

Case study

Increasing water access in rural Benin

Project	
Where (country/City):	Benin
When and contact length :	Started 03/23 for 10 years
Goal: construction and or operations?	Both extension and operations of existing networks
Scope: water/ Wastewater?	Potable water in rural areas
Scope: plant and or network)?	Small piped systems covering 2/3 of the country
People served:	9 million
Brief description of the project	
<p>The objective of the project, financed by the World Bank, is to secure access to potable water in the rural areas in Benin. To reach that goal, the Benin Government has decided to delegate the management of the systems to a private operator. A rural water supply agency has been established and the country has been divided into 3 parts. After a bidding process, our consortium won 2 lots out of the 3. AquaFed member, Uduma, is tasked to rehabilitate, extend and densify the 400 existing systems and manage them for 10 years.</p>	
Is this project unusual or different compared to others?	
<p>Yes, it is the first time that there is a public service delegation in the rural water supply sector at national scale.</p>	
What have been the major outcomes or success so far?	
<p>The operator has signed the contracts after a bidding process and is conducting the diagnosis of the systems before taking them over. Discussions have been held with the rural water supply agency to adapt the contracts to the constraints of the rural areas. Works started in 2024 to rehabilitate, densify or extend existing systems.</p>	
Has “working in partnership” helped to make the project successful?	

Yes, Vergnet Hydro/Uduma teamed up with Eranove to share experiences in the urban sector. The collaboration with the agency and the World Bank is also very important as it is the first project of that type.

What topic of the “Global Acceleration Framework” does the project contribute to?

1. Optimized financing – did you improve targeting or utilize existing resources more efficiently, or mobilize additional funds	Not now yet but it should come
2. Improved data and information – how did you use data and information to improve the service and increase accountability and transparency	YES, we will during operation, for real time view of field operations and water payment
3. Capacity development - did you create new jobs or developed local people's skills and talents?	YES, we created a local subsidiary and have to recruit 500 staff
4. Innovation – how have you used innovation and technologies to make the service better?	YES, our objective is to utilize pay by phone and a web platform to monitor the systems
5. Governance – what have you done to maintain and strengthen governance around the project?	YES, all our staff will be local

Has the project in any way supported the development and involvement of young people and/or supported gender equality, and if yes, how?

We will, through the recruitment of 500 staff.