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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Niger MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00092006 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p>Republic of Niger: Regions of Dosso and Maradi; Municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua</p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO IFAD UN WOMEN WFP 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Population, the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Livestock High Commissioner for 3N Initiative <p>National NGOs: AEDL; KUNDJI FONDO; Kaidiya; ADL; DIKO; TARBIYYA TATALI-ONG-RAEDD; HIMMA.</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution⁴: USD 1 288 257</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAOUSD 475,488 IFAD.....USD 270,923 UNWOMEN...USD 270,923 WFP.....USD 270,923 <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO.....USD 25,000 <p>Government Contribution (not applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (not applicable)</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 1,313,257</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date : 15 10 2012</p> <p>Original End Date : 14 10 2017</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Mrs. IDI HALIMATOU MOUSSA Title: National Coordinator RWEE Niger Participating Organization (Lead): FAO Email address:Halimatou.Moussa@fao.org

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.
² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;
³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is as follows: ETHIOPIA: 00092000; GUATEMALA: 00092001; KYRGYZSTAN: 00092002; LIBERIA: 00092003; LIBERIA: 00092004; NEPAL: 00092005; NIGER: 00092006; RWANDA: 00092007.
⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the global amount (sum of Norway’s and Sweden’s contributions) transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

AEDL: Action Educative pour le Développement Local (NGO)

ADL: Appui au Développement Local (Local NGO)

APO: Agricultural Producer Organization

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FFS: Farmer Field School

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

PO: Producer Organization

TARBIYYA TATALI-ONG-RAEDD: RAEDD (réseau d'actions éducatives pour un développement durable)- Local NGO

UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UN WOMEN: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WFP: World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *In ¼ to ½ a page, summarise the most important achievements of Programme during the reporting period and key elements from your detailed report below. Highlight in the summary, the elements of the main report that you consider to be the most critical to be included in the MPTF Office Consolidated Annual Report.*

The joint United Nations program *Rural Women Economic Empowerment* (RWEE) was signed in November 2012 by FAO, UN Women, IFAD and WFP. It aims at creating synergies arising out of the mandate, the comparative advantage and the institutional strength of each of the four agencies to support the efforts of the Government of Niger to promote the empowerment of women and food and nutrition security.

During the course of 2015, a number of activities were carried out at both organizational and operational level.

At the organizational level the following was achieved:

Finalization of the recruitment process for a (national Coordinator at the end of February 2015; review of the logical framework and finalization of annual planning for 2015; organization of two meetings with national agency's officials to find solutions to issues with project implementation ; organization of a lessons-learned workshop as part of the programme's pilot phase, coupled with the annual review for 2015, and the holding of the annual meeting of the Steering Committee to validate the annual review and planning for 2016-2017. In addition, several meetings of the Technical Committee made it possible to plan and discuss synergies and to jointly monitor the implementation of activities.

At the operational level: Launched in April 2015, in five villages located in the rural municipality of Falwel (region of Dosso), the field activities of the joint program were expanded in October to reach five more villages (Danja, Doullou II, El Kokia, Namaroua, Tajaé Peulh) in the rural municipality of Djirataoua (region of Maradi). Joint field missions were organized to inform the administrative and traditional authorities about the joint program and to obtain their support, as well as to monitor implementation. .

The main achievements included the following:

- Creation of sixty (60) Dimitra Clubs (6 in each village) in the 10 villages of the 2 municipalities and training of their women, men and youth members
- Social mobilisation and sensitization sessions of all Dimitra Clubs members on Dimitra principles (gender equality, participatory communication, dialogue, collective action, etc.;) as well as on the RWEE subjects and related activities to be implemented at community level
- Implementation of a process to develop village action plans as part of Farmer Field Schools in 5 villages in the municipality of Falwel;
- Two training sessions on gender and equity sensitive organizational analysis for producer organizations (PO) of the 5 villages of Falwel municipality
- A training session on governance and equity;
- The identification of existing POs in the municipality of Djirataoua;
- Carrying out feasibility studies before installing labor saving machines (grinding mills and de-husking machines for beneficiaries of 3 villages of Falwel municipality and 4 villages of Jirataoua municipality
- Carrying out the preparatory work for the purchase and the installation of three multi-purpose machines in three villages of Falwel municipality
- Carrying out the preparatory work for the purchase 7 multi-purpose machines in 4 villages of Jirataoua municipality
- Sensitization of 1,000 men and women on their roles as well as training women on managing the machines and building 10 houses to protect the machines;
- Initiating the process for the local purchase of food products from small-scale farmers;
- The launch of a survey on the nutritional knowledge, attitudes and practices and Household Dietary Diversity Score through Dimitra Clubs in the municipality of Falwel;

- Monitoring two training sessions on nutrition for 55 Dimitra Club's facilitators and community leaders.

