



**The World Bank**

Niger Integrated Water Security Platform Project (Niger-IWSP Project) (P174414)

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# Project Information Document (PID)

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Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 23-Aug-2021 | Report No: PIDA31690



## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country Niger	Project ID P174414	Project Name Niger Integrated Water Security Platform Project (Niger-IWSP Project)	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA WEST	Estimated Appraisal Date 11-Aug-2021	Estimated Board Date 30-Sep-2021	Practice Area (Lead) Water
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Planning, Prime Minister Cabinet	Implementing Agency Ministry of water and Sanitation, Ministry of Environment and Fight Against Desertification, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock	

#### Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objectives are to strengthen the management of water resources, increase access to water services and improve the resilience to climate-induced water variability in select areas of Niger.

#### Components

Component 1: Integrated Investments for Water Security and Services

Component 2: Expansion of Integrated Water Services

Component 3: Project management and capacity building

Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component - CERC

## PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

### SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	400.00
Total Financing	400.00
of which IBRD/IDA	400.00
Financing Gap	0.00

### DETAILS

**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	400.00
IDA Credit	275.00
IDA Grant	125.00

## Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

## Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

**B. Introduction and Context**

1. A Sahelian country, Niger faces a number of mutually reinforcing challenges aggravating water security,<sup>1</sup> including poverty and a lack of economic diversification, high climate variability, natural resource degradation, fragility and rapid population growth. Niger's pervasive poverty is intertwined with the complete reliance of entire communities on the exploitation of natural resources, leading to the degradation of landscapes and ecosystems. This reliance is further exacerbated by existing infrastructure gaps and the limited capacity of these communities to withstand the impacts of climate change. Climate change continues to increase the frequency and severity of drought and floods, hasten desertification and render rainfall less predictable, resulting in varying levels of moisture stress over the seasons and thus threatening agricultural productivity and, in turn, food security. The poor management and development of water resources and extensive land degradation due to excessive farming and grazing practices and land salinity have increased competition for scarce resources, including water and arable land. Meanwhile, additional factors closely intertwined with water insecurity – including regional insecurity, youth unemployment, and grievances over the allocation of governmental resources – contribute to high risks of conflict and fragility and have further exacerbated the precariousness of the population, leading to poor economic and human capital outcomes. Niger's climate change adaptation and water resource protection measures have proven inadequate to address these challenges, while the lack of a comprehensive social protection system has reinforced prevailing poverty traps.

2. The Niger Integrated Water Security Platform (IWSP) Project seeks to overcome these challenges through an integrated platform approach to water-related planning, policies and investments. This approach aims to address issues around the protection, management and knowledge of water resources and associated natural environments from the household to the provincial level focusing on a few priority basins. Interventions reflect the multi-faceted nature of water security, spanning: water resource

<sup>1</sup> Water security is defined as “the availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies plays.” (Grey and Sadoff, 2007)



management and ecosystems regeneration, irrigation and optimized rain-fed agriculture, flood and drought management, and sustainable and safely managed drinking water and sanitation. The project is not intended to address all facets of the work in each these sub-sectors, but rather, provide an approach that strengthens the institutions and practices around the usage and stewardship of water resources. Given the diverse needs across stakeholder groups, an integrated and consultative multi-sectoral approach to water management is required that facilitates data-driven and systematic decision-making towards the sustainable use of these resources under climate change scenarios.

#### Country Context

**3. Poverty and human development indicators place Niger among the most socio-economically challenged countries in the world; the COVID-19 crisis further heightens its vulnerability.** Although the direct impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic has thus far been fairly limited compared to other countries, resulting income and food security shocks could erase the poverty reduction gains achieved in recent years. Pre-crisis, Niger, which has ranked next to last on the United Nations (UN) Human Development Index since 2010 and last in 2019, was already one of the world's poorest nations. Limited access to clean water and sanitation services are significant contributing factors as demonstrated through their substantial contributions to Niger's high multi-dimensional poverty index [MPI].<sup>2</sup> Geographic and income disparities in access persist, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable (Niger Poverty Assessment, World Bank 2021). Though poverty rates have fallen in recent years to 41.4 percent in 2019, the country's rapid demographic growth - among the highest in the world at 3.9 percent annually<sup>3</sup> - has resulted in a substantial increase in the absolute number of poor people. Women and the households they lead are especially vulnerable to poverty, accounting for three out of four Nigeriens in poverty.<sup>4</sup>

