

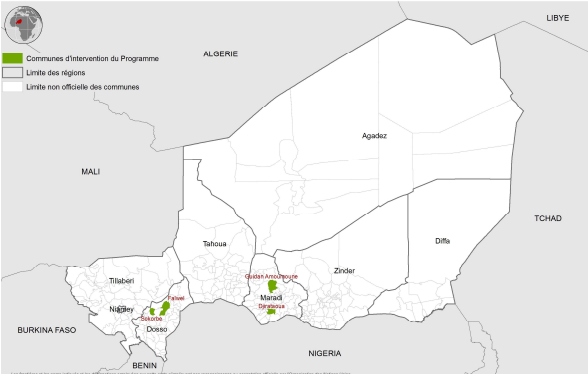
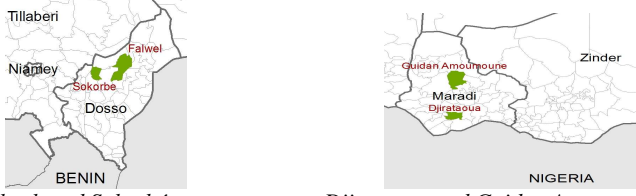


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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Period	2015-2016		Total 2016	2017		total 2017												
sex	women	Men		Women	Men													
Direct beneficiaries	2400	1200	3200	14700	1300	16000												
Indirect- beneficiaries	16800	8400	25200	17041	8568	25609												
Programme Title & Project Number			Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Beneficiaries															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Niger MPTF Office Project Reference 00092005:¹ 			<p><i>Republic of Niger :</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Regions</th> <th>departments</th> <th>Council area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Dosso</td> <td rowspan="2">Loga</td> <td>Falwel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sokorbe</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Maradi</td> <td>Mayahi</td> <td>Guidan Amoumoune</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Madarounfa</td> <td>Djirataoua</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  <p><i>Falwel and Sokorbé</i> <i>Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune</i></p>				Regions	departments	Council area	Dosso	Loga	Falwel	Sokorbe	Maradi	Mayahi	Guidan Amoumoune	Madarounfa	Djirataoua
Regions	departments	Council area																
Dosso	Loga	Falwel																
		Sokorbe																
Maradi	Mayahi	Guidan Amoumoune																
	Madarounfa	Djirataoua																
Participating Organization(s)			Acteurs impliqués dans la mise en œuvre															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO IFAD UN WOMEN WFP 			<p>National counterparts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock High Commissioner for 3N Initiative <p>National NGOs: AEDL; KAIDIYA ; KUNDJI FONDO ; DIKO; AREN ; ASADI, INRAN</p>															
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)			Programme Duration															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency Agency Contribution; <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> Government Contribution: Not applicable Other Contributions (donors)<i>if applicable</i> <p>TOTAL: 2388257 USD (see full information on p.22)</p>			<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS Start Date : 15 10 2012 Original End Date : 31 12 2018</p>															
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.			Report Submitted By															
<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>			<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 															

¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number are as follows: ETHIOPIA: 00092000; GUATEMALA: 00092001; KYRGYZSTAN: 00092002; LIBERIA: 00092003; NEPAL: 00092004; NIGER: 00092005; RWANDA: 00092006

Abbreviations

AEDL : Action Educative pour le Développement Local (NGO)

GA : Assemblée générale

ADL : Appui au Développement Local (Local NGO)

APO: Agricultural Producer Organization

AREN : Association pour la Redynamisation de l’Elevage au Niger (local NGO)

ASADI : Actions pour la sécurité alimentaire et le développement intégré (local NGO)

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

DSG of MoAW/PC: Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child

DSG of the MoA/L: the Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of agriculture and livestock

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FFS: Farmer Field School

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

IGA: Income Generating Activities

INRAN : Institut national des recherches agronomiques au Niger

MFP: Multi-functional platform

MPTF: Multi - Partners Trust Funds

NGP: National Gender Policy

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

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

PAC-RC: Programme d’Action Communautaire et Résilience Climatique/“Community action and climate Resilience program” (government’s programme financed by the World Bank)

PO: Producer Organization

RWEE: Rural Women Economic Empowerment

UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework

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

WEAI: Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index

WFP: World Food Programme

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP-RWEE) was launched in November 2012 by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP. Its aim is to create synergies arising from the mandates, comparative advantages and institutional power of each of the four agencies to support the efforts of the Government of Niger to empower women and increase food and nutrition security. The JP-RWEE in Niger targets 16 000 direct beneficiaries, including 14 700 women and girls and 1 300 men and boys, as well as 25 609 indirect beneficiaries, of whom 17 041 are women and girls. It started its activities on a pilot basis in 2015 in the rural municipality of Falwel. The programme was subsequently gradually rolled out to the municipalities of Djirataoua, Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune as resources were made available. As a result, the JP-RWEE is currently active in 20 villages within these 4 municipalities. The 4 agencies conduct activities in synergy, to the benefit of the same target groups.

In order to create the conditions needed for the sustainable economic empowerment of rural women, special attention is paid to key determinants of social and political empowerment. For this reason, the agencies and implementing partners have agreed that the Dimitra Clubs' approach should be the entry point for putting activities into practice in the field, so as to work with men and women in a coordinated and concerted manner.

The resources mobilized (USD 2 388 257/ USD5 116 381.55 sought) have not covered all the planned activities, although the target would appear to have been reached.

Between April 2017 and April 2018, the programme aimed at consolidating the achievements to date, completing certain activities at municipal level and conducting studies to collect evidence in order to mobilize additional resources. Of the eighteen (18) packages of activities planned for the period, ten (10) have been implemented and eight (8) are being carried out. These activities have mainly involved revising the planning according to resources available; finalizing the processes initiated at the end of 2016, support and monitoring of 120 Dimitra Clubs; support to 706 women recipients of the small ruminant kits; continuation of the processes in place to promote voucher-based local purchases to supply school canteens; repairing and/or installing equipment to alleviate work burdens; continuation of joint monitoring and evaluation activities by holding monthly meetings of the technical committee; conducting 2 joint supervision missions by the technical committee; conducting 2 meetings between the platform for exchange for the partner NGOs and the technical committee; organizing 6 training sessions for the POs; carrying out a KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) and Households Dietary Diversity Score baseline study at Djirataoua; the participation of the national coordinator in exchange meetings between national coordinators with the participation of the international coordinator and members of the technical committee; celebration of the International Day of Rural Women (2017), and lastly, the development of two fact sheets of good practices in order to capitalize on success stories. In November 2017 the team also received technical support from the international coordinator.

I. 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 four² (4) sub-programme³s., 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 Niger⁴, 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.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

The results and changes obtained for 2017 are outlined according to the output indicators, classified by the effect sought.

² 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

³ 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.

⁴ United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF-2014-2018), http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Niger/Niger_UNDAF-2014-2018.pdf

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

In an effort to improve food and nutrition security, the JP-RWEE is working to ensure that women have increased access to resources, assets and basic essential services, but is also seeking to strengthen their capacities, so that they are better able to manage their agricultural production and local stocks for food security. To help achieve this intermediary goal, the two following outputs are required:

- Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.

This output is expected to be delivered through joint initiatives executed by the four agencies to facilitate women's access to information and participatory communication, **credit**, small ruminant kits, land, and integrated agricultural and nutritional services, so that they are better positioned to adopt improved agricultural techniques and nutritional practices.

Access to information and participatory communication for targeted men and women is implemented by FAO, together with NGO AEDL, through 120 Dimitra Clubs accounting for 3 600 members; as planned 2 400 women and girls (and 1 200 men and boys) have improved their access to information, and strengthened their organizational capacities and participation in community life through participatory communication. .

