



Aide au Développement de la Médecine Traditionnelle

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Press release

Advocacy for the promotion of local chlorine production with the WATA® approach in Mali.



Wednesday, July 31, 2019, in the conference room of the National Hydraulics Department, *Aidemet* NGO made a presentation on "Local production of active chlorine by electrolysis in Mali". The activity was carried out as part of the periodic meeting of the "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" cluster for the response of humanitarian actors to the emergencies of the Malian crisis, which brings together the institutions, NGOs and technical and financial partners participating in the actions of emergency in this matter. The presentation was animated by a team of *Aidemet* NGO composed by Dr Sergio Giani, Program Manager, Mrs. Korotoumou Traoré, Chemist and Mrs. Geneviève

Dembélé, Electro-technician.

Summary of the presentation: "Chlorine (in the form of sodium hypochlorite) is a powerful decontaminant agent: it has been the most widely used product in the world to purify water for over a century. Chlorine effectively and rapidly destroys viruses, bacteria and other micro-organisms such as amoebas; it is also active against bacterial or fungal spores, thus eliminating the sources of water-borne diseases. Moreover chlorination is the only method whose persistent action helps to protect the water treated by further contamination. Therefore it guarantees drinkable water from the source to the point of consumption. It is known that active chlorine solutions are unstable. The factors that influence this instability are light, temperature, time, and dirt, as well as the initial concentration of active chlorine. To respond to these difficulties on the field, the researchers and engineers of Antenna Technologies have developed the WATA® Standard device: a compact tool that allows the local production of chlorine through a process of electrolysis from clear water, kitchen salt and a 12 Volt direct current. This device can produce 2 litres of active chlorine solution at 6 gr per litre in 2 hours and 30 minutes. One litre of the WATA® solution can purify 4,000 litres of water.

WATA® in Mali: *Aidemet* NGO is responsible for promoting the WATA® approach in Mali. The activities started in Kadiolo in 2009... Since then, over 200 WATA® Standard devices have been installed in Community Health Centres and local aqueducts in different regions. Two Maxi-WATA® devices are being tested at the Hospital of Mali and at the Gabriel Touré Hospital in Bamako. The main technical and financial partners have been, among others, AFD, UNICEF, Solidarity International, Terre des hommes, Handicap International, Water Aid, Arche Nova, Islam Relief (France), Coopi, Action Against Hunger, Project Beceya - CCISD Canada ". The presentation the presentation was accompanied by a demonstration and followed by a lively debate during which the participants expressed their positive appreciation for the WATA approach and received comprehensive answers to the questions asked.



Bamako, July 31, 2019

Dr Sergio Giani