



STANDPIPE OPERATORS

Ouagadougou - BURKINA FASO

Ouagadougou: population 1,200,000 - 1,000 CFAF = US\$ 1.60

WATER SERVICE IN OUAGADOUGOU

- 23 percent of households have private water connections.
- Most families get their water from standpipe vendors (48 percent) and handcarts (28 percent).
- 4 percent use private boreholes.

The National Water and Sanitation Office (ONEA) network provides water to 477 standpipes, many of which are located in peri-urban areas and at the entry of unplanned settlements.

They constitute an essential source of water because there are virtually no alternatives.

DESIRABLE AND PROFITABLE JOB

Those wishing to manage a standpipe must deposit CFAF 30,000 and sign a contract with ONEA.

- They buy water for CFAF 187/m³ and sell it at CFAF 300/m³.
- Their average monthly sales volume is CFAF 360,000 (30-50 m³/day).

ONEA's bimonthly billing system includes monitoring and close supervision by ONEA of service quality and consistency. Any deviation from contract conditions can quickly lead to reassignment of the standpipe to another manager.

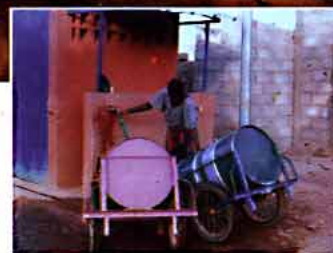
ASSOCIATION OF STANDPIPE MANAGERS

The Association of Kadioko Standpipe Managers (AGBFK) seeks to bring its concerns to the attention of ONEA:

- transparency in the selection of standpipe managers
- clearer understanding of the meter calibration system
- respect of contract provisions involving ONEA's and the managers' mutual obligations, especially in the case of late water bill payments.



Water resale is provided by young rural migrants, paid 5 to 15 percent of sales volume (CFAF 5,000-7,000/month) by the standpipe manager.



THE STANDPIPE MANAGER IN KALGOUDIN DISTRICT

The president of the standpipe managers' association has managed a standpipe in the Kalgoudin district of Ouagadougou since 1992.

Since he fears his standpipe contract could be canceled by ONEA, he continues to work full-time as a nursing aide and employs a young man to handle the standpipe. The hired vendor ensures continual service from 6 AM to 7 PM and is supposed to be paid 5 percent of water sales.

The standpipe manager supervises standpipe operations on a daily basis, recording the volume of water sold and collecting the money. In April 1999, his profit amounted to CFAF 125,983.



Handcarts clustered around a standpipe.