**4. Niger is exposed to fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) which undermines its development.** The country has managed to remain stable within a difficult and insecure regional environment despite several risk factors. First, high population growth exacerbates already limited economic opportunity. Second, institutional deficits remain significant: Niger ranks 112<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in the 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index. Furthermore, regional insecurity continues to threaten the country's stability, as there has been an increasing number of attacks on Niger's territory by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups at the Niger-Nigeria-Chad and Niger-Mali-Burkina Faso border regions. The country is currently hosting over 369,000 people displaced by conflict, which has important security and economic implications, as noted by the 2019 Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA). The resulting increase in military spending has severely strained public resources. Finally, Niger ranks 175<sup>th</sup> out of 181 countries with respect to vulnerability and readiness to adapt to climate change.<sup>5</sup> Several climate and disaster risk simulations rank Niger with a high risk of extreme heat and water scarcity as well as a high risk of floods.<sup>6</sup>

**5. Improving water security is key to reducing the country's fragility.** A recent analysis (Khan and Rodella, forthcoming) demonstrates the important link between water insecurity and fragility in the G5 Sahel. The region's historically elevated risk of conflict is predicated on variations in water availability, a risk that has substantially increased since 2010 mainly due to climate-induced effects. Irrigated areas are particularly

<sup>2</sup> Global MPI 2020. [https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI\\_Report\\_2020\\_Charting\\_Pathways.pdf](https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI_Report_2020_Charting_Pathways.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Niger - Country partnership framework (CPF) for the period of FY18-FY22. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

<sup>4</sup> NEPAD. 2012. African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program.

<sup>5</sup> ND-GAIN 2019

<sup>6</sup> See the GFDDR Think Hazard simulations for Niger at : <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/181-niger>



vulnerable, likely reflecting competition for scarce water resources and demonstrating the importance of sustainable management.

**6. Leveraging the development potential of water will be critical for Niger's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.** Recent scenarios from the World Bank estimate that between 70 to 100 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty globally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>7</sup> A large share of the “new” extreme poor will be concentrated in countries that are already struggling with high poverty rates, with more than a third projected to be from Sub-Saharan Africa. Fragile countries face an added risk: under the baseline scenario, the number of extreme poor in IDA and FCV countries, both of which include Niger, is projected to increase by 21 and 18 million respectively. Few levers can respond to as wide a range of development concerns as water, including supporting livelihoods, promoting human capital, protecting public health, enhancing food security, reducing climate vulnerability while promoting low-carbon growth, and generating employment for vulnerable groups.

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

**7. Water is the bedrock of Niger's development, yet it has not been adequately mobilized to support its efficient and coordinated use across sectors, while ensuring its sustainability.** Niger is one of the hottest and driest countries in the world. The distribution of its population is largely determined by the availability of water, as it is a necessary condition for livelihoods and economic activity in the country. Although three-fourths of Niger is classified as hyper-arid desert, the country's overall water resources are quite significant, estimated at 32 billion cubic meters per year.<sup>8</sup> Yet, most of those resources have not been adequately harnessed, constraining development; less than 1 percent (2,000 ha) of Niger's surface water and less than 20 percent of its groundwater are currently utilized. As an example, agriculture accounts for over 80 percent of employment, yet less than 1 percent of the total cultivated area is irrigated,<sup>9</sup> leaving a majority of the population in a poverty trap and extremely vulnerable to shocks and deepening gender inequities. Uneven spatial distribution, unsustainable utilization practices and rapid population growth are also straining Niger's water resources, with per capita availability decreasing from 2,300 m<sup>3</sup>/year in 2004 to 1,360 m<sup>3</sup>/year today.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, Niger's long-term development requires a twin focus on developing new water resources and improving the management of existing supplies.

**8. Actual water use is significantly below all sectors' demands: increasing gaps illustrate how inadequate water mobilization and management hinder Niger's growth and the need for an integrated approach.** Annual water requirements to support the development strategies and programs of all sectors will increase from 7.6 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 to more than 9.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2025. Meanwhile, actual water use is projected to increase from 1.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> (2015) to 1.7 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2025. While the numbers are well below the annual renewable water resources, these gaps highlight the significant underdevelopment of Niger's water resources mobilization infrastructure. Given the diverse needs across stakeholder groups, an ongoing, integrated, and consultative multi-sectoral approach to water management is required that facilitates data-driven and systematic decision-making towards the sustainable use of these resources under climate change scenarios.

