



**CENTRE REGIONAL POUR L'EAU POTABLE ET L'ASSAINISSEMENT A
FAIBLE COUT**

CENTRE COLLABORANT DE L'OMS

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The regional centre for Low Cost Water Supply and Sanitation (CREPA) was established within the framework of the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IWSSD 1981-1990). It is one of the African centres of the International Training Network for water and waste management (ITN). ITN is a global excellence network which promotes behaviour change through relevant strategies and policies, advocacy and capacity building by supporting partners' continuous learning, applied research, and action research communication and information process. It's an Interstate and region-based institution, having it's headquarters in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and covering seventeen (17) French-speaking countries in West and Central Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad and Togo. CREPA has ten (10) national representative centres in Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. CREPA has a Secretariat agreement in Burkina Faso and a strong partnership with the Ministry of Water, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Objective

CREPA's overall objective is to promote sustainable access to drinking water, basic sanitation services and hygiene related behaviour changes, in priority among low income populations living in rural, peri-urban and poor urban areas, in order to improve their sanitary environment and their living conditions.

Mission

CREPA has for mission to contribute to the improvement of disadvantaged people's livelihoods in rural, peri-urban and poor urban areas by favouring their access to drinking water and basic sanitation services. This is done through the development and popularisation of appropriate technologies, community participation and management, and the establishment of endogenous mechanisms for self funding activities on community level. Moreover, CREPA works for: optimisation of investments in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector; adoption of participatory approaches by populations in decision-making processes; development and dissemination of appropriate national strategies negotiated by governments and bilateral and multilateral partners.

Specialisation areas

CREPA's main fields of specialisation involve among others:

- The Development of training packages and pedagogical material related to water supply, hygiene and sanitation;
- Participatory action research;

- Communication, social intermediation, information and documentation;
- Capacity building and human resources development;
- Funding mechanisms in the water and sanitation sector;
- Community water, hygiene, and sanitation projects management;
- Management and treatment of solid and liquid waste;
- Hygiene education and participatory approaches: SARAR/PHAST, Hygiene and sanitation promotion at schools, MARP...;
- Water treatment;
- Studies of legal and institutional frameworks;
- Gender issues;
- Elaboration of strategic sanitation plans and communal development plans;
- Runoff water in urban areas;
- Institutional studies;
- Partnership between the public and the private sectors;
- Decentralisation and its implications in the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene sectors;
- Social communication;
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS);

Strategy

For its interventions, CREPA has developed various strategies involving:

- Capacity building;
- Formalisation of partnerships to develop national strategic plans and environmental development plans, involving local relay structures, private consultants, associations, NGOs as service suppliers in the sector, for the mastery of both technical and social works ;
- Introduction of strategies in the national and municipal programmes to stimulate the demand for drinking water supply, hygiene, and sanitation services by setting up endogenous funding mechanisms;
- Use of appropriate technologies;
- Advocacy;
- Etc.

Networking

CREPA is actively involved in capacity building and promoting institutions in the water and sanitation sector in Africa through the following programmes:

- Organising networking activities at regional and national level;
- Maintaining close linkages with actors in the sector through national co-ordination fora;
- Regional support for the establishment of National representative centres in each member country;

- Organising seminars and workshops for actors in the sector of DWSHS (Drinking Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation) in francophone West and Central African countries;
- Knowledge generation in the water, hygiene, and sanitation sector;
- Information exchange and dissemination with actors through diverse channels and means;
- Organisation and hosting of the ITN Africa conference, which is rotating among ITN Africa member countries;
- CREPA is a member of the Global Coalition of Resource Centres and co-ordinates activities of the Alliance of Resource Centres in West and Central Africa.

Regional Centre and National Centres

By a Memorandum of understanding between CREPA Headquarters (CS) based in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and the National Centres (CN) representing CREPA in each member country, the different parts pledge to institute a constructive dialogue both collectively and individually and work to achieve CREPA's missions and objectives. CS, in charge of management and capacity building for CN and various workers in the sector, ensures network co-ordination and encourages networking. CREPA has an unlimited term of existence, but the activity program is established on a five year basis. The Network is politically, ideologically, and religiously independent.

Partnership and co-operation

CREPA works in partnership with the African Water Association (formerly called the African Water Utilities Union - UAUE) through Water Utility Programme (WUP) whose objective is capacity building of water companies. It is one of the founding members of WUP and of the Global Coalition of Resource Centres and co-ordinator of Regional Alliance of Resource Centres in West and Central Africa. Through its partnership with parent structures, such as the Millennium Development Goals, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), West Africa Water Pole with the EIER/ ETSHER Group..., CREPA is gradually positioning itself as a leading resource centre for extensive programmes and initiatives in the region and on the continent. CREPA is part of the GARNET (Global Applied Research Network) Advisory Council started by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. It has fruitful collaborative relations with among others: ITN network, EPFL, IRC, Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), Plan International, WaterAid, SKAT/ SANDEC, Wallon Region in Belgium, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, Ecological Sanitation network (ECOSAN- RES), and many other bilateral co-operation agencies. CREPA is a WHO collaborating Centre.

Funding source

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