I. Purpose

- Provide the main objectives and expected outcomes of the programme in relation to the appropriate **Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and project document (if applicable) or Annual Work Plan (AWP)**.

The joint program *Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE)* aims to improve rural women's livelihoods and rights in a sustainable manner, bearing in mind the post-MDG objectives. Four key results have been identified:

Result 1: Improving food and nutrition security for rural women

Result 2: Increasing incomes for rural women to enable them to meet their needs

Result 3: Strengthening rural women's leadership and their participation in rural institutions and in the development of laws, policies and programmes

Result 4: Creating an enabling policy environment for a gender sensitive approach to the economic empowerment of rural women

The joint program is a contribution by the United Nations system to the development objectives of the Government of Niger. It is perfectly aligned with the following policies and strategies: (i) sub-programmes 2 and 3 of the 10-year National Gender Policy plan 2009-2018; (ii) the *communes de convergence (coming together in local municipalities)* approach of the 3N Initiative (Nigériens feed Nigériens). The program is also aligned with three cross-cutting themes for UNDAF Niger 2014-2018: (i) attaining human rights by supporting the application of international conventions and exercising rights and the principles of rights by both rights holders and those who must ensure their enforcement; (ii) promotion of equality and equity between men and women, through the exercise of their rights; (iii) promotion of environmental sustainability through social mobilization; communication for behavior change; development of adaptation strategies.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

In Niger, the program targets 25,200 beneficiaries of whom two-thirds are women and girls (16800 women and 8400 men). Activities in the field started in April 2015. The results obtained are described according to performance indicators, classified according to the desired outcome.

Outcome¹⁵: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

Output 1.1: Rural women have better access to resources, assets and services that are critical to their food and nutrition security.

Indicator: 1.1. Percentage of women farmers who have increased their production

The program target for 2017 is for 50 percent of women farmers in the intervention area to increase their agricultural production. During this trial year, inputs (improved seeds and fertilizer) were distributed to 500 beneficiaries, including 218 women and 282 men, in the form of 10kg of cowpea seeds and 23.5kg of fertilizer for each beneficiary. The municipality of Falwel was targeted and in the five (5) villages, a total of 995 households, including 113 headed by women, was involved. Of these households, 736 represent the most vulnerable, accounting for about 74 percent. The 500 program beneficiaries belong to this category.

⁵ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

Support was provided to about 68 percent of extremely vulnerable households in these villages. The female-headed households are mainly run by widows. The challenge remains the distribution of inputs in a timely manner (at the right time): Not too early to not be consumed during the food scarcity period and not too late as in this year.

Output1.2. Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production

Indicator2.2.3 Tangible evidence of alleviation of the workload of rural women

As part of efforts to alleviate the workload of rural women, a process that involved the selection of implementing partners; carrying out feasibility studies of installing labor saving machines (grinding mills and de-husking machines for 7 beneficiary villages; the sensitization of over 1,000 men and women; the training and establishment of management committees (mainly women); construction of 10 houses and the ground work for the procurement of ten 10 multi-purpose labor saving machines were carried out in the ten villages targeted by the program. Three of multi-purpose labour saving machines were installed in 2015 in three villages of Falwel Municipality (Deytagui Yamba; Falwel; Tégueze Koira) and are contributing to the alleviation of the workload of 1200 rural women, increase gains in time (invested in improved child care and other income generating activities) and increasing solidarity amongst women in Program targeted villages

Installation of the remaining platforms, together with management support, will take place in 2016 in conjunction with training in functional literacy requested by the women.

Outcome2: Rural women have increased their incomes and achieved livelihood security.

Output 2.1: Rural women have improved their entrepreneurial skills and value chains to access markets for their products.

- ***Indicator2.1.1 Number of women's or mixed POs (with women in decision-making positions) participating in Purchase for Progress (P4P) programmes implemented by WFP***

Local purchases are planned to start in January 2016. As part of the preparations, the following activities were carried out, amongst others:

- A meeting was held to exchange views on the use of *Vouchers* for purchases from small-scale producers issued to WFP-supported schools in the municipality of Falwel.
- Development of an operational plan for the use of *Vouchers* in school canteens, together with producer organizations.

