



Newsletter No 6: January 2007

◆◆ **EVERY DROP COUNTS** ◆◆

The UN Millennium Development Goal for drinking water (see box) can seem both extremely modest - if you compare it to daily water use in the UK - or overwhelmingly ambitious - if you consider the challenges it poses on a global scale, or for a country as poor as Mali. For a rural community in Bankass however, it's a very realistic goal and one which brings lasting improvements to people's lives (see below).

Over the last two years, over 7,000 men and women in Bankass have achieved this millennium goal thanks to your support. Thinking globally it seems like a "drop in the ocean" but looking locally its made a lasting change. And every drop counts!

With our very best wishes for 2007
from Mary and Mamadou

◆◆ **CHANGING LIVES** ◆◆

BEFORE : the nearest reliable and safe source of water was 3 km from Ogossagou (in Bondo village), 4 km from Tissagou (in Daou village) and 3 km from Tianama (in Soguina village). People in Déna village used only unlined traditional wells which contained little water and were prone to collapse.

AFTER: all the villages have a reliable and safe source of water and report at least a 60% reduction in the time required to collect household water:

Village	Time required each day To collect household water	
	BEFORE	AFTER
Déna	4 hours	< 1 hour
Tianama	2 to 3 hours	< 1 hour
Ogossagou	2 hours	½ hour
Tissagou	4 hours	½ hour

◆◆ **Millennium Development Goal** ◆◆
◆◆ **for drinking water** ◆◆

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

"Access to safe drinking water" is defined in the Millennium Development Goals as meaning 20 litres of water per person available per day at a distance of less than 1000 metres from any of the following types of "improved" water supply: piped water, public tap, borehole or pump, protected well, protected spring or rainwater.

◆◆ **WELLS IN 2007** ◆◆

The four villages chosen by Community leaders in Bankass are *Dia, Daymadian, Guillé Peul and Dogoguilado*. Training will start in February and work to dig the wells in April or May at the height of the dry season.

◆◆◆ **FUNDRAISING NEWS** ◆◆◆

Total donations to **JITON** by individuals have now reached **£7,158**. Support from the Big Lottery Fund continues and SOS Sahel UK has helped us to raise nearly £20,000 from Jersey Overseas Aid towards the 2007 program.

Our big challenge now is to raise at least £20,000 to enable us to continue to help communities in Bankass to dig wells in 2008.

Could you help us to recruit new supporters or raise funds some other way? If you think you might be able to help, please contact **Mary** at Sahel ECO in Mali (address below).

Donations, clearly marked for JITON, can be sent to SOS Sahel UK, 10C Littlegate Street, St. Ebbes, OXFORD, OX 1 1QT

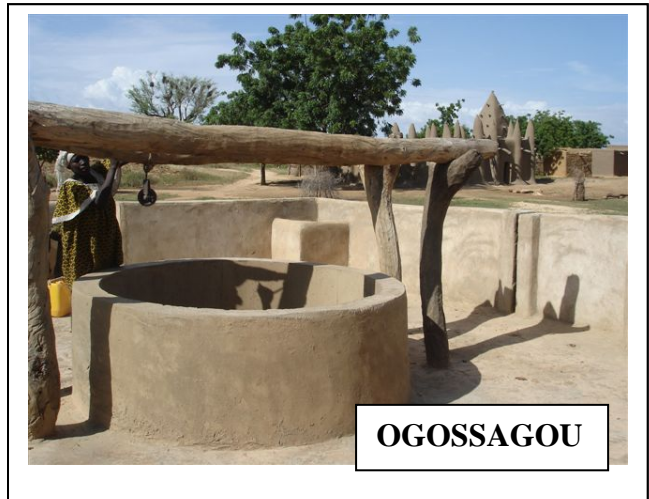
Cheques should be made payable to SOS Sahel International UK. Details of gift aid and how to set up a standing order are available on request. Tel: 01865 723200 mail@sahel.org.uk.

If you have questions about **Jiton** or about any other aspect of Sahel ECO's work in Mali, please write to **Mary** at the following address: BP 3066, Bamako, Mali or by email to: mary.sahleco@afribone.net.ml

JITON

2006

The photo from *Ogossagou* (right) shows the top of the well and the concrete wall and apron which surrounds it. The wall keeps livestock away from the well and helps to keep it clean.



The three men in the photo (left) from *Tiassougou* are members of the village well committee. They have drawn a picture of a flip-flop and the number 20 on the wall to remind people of the fine for wearing shoes within the enclosure. The girls in the foreground no longer have to spend up to four hours a day, helping their mothers to draw water for the family.



Each well has two or three drinking basins for livestock like the one shown in this photo from *Tianama* (right). They are dug away from the well to prevent cattle from damaging the wall. They can be filled from inside the enclosure, by using the pipe.



In the past people drew water using containers made from leather but today most prefer to use recycled car inner tubes or the yellow plastic containers that hold cooking oil, shown in this photo from *Dena* (left). The 60m rope is made from recycled woven plastic grain sacks which are carefully unpicked and then plaited. Rope is made traditionally in a similar way, using bark from the Baobab tree.