Strengthening of women's groups has enabled 2 544 women members of 64 female POs to access loans distributed by credit and savings groups (a total of 80 POs with 2 800 women members gaining access to internal credit, in addition to the 16 POs of the baseline). The loans are mainly used for individual or collective income-generating activities. The Dikki groups (rural municipality of Sokorbé) have been supported in setting up a community market garden, with 209 women as direct beneficiaries. A motor pump facilitates watering of seeds and vegetables. UN Women, in partnership with NGO Diko, supports the setting up and strengthening of women's groups.

IFAD, in collaboration with two NGOs "AREN" (for the municipalities of Falwel and Sokorbé) and "ASADI" (for Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune), distributes small ruminant kits, containing goats and livestock feed. As planned, this year has seen the allocation of 300 small ruminants and 15 tonnes of livestock feed in 10 villages in the municipalities of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune, as well as training for the beneficiaries and animal health monitoring for all the kits distributed in 2016 (770 goats +52.5 tonnes of livestock feed to 350 vulnerable women in the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua. Beneficiaries from 2016 have handed over female goats to vulnerable individuals on the waiting list. In this way, the redistribution process has benefited a further 256 vulnerable women in the municipalities of Djirataoua (175) and Falwel (81), through the allocation of 279 goats (175 for Djirataoua and 104 for Falwel). As a result, a total of 356 vulnerable women received goats this year, for use as a productive resource base.

This year, access to nutritional education is planned for 600 women and girls and 300 men and boys in the municipality of Djirataoua. Nutritional education sessions are being conducted by FAO in partnership with NGO Kundji fondo, targeting 900 beneficiaries who are members of the Dimitra Clubs. As a reminder, the 'nutritional education' package conducted as part of the JP-RWEE programme features a baseline study and a final evaluation carried out by FAO, together with CRESA, including training in hygiene and nutrition and cooking demonstrations. An estimated 188 women are receiving training within Farmer Field Schools set up with FAO support, in collaboration with MAGEL, and 125/188 are putting the training received into practice. Some 156/188 women learners have been actually listed in the villages of Téhoizé Koira, Kokoukou (municipality of Falwel), Wazey and Kalley Deybéri (municipality of Sokorbé), Kataré Linkidim (municipality of Guidan Amoumoune), and Tajaé Peulh (municipality of Djirataoua).

As a result of the joint actions of FAO, IFAD and UN Women, described above, and those of WFP in partnership with NGO Kaidiya (school canteens), two thousand, two hundred and ten (2 210) women have gained access to integrated agricultural and nutritional services, out of the 2 400 women beneficiaries planned. Within this group, 95 women out of the 125 planned are adopting improved production techniques. Weaknesses observed have been caused by the fact that some Farmer Field Schools have not worked properly; that is the case of those in the villages of Doullou II and Danja. Community facilitators are currently working in the villages to provide local supervision. The various activities have fostered women's access to land, in order to increase their agricultural output. A total of 1 227 women have gained access to land through various channels. Loans are the most common means of enabling women to access land in the intervention area. The programme activities have resulted in 1 085 women accessing land through this method, and cultivating 26 collective fields and 9 collective market gardens in 10 villages of Djirataoua, Guidan Amoumoune, Falwel and Sokorbé; 105 have gained land access by renting plots (10 000F/ha) in the municipality of Djirataoua. A total area of 30 ha has been cultivated by women in 2017. Individual access to the small plots of land at the family level is not a problem, but access to large areas needs influence or financial resources.

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

In order to achieve this outcome, plans were made to facilitate access to innovative technologies for 14 705 women by repairing multifunctional platforms, distributing agricultural processing kits to women's groups and identifying the number of women in the intervention area who, as a result of the various capacity-strengthening initiatives received, have succeeded in managing cereal stocks (whose implementation was not necessarily supported by the JP-RWEE programme) within the communities.

Working together with NGO Diko, UN Women has repaired 9 platforms that no longer worked, and has set up a groundnut processing kit for women in Kalleydey Béry, for whom this was a priority need. IFAD, in collaboration with IRAN, has begun setting up other processing kits requested by women, with the process scheduled for completion in April 2018; the target has been met, with one of the activities still under way, which will consolidate the achievements.

In the intervention area, a number of development partners have supported the setting up of cereal banks. In the municipality of Guidan Anounoune, most of the women's groups established as part of the JP-RWEE programme have mobilized cereal stocks through their own resources, to counter the hungry season or unexpected shocks. A total of seventy (70) women members have been identified from 11 PO unions, managing local stocks for food security.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 1:

The programme aims at measuring improvements in the food and nutrition security of rural women through (i) the rate of increase in agricultural production (crop and livestock) of women farmers, and (ii) the increase in the Household Dietary Diversity Score.

- **Increase in agricultural production of women farmers**

Crop production

Support in improved seeds was provided in 2016 by IFAD, in collaboration with the HIMMA association in the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua, together with training in improved production techniques offered by FAO Farmer Field Schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, have led to an overall rise in crop production by women farmers, with specific increases for the following crops cultivated: groundnuts 124.47%, cowpeas 64.25% and sesame 20%. Groundnuts had the highest growth rate and are the leading cash crop in the two municipalities, notably because they are less infested by pests than cowpeas and sesame. Despite the delays, irregularity and lack of rains, peanuts' cultural cycle could close and obtained a higher production than cowpeas and sesame.

Livestock production

The rate of growth for livestock was measured through the kits distributed in 2016, for which monitoring and evaluation was carried out in 2017 (770 goats allocated to 350 vulnerable women in the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua). Although losses were recorded (death, abortion, etc.), the current total is 1 195 goats (606 beneficiaries), resulting from the 770 goats (350 beneficiaries) distributed; this gives a growth rate of 55.19%. Soon, the 300 small ruminants distributed are expected to drive this growth even higher⁵ through turning cycles of redistribution of the calving from initial stocks.

- **Increase in the Household Dietary Diversity Score**

During 2017, the final Report on the evaluation of nutritional education conducted in Falwel in 2016 was validated. The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS⁶) rose from 3.8 to 5 points. The increase shows that the food consumed in households was more diversified compared with the period before nutritional education conducted in the area. However, there remains a need for further awareness-raising. For the Household Dietary Diversity Score to be adequate, it should reach a figure of 12. For this reason, a retraining process is under way in the municipality of Falwel. For Djirataoua, the baseline study carried out in 2017 shows the HDDS to be 4.10; joint efforts are in progress to bring the score up to 6.

The achievements described here and the story in the annex show a positive trend towards meeting this objective.

Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth

In order to promote an increase in incomes, the JP-RWEE Niger programme supports rural women in improving their entrepreneurial skills, developing value chains so that they can access markets for their products, and facilitating access to tools that can reduce their workload, so that they can engage in income-generating activities (IGA). Achieving the two outcomes listed below should enable progress to be made in this regard.

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

This outcome should result from access for women and men to purchase of local products organized by WFP to supply school canteens, and training for women and POs in agricultural entrepreneurship.

