

August 2010

Assisting Children and Families in Need in Mali

A SPECIAL REPORT FOR

Women of Vision - East Bay

WORLD VISION REPRESENTATIVE

Cynthia Breilh

National Director, Women of Vision

World Vision, Inc.

CBreilh@worldvision.org



ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED IN MALI

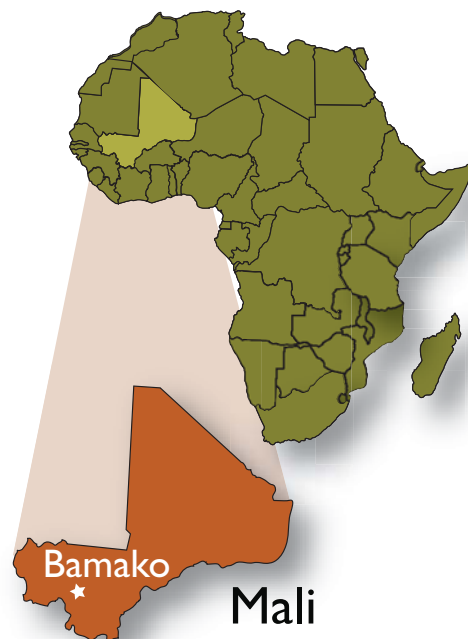
On the cover

The addition of a well providing clean water to his village has improved the health of Moussa Bouare, 11. Villagers also use the water to grow crops such as lettuce, which Moussa is holding, and papaya, which is behind him. The crops supplement villagers' diets and add to their income when the excess is sold.



Table of contents

- 1 Introduction
- 1 Background
- 2 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- 3 Mali
- 3 Mali Water and Sanitation
- 5 Quick comparisons
- 5 Thank you



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



bbb.org/charity

**ASSISTING CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
IN NEED IN MALI**



*Our vision for every child,
life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart,
the will to make it so.*

—From World Vision's
vision statement

Introduction

World Vision is deeply appreciative of the care and support—the love—the East Bay Women of Vision have shown children and families in Mali. You have helped thousands of people—particularly children—regain the hope they had lost and again believe they can have a full life and a bright future. It is hard for most of us in the United States to understand what many people go through just to survive—just to have a glass of clean water or a safe environment off the streets. You have felt their suffering and responded with an outpouring of support.

When you reach out as the hands of Jesus to people in need, you are reflecting His love and shining His light in the darkness. Thank you for your devotion to this life-changing partnership.

This report describes accomplishments in the project you support in Mali. You will receive a separate report related to U.S. projects.

Background

Water is one of the basic necessities of life. Safe water is especially critical for children, who are the most vulnerable to water-related diseases. World Vision works in impoverished areas to provide potable water and adequate sanitation to decrease illnesses, improve health, and lessen the burden on women and children by reducing the distance to water collection points. In addition, sufficient water increases crop production and thus the ability of parents to adequately provide for their children with better nutrition and income from the sale of produce.

World Vision's water and sanitation programs help communities obtain adequate supplies of safe water and sanitation facilities by drilling new borehole wells, repairing existing wells, developing spring and rainwater catchments, providing water storage, building community filtration systems, and constructing household latrines, refuse dumps, and surface water drainage systems.

These initiatives become sustainable as community members are trained to repair and maintain pumps and water sources, and serve on water and sanitation committees that oversee community improvements. World Vision also initiates hygiene education for children and adults, including proper hand and face washing to prevent disease.

water



**ASSISTING CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
IN NEED IN MALI**



“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

—Matthew 10:42 (NIV)

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Over the past 25 years, World Vision has helped provide clean water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education to more than 10 million people. In fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 to September 2009), individuals, corporations, and foundations in the United States supported World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in 20 countries. These interventions are playing a vital part in helping to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to “halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.”

The goal of World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene projects is to improve the health and overall well-being of communities by reducing the incidence of

water- and sanitation-related diseases through sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. Projects achieve this through four objectives:

- Increase access to sustainable, safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities
- Reduce the prevalence of WASH-related diseases, including trachoma, Guinea worm, and diarrheal diseases, through the promotion of personal hygiene and environmentally friendly practices
- Increase sustainability by promoting integrated water resources management at the local level, with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water
- Foster a new model of partnership and institutional synergy to ensure technical excellence, programmatic innovation, and long-term financial, social, and environmental sustainability in water management that can be replicated elsewhere



Jule Coulibaly, 8, fills a bucket with water from a well drilled by World Vision in the Buwaton area of Mali.

**ASSISTING CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
IN NEED IN MALI**



Thimote's story

In Ogodengou village, where Thimote Sagara lives, families previously had no choice but to drink contaminated surface water or water that came from an unprotected well. The unsafe water frequently caused Thimote's children, including Assama, above, to fall ill. "During that time, I wished I could protect my children from diarrhea," he said.

Then, World Vision drilled three boreholes in Ogodengou and equipped one with a mechanical pump powered by solar panels. Now, clean water is pumped into a tower that feeds seven distribution points. With access to clean water, Thimote's children have grown healthy enough to attend school. "[My son] has a lot of energy now and likes to run with his friends," said a smiling Thimote.

Assama attends a school built through World Vision.

Mali

The United Nations Human Development Index*, which measures a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development—health, knowledge, and a decent standard of living—ranks Mali 178th out of 182 countries.

