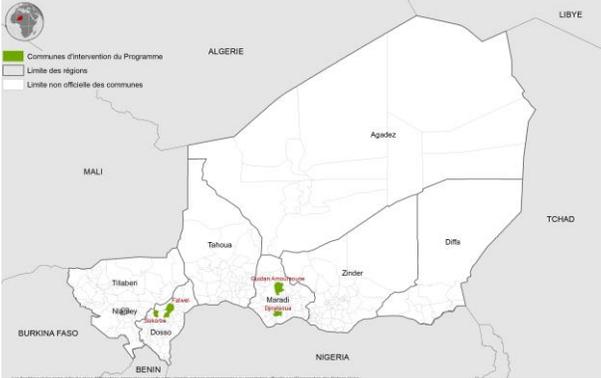




**UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP**



**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2018**

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													
<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b>			<b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Beneficiaries</b>																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>Niger</i></li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference 00092005:<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> 			<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>Loga</td> <td>Falwel</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <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 Sokorbe</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																	
<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>			<b>Acteurs impliqués dans la mise en œuvre</b>																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO</li> <li>IFAD</li> <li>UN WOMEN</li> <li>WFP</li> </ul>			<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; KAIDIYA ; KUNDJI FONDO ; DIKO; AREN ; ASADI, INRAN</p>																
<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>			<b>Programme Duration</b>																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency</li> <li>Agency Contribution; <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> <li>Government Contribution: Not applicable</li> <li>Other Contributions (donors)<i>if applicable</i></li> </ul> <p><b>TOTAL: 2388257 USD (see full information on p.22)</b></p>			<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS Start Date : 15 10 2012 Original End Date : 31 12 2018</p>																
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b>			<b>Report Submitted By</b>																
<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 – <i>if applicable 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"> <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> 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

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

**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

**RBA**: Rome Based Agencies

**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

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Program entitled "Joint Program on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women - JP-RWEE" is a joint initiative of UN-Women and the three UN agencies based in Rome / RBA. It is piloted in seven countries and aims to create synergies from the mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength of each of the four agencies to support national governments' efforts for women's empowerment and food and nutrition security.

In Niger, this programme launched its activities in April 2015 in the rural municipality of Falwel. As resources became available, it was gradually rolled out to cover target villages in the rural municipalities of Djirataoua, Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune. The JP-RWEE is currently being implemented in 20 villages within the four (4) municipalities. The four agencies conduct their activities in synergy, reaching the same target groups, who total around sixteen thousand (16 000) direct beneficiaries, including 14 700 women and girls and 1 300 men and boys, with 25 609 indirect beneficiaries, including 17 041 women and girls. The target in 2018 remained the same as that in 2017, due to the need for reinforcing the acquired skills.

In line with planning, from January to December 2018 the programme consolidated previous gains by strengthening training and monitoring for the 120 Dimitra Clubs, the four (4) municipal networks of Dimitra Clubs, the 450 women recipients of small ruminant kits (distributed in 2016 and 2017), and for the 105 savings and credit groups. Processes that remained none completed in 2017, were finalized, particularly nutritional education in Djirataoua and its evaluation, and the impact study on the lightening women's workloads component. The process of purchasing kits for processing agricultural products was relaunched following the additional 39 000 supplementary kits acquired in 2017.

Achievements include:

- Four sessions of training of trainers organized for producers' organizations (POs);
- Improved seeds distributed to 1 000 women;
- Voucher-based local purchases used to supply school canteens;
- Process launched for conducting a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) baseline study and dietary diversity score in Guidan Amoumoune;
- Joint monitoring and evaluation activities executed by holding monthly meetings of the technical committee and the annual meeting of the steering committee.

In addition, the programme team contributed to overall efforts to develop a work plan and budget for the period of July 2018-December 2019. The budgetary allocation of USD 800 000 received in 2018 brings the budget acquired through funding from Sweden and Norway to USD 3 188 257, out of the USD 5 116 257 sought, as noted in the overall project document.

The team also participated in preparing and organizing the visit of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, accompanied by the Executive Director of UN Women and Sweden is Minister of Foreign Affairs, and contributed to a parallel event organized on the sidelines of the CFS. In addition, it supported the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in organizing the 2018 Edition of the International Day of Rural Women.

