COMMITMENT: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Water for the Aïr region with "Desert Wells"

"Desert Wells" (Les Puits du Désert) is an association that was founded in 2000 and is active in Niger in the region of Agadez, together with the NGO Tidène, working for the most disadvantaged nomadic and sedentary populations.

The association is made up of men, several Tuareg chiefs born in the Tidène valley, and women who have decided to take their future into their own hands. It aims to help the populations in northern Niger in the field of rural development by improving access to water, health, education, and promoting economic initiatives. "Desert Wells" is recognized for the importance and the quality of its achievements, its openness and the way it reaches out to the local populations, which affords it great legitimacy with the various local stakeholders.

A first partnership with Orano Mining in 2014 led to the construction of a village well in the village of Tafadek in the Tidène Valley. On the strength of this first experience, a second, more substantial project resulted in the construction of five village wells in 2017 in the villages of In Tédeiné, Gadambo, Intichikit, Inwadenan and Tinnougouran, as well as three market gardening wells in In Tedeiné.

The partnership was renewed in 2018 for a further three years.

Over the last year it focused on the village of Intawagré. Achievements included the construction of a permanent classroom building to improve the children's schooling, a store for school supplies and equipment, the teacher's dwelling, and the sinking and cementing of a well.

Abdou ILLO
Intawaghré School Principal

« The new school has changed our living conditions. Before, we were in a precarious classroom totally exposed to climate risks. Today our working conditions have improved.

My goal is to educate the young people of this isolated area, who will become teachers, nurses, so that they themselves can work in the area. »

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