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**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Republic of Niger: Regions of Dosso and Maradi; Municipalities of Falwel, Sokorbé, Guidan amoumoune and Djirataoua. Total direct beneficiaries 3,600 including 2,400 women from which 1,800 (1,200 women+600men) are reached in 2015; the same number is reached in 2016. Indirect beneficiaries are 25200 including 16800 women, half is reached in 2015, and half in 2016.</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"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO</li> <li>• IFAD</li> <li>• UN WOMEN</li> <li>• WFP</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>National counterparts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock</li> <li>• High Commissioner for 3N Initiative</li> </ul> <p>National NGOs: AEDL; KUNDJI FONDO; Kaidiya; ADL; DIKO; TARBIIYA TATALI-ONG-RAEDD; HIMMA, AREN, ASADI</p>																
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution<sup>2</sup>: <b>1,988,257</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> </ul> <table border="0"> <tr><td>FAO .....</td><td>270,923 + JP Coordination ...204,565 = USD 475,488</td></tr> <tr><td>IFAD.....</td><td>USD 270,923</td></tr> <tr><td>UNWOMEN...</td><td>USD 270,923</td></tr> <tr><td>WFP.....</td><td>USD 270,923</td></tr> </table> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> </ul> <table border="0"> <tr><td>FAO .....</td><td>15 000 USD</td></tr> <tr><td>IFAD.....</td><td>2824 USD</td></tr> <tr><td>UNWOMEN .....</td><td>4500 USD</td></tr> <tr><td>WFP.....</td><td>3500 USD</td></tr> </table> <p>Government Contribution <i>(not applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>(not applicable)</i></p> <p><b>TOTAL:</b></p>	FAO .....	270,923 + JP Coordination ...204,565 = USD 475,488	IFAD.....	USD 270,923	UNWOMEN...	USD 270,923	WFP.....	USD 270,923	FAO .....	15 000 USD	IFAD.....	2824 USD	UNWOMEN .....	4500 USD	WFP.....	3500 USD	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date : 15 10 2012</p> <p>Original End Date : 14 10 2017</p>
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<p><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></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"><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Mrs. IDI HALIMATOU MOUSSA</li> <li>○ Title: National Coordinator RWEE Niger</li> <li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): FAO</li> <li>○ Email address:Halimatou.Moussa@fao.org</li> </ul>																

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>2</sup> 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](#).

## Abbreviations

**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

**CRESA** : Centre Régional d'Enseignement Spécialisé en Agriculture

**CIPEL** : Centre d'Incubation et de Promotion du Leadership

**DACPOR**: Direction of Cooperative Action and the Promotion of rural organizations

**IFAD**: International Fund for Agricultural Development

**PO** : Producer Organization

**TARBIYYA TATALI-ONG-RAEDD** : NGO 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 Programme

**RWEE**: Rural Women Economic Empowerment

**NGP**: National Gender Policy

**MPTF**: Multi - Partners Trust Funds

**WEAI**: Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index

**ACP** : Afrique, Caraïbe, Pacifique / Africa, Caribbean, Pacific

**OIF** : Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie/ : International Organization of Francophonie

**PAC-RC**: Programme d'Action Communautaire et Résilience Climatique/"Community action and climate Resilience program" is a government's programme financed by the World Bank

**OHADA** : Acte Uniforme Relatif aux Droits des Sociétés Coopératives" / Law on Cooperative Societies)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme titled “Accelerating progress towards rural women’s empowerment” (RWEE) has been established in November 2012 by FAO, UNWOMEN, IFAD and WFP. It aims at creating synergies among the four agencies while using their comparative advantage and institutional strength to support the efforts of the Government of Niger for women’s empowerment and food and nutrition security. In order to capitalize on the joint impact, the four agencies are implementing their activities in the same villages.

Launched in April 2015 in Niger, activities for the RWEE Programme now cover 20 villages in the municipalities of Falwel and Sokorbé (region of Dosso) and Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune (region of Maradi). During 2016, a number of initiatives were implemented, including the following:

- Support and monitoring for one hundred and twenty (120) Dimitra Clubs (6 per village, total of 3,600 members, including 2,400 women and girls). The activities of Dimitra Clubs benefit 18,000 (including 12,000 women) people in 20 villages in the four municipalities targeted by the RWEE Programme;
- A Forum on the Dimitra Clubs was held in May 2016 to have an in-depth overview of their activities in Niger and other countries and to show their impacts in the framework of several projects and programmes, including RWEE; A baseline survey was conducted using the WEAI tool and the report was disseminated among stakeholders;
- Action plans to set-up seven Farmer Field Schools (FFS) prepared, followed by the presentation of the plans (May 2016) in the municipality of Djirataoua; FFS updated action plans in Falwel; awareness-raising of the technical agents from these municipalities and of the Dimitra Clubs leaders on the methodological alliance developed between the FFS and the Dimitra Clubs.
- Monitoring of training, directory of farmers’ organizations and Dimitra Club members belonging to POs, facilitation/awareness-raising of the OHADA Act in the 5 villages of Falwel;
- Dissemination of the results of the baseline study on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices and Households Dietary diversity score survey report conducted in Falwel; facilitation of nutritional education sessions and cooking demonstration at community level.;
- Distribution of improved seeds to 700 beneficiaries of whom 500 women; Distribution of pastoral kits (a kit of two female goats by woman and a goat male for 5 women) for 350 vulnerable women;
- Six multipurpose platforms (grinding and threshing machines) installed in 5 villages in the Maradi region to benefit 5,000 women; acquisition of 7 plots of land for the construction of stores (room) for the installation of the multipurpose grinding and threshing machines; construction of 6 stores for the day to day running of the grinding and threshing machines; even (7) multipurpose 1 platforms installed in 6 villages of the commune of Jirataoua in the region of Maradi from which 7,000 women can benefit when they are operational when repaired.
- Eight (8) functional literacy centers created with 250 participants (220 women and 30 men; training of 7 committees members responsible for the management of multifunctional platforms);
- Setting up the school voucher pilot in the municipality of Falwel (region of Dosso); two joint supervision missions by the Technical Committee; Several meetings of the Technical Committee (ordinary monthly meetings and four (4) extraordinary meetings to plan, monitor and discuss problems encountered; several initiatives for resource mobilization; setting up a platform for exchange with partner NGOs;
- Contribution of the Vice-Chair person of the Steering Committee (Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women) at the side event organized during Commission on the Status of Women on March 8, 2016 in New York.
- Participation of the National Coordinator to the Forum to promote entrepreneurship for Women and Youth through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, jointly organized by ACP, OIF and FAO in February 2016 and to awareness-raising and advocacy activities during the European Development Days organised by the European Union held in Brussels in June 2016;
- Self-assessment workshops at municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua to ensure greater ownership of the programme at local level and collect feedback on the process and the results through the Dimitra Clubs.
- Self-assessment workshop at national level.
- Organization of the celebration of Rural Women’s Day in Falwel.