## 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) The five-year Action Plan 2018-2022 for implementation of the national strategy for the economic empowerment of women in Niger (SNAEF); the Joint Programme JP-RWEE contributes to implementation of Programmes 1 and 2, outcome 1<sup>2</sup>, as well as to Programme 1, outcome 2;
- ii) The *communes de convergence (coming together in local municipalities)* approach of the 3N Initiative (Nigériens feed Nigériens). 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.
- iii) The programme is also aligned with the three strategic results of the UNDAF Niger 2019-2022: **SR3-Social development and protection; SR2-Governance, peace and security; and SR1-Resilience**, and more specifically to outcomes (1), (3) and (5) which are **Outcome 1**. By 2021, the targeted rural populations will have access to innovative value chains, capable of creating decent jobs; will participate in mechanisms for the prevention and management of food and nutrition crises and disasters and sustainable natural resource and energy management adapted to the effects of climate change. **Outcome 3**. By 2021, women and youth/adolescents from the target areas will benefit from viable economic opportunities, acquire the skills and aptitudes required for their empowerment, and participate in the decision-making process and in promoting practices aimed at ending gender-based inequalities and violence, including child marriage. **Outcome 5**. By 2021, populations in the target areas, especially women, children and adolescents, will make equitable use of quality services for the care of health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation services.

The JP-RWEE in Niger is an innovative example of a results-based development intervention, in that:

- The four United Nations agencies work together in the same villages of the four municipalities in the regions of Maradi and Dosso, implementing activities that are linked to their expertise.

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<sup>2</sup>Outcome 1: Women enjoy a sociocultural, economic, political and judicial environment that is favourable to economic empowerment.

Programme 1: Strengthening of a sociocultural, economic, political and judicial context that is favourable to women’s economic empowerment.

Programme 2: Strengthening the knowledge and aptitudes of women and their organizations.

Outcome 2: Women enjoy rights that guarantee their access and control over production resources and their participation in jobs and markets.

Programme 1: Strengthening access and control over resources for production, processing and conservation, and access to markets for women.

- The willingness to ‘leave no one behind’ is central to this programme. That is why the gender- sensitive, participatory approach of the FAO Dimitra Clubs was chosen as an entry point for all activities in the field. The clubs ensure transparency and good governance for the project and strengthen gender equality, community mobilization and the meaningful participation of rural communities.
- Using a holistic and balanced approach, the programme activities reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), while strengthening social cohesion.

## II. Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

The results and changes obtained for 2018 are outlined according to the indicators, classified by the outcome sought.

#### Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

The objective is to facilitate improved access to resources, assets and the basic essential services for the food and nutrition security of women living in rural areas, and to strengthen their capacities, to give them greater control over their production and local food security stocks. To move towards this intermediary objective, two outputs are outlined below:

#### 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 for the men and women targeted is assured by FAO, together with NGO AEDL, through the 120 Dimitra Clubs, which have a total of 3 600 members, including 2 400 women and girls (and 1 200 men and boys). During 2018, the clubs strengthened members’ access to information and their participation in decision-making that affects community life. In this context, the clubs have strengthened their skills in analysing problems and identifying solutions, and have played a vital coordinating role in sharing information beyond the clubs, especially on topics such as nutritional education, food storage and conservation, local purchases, etc. In an FAO-funded impact study, some Dimitra Clubs targeted by the RWEE expressed the view that the clubs’ community mobilization and collective action were responsible for the impact on improved health, lighter workloads for women and social inclusion (see below for comments made by members of the women’s Club in Malam Koira):

*Life in our clubs has brought great changes for us and much relief. We have understood many things to improve our health. Even women who are not part of the club benefit from the club’s advantage, because they are kept informed about everything that the others are doing; they also see the changes in the other women, and then copy them. (...) ...*

(Old Women’s Club, Malam Koira)

Source: “FAO Dimitra Clubs in Niger: an Impact Study” /Version 2.1/ Sabrina Aguiari, PhD/ January 2019 P.5

In partnership with NGO Diko, UN Women has the responsibility for setting up and training women’s groups. Strengthened training of women’s groups has enabled 2 973 women members to access internal loans distributed by 105 groups operating savings and credit services. The credit is mainly used for conducting individual and collective income generating activities.