A total of 1692 women from 14 groups in the municipality of Falwel are taking part in the WFP local purchasing initiative.

- **Outcome3: Rural women have strengthened their leadership and participation in their communities and rural institutions, as well as in the development of laws, policies and programmes**

Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to train, maintain and participate in producer organizations, cooperatives and unions.

- ***Indicator 3.2.1. Number of rural women in POs who have received training in gender, good governance and effectiveness of POs.***

The two training sessions on gender and equity sensitive organizational analysis for producer organizations conducted for 16 POs in five villages (municipality of Falwel) that are members of the Madda Ben union. These sessions have concerned

- 51 managers (40 men and 11 women) of 16 POs of 5 villages of the municipality of Falwel.

The OP have been selected on the basis of their belonging to the village of intervention and their accession to the Madda Ben union

Capacity building/strengthening was also provided to the facilitators of the Union and to technical staff of the municipality as well as to the agricultural services sector on organizational analysis, good governance and gender equity and equality in agricultural producer organizations. In addition, these training initiatives enabled staff at the Madda Ben union in Falwel and its member organizations to scale out the training to grassroots organizations; 40 men and 11 women received training.

Another training session on “gender, equity and governance” which is different of “organizational analysis” enabled facilitators from Dimitra Clubs, Farmer Field Schools and the Madda Ben union, as well as representatives of the municipality of Falwel, to improve their knowledge of and acquire skills in good governance and gender equity and equality in APOs. The session also enabled them to fulfil their roles as facilitators of producer organizations more effectively and to carry out monitoring and control of APO activities in the municipality. A total of 16 men and 8 women took part in this training initiative.

In the 2 municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua, 80 women and girls received training in participatory communication, good governance, equity and gender.

In order to have tools in national languages for gender and equity sensitive organizational analysis for producer organizations, which can be used by a large number of PO members and other actors, the modules on “Equity sensitive organizational analysis’ has been translated into Hausa and Djerma.

The main challenge remains participation, in terms of numbers, of women in the formal POs and above all, their taking on roles in PO decision-making bodies. Women’s participation will increase through the participation of women members of the POs to the training initiatives organized in the framework of the JP, and by training Dimitra Club facilitators for the replication of training within these clubs.

Indicator.3.3. Percentage of POs headed by women

A baseline scenario for this indicator has been established in the municipality of Djirataoua: 40 POs, of which 28 are women’s POs, have been identified; 70 percent of these 40 POs are headed by women. Of the 1 207 members of the 40 POs, 499 are members of Dimitra Clubs, namely 55.5 percent of the 900 members of the 30 Clubs set up in the program’s five target villages. To generate broad membership and/or stimulate the setting up of POs by Dimitra Club members, village communities have been sensitized on associative activities, particularly on the criteria for membership and procedures for setting up a new PO. Five sessions were organized and which attending 175 women and 125 men. Communities have also been sensitized on the *Acte Uniforme Relatif au Droit des Sociétés Coopératives* (OHADA) (Uniform Act relating to the Law on Cooperative Societies), the new legislation governing producer organizations in Niger.

- ***Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, are more aware of their rights in a conducive local/community environment.***
- ***Indicator 3.4.1. Number of women participating in the Dimitra Club approach***
- ***Indicator 3.4.2 Number of villages/communities having the ownership of the Dimitra Club approach***

In Niger, the Dimitra Clubs are the entry point for the joint RWEE program. The Joint strategy of the four organizations is to set up Dimitra Clubs and support them for at least one month before implementing other activities. In the 10 villages of the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua, 60 Dimitra Clubs have been launched, including 10 clubs for adult men, 30 clubs for adult women, 10 clubs for girls and 10 clubs for boys. In total, there are 1 800 members, of whom 900 are women, 300 are men, 300 are boys and 300 are girls, all of whom have made a deliberate choice to set up these clubs. This membership symbolizes the motivation of communities to participate in joint program activities.

Each of the Dimitra Clubs has drawn up a calendar of weekly meetings, depending on availability. These gatherings have enabled clubs to identify themes, commonly known as “village granaries”. In the first instance, this process involves each club examining its situation from its own perspective, and that of the village, to address undesirable situations, the need for change, collective action that is needed, for which the club feels that the community has a chance, through its own efforts, of finding a solution, or bringing about an improvement or anticipated change. Each of the ten villages has a village plan being implemented with its own means and relying on its own resources.

