



TOWN WATER NETWORK

Guero - MAURITANIA

Guero: population 15,000 - 1,000 Ouguiya (UM) = US\$ 0.53

WATER SERVICE IN SECONDARY CENTERS

- Since 1982, the Water Ministry has installed drinking water systems in secondary centers.
- These systems are operated by village committees, by rural districts, and since 1993, by private concessionaires.
- There are 260 drinking-water networks with motor-driven pumps, of which 190 are run by concessionaires.



Secondary centers (with 2,000 to 15,000 residents) represent more than a third of Mauritania's urban population.

WATER CONCESSION IN GUEROU

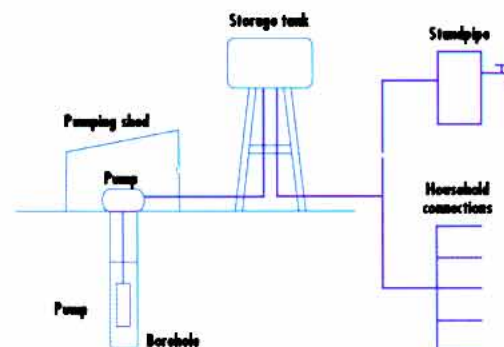
In 1995, a hydraulic engineer and native of Guero submitted the winning bid and became the concessionaire for the drinking water network for his home town.

His contract makes him responsible for

- the production, distribution, and sale of drinking water
- network operations, including upkeep and repair of equipment, and technical and financial management.

He is supervised by the Water Ministry and the town authorities.

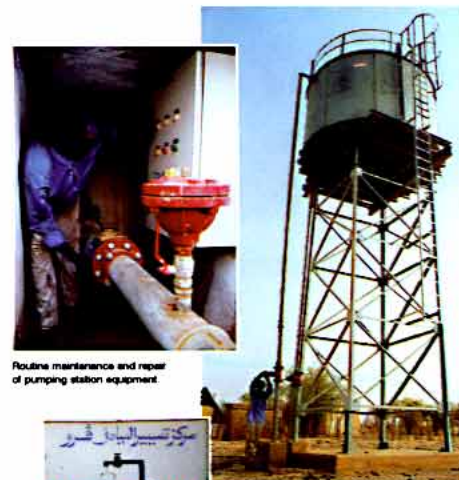
- He pays a fee to the Ministry and a tax to the town.
- His selling price is set by the authorities at UM 80/m³.
- His monthly sales volume is about UM 280,000.



EXPANDING HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

Between 1995 and 1999, the concessionaire extended the network (15 km of secondary mains and 40 km of tertiary water lines) and installed 1,450 house connections, requiring an investment of about UM 50 million. The concessionaire is in direct contact with his customers, which allows him to stay in close touch with demand trends and to suggest payment arrangements. He has opened a store in his office where water customers can buy supplies such as plastic tubing.

He has 10 employees on his payroll.



Routine maintenance and repair of pumping station equipment



WATER CONCESSIONAIRES GET ORGANIZED

With their networks continuing to expand, six concessionaires, including the Guero concessionaire, have organized an economic interest group (GIE) in order to

- speak with a united voice in discussions with the Water Ministry,
- propose revised contract conditions for the concessionaires,
- improve the quality of periodic maintenance provided by the ministry, possibly by contracting with a private mechanic,
- combine orders for spare parts and negotiate for exemptions from Ministries.



Clients can buy plastic tubing and other supplies at the store in the Guero water office



Network extension works and installing house connections