## Purpose

The joint programme on “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (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:

Outcome 1: Improving food and nutrition security for rural women

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

Outcome 3: Strengthening rural women’s leadership and their participation in rural institutions and in the development of laws, policies and programme

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

The RWEE joint programme 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-programme 2 and 3 of the 10-year National Gender Policy plan 2009-2018; the vision of Niger’s national gender policy is one of “building, together with all stakeholders, a society without discrimination, where men and women, girls and boys have the same opportunities of participating in its development and enjoying the benefits of its growth”. In order to implement this policy, a ten-year plan (2009-2018) was drawn up, divided into four<sup>3</sup> (4) sub-programme<sup>4</sup>s., The JP RWEE contributes to the implementation of sub-programme two (2) and sub-programme three (3).

(ii) The *communes de convergence (coming together in local municipalities)* approach of the 3N Initiative (Nigeriens feed Nigeriens). The Government has introduced its 3N Initiative in 2011 to increase the country’s resilience to food crises and reduce poverty through agricultural reform. Within this framework, the approach of the "communes de convergence" has been developed to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs. According to this approach development actors should conduct complementary activities in the poorest geographical areas to reduce vulnerability, maximize impact and ensure continuity between humanitarian and development interventions.

The programme is also aligned with the development objectives: Thematic Area 1 (resilience), 2 (social development and human capital) and 3 (governance, peace and security of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF-2014-2018) of Niger<sup>5</sup>, in particular with its three cross-cutting themes: (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.

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<sup>3</sup> 1.Sub-programme1: Equitable promotion of women’s situation and social position; Sub-programme 2: Equitable promotion of women and men’s potential and position within the household and market economies; Sub-programme3: Strengthening the effective application of the rights of women and girls, of the fight against gender-based violence and equitable participation of women and men in managing power; Sub-programme 4: Strengthening the intervention capacities of the institutional framework to implement the National Gender Policy (NGP), so as to achieve improved harmonization and synergy in gender interventions. –source: **Ten year NGP plan latest revised draft**

<sup>4</sup> RWEE contributes to following results of sub programmes:: **Result.2.1.1.1**: Reduction of women’s working day from 16 to 8 hours, by reducing their household; **Result.2.4**: Recognition of women’s socio-economic activities resulting in a rise in their status and their effective involvement in decision-making on issues regarding household finances and the market economy; **Result.1.1.2**: Women’s technical and financial capacities are strengthened and they have better access to economic opportunities; **Result.2.2.1.3.1**. The visibility of the organizational capacity of women and men strengthens their individual and collective leadership for the equitable promotion of their social position in the family and in the community; **Result.3.1.1.2**. All socio-economic groups of the population, including communities, households, children, men and women, vulnerable and marginalized groups, are informed about all their human rights.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF-2014-2018), [http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Niger/Niger\\_UNDAF-2014-2018.pdf](http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Niger/Niger_UNDAF-2014-2018.pdf)

## I. Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

In Niger, the programme targets 3600 direct beneficiaries and their households, adding up to 25,200 beneficiaries in total. Of those direct beneficiaries, two-thirds (2,400) are women and girls and 1,200 are boys and men. The Programme activities in the field started in April 2015. The results obtained are described below according to performance indicators, classified according to the desired outcome.

#### **Outcome1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security**

In order to improve rural women's food and nutrition security, the programme is not only working to ensure that rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services crucial to their food and nutrition security, but that they have increased capacity to strengthen local reserves of food security and agricultural production.

#### **Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services crucial to their food and nutrition security.**

This outcome will be achieved by strengthening or creating capacities for rural women and their organizations in the areas of: access to information and participatory communication, nutrition and improved crop techniques.

In 2016, **training on access to information and participatory communication and the functioning of Dimitra Clubs** enabled 3,600 club members (2,400 women and 1,200 men) to strengthen their organizational capacities through development of leadership skills such as public speaking, analytical thinking, concise analysis and expression of ideas, problem-solving, etc. This Dimitra training has enabled them to fully play their role as entry points in all the activities set in place by the RWEE Joint Programme and has benefited all the members of targeted households, estimated at 18,000 people. As a reminder, in 2015, such training initiatives had involved 1,680 women. This year training has been provided by FAO, in partnership with local NGO AEDL.

**Training on nutrition** aims to improve household nutrition practices (food, hygiene and sanitation). The Nutrition education sessions were carried out between January and June 2016 in the 5 villages of Falwel, benefiting 900 people including 600 women. The nutritional education was carried out by FAO, in partnership with a local NGO Kundji Fundo. Kundji Fundo trained 10 (2 women and 8 men) supervisors from the Dimitra Clubs and 20 (13 women and 7 men) Dimitra Club' leaders. The leaders facilitated then the discussion on nutrition in their community following the Dimitra club's approach. Community cooking demonstrations were also held, as part of the approach. In each village, three sessions were organized, during which 5 recipes based on local products were demonstrated. A total of 15 cooking demonstrations were held, to show that diets can be diversified using local products. Beneficiaries from Falwel reported that the nutrition education sessions and cooking demonstrations, conducted using the Dimitra Club participatory approach, have helped to improve their diets, and gain more knowledge on the importance of having a good nutrition and hygiene practice.

**For the strengthening of crop techniques**, the aim was to increase agricultural production and competitiveness, so that vulnerable households had a productive resource base. The programme was set out to improve rural women's access to farm inputs (high quality seeds, small Livestock kits etc.), supported by trainings through the Farmer Field Schools' approach.

**The distribution of improved seeds** was handled by IFAD, in partnership with local association HIMMA, both in Falwel and Djirataoua. In 2016, 700 beneficiaries from these two municipalities, including 500 women and 200 men, received improved cereal seeds (millet: 2 300 kg, sorghum: 200 kg) and pulses (groundnuts: 5 200 kg, sesame: 2 000 kg, cowpeas: 4 300 kg). The 700 beneficiaries received training on usage of different types of seed distributed, in order to improve their level of knowledge on the subject. Follow-up activities focused on identifying the farmers who

were sampled for agronomic crop monitoring, use of plate meters and evaluation of harvests, producing the results shown below.

Falwel	Djirataoua
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Groundnuts</b> have a yield of 766 kg/ha compared with an average in the area of 236 kg/ha during the previous farming season. These seeds led to an increase in the <b>order of 225.95%</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Cowpeas</b> have a yield of 388 kg/ha, compared with 135 kg/ha recorded in the area during the previous farming season, producing an <b>increase of 187.40%</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Sesame</b> has a yield of 360 kg/ha, compared with an average of 300 kg/ha, so an <b>increase of 20%</b>.</li> <li>• In the case of <b>millet</b>, it was not sown, due to the fact that the cultivable areas were not available, since farmers had already used them to plant their local seed, when the millet seeds were distributed throughout the communities of the municipality of Falwel. The millet was therefore stored and waits for the following rainy season to be planted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Groundnuts:</b> the yield is 212.69 kg/ha compared with 245 kg/ha the previous year, making an <b>increase of 23%</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Cowpeas:</b> the yield is 161 kg/ha, compared with an average of 273kg/ha in 2015, hence a <b>decline of 58.97%</b></li> <li>• <b>Millet:</b> the yield is 773.7 kg/ha, compared with an average in 2015 of 422 kg/ha, showing an <b>increase of 83.34%</b></li> <li>• <b>Sorghum:</b> the sorghum distributed exclusively in the Peul community of Tajaé, in the municipality of Djirataoua, was not sown and was only used for consumption.</li> </ul>

The 2016 farming season gave a satisfactory overall result in the programme intervention area. However, problems such as erratic rainfall, delays in the distribution of crops, crop pests and particularly the slow process of sowing, did not enable beneficiaries to obtain the results for which they had hoped: they have increased some crops as groundnuts and decrease of some as cowpeas in Djirataoua (see table above). The projected results were to increase crops at least 200% for all improved cereal seeds received while sorghum and millet were not sown.