Community radio stations have been involved since the launch of activities, particularly through the participation of one of their female hosts, in training sessions for facilitators and leaders. Training for these clubs will continue until at least well into 2016.

- **Indicator 3.1.1** Number of rural women who have received training in participatory communication and women’s leadership

The training sessions have benefited 120 leaders of Dimitra Clubs, of whom 80 were women and girls and 40 were boys and men. The objective of participatory communication is to propose simulation exercises to participants based on real situations in the villages. In doing so, they revealed the essential parameters – in a village, in a meeting for discussion and decision-making – that will facilitate listening (access to information) and speaking out in the case of each man and woman: coherent thought, concise analysis and expression of ideas.

Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices: If there were delays, explain the nature of the constraints and challenges, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process. Provide an updated risk analysis (have any of the risks identified during the project design materialized or changed? Are there any new risks?). Were there any programmatic revisions undertaken during the reporting period? Please also include experiences of failure, which often are the richest source of lessons learned

Main delays in implementation

- The baseline study was initially scheduled for May 2015. However, the process of recruiting a service provider, as well as the identification of the analysis tools to be used took longer than expected. The study is expected to begin in January 2016.
- The installation of multifunctional platforms, initially planned for June 2015, was also delayed until the end of that year. The process of recruiting a service provider proved difficult to complete, due to the fact that UN Women has only one focal point in Niger and that this person is not entitled to do any procurement. All the process had to go through the UNDP office, thereby causing some delay.

The delays are linked to two types of difficulties:

1. Difficulties for some agencies to have information on the availability of financial resources to start activities. The Swedish allocation has been available only between March and April 2015.
2. Difficulties of building synergy at startup
 - Non-attendance of some focal points in the first meetings of the Technical Committee;
 - Slowness of the recruitment process of implementing NGOs due to administrative burden;
 - Weak culture of partnership for field activities.

Action taken: A high level meeting with the Heads of agencies of FAO and WFP has been held to tackle the burden in the implementation of the program. Since UNWOMEN and IFAD don't have any international representative in Niger the respective focal point attended that meeting too. The objectives of the meeting were to present the difficulties faced during the Program implementation and to obtain support from the senior managers. At the end of the meeting, it was decided that the agencies without a main focal point for the activity would nominate one as soon as possible. Furthermore, the work plan was revised in order to create more synergy during the implementation activities.

The main lessons to be learned for the future are:

- i. The FAO Dimitra Club approach facilitates the involvement of both sexes, young people and adults in the decision-making process at community level;
 - ii. The Dimitra Club approach, as an entry point for activities of the RWEE joint program, encourages synergies to develop in the field, as well as the coordination of activities and involvement of men and women in the process of defining operational strategies for the program.
- **Qualitative assessment:** Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Program. Highlight key partnerships and explain how such relationships impacted on the achievement of results. Explain cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on. For Joint Programmes, highlight how UN coordination has been affected in support of achievement of results.

An assessment of the knowledge, attitudes, nutritional practices and Household Dietary Diversity Score within Dimitra Clubs in the municipality of Falwel was conducted in December 2015 prior to activities for nutritional education. The report is in the process of being validated and will be available in 2016. This qualitative study will inform the program on the database in terms of dietary diversity score and guide the activities of nutrition's education on the real needs of populations.

A qualitative assessment of the implementation was made during the 2015 annual review which brought together all actors involved in the implementation. It emerged that the activities planned by the program and the four agencies were complementary and can contribute to the rural women's economic empowerment if well-coordinated.