IFAD, in partnership with NGO AREN (for the municipalities of Falwel and Sokorbé) and NGO SADI (for Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune), has handled monitoring of the small ruminant kits distributed in 2016 and

2017, and strengthening the capacities of beneficiaries. As a reminder, in 2016, 770 goats + 52.5 tonnes of livestock feed were distributed to 350 vulnerable women in the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua, and in 2017, 300 small ruminants and 15 tonnes of livestock feed were distributed to 100 vulnerable women in 10 villages in the municipalities of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune. The redistribution cycle began at the end of 2017, and continued in 2018, alongside the sale of male ruminants to fund household needs. This process led to 256 other women benefiting in the municipalities of Falwel and Djirataoua, making 706 women holding 1 349 goats. Up until April 2018, strengthening the capacities of beneficiaries had centred on livestock rearing techniques, animal health care and feeding practices for goats.

Sessions on nutritional education were conducted by FAO, in partnership with NGO Kundji Fondo, targeting 900 beneficiaries who were members of Dimitra Clubs (600 women, girls, 300 men, and boys) from the municipality of Djirataoua. Some 4 328 indirect beneficiaries were reached by the nutritional education activities, which focused on cooking demonstrations and awareness raising on specific themes. To recap, the ‘nutritional education’ package conducted as part of the JP-RWEE includes a baseline study and a final evaluation carried out by FAO, in partnership with CRESA. Between these initiatives, awareness-raising activities are being conducted on hygiene and sanitation, as well as nutrition, supported by cooking demonstrations.

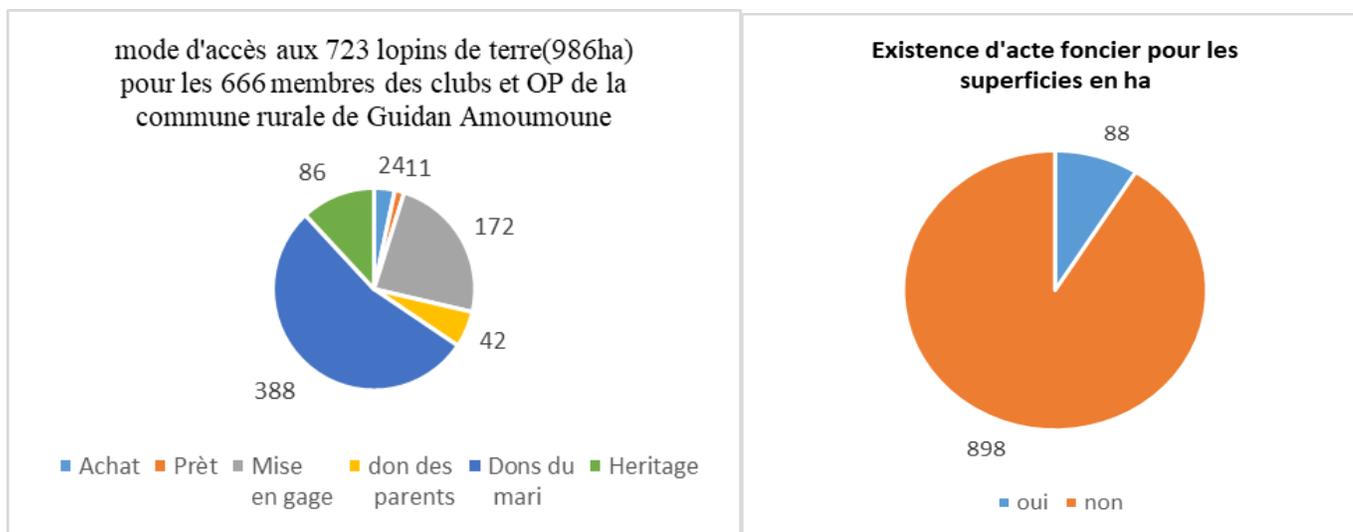
It is envisaged that 400 women and 200 men will be given training in 20 rainfed Farmer Field Schools through FAO (using its own funds), in partnership with MAG/EL; 11 Farmer Field Schools were operating in 2018, and the other 9 will be supported in 2019. As a result, some 220 women and 110 men have increased their knowledge, as described by the youth club in Mallam Koirà (see Box):

