

**Third Party Evaluators' Opinion on**  
**WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

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**Criteria-1/ Impact**

The successive droughts Morocco has known, mainly in the 1980's, have made water availability a major issue for poor populations.

The projects financed by the Japan ODA loan, as well in the suburbs as in the rural world, allow drinking water availability at a cost within populations reach.

Besides, the most important effect is the one on populations themselves and their social, cultural and economic environment. As a matter of fact, school attendance for girls has increased, because the burden on women and girls involved in water hauling labour was reduced. Before, the water duty took sometimes over three hours in a girl or woman's day.

Availability of drinkable water, as well as the efforts achieved in the field of health (different vaccination campaigns) has reduced infantile diseases. The impact of this project has taken part in the improvement of women's conditions; it has given them more time to look after their children, to communicate with their neighbours and, most of all, to start artistic and economic activities such as handicrafts. If the impact of the project on the living environment is positive, its symbolic impact is still more important. Indeed, access to supply services like drinkable water or electricity is often considered by poor people as a real social rehabilitation; for this purpose, when I visited the project site in Khemisset (Farah 1 and Farah 2), a beneficiary told me: "thanks to that project, we have become like people". No doubt she meant a regained dignity.

**Criteria-2 / Sustainability**

All the actors, including ONEP, are now aware of the good sustainability of every project carried out in the country. Indeed, durability is one of the most important criterion among criterions of eligibility for each project. ONEP is the executive agency of the project financed by ODA and it ensures its management (and maintenance), so its sustainability. As a matter of fact, this organism has ability and experience in the field of drinkable water and draining (sewers). Its technical ability, its administrative structures and its financial status give it the possibility of working with great efficiency and to achieve the durability of its projects.

ONEP is everywhere with its Regional Offices. They maintain the water systems thanks to the budget allocated by the Central office and to the competencies and autonomy of management they have at their disposal locally. These local representations are real close by services. They maintain good relationship with all the actors involved (authorities, communes, associations, populations...). Mobilization of all these actors concerning the water issue is a warrant for the sustainability of the project.

The sight visit in Khemisset (Farah 1 and Farah 2) shows that even if streets aren't yet asphalted, all the houses are supplied with drinking water and electricity. The *borne-fontaine* (ex-post-evaluation report p.12) remains, but is no more used.