

## **Public Goods in Niger: Incentives and Local Delivery Configurations**

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*The local provision of public goods in Niger involves in almost all cases complex forms of co-production with several actors contributing within a variety of delivery configurations, while belonging to different local modes of governance. This paper draws on collective fieldwork carried out in three urban sites in 2009-2010, and on previous research. It suggests the importance of informal coordination mechanisms; the role of individuals, and, among them, of 'local reformers', especially in exploiting the windows of opportunity created by donors' initiatives; the variety of kinds of 'informal privatization' and de facto cofunding of public services, and the ability of corporate bodies arising from the private sector to take effective charge of some types of public goods' provision. It scrutinizes how different types of incentives 'work' for providers of public goods, and argues that any attempt to promote only one type (e.g. monetary) is likely to be inefficient.*