Situated at the junction of the Bani and Niger rivers, the city of Mopti in Central Mali has developed over the past one hundred years from a modest settlement into an important urban and administrative centre that reaches out to both the north and east of the country. In addition to its access to river traffic, the city is also well connected to Mali’s road network. A twelve-kilometre causeway across an area of seasonally flooded agricultural land, which was constructed during the French colonial period, links Mopti with the national road network. More recently an international airport was added, which receives a fair number of foreign tourists whose main destinations are principally the Pays Dogon and the nearby historic city of Djenné.

Mopti’s strategic location at the confluence of two major rivers has also become its major constraint to further development. During the months of November to February, when the waters of the Niger and Bani are at their highest levels, the city becomes a virtual island with only the causeway as its connection to firm ground. Mopti’s population, currently estimated at more than 125,000, is squeezed during this period into an area of not more than 2.5 square kilometres. Not surprisingly, a parallel city has developed over the years at Sévaré, at the other end of the causeway, where there are no restrictions to growth.

As a result of population pressure and overall low levels of development, living conditions in Mopti, particularly in the areas around the harbour and in the adjacent districts of Komoguel and Gangal, have steeply declined over the past decades. Water and sanitation are in a very poor state, a situation that is being aggravated by the absence of a proper system for waste collection and by unpaved streets with open sewers.

The major objective of the intervention of the Historic Cities Programme (HCP) in Komoguel is to improve existing living standards in a limited geographical area of Mopti by focusing on improved health and sanitation conditions. In order to achieve this, a series of limited interventions aimed at improving existing sanitation conditions in an area confined to the immediate surroundings of the Great Mosque of Mopti have been implemented since June 2006.

HCP has based its intervention strategy on close cooperation with the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, local religious authorities and government
Successful efforts have been accomplished by HCP (and its predecessor) in the first phase of the project, which started in 2002 and continued up until December 2009. These efforts have focused on improving the basic living conditions of people in Komoguel. Key achievements include the rehabilitation of Mopti’s Great Mosque and the establishment of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities. The project has also addressed open sewers and poor drainage conditions, and the availability of clean water has been improved. The project has also involved the establishment of a treatment facility for raw sewerage, and an underground sewerage system was established and connected with individual households. In addition, several public water points were established to increase access to safe and clean drinking water.

**Open sewers and poor drainage were addressed.**

**New paving has been made from recycled materials.**

**Significant issues and impact**

**Sanitation improvement and construction activities were undertaken by or in close collaboration with community members.** Community members are also assisting in managing and securing contributions to certain projects.

**New technologies introduced**

Production of paving bricks manufactured from recycled plastic bags.

**Relevant codes/standards adopted**

All construction and installation work was undertaken in accordance with relevant international standards and national laws.

**Partners**

- Private Partners: Chambre des Métiers de Mopti.
- Community Partners: Association pour l’Aménagement de Komoguel.
- Donors: Canadian International Development Agency, United States Department of Agriculture.

**Authoritative Framework**

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Culture (2006); various agreements with the Ministry of Mali.
- Contracts/procurement methods: All works were carried out with direct labour recruited (usually from the nearest community) and supervised by AKTC professional staff. Subcontractors were used for moving earth (dugging and transportation).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phasing</th>
<th>Start of ‘Water and Sanitation Programme’, Phase 1</th>
<th>Start of embankment for flooding protection</th>
<th>Completion of Water and Sanitation Programme, Phase 1</th>
<th>Opening of Komoguel Park and the Centre for Earthen Architecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
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