PRIVATE OPERATOR OF A SIMPLIFIED WATER SYSTEM
Bamako - MALI
Bamako: population 1,100,000 - 1,000 CFAF = US$ 1.80

SIMPLIFIED WATER SYSTEMS IN PERI-URBAN AREAS
The peri-urban areas, where more than half of Bamako’s population lives, remain beyond the reach of the water network run by Mali Energy (EDM).
- Eight simplified water distribution systems have been built in peri-urban areas since 1997 with donor project support.
- These systems serve about 2,000 households.
- Most systems are managed by a neighborhood Water Users’ Association (AEU), which hires standpipe managers and pays them a salary.

CHOOSING A PRIVATE WATER OPERATOR IN YIRIMADIO
In the Yirimadio district (11,000 residents), the Water Users’ Association delegated water system management to a private operator. The arrangement involves
- shared management responsibilities, to limit the risk of malfunction resulting from direct technical involvement by volunteer association members,
- a security deposit of CFAF 500,000 paid by the operator, who signs a one-year contract, renewable subject to approval by the Users’ Association.

SHARED MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES
The terms of the leasing contract stipulate that:
- The Users’ Association is responsible for supervision water production, network extension, and major repairs (to the water storage tower, the electric pumping system, the network mains).
- The contractor is responsible for production, distribution, and sale of treated water, for routine maintenance, and for network security.

The contractor employs three standpipe vendors and a watchman. He takes care of:
- selling water at the price set by the Users’ Association: CFAF 2.50/m³, of which CFAF 0.80/m³ sold is handed over to the Association,
- paying the electricity bill, maintenance bills, and payroll, along with any city taxes on the business.