring indicators

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes ☒ No ☐ NA ☐
Have costs related to environmental and social measures, including for the running of the grievance redress mechanism, been included in the project cost?	Yes ☒ No ☐ NA ☐
Is the total amount for the full implementation for the Resettlement of affected people, **as integrated in the project costs**, ***effectively mobilized and secured***?	Yes ☐ No ☐ NA ☒

[8] **Note**: *This ESCON shall be appended to project appraisal reports/documents before Senior Management and/or Board approvals.*

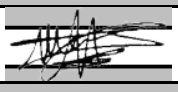
[9] **DI**=Direct Investment; **FI**=Financial Intermediary; **CL**=Corporate Loan; **BS**=Budget Support; **GU**=Guarantee; **RPA**=Risk Purchase Agreement; **EF**=Equity Financing; **RBF**=Results Based Financing.

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes ☒ No ☐ NA ☐
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes ☒ No ☐ NA ☐

C. Clearance

Is the project compliant to the Bank's environmental and social safeguards requirements, and to be submitted to the Board?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Prepared by:	***Name***	***Signature***	***Date***
Environmental Safeguards Officer:	Maman DJIBO/Gratien BONI		08/12/2022
Social Safeguards Officer:	xxx		
Task Team Leader:	Liliane Sandra KENTE		08/12/2022
Submitted by:			
Sector Director:	Mecuria Assefaw, OIC for Osward Mulenga CHANDA		09/12/2022
Cleared by:			
Director SNSC:	Maman-Sani ISSA		09/12/2022