*With the new techniques that we have learned, if there is plenty of rain on a field of one hectare the owner can get 100 bundles, whereas before it would only have been 60 bundles. It was the agricultural officer from Falwel who trained us. We also received training in animal diseases and livestock keeping from the livestock service in Falwel. To participate in these training sessions, 25 peoples were selected from the village, regardless of whether or not they were club members. The choice is made during a village assembly (VA). It is the clubs that call the VA. Previously, the village assemblies were held only rarely.*

*Leaders of Young Men’s Club, Malam Koirà*

*Source : “FAO DIMITRA CLUBS IN NIGER : AN IMPACT STUDY” P.54/Version 2.1/  
Sabrina Aguiari, PhD/ January 2019*

As a result of the joint actions conducted by FAO, IFAD and UNWomen described above, and of WFP in partnership with NGO Kaidiya (school canteens), 600 women have accessed integrated services for agriculture and nutrition, making a total of 2 430 out of the 3 600 women beneficiaries targeted; the gap will be filled in 2019. Regarding access to land, as previously, noted, individual access to small plots of land at household level is not a major problem, but ensuring control of and/or access to larger areas requires influence and/or financial resources. In the municipalities of Falwel and Sokorbé, for example, women rarely inherit land, but thanks to inputs distributed, they can negotiate access through various channels. Several awareness-raising activities (with a focus on purchasing to secure one’s own resources, and inheritance so as to enjoy one’s rights) are conducted within the clubs to strengthen access to and control of land for women. Based on data collected by NGO Diko from 23 POs and Dimitra Clubs in Guidan Amoumoune led by the coordinating authorities, it emerges that: of the 676 members (of the 23 POs and Dimitra Clubs) questioned, only 11 do not have access to land. The remaining 665 have overall access to 988 ha in various ways; and in terms of control, 98 women inherited or purchased 88ha, with the transaction made in the form of a land deed, as shown in the figure below:



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

To achieve this output, it was planned that in 2018 there would be continued support for women to manage and maintain multifunctional platforms. In addition, agricultural processing kits and training would be offered to women's groups, and steps would be taken to identify the number of women in the intervention area who, because of the various capacity development initiatives received, have succeeded in managing cereal stocks (whose implementation was not necessarily supported by the JP-RWEE programme) within the communities. In this context, IFAD, in partnership with IRAN, has reactivated the process of compiling processing kits requested by women. Dimitra Club members at municipal level, who requested support that focused on processing, conserving, packaging and marketing agro-sylvo-pastoral products, expressed the need for this initiative. The main sectors are extracting groundnut oil, making couscous from cereals, and dairy products. These activities were proposed in 2016, and since requirements may have changed since then, it was agreed to review them together with the beneficiaries, identifying other new activities to add value to non-timber forest products. In the municipalities of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune, activities with prospects of high returns and nutritional value will be identified through an assessment of the potential for plant cover, with the involvement of the Dimitra Clubs.

This assessment will make it possible to identify the nature and importance of existing agroforestry species, to add value through processing technologies, while at the same time respecting climate adaptation and assisted natural regeneration. In all 20 villages, the activity combines the strengthening of both technical and material capacities, offering professional training to beneficiaries and equipping them with the basic material, they need to launch operations. It has also been agreed to harness the synergies of the other programmes run by the agencies, and with other actors. WFP is implementing a food fortification programme in the regions of Maradi and Dosso called FOPAT (fortification of processed food products). Following discussions, it was therefore agreed that:

- WFP will share the baseline study conducted in one of the intervention municipalities, on which the IFAD provider can then build. It will complete its assessment by researching other missing data, including for the other municipalities not covered by WFP.
- INRAN (the IFAD provider following the assessment) will share the beneficiaries' needs, so that each agency can position itself in the value chain to obtain synergetic action.

An analysis of WFP's assessment documents shows that the two projects are being jointly implemented in two villages of two municipalities, namely Falwel (in the municipality of Falwel) and Danja, (municipality of Djirataoua), as shown in the table below (which shows the regions, municipalities and unions that have

benefited from WFP interventions through FOPAT). In both villages of these two municipalities, the JP-RWEE and FOPAT have targeted the same food products for processing: groundnut oil, Beroua and cowpea flour, and millet porridge.

As part of the ‘Processing kits’ initiative, IFAD can approve the choice of food products in the two villages: Falwel and Danja.