<sup>7</sup> World Bank estimates of projected poverty impact of COVID-19 (June 8, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Source: PANGIRE 2017

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG/EL). Document de Programmation Pluriannuel des Dépenses 2020-2022.

<sup>10</sup> According to the Water Stress Index (WSI), absolute water scarcity is defined as less than 500 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year, water scarcity is less than 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year, water stress is less than 1,700 m<sup>3</sup>/year, and more than 1,700 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/year is no water stress.



**9. The National Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PANGIRE) provides a strong roadmap to mobilizing Niger's water endowment in compliance with the Niger River Basin Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP).** There is a need to address: (i) highly uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall, (ii) insufficient knowledge of water resources, and (iii) absence of institutions to coordinate the management and development for water resources across sectors, for multiple and often conflicting uses. Building on the 2010 water code, the PANGIRE was adopted by the Government of Niger (GoN) in May 2017 and aims to: (a) improve water resources knowledge, (b) mobilize and develop natural resources and related socioeconomic activities, (c) preserve the environment and build resilience to climate change, and (d) improve water governance and strengthen capacity. There is broad consensus that, through the Water Code and the PANGIRE, Niger has developed a harmonized framework and implementation plan for the management and development of its water sector. It bears the vision of a water platform, which would involve systematically coordinating water-related planning, policies and investments across all water-using sectors, and engaging all relevant stakeholders (not only in the government, but also including development partners, private companies, and civil society organizations). With support from different development partners, this framework is being operationalized by the GoN in a phased manner, with the objective of covering all the 15 priority sub-basins of the country by 2030. Along with the World Bank (through this project), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Government of Netherlands, and the European Union (EU) are actively supporting the realization of different dimensions of the PANGIRE framework in the country.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

#### Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The project development objectives are to strengthen the management of water resources, increase access to water services and improve the resilience to climate-induced water variability in select areas of Niger.

#### Key Results

**10. The key results will include:**

- (a) Sub-basins that have operationalized<sup>11</sup> an integrated, climate-resilient, water and natural resources management plan (10 sub-basins);
- (b) People provided with access to improved water sources (1.6 million, 0.8 million of which are women);
- (c) People using water for productive purposes (200,000, 100,000 of which are women); and
- (d) Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (149,700 hectares).

### D. Project Description

**11. The IWSP operationalizes the GoN's integrated water platform approach that enables the coordination of all water-related planning, policies, and investments to promote water security for all Nigeriens.** This Project's approach, founded on the GoN's PANGIRE program, seeks to avoid such impacts and harness synergies across sectors through supporting the systematic and climate-informed planning of all water-related activities and investments at the commune level, in coordination with sub-basin agencies that safeguard the quality and sustainability of Niger's water resources. In addition, the IWSP

<sup>11</sup> Operationalized means that plans have been drafted, accepted, and budgeted, with annual plans under implementation.



will support the development of critical infrastructure that can allow Nigeriens to better leverage their water resources for both domestic and productive purposes.

**12. Project activities are organized under two core components: (i) Integrated investments for water security; and (ii) Expansion of integrated water services.** These activities are interconnected across components and will be coordinated through the water platform approach to sector planning described above. In addition, two complementary components are included: (i) project management and capacity strengthening; and (ii) the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) to permit the repurposing of project funds to respond to national emergencies.

**Component 1: Integrated Investments for Water Security (US\$ 125.92 million)**

**13. Component 1 aims to support institutional development for improved water resources management, as well as upstream investments in watersheds restoration and water resources mobilization.** It includes three interlinked subcomponents to be coordinated and implemented by relevant PANGIRE institutions and sector ministries.

