



FACT SHEET

Aghbalou Water & Sanitation Project



Aghbalou Water Tower in construction (Photo: ADPE)

CONTEXT

The dilapidated state of the water infrastructure of Aghbalou village was the result of several years of neglect and disrepair. In addition to structural deficiencies, the size of the water reservoir did not meet the needs of the population, which has multiplied three-fold since the system was first built. Aghbalou also lacked a system to treat wastewater which posed a significant health hazard.

USAID RESPONSE

In partnership with USAID, the Aghbalou Association developed a water and sanitation project to restore water quality while protecting the environment of the surrounding community. In order to improve water quality and expand access, the project drilled new boreholes and repaired water leakages to benefit water management and minimize losses. The proper disposal of liquid waste was also addressed in order to reduce the incidence of water borne diseases. The project was designed with sustainability in mind. Aghbalou's financial model guarantees that user fees will be sufficient to meet future maintenance needs and offset future costs to expand the system. To further ensure sustainability, the Association is officially handing over management and maintenance of the water and sewage network to the rural commune.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The sanitation system, including a new treatment plant and septic tank, now covers more than 300 households.
- Before the project, the water supply was contaminated with sulfate levels two times higher than standards outlined by the World Health Organization. The boreholes now access potable water that meets high quality standards.
- By repairing leaks that slowed water pressure flow, construction of a new water tank and by the installation of a solar water pump, the community has tripled the efficiency of water pumping and also tripled

QUICK FACTS

- **Project Name:** Aghbalou Water & Sanitation Project
- **Project Duration:** March 2011-March 2014
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Project Objective:** to improve a local water and sanitation system and strengthen cooperation and institutional capacity to sustain the new system.

the amount of water that can be stored for community use.

- Capacity building training provided by USAID staff resulted in overall improvements in the technical and financial management capacities of the Aghbalou Association.