**The small livestock kits** (goats and livestock fodder) were distributed by IFAD, in partnership with the local NGO AREN in the municipality of Falwel, and the NGO ASADI in the municipality of Djirataoua. A total of 770 goats were distributed (385 to each municipality) to 350 vulnerable women in the 10 target villages in the municipalities of Falwal and Djirataoua. This initiative involved giving each woman beneficiary a core breeding herd made up of two (2) female goats, and one (1) male goat for every five (5) women.

The free distribution of two (2) female goats to a single beneficiary was done for the first time in this area, as observed by the beneficiaries and the Mayor of Djirataoua. For this initiative to be successful and sustainable, periodic monitoring needs to be carried out, not only to avoid the animals being sold in the first months, but also to detect any cases of disease. There were 75 goats that died after being distributed in the 5 villages of Falwal according to the report of AREN. These mortalities are due to the ingestion of plastic waste in some cases. However, in the majority of mortalities cases are related to the problem of adaptability. When the russet-red goat is moved out of its environment of origin, it has difficulties to adapt. As evidence goats distributed to Djirataoua did not record mortalities because they remained in their environment of origin. It seems that the problem of adaptability is one of the leading causes of goat mortality. Indeed the WAAPP (Western African Agricultural Programme on Productivity) brought 3000 russet-red goats to Mali from Niger and there were more than 1000 cases of mortality. In Falwel, zootechnical inputs such as vaccines and food for livestock were distributed and beneficiaries were trained in animal husbandry, but this did not occur in Djirataoua, where the slow pace and cumbersome nature of IFAD administrative procedures delayed the effectiveness of implementation.

**Training in Farmer Field Schools (FFS)** has been conducted by FAO, together with the decentralized services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Ministry of the Environment.

Seven Farmer Field Schools (4 in Djirataoua and 3 in Falwel) were set up in 2016, involving a total of 114 women and 73 men. The annual review for 2016 revealed an unfinished process for most Farmer Field Schools, especially in Djirataoua. The problem lies in the fact that technical facilitators have failed to provide training, because FAO has not supplied the inputs in time. The Farmer Field Schools that have proved successful are those that have benefited from the commitment of technical facilitators involved in training. The 7 Farmer Field Schools have enabled women

and men to discuss and learn modern crop techniques and have enabled women to improve their knowledge, *see case study on Farmer Field Schools in the Annex*

### **Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.**

Here, the programme aims to strengthen the productive capacities of rural women by promoting and improving the processing and storage of food products, using innovative production technologies that are culturally and ecologically acceptable (accepted by cultural norms). It also aims to strengthen the capacities of formal and informal POs headed by women, to foster joint management of productive assets and supply effective services to their members. To achieve this, two programme activities were planned for 2016: support to rural women in the form of kits for processing agro pastoral products, and training for formal and informal POs on gender-sensitive organizational analysis.

**Support with kits for processing agro pastoral products** is planned in 2017 by IFAD, together with a local partner (the National Institute of Agricultural research of Niger (INRAN). A participatory needs assessment process was conducted; a partner was identified to implement this initiative, and its technical and financial proposal is now being developed.

**Training for formal and informal POs in gender-sensitive organizational analysis** has been conducted by FAO, working together with the regional technical services of the Directorate for Cooperatives and Rural Organizations (DACPOR). As of today, a total of 44 female POs benefited 16 of them in Falwel and 28 in Djirataoua. These POs have a membership of 1,509 women. In 2015, 16 women's POs in Falwel had received support to raise awareness on community life and the Uniform Act on Cooperatives (OHADA = Organisation pour l'Harmonisation du Droit des Affaires / Organization for the harmonization of business law). In 2016, 28 women's formal POs in Djirataoua benefited from the training in gender-sensitive organizational analysis as a result of a need identified during awareness raising activities on community living and the Uniform Act on Cooperatives (OHADA), carried out in 2015.

The programme seeks to measure the improvement of rural women's food and nutrition security by increasing the agricultural production of women farmers and enhancing household nutrition.

#### ***Increase the agricultural production of the farmers/ Percentage of women farmers who have increased their production.***

The quantities of groundnut produced (41.9 tones for Falwel and Djirataoua) are approximately 8 times those distributed (5.2 tones). 86% of women in the municipality of Djirataoua increased their production of groundnut, and 43.98% increased their production of cowpeas.

Number of interviews conducted during the 2016 annual review reveals that if these seeds had arrived on time, the output would be greater. *See case study 2 in the Annex*

#### ***Improved nutrition within the household***

The objective is to support households to improve their dietary diversity, hygiene and sanitation practices. A baseline survey was conducted in December 2015 on a sample of 300 Dimitra Club members including 200 women (150 women and 50 young girls) on their knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of good hygiene, sanitation, malnutrition and breastfeeding. A dietary diversity score of Dimitra Club members in Falwel has also been established. The study revealed that households of Dimitra Club members are generally large (with an average of 10 persons per household). Furthermore, it emerged that breastfeeding is widely practised in the project area. The percentage of mothers who breastfeed within one hour after birth varies from 50 to 100%, depending on the villages

and the type of household. However, only a few mothers are practising exclusive breastfeeding for six months, although they know of its importance.

The beneficiaries were able to identify signs of malnutrition especially among children under 5 years old, such as lack of energy, weak immune systems, weight loss and underdevelopment. The main causes are inadequate nutrition and diseases (malaria, diarrhoea). They stated that preventive measures known to combat malnutrition are exclusive breastfeeding and attending health centres. Regarding food variety, the average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)<sup>6</sup> of the 300 households surveyed is 3.8 out of 12 food groups. This study has shown that there are gaps in hygiene and sanitation practices. About 60% of the population in the project area are familiar with techniques for purifying water, and treating water through filtration is the most widely used practice. Results of the study reveal that 87% of the population wash their hands before eating and that about 47% wash their hands after going to the toilet, while 23% report washing their hands before feeding their children. Regarding sanitation, it emerged that 96% of households in the project area do not have latrines. Babies' faeces are disposed in the same way as those of adults, in the open air.

