

# Sawadogo Talato, Burkina Faso



Yaké village is a two hour drive away from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital city.

Like many other villages in this area of West Africa, Yaké has been transformed since its people built a well.

Sawadogo is the Vice President of Yaké village's water committee. >>

# Q&A

Sawadogo used to collect water from a pond outside the village. In the dry season this would dry up and she would have to walk to a traditional well 5km away, twice a day. Both water sources were dangerous to drink and as the traditional well was dug in sandy soil it was also liable to collapse.

The people of Yaké had tried to dig a well here many years before. The men spent two years digging down 25 metres, 23 of them through granite! They dug by hand but found no water.

So, they decided to approach WaterAid and its partner organisation Eau Solidarité who came to Yaké with some hydraulic surveying equipment to help them find where the water was.

### Hello Sawadogo. Can you sum up the changes in Yaké since you've had the new well?

"Before we had the pump in the village, it was a luxury even to have water to quench our thirst. A lack of water can lead to conflict among people. But since the pump has been installed the community are much happier."

### What are the differences for the children?

"Before the children had to go to get water in the morning which kept them from school. When the

pond dried up even the little ones walked 5km and back again two times a day to get water. All the children go to school now.

"The children used to suffer. They used to have lots of diarrhoea when we were using the water from the pond. That has changed now. They don't get diarrhoea any more. Everything has changed."

### Has life changed for the women here?

"The women are able to get on with lots of other activities, many of which bring us money. Some of us make bean fritters to sell.

"This means we can look after our children better, we give them better food, or buy them things like shoes which we couldn't do before."



↑ Sawadogo shows us Yaké's dried up pond.

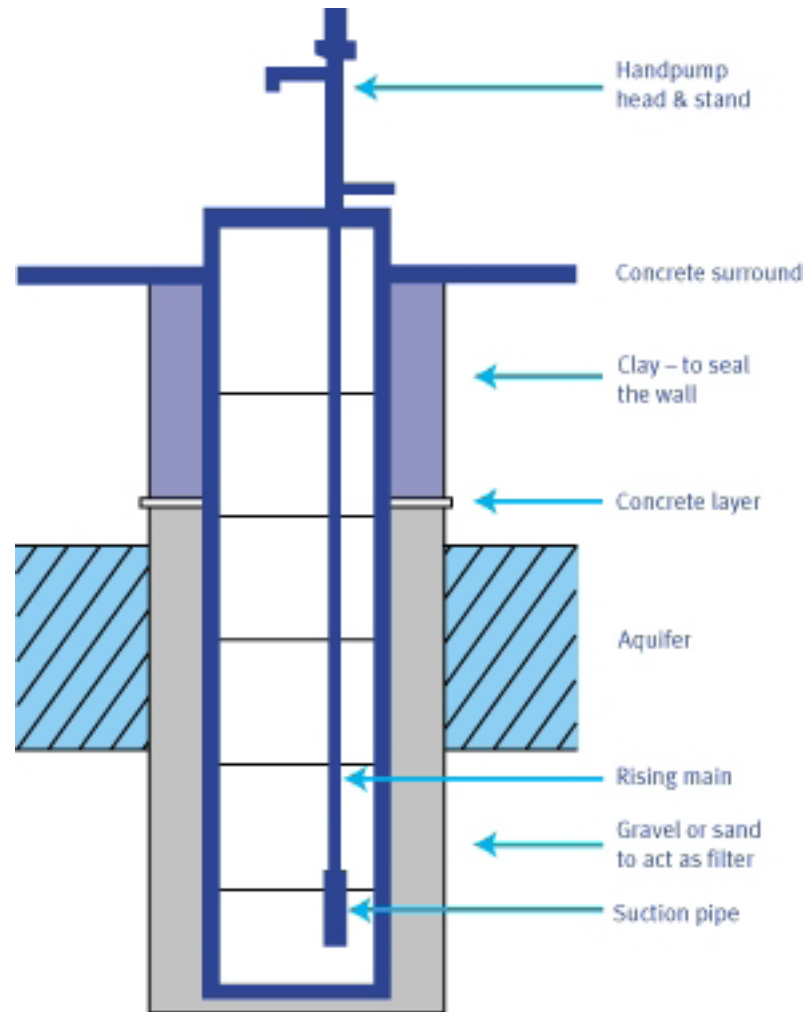


← ↑ The villagers of Yaké used the skill and knowledge of local well-diggers to construct a hand-dug well. They lined it with concrete to prevent pollution and protect it from collapsing in the wet season. Now everyone, the young, the elderly and even the community's animals, benefit.

This diagram shows a cross section of a handpump. →

The community dig a well deep enough to collect water all year round – even in the dry season. This is lined and sealed with concrete to prevent contamination and then the handpump is fitted. When the handpump is pumped water is drawn up through the pipes for people to take home.

Burkina Faso is a small, densely populated country in West Africa. It is one of the poorest in the world, ranked 174 out of 177 countries by the United Nations, where one in five children die before their fifth birthday. Just over half of the population has access to clean water, while only 13% have access to sanitation.



### Burkina Faso

Population: 1.08 billion  
Infant mortality: 87/1000\*  
Life expectancy: 63.6 years  
Water supply coverage: 86%  
Sanitation coverage: 33%  
Below poverty line: 28.6%  
Adult literacy: 61%