



Water, the source of life

**Funds collection file for the achievement of a
solar-powered well in Mali**

Souleymane, Mayor from Tin
Aouker surrounded by village
children

Contact persons : Philippe Marty, Philippe.Marty1@fnac.net cell : +33 6 08 02 31 53
& Bernard Cohen b.cohen@orange.fr cell +33 6 76 81 00 52

Presentation of the Association

« Imbidjadj Solidarity » is a 6-year old French non-profit association helping in the development of a rural Tuareg region located in the Sahara, north of Gao in Mali. Its previous achievements include the construction of two other solar powered wells which have been operating perfectly for the last six years. Other projects have been launched, such as the financing of a community herd or of a village garden for vegetable production. This Association has its main office in Pontcharra, France, which is a small town in the French Alps, near the city of Grenoble. More than 150 members support its activity. Its humanitarian character has been officially recognized by the French Finance Ministry, entitling its donors to tax reductions on contributions made.

The region

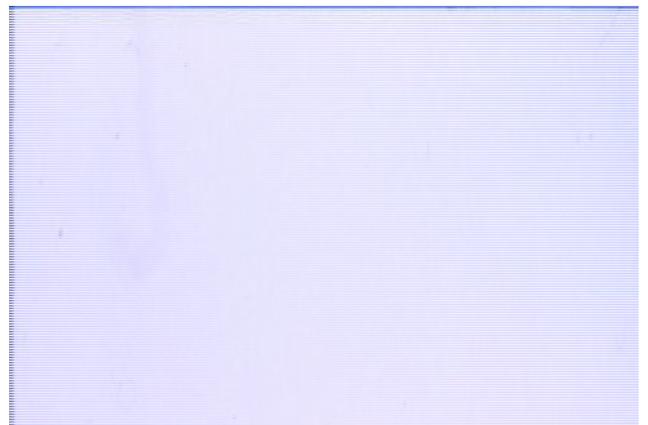


The project concerns the Tilemsi region: it is a rural district spread over almost 200 miles north to south. Tin Aouker, its main village, is located 40 miles north of Gao. It numbers approximately 60,000 inhabitants, split into 13 fractions which are mostly Tuareg.

This region has a sahelian climate, with yearly rainfall generally less than 100 mm. Annual temperature ranges between 30 and 45 °C. Vegetation is much degraded and consists of thorny shrubs or savannah.

Cattle farming constitutes the main activity of the region (bovine, ovine, goats, camels ...). This activity suffers from a shortage of equipment, organization and education of farmers. Desertification is an additional obstacle.

Agriculture is practiced by sedentary populations who gather around the few ponds present in the region. Sorghum is the main crop. Gardening agriculture is also present in a few areas. This activity is mainly performed by lowest social class (the bellahs).



A weekly market is held in the regional capital, Tin Aouker. Goods traded include cereals, livestock, cloth and various other products (tea, sugar, tobacco). The main suppliers are from Gao and, quite often, Algeria.



The Tilemsi area has a few seasonal waterholes, including the Tin Aouker one, where cattle can survive during the dry season. The population has settled around these temporary ponds.

Our request

The Sahel is an arid region where the rainy season is short, typically from June to September. Since the seventies, many droughts have occurred. When water supplies diminish, crops fall short, forcing inhabitants to sell their goods or to move to the cities to seek their livelihood. During the last ten years it is estimated that more than 400 000 km² of sahelian farmland have disappeared to be replaced by desert (equivalent of the two thirds of France).

The severe droughts of 1982-1984 and 1993-1994 greatly contributed to the slowdown of economic development, the deterioration of the educational system and the disappearance of every form of research in the field of food production.

Average income is about 280 US dollars per year and life expectancy is around 58 years.

According to the United Nations Development Program, Mali is one of the six poorest countries in the world.



The Tilemsi region for which we work is also subject to desertification. This year, for example, the drying of the ponds around Tin Aouker has forced the populations to move towards the only water point of the village. Finally, the lack of water also prevents children going to school, although some schools exist.

The life of the populations and of the herd is dependant upon water resources

The project

Our project consists in rehabilitating an existing well to avoid an over-concentration of inhabitants around the only waterhole of the village. Solar photovoltaic panels will be installed and will feed an electric pump immersed 60 meters below ground level. The pumped water will be stored in a tank. A Malian company (www.yandalux.net) will be in charge of the technical implementation. This company specializes in such projects and has already worked for our Association.

Examples of solar-powered water projects which have been financed by our Association.

The attached quotation contains the following :

- Supply and installation of 32 60W photovoltaic cells (total power 2 kW)
- Electrical regulation equipment (voltage conditioner, power inverter)
- Supply and installation of a Grunfos pump, type SP3A
- Lay a concrete slab to support the cells, surrounded by a metal fence.

Grunfos pump which will equip the well

Implementation plan

We expect all necessary funding to be obtained by the end of 2007. The next steps will be the following:

- January 2008: order sent to the Malian company Avelux, located in Bamako.
- February-March 2008 : shipping of the equipment to Bamako
- March 2008: installation of the equipments in Tin Aouker (600 miles from Bamako, see attached map)
- April 2008: inauguration

Funding

An amount of 22,000 euros is needed (equivalent to 14,450,000 CFA West African Francs). The donations will be deposited on the bank account of the Imbidjadj Solidarity Association. The annual maintenance of the installation will be paid by the few funds which are available in the Tin Aouker village. This expense is estimated at 500 euros a year (pump maintenance, filter cleaning, electric equipment inspection). Travel by the members of the Association will be paid with their own resources.

Project monitoring and information

Every donor will be informed of the progress of the project. A mailing will be sent at the launch and at the inauguration of the well. A periodic update will also be sent.

The project is placed under the responsibility of Philippe Marty, Professor at the University of Grenoble, France and of Bernard Cohen, former assistant to the Director of the Board of Education of the Grenoble region.

Appendix : technical proposal from Avelux company
(100 Franc CFA = 0.15 euro)