**Subcomponent 1.1: Management of Water Resources and Climate Risks (US\$ 30 million)**

14. While the PANGIRE rightly emphasizes decentralization and engagement of local communities, the low capacity of state agencies and fragility-related constraints require a pragmatic and incremental approach to institutional development. Accordingly, in the first phase (spanning the first two years) the project will focus on strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of the recently established water platform institutions<sup>12</sup> in three of the 10 priority sub-basins<sup>13</sup> under IWSP. The subsequent phase, informed by lessons from the first, will support the establishment and capacity-strengthening of water platform institutions in the remaining seven sub-basins, including the preparation of SDAGE and SAGE<sup>14</sup> development action plans at the sub-basin and commune levels respectively. The second phase will include the expansion of the community engagement and civil society dialogue process for participatory planning and the implementation of multisectoral project investments in all remaining sub-basins. In addition, the project will support the improvement and expansion of water resources monitoring systems to improve the availability and quality of data, which will be gender-disaggregated when relevant.

**Subcomponent 1.2: Restoration of Watershed Environments (US\$ 50 million)**

**15. This sub-component will support watershed restoration activities using an integrated landscape and ecosystems approach.** The underlying goal of integrated landscape planning and management is to find and promote synergies between activities that improve production systems and livelihoods, increase the capacity to cope with increasing risks of drought and flood, support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, and enhance carbon capture and storage. In particular, it will involve the clarification of land tenure through the COFOCOM and COFODEP, the adoption of sustainable land management practices, and the establishment of land information systems. These activities will be implemented by the

<sup>12</sup> These include sub-basin agencies (Agence de sous basin) at the sub-basin level, local water committees (Comités Locaux de l'Eau - CLE) at the commune level, and water user associations (Association des Usagers de l'Eau - AUE) at the community level.

<sup>13</sup> Water platform institutions are already in the process of being established in three of the IWSP sub-basins (Korama, Goulbi Maradi, Dallol Maouri) with support from the Swiss Development Corporation, with sub-basin agencies already been established.

<sup>14</sup> SAGE: Schéma d'Aménagement et Gestion de l'Eau (Water Development and Management Plan at commune level); SDAGE: Schema Directeur d'Aménagement et de Gestion de l'Eau (Master Plan for Water Development and Management at sub-basin level)



Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Desertification (ME/LCD),<sup>15</sup> complemented by an implementation support consultancy. Depending on the watershed, activities may include: (i) reforestation, (ii) land restoration/ regeneration, (iii) agroforestry, (iv) the development of the non-timber forest products value chain, and (v) the development of fisheries and aquaculture in small reservoirs mobilized under sub-component 1.3.

**Subcomponent 1.3: Mobilization of Water Resources (US\$ 45.92 million)**

**16. This subcomponent will support the construction and rehabilitation of multipurpose water harvesting (spreading and percolation weirs), abstraction, and storage infrastructure, as well as flood control and riverbank protection investments on ephemeral rivers.**<sup>16</sup> The main objective of this subcomponent is to improve the resilience of communities to the effects of climate variability through: a) the mobilization of water resources to support the expansion of integrated water services under sub-component 2.1. and 2.2, therefore improving resilience to drought; and b) flood prevention for agriculture fields. The investment program will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG)<sup>17</sup>, complemented by an implementation support consultancy.

**Component 2: Expansion of Integrated Water Services (US\$ 249.08 million)**

**17. Component 2 includes the following subcomponents: (i) expansion of rural development services, (ii) expansion of water supply services, and (iii) expansion of public sanitation infrastructure and behavioral communication.** This component builds upon activities conducted under component 1, particularly the management of water resources and associated sub-basin planning under subcomponent 1.1, improved sustainability and quality of water sources under subcomponent 1.2, and the mobilization of water resources under subcomponent 1.3. Furthermore, it will leverage disruptive technologies and information systems and follow a resilient design process to better address known challenges pertaining to the sustainable management of rural water infrastructure and allow for the monitoring of water abstractions and consumption for improved water resources planning and climate adaptation (e.g., drought and flood management).

**Subcomponent 2.1: Expansion of Rural Development Services (US\$ 59.08 million)**

**18. This sub-component will support economic development and resilience to climate-induced risks (e.g., droughts) in the project area through: (1) the implementation of small-scale irrigation infrastructure prioritizing the use of solar energy, (2) water-usage related activities for pastoralists, and (3) related capacity reinforcement activities.** It will result in: a) the extension of irrigated land, b) improvements in rainfed agriculture water productivity (green water management), and c) support to livestock activities in relation to water resources management. The investment program will be implemented by MAG for irrigation related activities and by MEL for livestock activities.

