

# Integrated Water Use for Livelihoods in Crisis-affected Burkina Faso

SIWI Seminar: Navigating multiple crises. Between  
adaptation and mitigation

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# A few words about Cowater

- Cowater is an international development consulting company established in Ottawa in 1985 with a portfolio of over 2,500 projects and assignments completed in more than 95 countries;
- As a global development player, we deliver results that generate lasting social, economic and environmental impacts. We provide technical assistance, policy advice and implementation supports across 12 major service lines that cover a wide range of economic, human and sustainable development areas;
- Our presenter and co-authors today:



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# Introduction

- In Northern Burkina Faso, limited water is available for drinking water and economic activities such as pastoralism and small-holder agriculture, fueling poverty and insecurity
- Armed conflict and climate stress are reducing the viability of dryland livelihoods and increasing the number of displaced people into other regions
- Objective of ECED-Sahel project was to integrate water resources management (and resilience) in a cross-cutting way: through water treatment and provision, agricultural livelihoods and community WASH using a social arts approach innovated by the One Drop Foundation
- Case study: the project, key results achieved, risks, challenges and lessons learned

# ECED-Sahel: Quick Facts

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Eau et croissance économique durable dans la région du Sahel / Water and Sustainable Economic Growth in the Sahel Region (ECED-Sahel)</b>
Executing agency	Cowater International
Duration	5 years (2015-2020)
Location	Sahel Region, Burkina Faso
Total budget	~ 12 million EUR
Funding partners	Global Affairs Canada (GAC), IAMGOLD Essakane (IMG), One Drop Foundation (OD)
Main technical partners	ONEA (National Water Utility Company) and Burkina Faso's Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Overall objectives	Leverage water resources management (and resilience) in a cross-cutting way through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water treatment and provision</li><li>• Agricultural livelihoods</li><li>• Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) through a Social Arts approach</li><li>• Strengthened governance at the local level</li></ul>