REGION	USCOOPS	PRODUCTS CHOSEN for fortification
Dosso	Union Maddan Ben, Falwel	Groundnut oil and Béroua
	Union Maddaka, Farrey	Groundnut oil and its by-products (peanut butter and oilseed cake)
	Union Lakalkaney, Loga	Groundnut oil and Béroua
Maradi	Union Koda Naka, Danja	Groundnut oil and Talia (spaghetti made from cowpea flour)
	Union haddin kan Matta, Sarkin Hatsi	Groundnut oil and cowpea couscous
	Union UCOOK, Keguel	Groundnut oil and cowpea flour
	Union UMAG, Gamji	Groundnut oil and cowpea flour

Source IFAD Annual Report 2018

So during the first phase of implementation of activities under the ‘Processing kits’ initiative in Falwel and Djirataoua, it remains to select the beneficiaries to be trained and the items to be included in the various kits, depending on the processing sector. In Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune, it remains to target the different processing sectors, together with agroforestry, select the 400 beneficiaries (20 women per village) to be trained, and the items to be included in each kit.

A discussion is planned by the technical committee to ensure better information sharing and greater synergy to provide impetus to the initiative.

### **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**

##### *Increase of Crop production*

Support for improved seed (530 kg of millet) provided in 2018 by FAO in collaboration with NGO Kaidiya for POs in Falwel and Sokorbé; together with training in improved production techniques in Farmer Field Schools delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and PRODAF (family farming development programme funded by

*“The 2 goats that I received became 5 after 2 pregnancies. One goat was taken for the revolving fund, and I found myself with 4 goats. I sold 3 goats for 85 000 F CFA (USD 147.31: XOF 577), and I bought an ox that I am going to keep, so I can fatten it up. I now have a goat that has had a kid, and the ox. I am extremely grateful to the Joint Programme, as before I had this support, my household had no livestock at all.”* **Binta Moutari**, beneficiary of pastoral kits in the village of Dandja : **Source: Half-Yearly Report 2018, IFAD**

IFAD), have led to an overall increase in crop production. The average yield is estimated to be **7.03 kg per 100 m<sup>2</sup>**, meaning that a field of 1 hectare has in theory produced **703 kg** of millet. According to the departmental Director of Agriculture for Loga, this support has led to a yield that is 30% higher compared with average yields in the department over five (5) years. Women beneficiaries report that the harvests have been stored; a large share will be sold, and a small amount saved as seed for the 2019-farming season.

### *Average of the increase of Livestock production*

In 2018, the growth rate of livestock production was estimated at 49.61%<sup>3</sup>. This rate was lower than that of 2017, which 55.19%, as some beneficiaries sold a number of animals to meet certain needs, such as feeding their families during the lean season, or purchasing large ruminants, as shown by stories that feature below and opposite.

“ I will begin by thanking the Joint Programme, which has enabled me to have 2 female goats and the male donated by the group. I have found myself with 4 goats. I sold one goat and bought another for 25 000 F. I used the rest of the money for my subsistence needs. I continue to profit from the goat’s milk (consumption and sale).”

**Habbi Mamane Daouda**, beneficiary in the village of Doullou / Source : *Half-Yearly Report 2018, IFAD*

The analyses show the significant contribution made by these kits in increasing income of beneficiaries (see the example of the analysis conducted on a sample from Djirataoua, under Outcome 2.)

- ***Increase in the Household Dietary Diversity Score*** the final quantitative evaluation of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in nutrition and dietary diversity score (KAP/DDS) among Dimitra Clubs in the municipality of Djiratawa was conducted by FAO at the end of 2018, in collaboration with CRESA. Previously, at the end of 2017, a baseline (KAP/DDS) study had been conducted in Djirataoua, followed by nutritional education activities between January and March 2018. In partnership with FAO, NGO Kundji Fondo conducted these nutritional education activities. Following the training of trainers and Dimitra Club leaders, 900 club members received training and were monitored on the topic of nutritional education. A test carried out before and after training revealed: greater knowledge of nutrition with an average increase from 9.26 to 14.33 for club members who took part in the training; 4 328 people (25% men, 50% women, 25% youth) were reached by community awareness-raising, 375 households were monitored through home visits, and 12 local recipes were identified and improved using local products.