Participation of rural women in WFP purchasing programmes to supply school canteens

This involves making a priority of purchasing local products from rural women through POs, in order to supply school canteens. This initiative is implemented by WFP, in collaboration with NGO Kaidiya and local education services. It links school feeding to agricultural production by connecting school canteens to producer organizations in the municipality. This year, 1 376 women and 618 men from the municipality's PO unions have benefited from local purchases, compared with forecasts of 1 692 women and 1 475 men. The difference can be explained by the fact that the PO Union in Falwel did not sell anything to WFP this year. In 2017, a total of \$ 95,870 was injected on the account of these POs whose members are women at 70%. It should be noted that these OP recorded a profit of 15.38% compared to the purchase price of 2015 (= 12 799.34 USD including USD 8 945.54 for women and 3 833.80 USD for men).

Enabling more women to benefit from the local purchase system remains a challenge that the Programme is currently addressing, by supporting women's POs to form unions, and raising awareness among them about

⁵ This result is due to the fact that beneficiaries who received the small ruminant's kits first, pledged to give the females calving to other vulnerable women according to a list approved at community level.

⁶ Dietary diversity is a qualitative measure of food consumption, which takes into account the variety of foods to which a household has access. At individual level, it constitutes a proxy to measure the nutritional adequacy of a diet. The dietary diversity scores described here are a simple count of the food groups that a household or person has consumed in the course of the 24 hours prior to the interview.

the conditions that must be met in order to link the partnership with WFP in the area of local purchases. Discussions aimed at identifying positive discriminatory measures for rural women are also under way.

Training in entrepreneurship for women's groups/ formal or informal POs

It was planned to train 600 women from formal or informal POs in entrepreneurship. Some 85 women trainers were trained, and they are now in the process of training the six hundred women. This initiative is receiving support from WFP and partners.

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

To achieve this result, the programme has this year organized support for POs to become formalized, so that they can have access to more economic opportunities that could benefit their members, and work towards lightening the daily workload of women, who could then embark on income-generating activities (IGA) as a result.

Tangible proof of lightening the workload of rural women

In order to ensure the sustainability of the gains achieved, the 9 Multifunctional Platforms (MFP) that had broken down would need to be repaired, and a 10th installed in Kokoukou at the end of 2016 would have to be monitored; men and women involved in operating and managing the platforms would need to be trained, and equipment to lighten workloads would have to be installed so that 1 000 vulnerable women could start income-generating activities. For this reason, UN Women, in collaboration with NGO Diko, repaired the nine (9) MFPs, three (3) of them in the region of Dosso and six (6) in the region of Maradi. Six (6) sheds housing MFPs were renovated to protect them. The 10th MFP installed in Kokoukou at the end of 2016, which was made operational in 2017 (training in management and small repairs, etc.) has generated 90 000 F CFA in revenue and six (6) 100 kg sacks of millet (a value of 240,000F = 449USD, which makes a total of 619 USD). To assure maintenance, 18 women and 18 men were trained in carrying out small-scale repairs and a network of repairers from the MFP

Thanks to pulleys and carts, fetching water, which used to take us more than 3 hours, now takes us about 1 hour.
Women from Kalley-dey Bery- (Sokorbé) –
Source GA- Report NGO Diko

The carts are also useful for us men. I have hired one to transport organic compost (waste resulting from community health activities launched by the Dimitra Clubs) to my field. This year I produced 3 times more groundnuts than usual. Leader of Dan Malam Mai Rakouma – Source GA – Joint supervision 2017

project was set up to help with larger-scale maintenance problems linked to the motor. The capacity of the managers has also been gradually strengthened to enable them to better control the resources that will be generated. In Sokorbe, 25 carts have been made available to 40 groups in five (5) villages, in which pulleys have also been installed in nine (9) community wells. Although they would like more carts and public fountains, the women have welcomed the pulleys for the wells, which have made it easier to draw water, as well as the carts for transport, as attested by the women of Kalleydey Béry, or the leader of Dan Malam Mairakouma, during a joint supervisory session (see quotes). In Guidan Amoumoune, aside from supplying donkey-drawn carts for the women, two extensions and two public fountains have been installed in the two villages of Guidan Wari and Dan Koullou, reaching 410 women as direct beneficiaries.

Number of rural women who have launched income-generating activities

In the intervention area, rural women are conducting individual and collective IGAs, so as to have their own resources with which to meet their needs. Some 643 women were identified as having launched IGAs (the most common being selling donuts, peanuts oil and cooked dishes), out of the 1,000 originally targeted. Capacity strengthening, credit and savings activities and efforts to reduce workloads are all continuing in an attempt to ensure that the target is reached.

Value of stock implemented by women using their own resources and saving and loan activities

To increase their incomes, most groups used their own resources to implement cereal stocks during harvest time, which are then resold during the lean season. During the course of this year, women from the

municipalities of Djiratoua and Guidan Amoumoune have implemented stocks of cereals and legumes using their own resources for an estimated value of 7 594 750 F CFA (about USD 14 388). The 75 women's groups (2544 members) have also mobilized 6 074 730 FCFA (USD 11 358) through regular contributions; about 2 024 910 CFA have been granted in credit.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 2

Although lack of funds prevented the programme from using the WEAI tool to measure the proportion of rural women who were autonomous in controlling their resources, the multiple achievements and the witness accounts gathered during the supervision missions show that increasingly, women targeted are seeing their incomes rise as a result of the combined effects of initiatives conducted by the agencies and their partners. A case in point is that of the women of Madou in the rural municipality of Sokorbé, who claim that proof of the rise in their incomes can be seen in a reduction in the women's rural exodus, as flagged at the general assembly at community level to the joint supervisory team. Having something in hand means having one's own revenue, to use for the benefit of oneself and one's household.⁷

This year, we didn't go to take part in *Haourou polici* in the towns, since most of us had something in hand: a market garden to cultivate, small ruminants to tend for breeding purposes, credit and savings, IGAs etc.

In addition, WFP has injected USD 95,870 to buy food from POs to supply school canteens. All the equipment for reducing workloads has started to generate collective incomes for women and their organizations. It is estimated that the total value of the income generated by the groups through the various activities is USD 16 000, which demonstrates the positive trend towards achievement of this outcome. However, the JP-RWEE programme will need to further strengthen its involvement in the target for local purchases, and increase training for women's organizations to ensure sufficient returns for all these collective initiatives, and refine the tracking system, collection and analysis of quantitative data

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

To achieve this result, the JP-RWEE strengthens the leadership of rural women and their active participation in decision-making bodies within households, organizations and community. Achieving this outcome involves obtaining **the four following outputs:**

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems

Here the challenge is to work to build up rural women's inner strength, so that they can participate in local governance. A number of tools are used, including training, exchange visits and awareness-raising. As a result, the programme planned – and met – the goal of training 160 women leaders in gender-sensitive participatory communication during this period. They went on to train a further 2 400 women from 120 Dimitra Clubs. The activities carried out since the start of the Programme have begun to show results, especially in the municipality of Falwel, as illustrated by the case study in this Box:

“We want to move ahead because we are very confident in our abilities. For this reason, we have decided to transform our Club into a formal producer organization. And that's what we have done. I was elected as Chair of the PO which resulted from this process. We then decided to join the Union at municipal level, (Madda Ben) and during the renewal of the Board I was elected to a position of responsibility. I am currently the treasurer of the Union of producer organizations, and in the name of my fellow sisters, who elected me, I play an active role in the institution's decision-making.” - Hadiza Seyni, leader of the Dimitra Club/Falwel. Source AEDL report

⁷ Haourou polici (Zarma expression: Haourou = food; polici = the police. This expression is used in a pejorative sense to describe the exodus of rural women, who, once in town, exchange their labour for leftover food).

Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions

This output is expected as a result of the combined effects of support to the Dimitra Clubs (conducted by FAO in partnership with AEDL); capacity-strengthening sessions for POs (conducted by FAO in collaboration with DAC/POR), set-up and training of women's groups, and training in organizational life (*vie associative*) (conducted by UN Women, in partnership with NGO DIKO).