The results of the KAP and HDDS study helped to design the nutrition education sessions which aimed to improve overall nutritional practices (diet, hygiene and sanitation).

## **Outcome 2: Rural Women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth**

In order to make progress towards this outcome, the programme projected to support rural women in improving their entrepreneurial skills, develop value chains to help find markets for their products, and facilitate greater access to decently paid job opportunities, by achieving the following two outputs.

### **Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products**

To achieve this result, plans are in hand to facilitate women's participation in the process of purchasing local products and in training for agribusiness.

#### ***Participation of rural women in WFP's Purchase for Progress programmes***

This initiative involves giving priority to purchasing local food products from rural women and men through Producer Organizations (PO), to supply school canteens. As part of the programme, WFP, working together with NGO Kaidiya and local education services, have since 2015 been implementing a scheme called "voucher in school". This initiative links school feeding with local agricultural production, teaming school canteens up with POs in the municipality. Activities targets women from POs and children using school canteens (including (1 453 girls) from 22 villages in the municipality of Falwel (region of Dosso).

#### ***Number of women's or mixed POs (with women in decision-making positions) participating in WFP Purchase for Progress programmes***

In 2016, more than 2 654 women from 26 women's groups participated in the programme for purchasing local food products. The voucher scheme to the school feeding programme in the municipality of Falwel has triggered a number of repercussions, especially in economic terms. This ripple effect has taken various forms, linked to improved sales and income generating opportunities for women PO members, job creation, consideration of the gender dimension, improved revenues for rural women and a community dimension, which is reflected in lively communication about the project, as well as increased participation and take-up. Impacts linked to the voucher scheme include increased agricultural production and cash injection into the economy.

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<sup>6</sup> The household dietary diversity score (HDDS) is meant to reflect, in a snapshot form, the economic ability of a household to access a variety of foods. [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/wa\\_workshop/docs/FAO-guidelines-dietary-diversity2011.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/wa_workshop/docs/FAO-guidelines-dietary-diversity2011.pdf)



**Agribusiness training for women's groups/formal and informal POs:** this activity has been planned for 2017. However, during the annual review for 2015, women called for support for functional literacy, so as to be able to better manage their individual and collective income-generating activities. UN Women, in partnership with NGO DIKO, has been particularly involved in implementing this initiative. A total of 16 literacy centers have received training in the 4 municipalities, involving a total of 400 learners – both men and women. Each center has a total number of 25 people enrolled, of whom 22 are women and 3 are men.

**Collectives Income Generating Activities (IGA) led by women:** In the area where the programme is being implemented, various collective initiatives are under way. Examples include the collective fattening of two bull calves in Téhoizé Koira on the initiative of Dimitra Clubs; extracting groundnut oil in the village of Namaroua, carried out by two women's group management committees, etc. Careful monitoring, together with consultation with the women themselves, will make it possible to identify where support is needed.

### **Output 2.2: Rural women benefit from greater access to decent wage employment opportunities**

To achieve this result, the programme plans to strengthen the capacity of women members of formal and informal groups, through social mobilization, collective action, participatory communication, good governance and leadership, and to make efforts to lighten their daily workload. In 2015 and 2016, the focus was placed on easing the work burden and promoting Income Generating Activities.

#### **Lightening the workload of rural women**

As a reminder, as part of efforts to lighten women's workload, in 2015 ten (10) multipurpose platforms were purchased for the 10 villages where the programme is being implemented in the municipalities of Falwel and Jirataou, of which three were installed in the municipality of Falwel. In 2016, work continued to install the remaining platforms. As a result, seven multifunctional platforms have now been set up, including 6 in the 4 target villages in the municipality of Jirataoua (region of Maradi); and one in the municipality of Falwel, in the village of Kokoukou, which requested the platform during the annual review of 2015.

The annual review of 2016 revealed that in Djirataoua, only the platform in Namaroua is working, and in Falwel, only that in Téhoize is still active. These two are providing a valuable source of income for women and making a significant contribution to lightening their workload:

- Téhoizé koira: 15 000 FCFA and 6 100 kg sacks of millet, an ox and a total of 75 000 FCFA spent on maintenance.
- In Namaroua: platform has enabled 1 050 000 FCFA to be mobilized, and women have increased their savings to buy a second debunker.

To address the problem of the large number of non-functioning platforms, a number of recommendations were made at the December 2016 Stocktaking Workshop which, if put into practice, will enable women to benefit from these tools. These are:

- Repair platforms that have broken down;
- Strengthen women's capacities of maintenance of the platforms and equip them with toolkits;
- Add the missing accessories of some multifunctional platforms.

For the municipalities of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune, a feasibility study was conducted to determine which suitable devices can be introduced in each village to women's lighten workloads.

Carried out in the 10 targeted villages (where there is a total population of 14,037), the study showed that other partners have already installed multifunctional platforms, hence communities have requested other tools to ease work burdens, namely carts, piped water systems, donkeys, etc. Unfortunately, the process was not completed, due to the slow pace of UN Women and their partners.

- The programme seeks to measure the income's increase of rural women to secure their livelihoods and create wealth by having Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women; and by evidence of income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets.

As told in the concept note, the RWEE joint program in Niger is working (2015-2017) to ensure that the basic conditions for the economic empowerment of women in Niger are guaranteed such as: to improve schooling of the girls and the elimination of illiteracy of rural women; to improve the access to information, goods and the services for women, to reinforce the leadership of the rural women; to reduce the workload of women so as they have time to IGA, etc. The achievement of these basic conditions is going on; better quality and status of rural also. But, the availability of data collected in the intervention area which shows increase of income generated by rural women from their sales to WFP and other markets will be the focus of 2017; an important number of platforms needs to be repaired. So, efforts to achieve this outcome deserve greater support by strengthening existing systems (repairing platforms), strengthening women's participation in the WFP school feeding programme in intervention areas, and finding additional financial resources (for training in entrepreneurship and development of value chains) and better work on collecting quantitative and qualitative data to show our success.

### **Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes**

The objective is to strengthen women's leadership and active participation in decision-making within households, organizations and communities. Achieving this outcome will involve obtaining the following four results: **Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems** (See Annex for case study on strengthening leadership)

This result is expected to be achieved by the combined effects of the creation and functioning of the empowerment approach of the FAO-Dimitra Clubs (support, training conducted by FAO, in partnership with AEDL); raising awareness and training on gender-sensitive organizational analysis and legal aspects for creating and improving the functioning and governance in POs (conducted by FAO, together with DAC/POR), and the setting up of women's groups, and training on community life (conducted by UN Women, in partnership with NGO Diko).

In essence, the 120 Dimitra Clubs are a very interesting opportunity for women and young people to gain confidence, recognition at community and household levels, and take part in decision-making processes in their villages. These activities have had a direct impact, not just on the 3,600 club members (including 2,400 women), but also on the village inhabitants, through village assemblies held by traditional chiefs. Women's participation has now become a reality (taking the floor, making concrete proposals for action).

In 2016, eleven women's groups – 8 of them in the village of Namaroua and 3 in the village of Tadjaté Peulh – were established by UN Women, in partnership with Diko.