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security			
Indicator: - Increase the agricultural production of the farmers - improved nutrition within the family Baseline: Planned Target:	For all indicators targets will be specified with the results of the baseline survey in 2016		
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security			
Indicator 1.1.1. Number of women who have access to information and participatory communication Baseline: Planned Target:	80 women		FAO DIMITRA report
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of women who adopt improved nutrition practices Baseline: Planned Target:			
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of women who adopt improved agricultural techniques Baseline: Planned Target:			
Indicator 1.1.4 Number of women who have access to integrated service Baseline: Planned Target:			
Indicator 1.15 Number of organizations of producers male and producers female who are reinforced Baseline: 0 Planned Target: all organizations of producers of target area of	56 OP (16 of Falwel 40 and of Djirataoua municipalities)	Activities aren't jet started in the next two municipalities (Sokorbe and Guidan	Training report (FAO-Coop Equité)

program		Amoumoune)	
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1. Number of women with access to innovative technologies <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i></p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2. Number of women with access to land <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i></p> <p>Indicator 1.2.3. Number of women having increased their agricultural technical capabilities <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i></p> <p>Indicator 1.2.4. Number of formal and informal women's groups strengthened <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Planned Target: At least all formal women's groups and Groups of female DIMITRA clubs</i></p>			
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.			
<p>Indicator: - Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets</p> <p>- Evidence of better quality of life and status or rural women</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i></p>			
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1. number of OP female or mixed (with women in decision-making positions) who participate in the purchasing programs in the service of the progress of WFP (P4P) <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i></p>	14 women's groups of Falwel municipality (1692 women)		WFP report

<p>Indicator 2.1.2: number of women of formal and informal groups/OP who received training on entrepreneurship and improvement of agricultural techniques</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1. number of women members of formal and informal groups who received training in gender, participatory communication, good governance and leadership</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>	<p>80 women of two municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua</p>		<p>FAO DIMITRA report</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.2. evidence of informal groups of women who become formal</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>	<p>8 women's OP(219 women, no men) of the village of Namaroua (Commune de Djirataoua) start process to become formal</p>		<p>Training report (FAO-Coop Equité)</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.3. evidence of alleviation of the burden of rural women's work</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>	<p>About 300 women are using the grinding mills</p>		<p>UNWOMEN report</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.4. Tangible evidence of improvement of access and control of land (testimonies, stories, etc.)</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>			
<p>Indicator: 3.1. Proportion of rural women elected in the rural council</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Planned Target:</p>		<p>Indicator3.1. s</p>	
<p>Indicator: 3.2 Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees</p> <p>Baseline:</p>			

<p>Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.3. Proportion of the OP and/or informal groups headed by women Baseline: 0 Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.3. Evidence of an improvement in the decision-making power of rural women within the household, organizations and communities Baseline: 0 Planned Target:</p>	<p>72,5% of the 40 OP in the Djirataoua municipality</p>		<p>Field Mission report (FAO-Coop Equité)</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1. number of rural women who received training in participatory communication and women's leadership Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2. Evidence of rural women who have increased their confidence and self-esteem (e.g. stories of women elected to the rural councils and/or positions within the OP; formal participation of women in village meetings, etc.) Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p>80</p>		<p>FAO DIMITRA report</p>
<p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.2.1. Number of rural women of the OP who received training in gender, good governance and efficiency of POS Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2. Tangible proof/evidence of rural women who have increased their capacity to organize themselves and act collectively at Community level Baseline: Planned Target: 16 800 women of the four municipalities</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.3. Number of mixed OP who adopt a gender strategy and/or measures to increase the participation of women in leadership positions</p>	<p>11 women of 16 OP of Falwel municipality</p>		<p>Training report (FAO-Coop Equité)</p>

<i>Baseline:0</i> <i>Planned Target</i>			
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels			
<i>Indicator 3.3.1:</i> The OP level apex having received training in gender and equity, represent the needs of women members and men of the OP's base in decision-making <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>			
<i>Indicator 3.3.2:</i> . testimony /evidence/proof of rural women who raise their voices at the decision-making level <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>			
<i>Indicator 3.3.3:</i> the customary authorities require more formal participation of women in village meetings in traditionally roles only to men <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target</i>			
<i>Indicator 3.3.4:</i> Evidence / proof reduction of rural women isolation <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target</i>			
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.			
<i>Indicator 3.4.1</i> Number of women participating in the approach of the Clubs Dimitra <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>	900 women and 300 girls		FAO DIMITRA report Field Missions report
<i>Indicator 3.4.2:</i> the number of villages/communities that adopted the approach of the Clubs Dimitra <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>	10		FAO DIMITRA report Field Missions report
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women			
<i>Indicator:</i> increase of donors interested in funding the program in Niger			