During this period, 75 organizations, accounting for a total of 2 544 members, were set up and 167 POs (in the municipalities of Falwel (25), Sokorbé (43) Djirataoua (40) and Guidan Amoumoune (59), representing 5 397 members, including 4 277 women, were strengthened in three main themed areas: "procedures for creating a producer organization and operating rules", with the submodules "registration process under the Uniform Act of OHADA which governs cooperative societies"; "governance and equity within POs"; "participation of women and POs in spaces and platforms for dialogue." Although the overall goal has been met in line with forecasts, not all the activities have been completed: two training sessions on governance and equity are due to be held before April 2018 in the two municipalities (Guidan Amoumoune and Sokorbé).

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 involved supporting the networking of rural communities and their organizations, through participatory communication, access to information, training POs of APEX level, supporting the celebrations of October 15 (Rural Women International Day) and providing support to rural women for conducting their advocacy initiatives. It was planned to train six (6) POs of APEX level; three (3) of them including 2 unions (Madda Ben and Kada Naka) and 1 federation (SA'A) have been trained. The process is under way for the other three. The JP-RWEE programme has also supported the organization of the International Day of Rural Women in Elkokia, in the rural municipality of Djirataoua. Not only did the women use the event to advocate for their daily workloads to be reduced; they also took advantage of the opportunity to display samples of their products. Several personalities took part in this event including the DSG of the MoAW/PC, the DSG of the MoA/L, the Adviser to the High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative, the Deputy Representative of FAO, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Governorate of Maradi, the head of the WFP Sub Office of Maradi, as well as regional directors, departmental and communal. The HCI3N Advisor made a presentation on the Investment Fund for Food and Nutritional Security (FISAN) and other opportunities for farmers and their organizations. More than 1,500 people (900 women and girls; 600 men and boys) from Maradi and Niamey regions took part in the event.

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

During 2017, it was decided that support should continue to be provided to the Dimitra Clubs and initiatives organised to promote rural women's rights.

In the course of the year, the 120 Dimitra Clubs of the 20 villages in the 4 rural municipalities (Djirataoua, Falwel, Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune) were supported and accompanied by the facilitators of NGO AEDL. In total, 3 600 members, including 2 400 women, received this support in the 20 villages targeted by the programme. The support enabled the women, and especially the younger ones, to improve their capacities for analysis, deliberation, speaking in public and decision-making during village assemblies. By developing the capacities of women and young people, these were able to engage in decision-making within community institutions. The launch of the networking process for the Dimitra Clubs in the rural municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua offers evidence of the new decision-making capacities developed by Dimitra Clubs' members, as demonstrated in the following quote:

“Today, I am even more heartened by my election to lead the municipal office of the Dimitra Clubs in the five villages of the Joint Programme for the municipality of Falwel, which has given me the opportunity for the first time to hold discussions with the municipal authorities about the activities conducted by the Dimitra Clubs.” Mrs Aissa Sina from Téhoizé koira- rural municipality of Falwel.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 3

The joint work on women and girls, has brought the proportion of POS and/or informal groups headed by women from 74% to 77% (from 124 to 130 on the 167 POS framed), the attendance rate of girls through school canteens increased from 91% to 93% and 12 000 FCFA quarterly study grants were distributed to motivate the girls from very poor households to continue their secondary education,. This year, 340 girls have benefited from these awards. Girls are sensitized on nutrition, as future mothers, and on their rights and life skills. Because of lack of resources, all land base commissions (COFOB) could not be set up or supported and it was not possible either to assess the proportion of self-employed rural women and leadership as measured by WEAI tools. However, the changes observed reveal a positive trend towards results expected. Impact evaluations under way will provide more quantitative evidence.

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

The objective is to help and develop a more gender sensitive policy environment, which is conducive to the promotion of rural women’s economic empowerment, and makes tools available for this purpose. For this reason, the original programme design provided for the capacity-strengthening of parliamentarians and political decision-makers, to enable them to integrate the gender approach into their strategies, policies and budgets for participatory land access, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment. The next step will involve advocacy with institutions to use the gender empowerment measurement tool in the agriculture sector. To achieve this, the following two outcomes have been identified:

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.

During 2017, the national gender policy developed in 2008 was revised to take into account issues of climate change, migration, peace and security. The JP-RWEE programme has made a technical contribution to this process. A plan of action 2018-2022 for implementing this revised national policy is currently being developed. The JP-RWEE programme is contributing to the plan through its activities and good practices. In addition, the National Programme Coordinator has facilitated a validation workshop for the Niger National Strategy for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Niger, finalizing the document at the request of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children.

At the request of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, the JP-RWEE programme has offered technical support and a financial contribution of USD 6 808 towards the preparation of the 62nd session of the CSW, which this year takes the theme of ‘Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.’

At national level, although the budget allocated to the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children has seen a rise this year, it still remains as 0.01% of the national budget, as it was last year. It is also noted that the focal point of the HCI3N has enriched the planning of this institution by adding JP-RWEE activities.

Output 4.2: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional and global policy processes. /Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

To achieve this output it is planned to use a two-pronged approach: (i) application of the WEAI tool, with a view to reach the ownership of this tool by the team and its application at national level, and (ii) capacity-strengthening for women and POs, technical services and partner NGOs. Two discussion sessions were planned and subsequently held to foster the participation of 24 women and POs in spaces and platforms for dialogue related to rural development. Special attention was paid to the participation of women in: community-based land commissions (COFOB), community early warning and emergency response systems (SCAP/RU); the observatory for monitoring vulnerability (OSV), Associations of Teaching Mothers (AME), the pupils' parents' association (APE); the management committee of the “Maison du paysan”, the rural markets management committee; the cereal banks and livestock feed banks management committee; and the local water point management committee. The Dimitra Clubs were used to relay the discussions. In addition, 44 technicians were trained, including 12 from NGOs (4 of them women); 28 local authority technical services (6 women); 4 town halls (1 woman) to support POs (gender, governance, equity, platform for dialogue, OHADA law, etc.) in access to information, and services for their empowerment, in order to facilitate the monitoring and measuring of progress achieved. After receiving training in procedures for setting in place the Uniform Act of OHADA, Mr. Boube Boukata, Secretary General of the municipality of Falwel, commented:

As a representative of the town hall, and more precisely of the rural municipality of Falwel, the training on the Uniform Act relating to Cooperatives Companies Law (OHADA) offered valuable clarification on a number of points, including the restructuring and reorganization of POs, the size and mandate of the management committee and the supervisory committee, the method for electing members of the board of directors and of delivering the instruments of registration for POs, and the time involved. On my return, I will be sure to pass on what I have learned during this training, especially to the municipal authorities responsible for delivering the instruments of registration for POs, who previously created difficulties. But now, with this training, the municipal authorities will be able to deliver the instruments of registration for POs in the correct timeframe, and following all the procedures.

SG of the Town Hall of Falwel, after the Trainer of Trainer session on procedures for the launch of and operating rules of a producer organization in accordance with the Uniform Act relating to Cooperatives Companies Law (OHADA)

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 4

This year there has important progress towards Outcome 4.

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

Delays in implementation involved the following activities:

Processing kits for agricultural products, the main problem behind the delay was caused by inadequate funds to implement the initiative. IFAD allocated own resources for a total of USD 39 000 to be able to implement this activity as soon as possible.