Together with DAC/POR, FAO has also drawn up a baseline assessment of farmers' organizations and Dimitra Club members who belong to POs. The initiative has been carried out in the rural municipality of Falwel. It has enabled 25 POs to be surveyed; of which 16 are women's POs in the programme's target villages. Of the 976 members (including 636 women) belonging to the 25 POs, 491 (383 women) are members of Dimitra Clubs. In order to boost PO membership and/or promote the launch of new ones by Dimitra Club members, awareness-raising activities on community living have been conducted for the village inhabitants, focusing particularly on membership criteria, and the operating rules of a PO. Five sessions were organized, which were attended by 150 women and 75 men. In order to enable the recently launched POs – as well as those already in place – to conform to the new legislation regarding POs in Niger, the communities have received instruction about the Uniform Act on Cooperatives (OHADA).

#### **- Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate in POs, cooperatives and unions**

The community training of trainer's session on gender-sensitive organizational analysis was conducted for members of POs and Dimitra Clubs, as well as for trainers and facilitators of partner organizations, technical staff from

umbrella organizations, and the decentralized bodies of DAC/POR. The training session brought together 28 participants, of whom 12 were women, who included 3 representatives of umbrella organizations, 2 representatives of partner NGOs and 2 representatives of decentralized bodies of DAC/POR in the municipality of Djirataoua.

The training drew on local skills at different levels (grassroots and umbrella POs, technical services and partner NGOs), in order to scale up the training after the project ends. Following the training of trainers, 5 community (village) level training sessions were conducted in the form of feedback from the grassroots PO trainers, with support from officials from the technical services and umbrella organizations. These feedback sessions reached 1,207 members of 40 farmers' organizations surveyed in the programme's 5 target villages.

Facilitated by Dimitra Clubs themselves, the process enables members, especially the most marginalized ones, to strengthen their organizational capacities. As a result, the 3,600 club members (two-thirds of them women) saw their capacities strengthened in this area, through training, and especially through their own collective action (community achievements). A number of women leaders emerged from this process.

- **Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels**

This involves supporting the networking of rural communities and their organizations, through participatory communication, access to information and training POs at umbrella level, and supporting women in conducting advocacy initiatives.

### **Networking**

In 2016, FAO and partner AEDL supported the networking process for Dimitra Clubs targeting young people in Falwel. The clubs show a strong capacity for social mobilization and engagement in development activities with partners.

UN Women and its partner Diko have supported the setting up of 2 networks of women's groups in Namaroua. A bank account with a balance of 200 000 FCFA has been set up in the network's name. This also helped to train 252 women and 48 men on community living and the management of the platform, including 220 women and 30 men in the towns of Falwel and Djirataoua and 132 women and 18 men trained in the municipalities of Sorkorbe and Guidan Amoumoune.

Also, FAO in collaboration with the DAC/POR made a reference situation of POs and members of Dimitra Clubs adhering to the POs in Falwel. This exercise helped to identify: 25 POs (with a total of 976 members including 636 women) of which 16 are women's POs, 76% of these 25 POs are headed by women. Of the 976 members of the 25 POs, 491 are members of Dimitra Clubs, namely 55% of the 900 members of the 5 target villages. To generate broad membership and/or stimulate the setting up of POs by Dimitra Club members, community's mobilization to raise awareness on associative activities have been conducted, particularly on criteria for membership and procedures for setting up a new PO. Communities have also been informed on the content of the "Acte Uniforme Relatif aux Droits des Sociétés Coopératives" (OHADA) (Law on Cooperative Societies), the new legislation governing producers organizations in Niger.

### **Training of rural women in POs in gender, good governance and effectiveness of POs**

In May 2015, two training sessions on gender-sensitive organizational analysis were carried out for 51 members (10 women and 41 men) from 16 producer organizations in the five villages covered by the programme (Falwel, Mallam Koira, Tegoize, Deytagui, Yamba and Kokoukou). Once the training ended, the participants pledged to share/ pass on what they had learned to other PO members who had not taken part in the sessions. During the first six months of 2016, a follow-up mission observed that the training had been passed on by participants to other members of producer organizations in all the villages, with the exception of Mallam Koira. In terms of impact, in some villages, such as Tékoizé Koira, the training led to 10 ( 7women and 3 men ) young people joining producer organizations and the creation of a new PO based on clear statutory terms in Deytagui Yamba, with 47 members, including 23 women. However, a number of challenges relating to the governance of producer organizations remain in the 4 municipalities covered by the programme. These include:

- Low levels of women's participation in training sessions;
- Poor information sharing by members of PO governing bodies;
- there is no turnover in the governing bodies of the POs) ;
- Poor levels of inclusion of young people in producer organizations;
- Lack of respect for legal and statutory bylaws of producer organizations.

To overcome some of these difficulties, the Dimitra Clubs have been mobilized, together with the decentralized supervisory services of the producer organizations. The latter will ensure follow-up after the end of the project. This challenge will be overcome by rethinking strategies including the approach to identify women participants in the various training initiatives and training Dimitra Club leaders, as well as officials from local government services to scale up training and strengthen facilitation and awareness-raising within producer organizations.

- **Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment**

This mainly involved increasing the number of Dimitra Clubs in 2016 and supporting rural women in implementing initiatives and promoting their rights.

#### **Creation of Dimitra Clubs**

In 2016, in the 10 villages of the municipalities of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune, 60 new Dimitra Clubs were set up, including 10 for adult men, 30 for adult women, 10 for girls and 10 for boys. In total, there are 1,800 members, of whom 900 are women, 300 are men, 300 are boys and 300 are girls. This membership symbolizes the motivation of communities to participate in the programme's joint activities. It should be remembered that 60 clubs were launched in 2015 in Fawel and Djirataoua, bringing the total number of Dimitra Clubs to 120, with an overall membership of 3,600 (2 400 women). It is estimated that the clubs' achievements and knowledge acquired provided direct benefits to 18,000 people.

#### **In January 2016, the Minister for Community Development and Local Planning paid a visit to the village of Téhoizé Koira.**

On this occasion, the women requested some wire fencing to protect their vegetable garden. The Minister issued instructions to the Mayor of the municipality of Falwel and the representative of PAC-RC to

- Expand the garden, with the cooperation of the landowners;
- Issue a request to PAC-RC to fence off the expanded garden and find mechanisms for irrigation. The application report was drawn up by the Mayor of Falwel, who is organizing follow-up together with the Community Development Directorate for Dosso.

**Celebration of the International Day of Rural Women and the International Year of Pulses on 15 October 2016 in Falwel:** hosted by Falwel (Department of Loga, Region of Dosso). It was in this municipality that the joint RWE program began implementing its activities as a pilot in April 2015. This activity has been jointly organized and co-funded by the four agencies, in collaboration with the Government and implementing partners, among them NGO AEDL, which undertook the social mobilization and logistical organization through the Dimitra Clubs. A number of officials travelled to attend the commemoration:

- Mrs Amadou Aissata, Minister for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children;
- Mr. Mohamed Boucha, Minister delegate to the State Ministry, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, in charge of livestock;
- The Governor of the region of Dosso; the Prefect of the Department of Loga, the Mayor, the municipal clerk and several councilors from the rural municipality of Falwel;
- High-ranking officials from UN agencies FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women;
- Several officers from central, regional, departmental and municipal government also took part.

