

# Bani River Basin



## Socio-economic and sustainability challenges

Continued population growth pressures in Mali, where 58.4% of people are under 20 years old, require the improvement of water management and energy infrastructures to uplift people's livelihoods and quality of life.

In rural areas, like the Bani River Basin, financial investments in energy are resulting in a low electrification rate of about 14%, despite an increased annual demand of 10%.

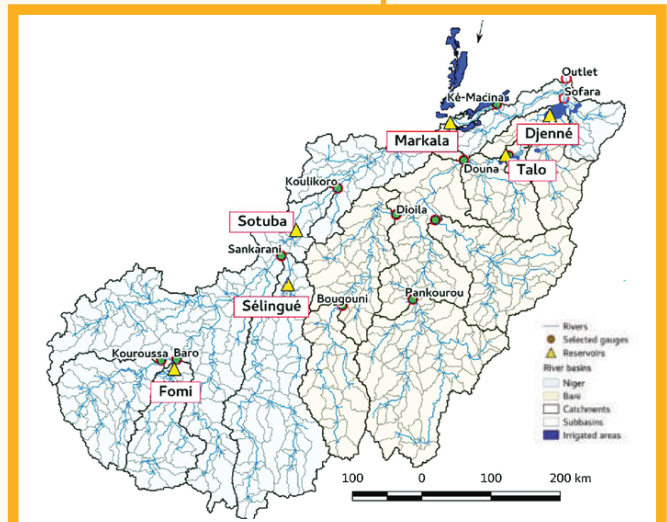
Electricity is also needed to mitigate rising effects of climate change on water availability, for example through improved irrigation systems. The agriculture sector and smallholder farms, mainly led by women who represent 60% of the agricultural workforce, are particularly affected, adding to economic instability in the region.

### Water availability

- **Increased Fluctuations:** Limited water during the dry season affects agriculture, posing risks to food security.
- **Decreasing Rainfall** and **increased evaporation** reduce runoff into the river basin.
- **Need for Infrastructure:** Expanding irrigation schemes and building dams and reservoirs to ensure water availability during dry seasons and beyond.

### Agriculture and livestock

- **Main Crop:** Cotton.
- Transition from wooded savannah to more **farmland** and **settlements**.
- **Drivers:** Population growth, drought, energy needs, cotton price incentives.



The **Bani River Basin** is a key tributary of the Niger River. Its basin spans 102, 300 km<sup>2</sup> spans plays a crucial role for the environmental, social and economic health of the region. The effects of seasonal rainfall variations, intensified by climate change, are increasingly affecting the river flow and aggravate water management, which negatively impacts the local agriculture.

### Energy access

#### Limited Access to Electricity:

- Only 26% of the population has access.
- **11 million people lack access**, mostly in rural areas.

#### Energy Sources:

- **Hydropower:** Sélingué and Manantali dams generate 90% of the electricity.
- **Dependence on Biomass:** Usage of firewood, charcoal, and agricultural residues.

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## Stakeholder map