**Subcomponent 2.2: Expansion of Water Supply Services (US\$ 170 million)**

**19. This sub-component will support the construction, rehabilitation, and effective management of water supply infrastructure to increase access to water supply services in select urban, semi-urban and rural areas.** It includes four main interventions: (i) construction and rehabilitation of primarily multi-village

<sup>15</sup> ME/LCD: Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre la désertification

<sup>16</sup> Investments will enhance surface and sub-surface storage via catchments, ponds, and aquifer recharge measures; as well as support abstraction, such as through shallow wells.

<sup>17</sup> MAG: Ministère de l'Agriculture



infrastructure to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water services (basic and on premise) in semi-urban and rural areas, including the Gotheyé – Tera multi-village system; (ii) supporting enhanced service delivery management capacity; (iii) urban water supply investments in Niamey; and (iv) construction and rehabilitation of pastoral water supplies to improve access for livestock. Service provision will target households, as well as schools and health centers. All infrastructure will ensure inclusive access and directly address climate risks, namely water scarcity, droughts, and floods, using a resilient design process. They will also include measures for the protection of water quality, such as systematic water treatment and the installation of concrete slabs, fencing and drainage systems. Furthermore, infrastructure will leverage renewable energy sources and prioritize energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, a technical assistance provider will be engaged to support the capacity reinforcement of rural private operators.

**20. Incentivizing the establishment and operationalization of effective rural water supply institutional arrangements that promote quality, sustainable service delivery and PPP through Performance-Based Conditions (PBCs) (US\$ 12 million).** PBCs will incentivize the GoN to design, establish, and operationalize improved, financially sustainable, and functioning rural water supply institutional arrangements, including necessary institutional and stakeholders' studies, due diligence, and workshops to determine the best option for sustainability of rural water services. PBCs also include incentives to ensure that support to private operators by the technical assistance provider results in the operationalization of systems and processes required for sustainable service provision by those operators.

*Subcomponent 2.3: Expansion of Public Sanitation Infrastructure and Behavioral Communication (US\$ 20 million)*

**21. This subcomponent will improve sanitation and hygiene services and practices in both urban and rural Niger, prioritizing support for women and girls.** The project is expecting to allocate about 65 percent of this subcomponent's budget to infrastructure construction in critical public settings, using a resilient design process to directly address climate risks, namely droughts and floods. This infrastructure includes: (i) latrines in schools and health centers, (ii) public bathrooms in lorry park, market and other public places, and (iii) fecal sludge treatment plants that are sustainably managed and avoid the release of effluent off-site. Beyond key public infrastructure, the subcomponent aims to promote sustainable behavior change and sanitation value chains. Thirty-five percent of the subcomponent's financing will support: (i) behavior change activities to improve household-level sanitation and hygiene behavior, (ii) the distribution of hygiene kits (including menstrual hygiene products), and (iii) the development of a holistic sanitation value chain.

#### Legal Operational Policies

##### Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

#### Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts



Most of the environmental impacts outlined above are localized and can be readily mitigated. This includes construction related impacts such dust, erosion, solid and liquid waste, noise pollution. However, there are other impacts that can potentially be longer-term and less readily mitigated e.g., the potential cumulative impact of using extensive ground water resources has to be assessed. The project has already noted this and will finance a study of ground water resources and recharge rates to ensure that there is a sustainable water supply for the activities outlined in the project. The TOR for the study will be prepared prior to appraisal and the study will be prepared and finalized prior to the commencement of works, yet early enough be an integral part of the engineering design/studies.

## E. Implementation

### Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

**22. To ensure a harmonized approach, the Prime Minister office that has the convening power, has the mandate to coordinate the Project across sectors and is therefore the main anchorage of the IWSP project.** The directly concerned line ministries are directly involved in the project implementation: The MHA, MAG, the MEL and the ME/LCD. Furthermore, MPFPE and MSP are also involved for cross-cutting themes (gender/citizen engagement and health/hygiene respectively).

**23. The steering committee,** chaired by the dedicated representant of Prime Minister's Office and composed of the PANGIRE steering committee and representatives of other main stakeholders directly involved in the project, will provide strategic leadership and guidance for the project. The steering committee will meet at least once per quarter and will work to ensure better ownership of the project by stakeholders at all levels. It will also approve the annual workplan and budget (AWPB) and supervise project activities.