The celebration offered an opportunity for the villagers to raise the following concerns with the authorities:

- Ensure the presence of midwives in Falwel. No midwives are currently working in the municipality (and women prefer to be examined by women);
- Support reducing the workload of rural women.

The various stories in the annexes testify to the fact that the programme is helping to support rural women's leadership and participation in rural institutions in their communities. See case studies on leadership in annex.

#### **Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women**

The objective is to contribute to the creation of an enabling policy environment that promotes the economic empowerment of rural women, and provides tools for its evaluation. For this reason, the programme sets out to create and/or strengthen the capacities of political decision-makers and legislators to ensure the effective integration of the gender approach into policies, laws and budgets for land, food, agriculture and nutrition, as well as in the area of rural jobs, and to advocate for use of the tool developed to measure women's empowerment in agriculture. Two outputs are expected, as outlined below:

- **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**

For 2016, a training workshop was planned on gender budgeting for policy advisors and parliamentarians from the 4 municipalities targeted by the programme. UN Women was supposed to conduct this initiative, but unfortunately, it was not implemented.

In 2016, FAO contributed to a revision of national nutritional security strategy, in which the rights of women were clearly integrated.

- **Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women**

In Niger, the WEAI (women's empowerment in agriculture index) tool has been used by the 4 agencies to measure progress in the process of women's empowerment in agriculture.

The WEAI was developed to measure the degree of women's empowerment and gender parity in society, and to identify the main areas where empowerment should be improved. This index is based on surveys and is composed of weighted average of the two sub-indexes, which are the 5 DE (domains of empowerment) and the GPI (gender parity index).

The five domains of empowerment 5DE<sup>7</sup> evaluates the degree of empowerment in five domains: it indicates the percentage of empowered women, calculated as the weighted average of adaptation for the five domains, which are (i) decisions about agricultural production; (ii) access to and decision-making power over productive resources, such as land and assets, the purchase, sale and transfer of land and assets, as well as access to and decision-making power over credit; (iii) control over use of income and expenditure, which may be either exclusive or collective (iv) leadership in the community, being a member of at least one social or economic group, and the extent to which a woman feels comfortable speaking in public; and (v) time use, and its distribution between productive and domestic

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- <sup>7</sup> The first domain concerns decisions about agricultural production and refers to sole or joint decision-making about food and cash crop farming, and livestock and fisheries, and the extent to which women feel able to make personal decisions regarding household life and agriculture.
  - The second domain concerns ownership of and access to productive resources, and decision-making powers over land and assets, the purchase, sale and transfer of land and assets, as well as access to and decision-making power over credit.
  - The third domain concerns the control over use of income and expenditure, which may be either exclusive or collective.
  - The fourth domain concerns women's role and participation in community life, being a member of at least one social or economic group, and the extent to which a woman feels comfortable speaking in public.
  - The final domain concerns the distribution of time between productive and domestic tasks, and respondents are asked to estimate the time spent on various activities.

tasks. For each domain, women are considered to be empowered (adequacy) or disempowered (inadequacy), depending on their replies to the survey.

The gender parity index measures women's empowerment within surveyed households. It measures the differences in empowerment between the principal male member of a household and the principal female member of a household, supported by the 5DE sub indexes. It indicates the percentage of women who are as equally empowered as men in their households.

IFAD worked together with an international consultancy firm (ORB) and a national one (CIPEL), which conducted the surveys. The tool has been tested in the 5 target villages and in 5 control villages in the municipality of Falwel. The aim of the survey was to establish a baseline for the joint RWEE programme in Niger. Results of the study carried out since February 2016 were made available in September 2016.

**The survey produced the following results:** empowerment was evaluated at about 45% in the target villages, and 37% in the control villages. The main cause of disempowerment was the low level of participation in decision-making, especially for women. Resource allocation plays an important role in disempowering women, while distribution of time emerges as more of a problem for men than for women. In the control villages, there is a positive correlation between empowerment and participation in certain groups, notably, Dimitra Clubs, formal and informal organizations.

The Gender Parity Index shows how many women have not achieved parity with respect to their male counterparts within the household. The overall GPI is thus 0.895. For the intervention villages, the GPI is 0.908 and in the control villages it is 0.882. Gender parity is greater in the target villages, where almost 41% of women are at least as empowered as men. This figure is 25.6% in the case of the control villages.

In 2016, it was decided to replicate the study in one of the municipalities of Maradi, in order to promote local adoption, but the initiative was not implemented.

Recognition at different levels (laws, programs, strategies, platforms for dialogue) of the role of the women in agricultural development

Outcome 4 requires work over a long period, as well as financial resources, which the programme will need to mobilize.

**Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:** programme

**The main challenges** to implementation remain:

- Execution of the activities within the time limits defined because of the slowness of the contractual process of local NGO at the level of agencies:
- Mobilization of resources: currently, the programme reached about 50% of its budget including the contribution of agencies. Faced with the ambitions and results in progress, it is important to find additional resources to consolidate the gains. A lot of effort to mobilize resources is going on at national and international level

### Lessons learned

**Findings:** Synergies made a difference: the combined presence of Dimitra Clubs, agriculture inputs, multifunctional platforms, home-grown school feeding, Farmer Field Schools in the village of Tegoize Koira (Falwel) is a good example of that. The Dimitra Clubs have mobilized whole communities around specific issues, thereby providing a framework for strengthening knowledge and developing leadership. A kindergarten was set up to promote school enrolment of girls and boys. Several initiatives of collective entrepreneurship (agriculture, storage, tontine etc.) were successfully implemented. Joint management of the platform has generated income to support the local school kitchen. A vegetable garden has been created by the women to diversify diets and generate incomes. Agriculture production has increased.