Evaluation of the impact of activities to reduce workloads, this delay is due to the long process of validating the TOR at the regional bureau of UN Women.

The main challenges identified for the period are the following:

At strategic level, the key challenge is the high turnover of government respondents for the programme: for example 4 (**DSG of MoAW/PC**: The Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child; the two DSG of Maradi and Dosso, the SG of MoA/L) out of 6 members (only the SG of the HI3N and the National Director of economic empowerment has remained) of the Steering Committee have changed portfolios twice in three years. To address this challenge, it was agreed to create a soft tutorial package for the programme and to give greater responsibility to the focal points in the Technical Committee to ensure that information is shared.

- **At operational level:**

Regarding the initiative for small ruminant kits, the challenge remains that of managing rotation for the new municipalities and crossbreeding. Challenges include:

Significant crossbreeding in young goats born in Mallam Koira due to the sale of almost all the male red-haired goats received and crossbreeding between the promoted red race and local race.

- Lighter crossbreeding in young goats born in the other four villages of Falwel due to the fact that the male goats were shared within the community (1 male red-haired goat for 5 beneficiaries, with a total of 10 goats received) ;
- Mortality of goats distributed in the months following distribution.
To address these challenges, it was proposed to:
 - buy back the red-haired male goats in Mallam Koira, with the 109 200 FCFA available from the group fund;
 - capitalize on different similar experiences of actors regarding the rotation of animals;
 - distributing a male goat to each beneficiary has resolved the problem of crossbreeding in the new municipalities of Guidan Amoumoune and Sokorbé;
 - The departmental services, working together with AREN and ASADI and the participation of relevant stakeholders, have managed to reduce mortalities significantly.

The level of structuring of producer organizations has enabled various members to launch activities for social protection, such as storing cereals in preparation for the hungry season. Also, joint supervision missions and exchange meetings with the partners have highlighted the strengths and areas for improvement, and made the following recommendations:

For communities:

- ✓ Strengthen the district (communal) networks of Dimitra Clubs so as to ensure sustainability of action
- ✓ Include the Dimitra Clubs in discussions on issues of stewardship/management of community equipment

For technical services (TS)

- ✓ Create a mailing list of technical services to facilitate sharing of information/reports
- ✓ Strengthen monitoring and close supervision of actions that have a positive impact to ensure sustainability of results, including technical monitoring of technical services
- ✓ Contribute to discussions on improving rotation of small ruminant kits

For partner NGOs

- ✓ Strengthen monitoring and close support in relation with actions that have a positive impact to ensure sustainability of results, including technical monitoring of technical services
- ✓ Contribute to discussions on improving rotation of small ruminant kits
- ✓ Strengthen awareness-raising for improved intra-household dialogue
- ✓ Share reports with TS and involve them in implementation

For coordination

- ✓ Conduct a study to capitalize the achievements of the Joint Programme

For the agencies: Accelerate disbursements

For the MPF/PE

- ✓ Institutionalize the International Day of Rural Women
- **Qualitative assessment:** Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Programme. 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 impact evaluation of activities to reduce workloads is under way. In addition, the Dimitra programme has carried out an impact study that includes the RWEE area, and whose results will be available in April 2018.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<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 in agricultural production (plant production PP) and animal production (AP) of women farmers Baseline: 0 Planned Target: TBD	PV: groundnut:124,47%; cowpeas: 64,25%; et sesame seeds:20% PA : 55,19%	RAS	IFAD report /data from NGG Himma (PP), AREN and ASADI (AP) with technical support of MoA in regional level
Indicator: household dietary diversity score (HDDS) - (% increase from baseline) Baseline: Falwel 2015-2016: HDDS= 3.8 et Djirataoua 2016-2017: HDDS= 4,10 Planned Target: 5 or 6	Falwel SDA= 5 Djirataoua: nutrition education is underway evaluation in Avril 2018	No gap compared to forecasts to Falwel, but as requested by women, recycling is ongoing. For Djirataoua, nutrition education is underway also.	FAO reports / baseline data and evaluation of nutritional education conducted by CRESA at Falwel and Djirataoua
Output 1.1. <i>Les femmes rurales ont un accès accru aux ressources, actifs et services essentiels à leur sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle</i>			
Indicator 1.1.1. Number of women who have access to information and participatory communication Baseline: 24 Planned Target: 2400 femmes	2400 women directly and 12 000 women indirectly in Sokorbé, Falwel, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune	Work in progress according to plan	<i>FAO Report</i>
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of women who adopted improved nutrition practices Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 600 Fawel +600 Djirataoua=1200	1200 femmes des communes de Falwel et Djirataoua	Work in progress as planned	<i>FAO Report</i>
Indicator 1.1.3 : Number of women who have adopted/improved agricultural techniques Baseline:0 Planned Target: 1425 (dont FIDA 1300+FAO 125)	1206 (IFAD) +95 (FAO)= 1301 women of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua et Guidan Amoumoune	Some Famers fields school have not worked and the rotation of the animals was not effective in Falwel	FAO and IFAD report Reports of FAO and WFP
Indicator 1.1. Number of women who have access to integrated service <i>Nutritional Education + FFS+ schools canteens</i> Baseline: 256 Planned Target: 3600	1800 (FAO) +410 WFP =2210	support in small ruminants is underway in school canteens; the gap will be filled by April	
Indicator 1.1.5 : Number of rural /womens/women's groups accessing credit in VSLA groups Baseline: 256 women of 16 groups of Falwel concil Planned Target: TBD	2800 women of 15 villages in Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune	As access to credit is voluntary and depends on the ability of women to exercise the IGA, a target has not been determined in advance	UNWOMEN REPORT
Indicator 1.2.2. Mode of access to the land affected by the program and the number of women accessing this mode Baseline: On a sample of 996 women surveyed to Djirataoua: 563par heritage; 275 by purchase; 96 by gage; 61 by rental, 105 by the loan, and 215 by donation Planned Target: all the beneficiaries of improved seeds	Loan is the mode of access to land, the most used in the area of intervention. The activities of the programme allowed 1085 women to access to land by this mode for cultivate 26 collective fields, 9 gardens collective gardener, in 10 villages of Djirataoua, guidan Amoumoune, Falwel and Sokorbe; 105 women have accessed per rental (10000CFAF/ha /USD 200/ha) in the council of Djirataoua. The total number of women who accessed to land is 1399	There is no GAP; all women have access to land to grow when they want. It is the possession of the land that is variously appreciated according to Council; for example, at Sokorbe and Falwel, women do not inherit land; but on Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune, they inherit. ; The purchase is more frequent in the targeted villages in the region of Maradi.	supervisions data collected by /FAO and IFAD
Output 1.2 <i>Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</i>			
Indicator 1.2.1. Number of women with access to innovative technologies Baseline:150 Planned Target: 14 705 beneficiaries of the platforms and kits for processing agro pastoral products	14705	The overall target is reached but the distribution of the kits of transformation by IFAD is not yet completed, as the beneficiaries of these kits are part of the beneficiaries of the platforms, the overall target is reached	IFAD and UNWOMEN reports