**24. A central project management unit (PMU)** will be established and housed under the Prime Minister office with the overall responsibility for project oversight and management. The PMU will manage the project's resources and is responsible for procurement and financial management in accordance with World Bank rules and procedures. The PMU will be composed of 17 people, namely: (i) the coordinator, (ii) the financial management specialist, (iii) the internal auditor, (iv) the procurement specialist, (v) the accounting specialist, (vi) the environmental safeguard specialist, (vii) the social safeguard specialist, (viii) the monitoring and evaluation specialist, (ix) the communication specialist, (x) the team assistant, (xi) the procurement assistant, (xii) the water expert, (xiii) the sanitation and hygiene expert, (xiv) Environmental expert, (xv) the Rural Development expert, (xvi) the gender and social inclusion expert, and (xvii) the agriculture expert. The PMU will be collectively supervised by all involved ministries through the steering committee, with Project technical cells within each ministry participating in relevant decision making.

**25. Procurement and citizen engagement:** Procurement and citizen engagement activities will be outsourced to address the procurement challenges that constitute the main bottleneck for project implementation in Niger and to alleviate the work burden on the PMU. Citizen engagement activities focusing on community consultations and grievance redress mechanism will benefit from a dedicated NGO/consultant with relevant skills and experience.

**26. The central PMU will be reinforced with regional units (regional antennas of the PMU) within each region to insure field proximity and appropriate management of the project.** Table 6 provides the location of each regional PMU. The regional project antenna will ensure financial management and assists



in procurement of project activities, and will be composed of six persons: (i) the antenna manager, (ii) the rural development specialist, (iii) the procurement assistant, (iv) the accountant, (v) the M&E specialist and (vi) the team assistance. Select regional antennas will additionally include the following persons to support activities within one or more regions: environmental and social specialists to ensure compliance with environmental and social requirements, and a communications specialist to support communications and citizen engagement activities. Local representation of each ministry at the sub-basin and commune levels will work alongside regional antennas to implement relevant activities.

27. Ideally activities are identified through a multi-sectoral “water platform” approach that includes local community-level consultations. As local-level PANGIRE institutions (AUEs, CLEs, and Agences de l’Eau) are gradually established and become functional across the different sub-basins of the country (including through support provided by Subcomponent 1.1), they will become the main mechanism for coordinating this integrated and community-focused approach at local levels in Niger. Prior to their establishment, the activities will nevertheless be identified through a multi-sectoral “water platform” approach that includes local community-level consultations. A multi-sectoral team representing the different implementing agencies across all water-using sectors will hold initial consultations at the village-level to understand local needs and to discuss the long list of possible investments covering landscape restoration, water resources mobilization, irrigation, livestock, fisheries and water supply and sanitation. The community feedback will be aggregated first at the commune level and then at the sub-basin level. Based on the proposed framework criteria for sectoral activities and a consideration of the overall water resources availability, a revised list of multisectoral investments will be discussed and finalized with the local community. The selected activities will be those to be submitted by the central PMU to the project steering committee through the annual work plan and budget (AWPB).

## CONTACT POINT

### World Bank

Taibou Adamou Maiga  
Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist

Aude-Sophie Rodella  
Senior Economist

### Borrower/Client/Recipient

Ministry of Planning  
Saadou Bakoye  
Secretary General  
[bb.saadou@gmail.com](mailto:bb.saadou@gmail.com)

Prime Minister Cabinet  
Abdoulay Djada



Senior Advisor for Private Sector and Infrastructure Project

Djadah@yahoo.fr

### **Implementing Agencies**

Ministry of water and Sanitation

Chaibou Tankari

Secretary General

chaiboutan@yahoo.fr

Ministry of Environment and Fight Against Desertification

Kader Mohamed

Director of Studies and Programming

kader\_mohamedfr@yahoo.fr

Ministry of Agriculture and livestock

Younoussa Idrissa

Director of Rural Infrastructure and Irrigation

younoussaidrissa@yahoo.fr

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20433

Telephone: (202) 473-1000

Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

### **APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Taibou Adamou Maiga Aude-Sophie Rodella
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### **Approved By**

Practice Manager/Manager:		
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Country Director:	Joelle Beatrice Dehasse	23-Aug-2021
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