Somme villages set up laws to prevent wasting income during celebration of marriage

## Best practices

1. The Dimitra Club approach as an entry point for programme activities has led to the development of synergies in the field, better coordination of activities and the involvement of both men and women in the process of defining the programme's operating strategies. The value of this entry point was confirmed by participants at the annual stocktaking workshop in December 2016.
2. Creating a framework for exchange with the implementing partners (local NGOs) allows them to develop a greater sense of ownership of the programme's theory of change and impacts, as well as enhancing local take-up.
3. Working on the human capital of men, women and their organizations creates and consolidates the conditions required for greater economic empowerment.
4. Setting in place a technical committee and a steering committee, both operational, in which all stakeholders are represented – government, agencies and implementing partners – has enabled joint decisions to be made throughout the programme cycle, during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, capitalization and knowledge management. This has resulted in better coordination of activities and greater ownership of the process by all actors.
5. Synergies have been created more broadly with all development actors as a result of the programme's alignment with the *communes de convergence* approach (coming together in local municipalities) led by the Government in collaboration with the UN agencies. This approach ensures that all efforts by different actors are brought in the same prioritized vulnerable municipalities under leadership of the government, notably the High Commission for the 3N initiative

## Qualitative assessment:

In 2016 the annual review process included a qualitative participatory self-assessment at various levels and was a great success. It contributed to greater ownership of the programme, visibility at local level and enabled constructive feedback from the different levels (community, municipality, and national) on the programme impacts. There were three steps: meetings at village levels and two workshops in the municipalities in Fawel and Djirataoua with the representatives from the villages. These meetings helped to highlight the strengths, challenges and achieved changes, improvements and recommendations that were then presented and discussed in a national Stock-taking Workshop in Niamey. These meetings at municipality level also helped to give a name to the program in two local languages mainly spoken in the intervention's area from the proposals made by each village. For women, it is a program of empowerment, not only economic empowerment programme.

**Strengths and changes:** almost all the villages talks about social cohesion; hygiene and safety; the reduction of community and marital conflict; women's access to certain jobs traditionally reserved for men (as for example women who manipulate the mills); the reduction of poverty in households and women and young people access to the decision-making process; relief of household chores. the knowledge and the improved capabilities through nutritional education, promotion of hygiene, the practice of family planning, use of mosquito nets, a noticeable decline malaria and early marriage, the literate through literacy etc..

**To be improved:** the framing of the farmers field schools were did not regularly by supervisors; Women (members of Dimitra clubs) feel have not fully benefited from local food purchases; Accessories for some multifunctional platforms are expected; agricultural products processing kits are expected; training on community living must be strengthened.

The workshop made recommendations which implementation will allow to address areas for improvement listed above. These recommendations are translated into activities and integrated in the 2017 annual plan to be implemented.

The national review workshop gives visibility to the results achieved. It was took advantage to advocate for the mobilization of resources. This advocacy was supported by the UN agencies' gender and human rights technical group, who's President (Assistant to the UNDP Resident Representative) delivered a message in this sense.



**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

**Programme**

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security</b>			
<b>Indicator:</b> - Increase agricultural production of the women farmers <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 50% of 1000 women</b> - improved nutrition within the family <b>Baseline: HDDS 3,8</b> <b>Planned Target: HDDS 6</b>	86% of the 500 women supported have increased their production (430 women)  Results of assessment (KAP2) not available yet	problems such as erratic rainfall, delays in the distribution of crops, crop pests and particularly the slow process of sowing	Joint Supervision report Assessment report of IFAD  Waiting for assessment report of FAO
<b>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</b>			
	<i>2,400 women have direct improved access and 12,000 women indirect in the « communes » of Sokorbé, Falwel, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune</i>	Additional Dimitra Clubs will be set up in 2017 to reach the number of women targeted	FAO report
	<i>Results of Assessment not available yet</i>	NA	FAO report
	35 of Falwel and Djirataoua  8400  67 FBOs in Falwel (27) and Djirataoua (40), regrouping 2,249 member (1,549 women and 700 men)	This year is the test, scaling up in 2017  We are progressing by municipality;  We are progressing by municipality	FAO report  FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN and WFP report Training report of FAO and WFP

<p><b>Indicator: 1.1.5.</b> Number of male and female Producer Organization that have been reinforced  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 139</i> (among which 112 are female POs)</p>	<p>220 women and 30 men from Falwel and Djiratoua (municipalities) trained on associative life and the management of the multipurpose platforms</p> <p>132 women and 18 men from Sorkorbe and Guidan Amoumoune (municipalities) trained on associative life and the management of the multipurpose platforms</p>	<p>Gap will be filled in 2017</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</b></p>			
	<p>4500</p>	<p>We are progressing by municipality  Gap will be filled in 2017</p>	<p>UNWOMEN, FAO and IFAD report</p>
	<p>114 women (in Falwel and Djirataoua)</p> <p>46 (18 in Falwel and 28 in Djirataoua) for a total membership of 1,549 people</p>	<p>The gap will be filled once additional resources are available</p>	<p>Mission report and training reports from FAO</p> <p>Mission report and training reports from FAO</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</b></p>			

<p><b>Indicator:</b> - Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p>	<p>We are waiting for the assessment report</p>	<p>The assessment report will do previsions</p>	<p>WFP report</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>			
	<p>26 women's and mixed (with women in decision-making positions) POs (2654 women) participated in the purchasing programme in the service of the progress of WFP</p>		<p>WFP report</p>
	<p>Training on entrepreneurship planned for 2017</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>IFAD and UNWOMEN report</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent employment opportunities</p>			
		<p>Target is for 2017</p>	<p>FAO DIMITRA report</p>

<p>participatory communication, good governance and leadership  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target:1350</b>  <b>Indicator 2.2.2.</b> Evidence of informal groups of women who become formal  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 18</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.3.</b> Evidence of alleviation of the burden of rural women's work  <b>Baseline: 500</b>  <b>Planned Target: 6500+charrette+eau cart and water?</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.4.</b> Tangible evidence of improvement of access and control of Land (testimonies, stories, etc.)  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: collective access to land in 20 villages</b></p>	<p>1234</p> <p>11 informal POs became formal including (295 women and 95men)</p> <p>8 multi-purpose platforms installed in 6 villages and each of these multipurpose machines benefits more than 600 women per village (about 4,800) women.  About 4500 women are served at the grinding mills</p> <p>Collective access to land in villages is reported (12 for 12 informal groups of women)</p>	<p>116</p> <p>The process will continue until 2017</p> <p>The process of installing 5 other multipurpose platforms is ongoing. So the target of 6,500 women will be met.</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Training report (FAO-CoOPéquité)</p> <p>UNWOMEN report</p> <p>FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN and WFP report</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator: 3.1.</b> Proportion of rural women elected in the rural council  <b>Baseline: 6</b>  <b>Planned Target: TBD s</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.2</b> Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees  <b>Baseline: 12%</b>  <b>Planned Target: 40 %</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.3</b> Proportion of POs and/or informal groups headed by women  <b>Baseline: 70%</b>  <b>Planned Target: 80%</b></p>	<p>Elections are planned for 2017</p> <p>Activities are planned for 2017</p> <p>75% of the 67 POs of Falwel and Djirataoua are headed by women?</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>UNWOMEN report</p> <p>UNWOMEN report</p> <p>FAO and WFP report</p> <p>Field Mission, UNWOMEN, WFP And</p>

<p><b>Indicator:</b> 3.3. Evidence of an improvement in the decision-making power of rural women within the household, organizations and communities</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p>			FAO report -
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
	<p>160 women leaders trained and who have trained the 25,200 members of the 120 Dimitra Clubs</p>	RAS	FAO report
	<p><a href="#">See story annexed</a></p>		Field Mission, UNWOMEN, WFP And FAO report
<p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p>			
	<p><i>34 women who are members of 67 POs of the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua benefited from training on governance and gender in the last 3 training sessions for a total of 79 participants. The 34 women have then provided the same training to 1,549 women.</i></p> <p><i>Creation of 30 Dimitra Clubs accounting for their 600 women members and 300 men members, under the leadership of one woman leader.</i></p>	Gap will be filled in 2017	Training report of FAO
	<p>7 PO of Falwel adopted a gender strategy?</p>	Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO and UNWOMEN report

		Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO report
<b>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</b>			
	1 producers union Madda Ben	Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO and WFP report
	Assessment using WEAI tools report will be available in October, it can allow us to have base line and target		Joint Field Missions reports., UNWOMEN, WFP FAO And IFAD report
<b>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</b>			
	1,260 women and 420 girls =1,680	Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO DIMITRA report Field Missions report
	14	Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO DIMITRA report Field Missions report

<i>Planned Target:20</i>			
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b>			
<i>Indicator:</i> Increase of donors interested in funding the programme in Niger <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>  <i>Indicator:</i> Recognition at different levels (laws, programmes, strategies, platforms for dialogue) of the role of the women in agricultural development <i>Baseline:</i> <i>Planned Target:</i>			
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.			
		Gap will be filled in 2017	FAO
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
	1		FIDA report
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.			

<p><b>Indicator 4.3.1.</b> Number of mechanisms of regional rural development dialogues involving groups and rural women POs</p>			
<p><b>Baseline:</b>0  <b>Planned Target:</b> les deux cadres régionaux+ le cadre national</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.3.2  Baseline:  Planned Target:</p>			



## ii) A Specific Story (See annex)

### III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

FAO is conducting, in collaboration with the University of Niamey, the second KAP to assess the results in terms of nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and breastfeeding; results will be available in March 2017.

### IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

The meetings of the RWEE Technical Working Group provides the opportunity to exchange and take operational decisions on the Joint Programme. Therefore, during the overall process of editing programme documents, which began in 2015, these were completed in the first three months of 2016. Like other countries, Niger updated its programme document on the basis of the concept note, lessons learned in 2015, and inputs from the National Steering Committee and feedback from the international consultative technical committee. The main modifications regard details about the targeting of beneficiaries, clarification on the durability and sustainability strategy; precision to the alignment to national policies and follow-up assessment.

### V. Coordination mechanisms

- a) The coordination mechanism put in place in Niger is organised as follows: **The national Coordinator** was recruited in February 2015 to coordinate the programme activities, facilitate the sharing of information, ensure synergies among implementation partners and help mobilize resources.
- b) **The Technical Committee** is composed of technical experts from the four United Nations agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; a (female) representative from the Department of rural women's economic empowerment of the Ministry of Women's Promotion and Child Protection, as well as a representative from the High Commission of the 3N Initiative. The tasks and responsibilities of the Technical Committee include: activities and budget planning for the joint programme; ensuring regular monitoring of programme implementation and drawing up recommendations to participants to help achieve objectives. During the first half of 2016, the Technical Committee developed a plan to follow-up on the recommendations of the 2015 annual review and provides follow up. It held regular meetings, at least once a month, as well as *ad hoc* when and if needed (responses to calls for proposals, discussions to identify target villages etc.). The Technical Committee also carried out two joint monitoring missions, which was also the opportunity to finalise the implementation plan of the 2015 recommendations, in close collaboration with partner NGOs.
- c) **The National Steering Committee** is composed of:
  - Chair: the General Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock;
  - 1st Vice-Chair: Deputy General Secretary of the Ministry of the Women Promotion and the Children Protection ;
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair: General Secretary of the High Commission of the 3N Initiative.
  - One representative from FAO; one representative from IFAD; one representative from WFP; one representative from UN Women;
  - Two representatives of rural women per municipality.

Its main role is to approve the annual planning for the joint programme budget and activities; to ensure regular monitoring of programme activities and draw up recommendations for their smooth implementation. Ordinary meetings of the National Steering Committee are held annually. The ordinary meeting for 2016 is scheduled for February 2017.

d) **The exchange platform with partner NGOs:** one of the recommendations from the annual review 2015 was to: “*establish a platform for exchange with supporting NGOs*”. In order to put this recommendation into practice, it was decided that:

- The aim of the exchange platform is “to share mutual experiences and promote synergies”.
- The NGOs will also set up a virtual platform for exchange among each other; a mailing list will be created to this end.
- The NGOs and the coordination team should meet twice a year, in addition to the meeting for the annual review. Following a first meeting held on March 4, 2016, a second was planned for July. One month ahead of the meeting, the partner NGOs will submit ToR to present suggestions/meetings. Partner NGOs unanimously nominated Mr Ibrahim Seybou, coordinator of the NGO “AEDL”, as their focal point.

The meeting between the JP RWEE Technical Committee and partners serve to establish a common perspective on the JP’s implementation, as well as indicators to measure its success, with the objective of fostering synergies at field level and transferring good quality information.

The programme’s logical framework was shared with the NGOs along with the objectives, results, activities and indicators of the JP programme.

Two annual meetings were planned and held in 2016. The first meeting has been used to have the same understanding of the logic of intervention of the spouse programme and its success indicators in order to better cultivate the synergy on the ground and back up information. That's why the logical framework of the programme has been shared. Discussions continued on the improvement of the quality of the reports and the ways to inform qualitative indicators of the programme. It's the second meeting that NGO partners have proposed the workshops at council level which has been incorporated into the implementation

## VI. Resources

Following the International Steering Committee meeting of March 2016, Niger received an additional allocation of US\$700,000.

### Overview of budget expenditure and contribution of agencies to the programme budget

The table below shows budget expenditure by agency; the situation at the end of December 2015 has been extracted from the financial report endorsed by the MPTF.

Participating Organization	Total reçu jusqu'en 2015	Total Dépensé jusqu'en Fin 2015	Reliquat en fin 2015	Reçus en 2016	Total reçu	% dépensés en fin 2016	Contribution des agences au budget du Programmeme	
							2015Contribution	Contribution 2016
FAO	475 488	273 036	202 452	250 000	725 488	85%	2500	15000
IFAD	270 923	30 562	240 361	150 000	420 923	90%	-	2824
UNWOMEN	270 923	178 997.38	91 925.62	150 000	420 923	81,40%	-	4500
WFP	270 923	15 176	255 747	150 000	420 923	100%	-	3500
Total Niger	1 288 257	376 182	912 075	700 000	1 988 257	89%	2500	25824

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

## **Resource mobilization**

### **Activities undertaken**

- Response to the call for proposals of the Peace building Fund GIP3. The proposal was selected by the country team and sent for the final selection of the headquarters of the PBF. Unfortunately, the Niger one has not been selected.
- Several meetings with the following donors: European Union; Spanish cooperation; JICA (Japanese Cooperation Agency): all were advised to contact them at the beginning of the year 2017 to see the existence of potential opportunities.
- Presentation of the results of the programme on the occasion of the international day of rural women – October 2016, highly publicized with participation of national donors and support of the UN technical group gender and human rights.