<p>Indicator 1.2.2 : Number of women who control local food security reserves Baseline:150 Planned Target: 14 705 beneficiaries of the platforms and kits for processing agro pastoral products</p>	14705	RAS	UNWOMEN report
<p>Indicator 1.2.2 Amount of own stocks mobilized by women members of the PO Baseline: 0 Planned Target : TBD</p>	Millet : 295 bags of 100 Kg ; cowpeas: 9,5 bags of 100 Kg ; groundnut : 5 bags of de 25 Kg ; tigernut: 5 bags of 100 Kg	It's the stocks mobilized on own funds, different from their individual production.	Report of FAO and UNWOMEN
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased incomes to secure their livelihoods			
<p>Indicator: Variation of women/ women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% of baseline) Baseline:83090,65 Planned Target: TBD</p>	15,38%%= (USD; 4946 USD for women and a total of 12779,34 USD)	The purchase price of grain is fixed according to government decision, which also depends on the success of the crop year. For this a goal has not been predefined.	WFP Report
<p>Indicator: Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (control over use of income) Baseline: Planned Target: TBD</p>	End line with WEAI tools will be done if additional resources	WEAI end line report	IFAD Report
Output 2.1: Rural women have improved their entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets with their products			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1. number of women's POs or mixed POs (with women in decision-making positions) that participate in the purchasing programme in the service of the progress of WFP Baseline:0 Planned Target: 1692 women and t 1475 men</p>	1376 women and 618 men of tree union of POs	The Gap is due to the fact that Union Madda of Falwel has not sold to WFP last campaign.	WFP Report
<p>Indicator 2.1.2. Number of women of formal and informal groups/POs who received training on entrepreneurship and improvement of agricultural techniques. Baseline: 0 Planned Target:600</p>	A training of trainers was conducted for 85 women	They are trying to replicate the cascade training. The cascade training underway	WFP Report
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities			
<p>Indicator 2.2.2. . Evidence of alleviation of the burden of rural women's work Baseline: Planned Target: 6500</p>	9 PTFM repaired, 75 donkey carts distributed, several pulleys installed on the community well.	The process is ongoing and will be confirmed by the impact assessment of the MFPP on the lives of women, men and children whose process is not completed	Mission of raising awareness of members of the OP + report UNWOMEN
<p>Indicator 2.2.3 Number of rural women who initiated income generating activities Baseline: 90 Planned Target : 1000</p>	643 women +90 women =733 women	The process is going on the ground and targeted women 1000 will be achieved by April 2018	Rapport ONUFEMMES et ONG Diko
<p>Indicateur 2.2.4. Value of the stock mobilized by women on their own resources Baseline: 0 Planned Target: TBD</p>	7 594 750 Franc CFA / USD 14 388	NA	Report of FAO and UNWOMEN + NGO Diko

<p>Indicateur 2.2.5. Montant de l'épargne mobilisée par les femmes à travers les caisses d'épargne et crédit : Baseline: 0 Planned Target : TBD</p>	6074730 FCFA= USD 11 358	NA	It's the savings mobilized through credit and savings groups - UNWOMEN reports
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced their leadership and participation skills in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p>			
<p>Indicator: 3.1: % of rural women Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.2. % of rural women who are members of land committees Baseline: 10% (18 women) Planned Target: 22% (40 women)</p> <p>Indicator: 3.3 Number/Percentage of Producers Organisations led by women Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80%</p> <p>Indicator: 3.4 Preuves/évidence d'une amélioration du pouvoir de décision de la femme rurale au sein des ménages, organisations et communautés Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 communes intervention du programme RWEE</p>	<p>If WEAI end line report</p> <p>15% (28 women of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune)</p> <p>130 out of 167 PO, i.e. 77.84% from Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune</p> <p>Qualitative data has been collected witch shown the improvement of the access of women to decision making in several villages in the joint supervision. Impact studies will give more results</p>	<p>Not yet available</p> <p>The gap is due to the fact that setting up of the commissions of base in 6 villages is not yet effective</p> <p>The process is going on, not only in the creation of female POS, but also in building the capacity of women and men for the participation of women in governing bodies of OP, the Gap will be filled by April 2018</p> <p>NA ; ongoing studies will give an estimate of the proportion</p>	<p>IFAD WEAI end line report</p> <p>FAO Report + IFAD Report</p> <p>Report of FAO and UNWOMEN</p> <p>Report of FAO and UNWOMEN + technique technical committee joint supervision reports</p>
<p>Indicator 3.4. Increase in the attendance rate of girls through school canteens Baseline: 91% Planned Target: 98%</p>	93%	This is the global average rate in the 2 regions, in the municipalities of the project intervention rates can exceed that	WFP Report
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including girls, have improved their self-confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1. Number of rural women who were trained in participatory communication and women's leadership Baseline: Planned Target: 160</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2. Evidence of improved self-confidence and self-esteem of rural women (ex : stories of women who were elected in rural councils and/or in a leadership position in a PO; formal participation of women in village assemblies, etc. Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.1.3. Number /Proportion of rural women/girls enrolled in literacy courses Baseline: Planned Target: 275</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.4. Number of rural girls from school canteens who received a scholarship to continue secondary Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 277</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.4: Number of members of the informal groups of women who received formal training in gender, participatory communication, good governance and leadership.</p>	<p>160 women leaders are trained and have trained some 2,400 women members of the 120 DIMITRA Clubs</p> <p>Quote in the text ; story in annex</p> <p>121</p> <p>340 girls from secondary schools have received a school grant of 12,000 FCFA every three months</p> <p>120 women leaders from the 4 Districts of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune have trained the members of the clubs</p>	<p>RAS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>Out of 275 women enrolled, 121 have achieved 3 and 4 levels and can read and write.</p> <p>We've reached more than what has been identified as the start. It is ' was performance criteria for the girl to be eligible for the scholarship, these criteria have subsequently removed</p> <p>the 40 will be formed by end April 2018</p>	<p>FAO Report</p> <p>Reports of the agencies FAO, IFAD, WFP thrive and joint supervision reports</p> <p>UNWOMEN Report</p> <p>WFP Report</p> <p>FAO Report</p>

Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 160			
Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to create, maintain and participate in producer organizations, cooperatives and unions			
Indicator 3.2.1. Number of men and women POs that were strengthened Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 181 POs	167 POs from Districts of Falwel (25), Sokorbé (43) Djirataoua (40) and Guidan Amoumoune (59) regrouping 5397 members (4277 women)	There are two training sessions to organize by April 2018 according to the planning	Training report of FAO
Indicator 3.2.2: Number of rural women from POs who received training in gender, good governance and efficiency Baseline:0 Planned Target: 208 members of 167 PO from 4 districts of intervention of the JP- RWEE	<i>34 women members from 67 PO from the districts of Falwel and Djirataoua have benefitted from training on governance and performance in POs during 3 training sessions for 79 participants. The 34 women trainees have then trained 1549 women.</i>	The strengthening of POs and the ongoing process	<i>FAO Report</i>
Indicator 3.2.3. Tangible evidence of rural women who have increased their capacities to organize and collectively intervene at community level Baseline: 0 Planned Target: women from the 4 districts of intervention of the JP RWEE	<i>See quotes on Falwel</i>	NA	<i>FAO Report</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			
Indicator 3.3.1: Number of POS at apex level trained in gender and equity, Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6 PO at the apex level	3 OP on apex level in witch(2 unions (Madda Ben et Kada Naka) and 1 federation (SA'A)	Strengthening continuous, objective will be reached by April 2018	<i>FAO Report</i>
Indicator 3.3.2. Evidence of an improvement in the decision-making power of rural women within the household, organizations and communities Baseline: Planned Target:	See testimonies in the annex	NA	Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation
Indicator 3.3.4. Number of advocacy efforts initiated by rural women 15 October Baseline: 0 Planned Target6	2 advocacy initiatives conducted supported by local authorities by Falwel and Djirataoua councils in 2016 and 2017 of the rural women's day editions.	The Gap will be filled by 2018 because all municipalities have committed to commemorate October 15 in 2018	Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation
Indicator 3.3.4. ownership of the commemoration of the 15 October by the Ministry for the advancement of women and the Protection of the child (reduction in the number of JIFR the commemoration coordinated through the RWEE staff Baseline:0 Planned Target : 2 in 2017 et 0 from 2018	2- the RWEEJP team has coordinated the Organization of the 2016 edition; has organized the edition of 2017 with technical ministries, will leave the institutionalization to MPF/PE	The goal is ownership by the Government so that October 15 is the beach for rural women for their advocacy efforts	Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation
Output 3.4: Rural women, included young women, are more aware of their rights in an enabling community/local environment			
Indicator 3.4.1 Number of women participating in the Dimitra Clubs Dimitra Baseline: Planned Target:2400	2400 women et 1200 men of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua et Guidan Amoumoune	RAS: target achieved.	Report of activities of the NGO AEDL and supervision missions report
Indicator 3.4.2. Number of villages/communities that have integrated the approach of the Clubs Dimitra (ownership) Baseline: 0 Planned Target:20	20 villages from the Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune districts	RAS: building continues in 20 villages with Exchange visits	Report of activities of the NGO AEDL and supervision missions reports
Indicator 3.4.2. Number of networks of young members of DIMITRA Clubs set up and framed for sustainability achievements Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 districts networks	2 district networks in Falwel and Djirataoua	The process is committed to the other two councils and will be completed by end of 2018	<i>FAO Report</i>
Outcome 4: A more gender-sensitive policy environment is promoted to guarantee rural women's economic empowerment			