<p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: recognition at different levels (laws, programs, strategies, platforms for dialogue) of the role of the women in agricultural development</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1.1. Measure in which national policies and laws (land, food, nutrition, agriculture) have provisions for gender equality and the empowerment of women</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.2: Measure in which the OP participate as active players in platforms for dialogues with the local and regional authorities for agricultural development including equity and gender</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.2.1. the empowerment of women in Agriculture (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index) <i>Index</i></p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 4.2.2. Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.3.1. Number of mechanisms of regional rural development dialogues involving groups and rural women OP</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2. Baseline:</p>			

Planned Target:			
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iii) A Specific Story



Women in the Taje Fulani

Multifunctional platforms reduce women's work burden. Problem / Challenge faced

Similar to many developing countries; the burden of time allocated to unpaid care work weighs heavily on rural women in Niger. Most of the reproductive activities are carried out by women and girls and to a lesser extent by men and boys. Women and girls also play a major role in productive and community management activities. The gender roles analysis shows that women still bear the brunt of the household chores such as fetching of fuel wood and water, food acquisition and preparation, childcare and taking care of the ill. This division of

labor is perpetuated through generation. Some gender experts even opine that this traditional division leads to the growing poverty of rural women, their increased poor health and malnutrition and their lack of political participation and leadership in their communities.

Program Interventions



In the context of the UN Joint Program on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment implemented in Niger, tree multi-functional platforms were installed in tree villages of the Dosso's region. This initiative is accompanied by sensitization activities targeting women and men on their rights and roles in the development of their communities; the creation of functional adult literacy classes for women and young girls (who for one reason or the other

dropped out of school) and sometimes men as well as the creation of management committees and entrepreneurial training for the members of the managing committees.

Sensitization of community in Dey Tegui

Results obtained

A number of positive impacts have been noticed in villages processing units are operational. Women reported that, using mills and threshing machines have helped them gain time, which they in turn invest in improving childcare, learning diversifying their economic activities and improving their family hygiene. Even men testified that the uses of new technologies have fostered families to have healthier eating habits as the meals are ready earlier than in the village of Detagui Yamba, women who could not financially afford to pay for their grinding or threshing were allowed to pay with their millet or other cereals. The cereals would then be sold by the women operating the units to ensure sustainability.



Training of women in operating the grinding mills. The man on left shows

where the the grinding significant new trades, personal and

Moreover, running the equipment as a community has brought solidarity amongst the different social groups in the villages. Due to the economic and social development ignited by the multipurpose units in several communities, men especially traditional and religious leaders have a positive perception of Women as they believe that development is coming to their villages because of women.

Lessons Learned:

- 1) Men can become allies to women if they had a better comprehension that empowering women does not aim at challenging men but is an important element of sustainable development.

- 2) Releasing women from the drudgery of unpaid care work and increased time gains has a multiplier effect that can be visible on child care, good relationships and increased participation in the productive and community management activities.

Perspectives

While appreciating UN's commitment, the women pointed out that the processing units could be even more beneficial if they were coupled with simple technologies aiming at reducing the time and burden involved in fetching water, fuel and wood. So this year, the program will seek to provide simple technologies to reduce time spent in collecting water and fuelwood as well as reducing time to transport farm produce from farm to market..

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

The process for the baseline study has been launched and the study began in January 2016.

The WEIA will be used for this study and will provide initial data for the program.

A total of seven feasibility studies were carried out in the 7 villages before the grinding mills and threshers were installed. After these studies, restitutions sessions were organized with the support of the municipal councils to present the finding and recommendations to the population

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- **Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs that took place.**

Meetings of the Technical Committee are opportunities for exchange and operational decision-making for the joint program. At the Technical Committee meetings held on 25 February 2015, the team opted for implementation based on the availability of financial resources.

- The team reached a consensus that activities would start in a municipality in the region of Dosso, rather than in a municipality in Dosso and another in Maradi as originally planned. This was due to limited financial resources available, which would not be sufficient to allow work to proceed in two regions at the same time. The meeting also proposed selection criteria for identifying the 5 villages with which to begin. Given that the entry point for the project activities are the Dimitra Clubs, setting up these clubs was the first activity to be implemented.
- The baseline study was initially scheduled for May 2015. However, the process of recruiting a service provider, as well as the identification of the analysis tools to be used took longer than expected. The study is expected to begin in January 2016.
- The installation of multifunctional platforms, initially planned for June 2015, was also delayed until the end of that year. The process of recruiting a service provider proved difficult to complete, due to the fact that UN Women only has one focal point in Niger, with no administrative support.
- The literacy training: literacy training was not initially planned, but was included in the project document to respond to a specific request of women beneficiaries during the lessons learned workshop held in Dosso, it will begin in 2016.
- An inquiry is under way to identify how to obtain the maximum possible benefit from the multifunctional platforms, with a view to facilitating water extraction for women.