Only 15 percent of boys and 11 percent of girls attend secondary school, and most drop out by the age of 12. The resulting low adult literacy rates—more common among women than men—have proven to perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Approximately 80 percent of Malians engage in agriculture as a source of income, producing cotton, millet, sorghum, and rice. Nearly two-thirds of the country lives below the poverty line, and 74 percent lives on less than \$2 a day.

Government leaders face the challenge of improving the healthcare system in a nation affected by economic hardship, malnutrition, and high mortality rates. On average, approximately one Malian child in five does not live to see his fifth birthday—currently the sixth worst under-5 survival rate in the world. Malnutrition affects up to 15 percent of children younger than 5 in most areas of the country. Locust infestation and poor rainfall totals have caused a decline in the nutritional status for children. Malaria, meningitis, cholera, and tuberculosis are prevalent, and there is just one physician for every 12,500 people.

And most areas of the country are in desperate need of clean water.

World Vision began working in Mali in 1975 after finding a great need for water supplies, agricultural development, and literacy training. A year later, we helped dig 10 freshwater wells. And we're still digging.

** The United Nations Human Development Index is a summary composite index that measures a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Health is measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrollment ratio; and standard of living by per capita gross domestic product.*

Mali Water and Sanitation

Water has the power to bring both life and death to a community. Where there is a lack of clean water, families and children suffer from diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, trachoma, dysentery, and Guinea worm. But in communities that have clean water, the children are healthy, active, and going to school. In addition, parents can use the water for income-generating activities such as vegetable gardening.

With the support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and other major donors, World Vision launched the Mali Rural Water Project (MRWP) in September 2003 as part of the West Africa Water Initiative to help improve the lives of poor and vulnerable rural populations in Mali. In its

ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED IN MALI

Who we are

Women of Vision East Bay is a volunteer ministry of World Vision that unites Christian women called to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity, and finances so impoverished women and children might find hope and experience a tangible expression of God's love.

We are a group of San Francisco area women who have volunteered to use our time and talents to serve God by serving poor women and children all over the world.

We are a relatively new chapter—formed in March 2009—but we are growing quickly!

(From the East Bay Women of Vision webpage)



In addition to providing hundreds of wells for people, World Vision is working with communities in Mali to build watering troughs for livestock, particularly cattle. In many areas, people and cattle share water sources, which contributes to the prevalence of waterborne diseases.

first five-year phase (2003-2008), this partnership drilled 301 successful wells, constructed 4,459 latrines, and provided health and sanitation education on Guinea worm and trachoma prevention to 1,891 communities in Mali.

Phase I ended in September 2008, and the transition to Phase II began in October of that year—not long after the East Bay chapter of Women of Vision was formed. Thanks to donors like you, in the past year 90 successful wells were drilled, providing safe water for more than 71,000 people. Here is a look at some other accomplishments and future plans:



One of the many benefits of wells providing clean water is that children, particularly girls, spend much less time fetching water and can thus spend more time in school.

- Fiscal year 2009 (October 2008 through September 2009) highlights included constructing 1,574 latrines; educating 28,148 people from 1,691 households on how to safely handle and store water; and training 9,767 schoolchildren on how to prevent water-related diseases.

- In the first half of fiscal year 2010 (October

2009 through March 2010), another 24 boreholes were drilled; 22 water-quality testing facilities were established; and nearly 400 community leaders were trained on proper health and hygiene, environmental and household sanitation, and management of water facilities.

**ASSISTING CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
IN NEED IN MALI**



Adama's story

Yacouba, a 9-year-old boy, above, pumps water with his sister, Rokia, from a borehole. His father, Adama Sogoba, remembers what life was like before they had clean water.

The community dug an open well by hand. Yacouba got sick with diarrhea from drinking water from the well. He did not want to eat, slept a lot, had difficulty walking, and lost a lot of weight. His parents took him to the health center nearly four miles away to buy medicine to treat the diarrhea. However, because the only available water was from the contaminated well, the diarrhea kept returning.

"I am very happy that World Vision drilled this well," said Adama. "We benefit a lot from it. My son does not have diarrhea anymore. Since we have got clean water, my son is healthy and goes to school. He is studying in second grade now."

- By September 2010, thanks to our partnership with donors like the East Bay Women of Vision, World Vision plans to drill 180 more wells and equip them with hand pumps. More sanitation facilities will also be built, and sanitation and hygiene education and training will be provided to thousands more Malians. By placing strategic emphasis on improving health by preventing waterborne diseases and encouraging proper hygiene, the project aims to provide clean, safe water to 72,000 more people.

Quick comparisons

	Mali	California
Population	14 million	37 million
Area (square miles)	478,840	155,959
Life expectancy	52 years	81 years
Literacy rate	46 percent	96 percent
HIV prevalence rate	1.5 percent	0.4 percent
Per capita income	\$1,200	\$22,711
Population below poverty line	36 percent	13 percent

Sources: United Nations, World Health Organization, World Food Program, and World Factbook

Thank you

A mere thank you doesn't adequately convey our appreciation for the dedication the East Bay Women of Vision have shown so many children and families in Mali.

You are walking with people in need and changing their lives. We are blessed to be able to join you on this journey. Families throughout Mali are grateful for your support in improving the lives of thousands of children, many of whom have suffered in ways we can barely imagine.

Thank you for all you've done for them.



P.O. Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716
worldvision.org

MLI10WVREP East Bay
© 2010 World Vision, Inc.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.