<p>Indicator: Percentage of the municipal budget allocated to programs that benefit to empowerment of rural women in the targeted councils <i>Baseline: 12%</i> Planned Target: 30%</p> <p>Indicator: Percentage of the national Budget allocated to the Ministère de la promotion de la Femme et de la protection de l'enfant <i>Baseline: 0,01%</i> Planned Target: TBD</p>	<p>10,5%</p> <p>0,01%</p>	<p>The average in the 4councils showed a decline in the percentage of the budget allocated to the empowerment of women because of the closing of some projects , and the reduction in the budget of the RWEE of 700000USD to 400000USD</p> <p>The total has increased, but did not affected the percentage of the overall budget, which also increased</p>	<p>Report on budget implementation of Councils</p> <p>Follow-up report of the Directorate of studies and programming of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child</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. Extent to which the implementation plan of the revised National Gender Policy integrates JPRWEE activities <i>Baseline: There is a National gender policy revised 2017</i> Planned Target: Taking into account of actions and good practices of the JP-RWEE in at least these two national documents</p>	<p>The national gender policy has been revised, all agencies have contributed. The National Coordinator has facilitated the process for the development of the national strategy of economic empowerment of women in Niger and is currently integrating the JP-RWEE actions in the plan of implementation of the national policy such revised</p>	<p>RAS Follow up to ensure the effective inclusion of the proposals in the validated version</p>	<p>The validated documents of implementation of PNG validated and strategy action plan</p>
<p>Output 4.2: 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 POs <i>Baseline:8</i> Planned Target:20</p>	<p>17 cadres et plateformes répertorié au niveau régional, départemental et communal</p>	<p>The training process is underway</p>	<p>Report of FAO and UNWOMEN</p>
<p>Indicator 4.3.2: Number of session of thematic debate organized to stimulate the participation of women and the OP in the spaces and dialogue platforms <i>Baseline: 0</i> Planned Target:4</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Les autres seront organisées avant avril 2018</p>	<p>FAO Report</p>
<p>Indicator 4.3.3. Number of technicians, technical services and NGOs trained to support the OP (gender, governance, equity, dialogue platform, law OHADA etc.) <i>Baseline:8</i> Planned Target:20</p>	<p>45 in witch 12 ONG (4 women);28 ST (6 women);4 local authority(1 women); 1 Projet</p>	<p>The training process is underway</p>	<p>FAO Report</p>

iii) A specific story “My life has changed”

Biba Mamoudou is a woman living in the village of Kokoukou (rural municipality of Falwel). She is 25 years-old and the mother of 6 children (4 boys and 2 girls).

She was born into a polygamous family, and when her father died, she inherited neither land nor livestock. Her husband made a living with his farm wage, which enabled him to feed his family with great difficulty. His departure last year has left Biba extremely vulnerable, especially since the community fails to give her any credit.

During a joint supervision mission to follow-up the activities conducted as part of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Niger, Biba decided to share her story.

“The living conditions in our village are very difficult, because in recent years the harvests have not met our expectations. Also, I won’t try to hide the fact that I lead a precarious existence, living each day as it comes. I receive no social support, and the other villagers don’t even let me have credit, due to my very vulnerable position; no one would give me a loan, since I have nothing to prove that I can pay it back. So the JP-RWEE programme has been like manna from heaven for vulnerable people like me. Small ruminant kits have been distributed, and after discussions in the Dimitra Clubs, and taking into account the degree of vulnerability of my household, I was lucky enough to be chosen as a beneficiary. That’s how a kit (two female goats + one male for 5 people) came to be assigned to me, as it was to others. I also receive livestock feed. After a few months, one of the goats gave birth to a male and a female. The second goat had 2 males. They grew bigger and gained weight, and I now have four male goats, as well as the females. I handed over a female to another woman who was on the waiting list. As for myself, from being someone to whom no one would give credit, I have now been able to take out a loan to buy millet during harvest time and I am now ready for the hungry season on a strong footing. I will no longer have to suffer as I did before, together with my children. My 4 male goats have changed my life, giving me honour and the prestige that goes with being solvent. I have noticed that from this moment onwards, people in the community have started to take an interest in me. Indeed, the community now sees me in a different light, treating me as a human being. I would like to say this, that thanks to the joint programme, my life has really changed. My status has changed, and I am nurturing a hope that I will soon become rich with the help of the small ruminant kit that has been assigned to me. The programme deserves its name, because it is giving economic empowerment to rural women.”

Dimitra Clubs combats discrimination against widows

Summary: My name is Maimouna Abdou. I want to tell you a story: “In Malam Koira, the women have decided to take their future into their own hands. Traditionally in the village of Malam Koira, widows have difficulty in remarrying. Given this situation, discussions were held in the Clubs to address the practice, which prevents some members of the community from exercising their right to a decent life. At the end of the debates, and after discussions at the village assembly, the community decided to alleviate the difficulties faced by widows, offering them recognition within society and the right to remarry when the occasion arises. In my opinion, this is a wise decision, which encourages the entire community to offer hope to widows. You see, since that village assembly, widows have remarried in Mallam Koira, and that shows that changes are under way. It is important that women assert their rights.”

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

An evaluation of the 3 years of activities is currently being prepared.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

An overall process to revise programme planning documents to take account of resources available was finalized in the first three months of 2017. Thus, like the other countries, Niger has completed the updating of

its programme document based on its concept note, lessons learned from 2015, and contributions from the national Steering Committee and feedback from the international Technical Advisory Committee. The principal activities targeted and the modifications made related mainly to clarifications regarding the targeting of beneficiaries, the consolidation of gains made, the long-term vision and the strategy for sustainability.

In November 2017, the team received technical support from the international coordinator. The focus was particularly placed on the collection of quantitative data, a review of the MFP table, redrafting some indicators to ensure accuracy, meetings with donors at national level as part of efforts to mobilize resources, and a meeting with the Minister for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children; the SG of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and of the High Commission of the 3N Initiative

V. Coordination mechanisms

Coordination mechanisms were set in place at the end of 2015. These involve a national Steering Committee, a Technical Committee and a National Coordinator. In 2016, a platform for exchange with NGO partners was also launched.