As requested at international level, Niger has developed a program document based on its concept note and lessons learned in 2015. This document has been approved by the national steering committee and is awaiting validation at a meeting of the JP RWEE International Steering Committee. .

V. Coordination mechanisms

- Please indicate which coordination mechanisms (National Steering Committee, National Project Guidance, and National Coordinator) have been established in your country to ensure smooth implementation of the JP RWEE and to build synergies.

In order to ensure coordination for the program and its strategic focus, two committees have been set up: a Technical Committee and a National Steering Committee.

Technical Committee is composed of technical experts from the four agencies of the United Nations (FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNWOMEN) of ministries of Agriculture, livestock ; Representative of the Direction of empowering economic of the rural women of the Ministry of Population, the advancement of women and the Protection of the child. Its work is to:

- develop the planning of activities and budget of the Joint Program;
- Ensure the regular monitoring of the activities of the Joint Program and recommendations for stakeholders in the field;

National Steering Committee is composed of: 1 President (e) Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture;

- 1st Vice President (e): Secretary General Assistant of the Ministry of Population, the advancement of women and the Protection of the child;
- 2nd Vice-President: Secretary General of OHCHR to the 3N Initiative.
- A representative of FAO;
- A representative of IFAD;
- A representative of WFP;
- A representative of UN women.
- 2 representatives rural women by municipality (8);
- Director/ice studies and planning of the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Director/ice of the economic empowerment of women of the Ministry of Population, the advancement of women and the Protection of the child;
- Secretary General Assistant of governorate of Dosso;
- Deputy Secretary General of the governorate of Maradi

Its main role is to develop the planning of activities and budget of the Joint Program; ensure the regular monitoring of the activities of the Joint Program and recommendations for stakeholders in the field etc.

A national coordinator was also appointed on 19 February 2015 to coordinate program activities, facilitate the exchange of information and ensure greater synergy between stakeholders tasked with implementing the program. Regular meetings have been introduced with national staff of the four agencies, so as to support the decision-making process and regular attendance of focal points at Technical Committee meetings. In respect of 2015, we note the following:

Technical Committee: The Technical Committee held an important number of meetings as part of programming activities and the budget, sharing information and capitalization of good practices and/or to propose guidelines or recommendations aimed at improving implementation activities on the ground.

In addition to regular technical committee's meetings, meetings with agency representatives and officials were also took place: during the course of 2015, representatives and high level officials from the four agencies (IFAD, FAO, WFP, UN Women) met twice to share and propose solutions to the difficulties encountered during implementation and to steer preparations for the program launch ceremony. The assessment revealed:

What worked: the participatory approach of the FAO Dimitra Clubs, which enabled stakeholders to feel a sense of ownership and activities of the four agencies to be coordinated and sustainable; the professionalism in implementation of activities; the involvement of all actors, at all levels; clearly defined roles for actors?

And what needs to be improved: the slow pace of the processes and delays by some agencies in implementing activities; the burdensome administrative process of RWEE itself.

- Timely distribution of inputs.
- Take into account the needs of the people as they voiced them
- Make sure that the most vulnerable are not excluded because of stringent UN agencies procedures (need for flexibility)
- Coordination of efforts
- Try to alleviate the heavy administrative process of the RWEE in spite of all the efforts of the International Coordinator

VI. Resources

- **Provide any information on financial management, procurement and human resources.**

A national coordinator has been appointed and is based at the lead agency, FAO. IFAD and UN Women have recruited focal points to focus on program activities.

The financial resources acquired through the multi-donor trust fund have been shared on an equal basis between the four agencies, and each agency has contributed the same amount to support the cost of national coordination.

- **Indicate if the Program mobilized any additional resources or interventions from other partners.**

Additional resources mobilized by the program were in large part in-kind contributions, especially from the lead agency, in terms of technical support to enhance discussion and produce the documentation required up until December 2014. In the program of activities 2015, the forum on the economic empowerment of rural women and the first meeting of the Technical Committee of 25 February were funded by FAO-Dimitra at a total cost of US\$25 000. FAO-Dimitra had already funded the first RWEE forum (organized to write the concept note for RWEE Niger), which was held in November 2012.