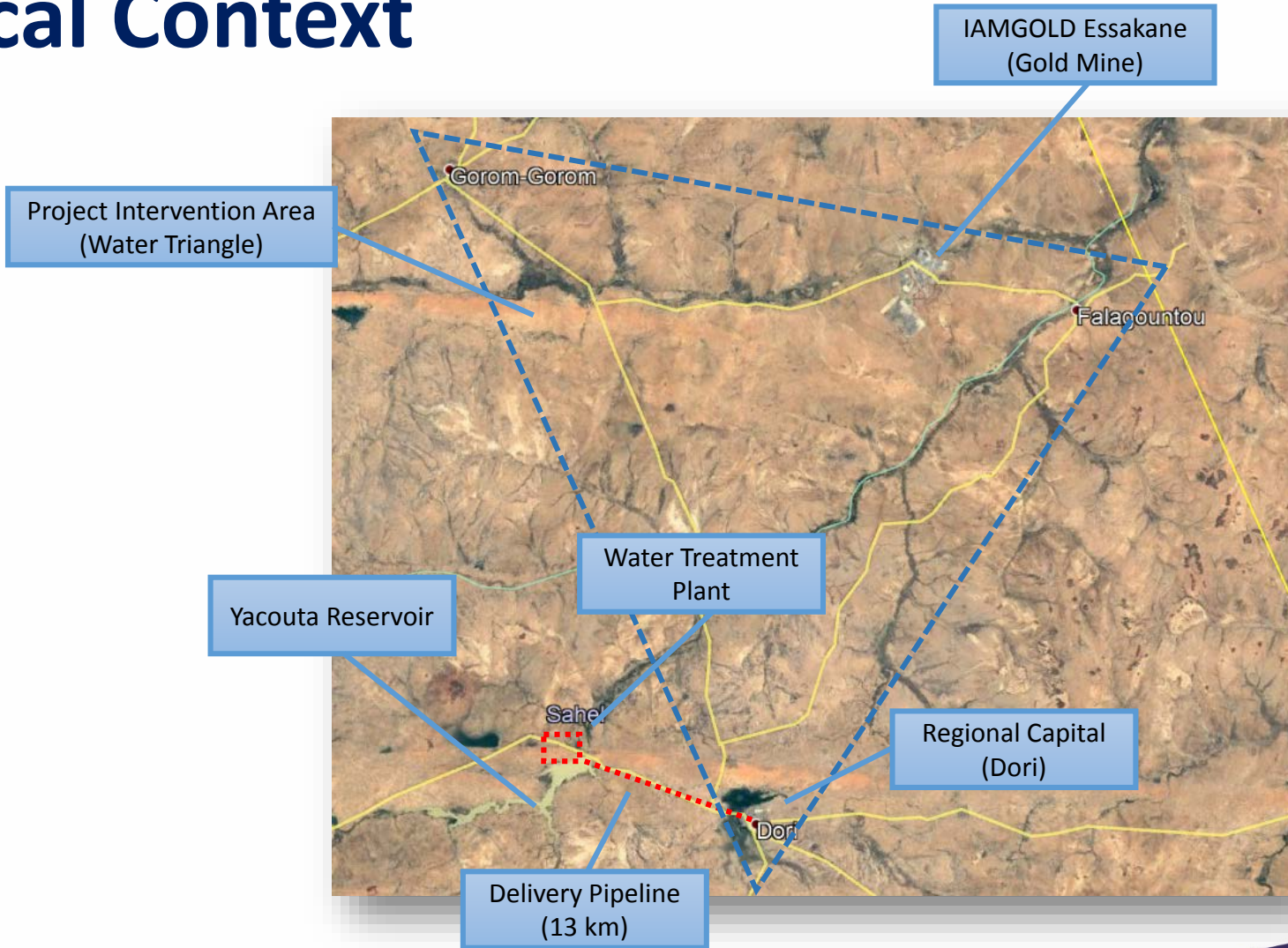
# Local Context

- Burkina Faso is a French-speaking, landlocked country in West Africa bordered by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast with a population of approximately 20 million people
- Ranked 182 out of 189 on the Human Development Index (2019)
- Rise of insecurity from 2014 to today, with important increase in terrorist activity in Northern and Eastern parts of the country
- Sahel Region:
  - Amongst the poorest regions, in the northern part of the country, with more than 80% of the population relying on subsistence agriculture
  - 56% of the population have access to clean water, and limited water is available for economic activities such as pastoralism and small-holder agriculture, fueling poverty and insecurity. 13% of the population have access to sanitation.
  - Dry and arid climate, receiving less than 60 cm rainfall per year and very high temperatures (5 – 47 °C)





# Local Context



# Key Results Achieved

- Specific results include (examples/photos on next slide):
  - Design, procurement and construction in close collaboration with the National Water and Sewerage Authority (ONEA) of a 230 m<sup>3</sup>/h treatment plant to supply drinking water to more than **60,000 people** in the region.
  - Construction of more than 1,700 household latrines and 35 community latrine blocks promoting the elimination of open defecation for more than **12,000 people**.
  - Adoption of good hygiene practices such as handwashing by more than **16,000 people** using a combination of the Community Led Total Sanitation and Social Art for Behaviours Change approaches.
  - Economic empowerment of women's associations and farmer's cooperatives, comprising over **830 people**, that saw a 67% increase in their income.
  - Capacity building and institutionalization of community-based management systems to improve access to drinking water, based on the principles of inclusive governance with 26 water user **associations**.



Small-scale irrigation



Storage bank for livestock feed



Small livestock fattening



School latrine blocks



Drinking water supply



Social art for behavior change



# Challenges

- Water availability in the context of climate change:
  - Water demand for multiple usages at the Yacouta reservoir (drinking water, irrigation, industrial use, etc.)
  - Hydrological modeling to confirm water availability for phase 1 and phase 2
  - Development of solutions to increase water availability in the future (integrated water resources management and interventions along the river basin, dam upgrades, etc.)
- Institutional and financial:
  - Scope definition and turn-key infrastructure budget
  - Complex implementation environment with multiple stakeholders and competing demands (GAC, IMG, OD, ONEA, Ministry of Water, etc.)
- Security:
  - Increased security threats from 2015 to 2020 in the Sahel Region, with terrorist attacks, kidnapping, carjacking, etc.
  - Reluctance of local consultants and contractors, even Burkinabe, to work in the region
  - Management of construction site security/surveillance with national police

# Lessons Learned

- Highlights the value of engagement with a wide array of development partners: extractive industry, local and national government, artists and donors
- Single sector approach may reveal important lessons, but broader engagement is necessary to provide more options for sustainable livelihoods, especially the case in fragile regions such as Sahel/Burkina Faso
- Flexibility in implementation allowed ECED-Sahel to:
  - Adapt approaches and strategies in light of important changes in security (“red” zones)
  - Embrace engagement with public and private entities as well as civil society
  - Work across sectors influenced by water and avoid a narrow view – notably agriculture, education and health



# Conclusion

- Innovative project model integrating:
  - Access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene (drinking water supply, agriculture and livestock, IWRM)
  - Livelihoods development (women's associations, local entrepreneurs)
  - Strong emphasis on local governance
- Unique partnership with extractive companies operating in the region (goodwill and capability to play a fundamental role in the development of the region)
- Robust risk management approach and adaptability over the course of project implementation allowed government partners to strengthen presence and population's trust in crisis-affected region
- Project was successful and phase 2 is currently under preparation with technical and financial partners (BF Government, GAC, IMG and OD)





Thank you / Merci