The National Coordinator was recruited on 19 February 2015 to coordinate programme activities, facilitate the circulation of information, ensure greater synergy between implementing stakeholders, and help with the mobilization of resources.

The Technical Committee is made up of technical experts from the four agencies of the United Nations (FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN WOMEN) and from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; a representative of the Directorate for Women's Economic Empowerment at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children; and a representative of the High Commission of the 3N Initiative. Its work involves drawing up a plan of activities and a joint programme budget, ensuring regular monitoring of programme activities, promoting synergy and producing recommendations to stakeholders for achieving objectives. Since November 2015, it has been agreed that meetings should be held monthly. These were therefore held on this basis in 2017, as well as ad hoc meetings to address urgent matters (responses to calls for proposal, preparation of the International Day of Rural Women, etc.) As planned, the committee conducted two joint supervisory missions. Their conclusions are presented as key strengths and areas for improvement.

Key strengths and changes: (i) social cohesion, and hygiene in the various villages of the programme intervention area; (ii) the emergence of a spirit of creativity and local initiative within communities, leading to the acquisition of productive resources (the construction of social infrastructure, purchase or renting of land for community work, such as collective fields or market gardens; (iii) increased self-confidence; (iv) increased attendance of health centres and school in the case of girls; (v) the mobilization of internal resources through contributions from group members and cereal storage. The most striking change this year has been the exponential growth seen in the number of small ruminants distributed to vulnerable people.

Areas for improvement: However, the mission revealed a number of weaknesses, especially regarding:

- ✓ support for managing collective equipment and material;
- ✓ information on local purchases (more attention required for the mechanism aimed at reaching vulnerable people);
- ✓ repairs to multifunctional platforms and school mills, as needed;
- ✓ an end to parallel repairs of platforms by communities and the operator;
- ✓ Closer monitoring of the small ruminant kits.

The National Steering Committee is made up of: 1 Chair: the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; 1st Vice-Chair: Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children; 2nd Vice-Chair: Secretary General of the High Commission of the 3N

Initiative; Director of Women's Economic Empowerment in Niger; a representative of the gender unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; a representative from FAO; a representative from IFAD; a representative from WFP; a representative from UN Women; two representatives of rural women for each municipality.

The committee's main role is to give strategic guidance to the Joint Programme, validate its annual plan for activities and budgets, help in mobilizing resources, increase levels of programme activities being carried out, and drawing up recommendations for their smooth operation. The ordinary meetings of the National Steering Committee are held annually, and as needed. The ordinary meeting for 2016 was held on 7 February 2017 to review progress in activities and validate planning for 2017-2018.

The platform for exchange with NGO partners: This is one of the recommendations made during the annual review 2015. To put it into effect, it was agreed that:

- The objective of the platform for exchange should be “the exchange of mutual experiences and the promotion of synergy”;
- The NGOs should set up a virtual platform for exchange between each other; a mailing list is now being shared for this purpose;
- The NGOs should submit the TORs for this purpose one month before the meeting to clarify expectations regarding the programme;
- The NGOs unanimously appointed Mr Ibrahim Seybou, coordinator of NGO AEDL, as their focal point.

Two annual meetings were agreed upon, coupled with joint supervisory missions, and these were held as planned. The second mission reviewed the degree of implementation of recommendations from the first mission, and drew up the recommendations for different actors: An implementation plan to reflect these recommendations will be set up in 2018.

VI. Resources

Contribution of the agencies to the budget of the Programme

The following table summarizes the contributions of agencies to the budget of the program in support of the staff and cash since the beginning of the program

Total staff contribution JP-RWEE	\$ 588 608,17
Total cash contribution FAO	\$ 60 000,00
Total cash contribution WFP	\$ 3 500,00
IFAD	\$ 2 824,00
UNWOMEN)	\$ 4 500,00
Total cash contribution (other budget lines)	\$ 70 824,00
TOTAL (staff + cash) NIGER	\$ 659 432,17

Actions for mobilizing resources and increasing visibility carried out in 2017

- Response to call for proposal GIP3 of the Peace Building Fund (PBF). The proposal was selected by the country team and shortlisted for the final round of selection at PBF Headquarters; unfortunately, Niger was not selected in 2017.
- Several meetings took place with the following donors: European Union; Spanish Cooperation; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (representation of Japanese Cooperation) in Niger. The table below provides a summary.

Organizations and persons met	Day and time of meeting	Venue of meeting	Final conclusions/actions
Resident Representative for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): Mr Yamagata Shigeo and his assistant Mr Assoumana Abdou	Wednesday 3 May 2017 15h00-16h00	Office of JICA	Funding negotiations are being conducted with the embassy in Abidjan
Mrs Rita Santos Suárez General Coordinator Technical Cooperation Bureau in Niger/ Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID)/Spanish Embassy in Niger	Thursday 4 May 2017 9h00 to 10h00	Technical Cooperation Bureau of Spanish Cooperation in Niger	To weave synergies within the network supported by the Spanish Cooperation by contacting the technical assistant based at the Godiya Women's Centre in Maradi renovated by the Spanish Cooperation; From this summer, the Spanish Cooperation will submit to Madrid programme proposals for 2018; prepare and retain the contact so as to have proposals for submission.
USAID team and MCC	Thursday 4 May 2017 10h30 to 11h30	USAID	Pay regular visits to the USAID website to see opportunities and calls for proposal to respond to.
Mrs Wahid Hamidou Illa gender focal point and Mr Ali Bety Commissioner with responsibility for Rural Development at the French Development Agency	Wednesday 3 May 2017 10h 00 to 11h00	AFD Bureau	Lagging behind in relation to gender issues. In the process of including it in overall programming.
M. Basile Sallustio, Attaché for the European Union Delegation at the Republic of Niger and Mrs DUBAND Agnès/Rural Development European Union Delegation in Niger	Thursday 4 May 2017 15h00-16h00	EU headquarters	The biggest opportunity was the 11th EDF, now closed. Consult national and international delegation websites to see opportunities for calls for proposal.
HE The Ambassador of Italy Marco Prencipe	Friday 5 May 2017 15h00-16h00	Hôtel Gaweye	Women's empowerment and jobs for young people are among priorities; it would be useful to visit Ms. Valentina at the bureau of multilateral cooperation.
Mr Eric Dietz, Head of bureau of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation	Friday 12 May 2017 10h30 to 12h00	Lux Dev Bureau in Niamey	In Niger, as part of the multilateral budget, Luxembourg is in advanced discussions with UNDP to support the SNU joint programme known as the <i>communes de convergence</i> (coming together in local municipalities) approach, for which FAO and WFP are the implementing agencies. At this stage, the request is for synergies between programmes rather than new funding, since resources are limited.
OTC-AECID: Mrs Rita Santos, Coordinator; Mrs Susana Cámara, Head of Programmes. Support for Local Development - ADL: Mr Lassina OUATTARA. CIDEAL Foundation: Mr Aitor Martinez de Ayala, Country delegate	Several meetings between January and November 2017	FAO and Bureau of Spanish Cooperation	Cultivating complementarity between the JP-RWEE Programme and the programme for women's empowerment being developed by Spanish NGO the CIDEAL Foundation (in partnership with NGO ADL in Niger) to develop entrepreneurship in women and strengthen governance.
General comments: all the donors raised the issue of demographics, which present opportunities. It would be interesting to take account of these in the concept notes to be developed.			