Compared with the baseline study, the average dietary diversity score rose from 2.42 (baseline study) to 3.73 (evaluation). This average score conceals a disparity between the intervention villages, as Doullou II and Namaroua saw a slight increase in their rates, while for the other three villages, the dietary diversity score was above 4. The poor progress in these two villages (Doullou II and Namaroua) needs to be investigated by the programme, to identify possible solutions.

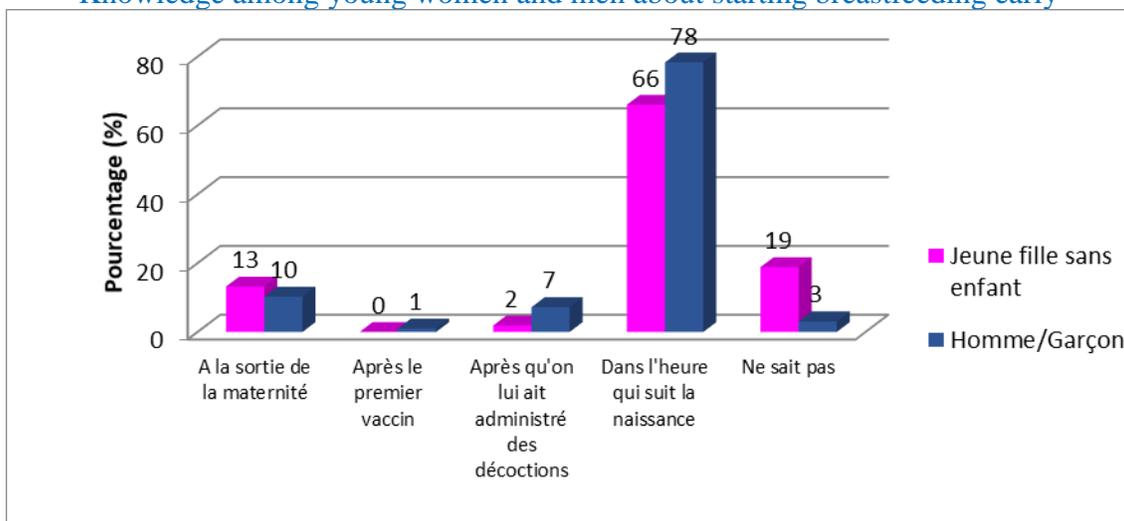
Knowledge about breastfeeding and infant feeding has improved, with an average score of 15% for the baseline study, rising to 72% at the final evaluation.

The study showed that the practice of breastfeeding is culturally widespread in the programme area. Indeed, 100% of babies were put to the breast in the hour following birth in all the villages, with the exception of Tajayé Peulh (67%). Knowledge about the importance of starting breastfeeding early also advanced among young women and men, compared with the first baseline study. The level of knowledge among young women and men increased from 16 and 13% respectively, to 66 and 78%, as shown by the graph below.

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<sup>3</sup> The rate is calculated as follows: ((current heads of livestock – heads of livestock placed) / heads of livestock placed) \* 100. For 2018, current heads of livestock was 1 152, and the heads of livestock placed was 770 (synthesis data from providers’ reports and monitoring by technical services).

### Knowledge among young women and men about starting breastfeeding early



According to the study report, household dietary practices remain largely dictated by the man of the house, who is the provider of resources, although these men have no idea about infant feeding. Overall, the baseline study shows that budgeting for family nutrition and practices linked to the taking of meals favour men at the expense of children and women. It should be noted that greater progress has been made in the village of Tajayé Peulh regarding the distribution of meals. Once the dishes have been prepared, children are served before the men, unlike in other villages where the men are the first to be served, followed by the children, and this tendency has been observed both from the baseline study and from the final evaluation.

Access to drinking water is 70% for studies in the area, and supply points are mostly situated at a distance of less than 200 m. Use of latrines remains weak, with a figure of just 23 to 27% of Dimitra Club members. Handling babies' feces is done using the same method, due to the lack of latrines. Lack of knowledge about the importance of handwashing and cleanliness is still an issue in the project area.

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

In order to help rural women increase their revenues, the JP-RWEE Niger programme supports them in improving their entrepreneurial skills, developing value chains so that they can access markets for their products, and facilitating access to tools that can lighten 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 local products organized by WFP, to supply school canteens, and training for women and POs in strengthened structuring and agricultural entrepreneurship, delivered by IFAD, UN Women, WFP and FAO, supported by the proceeds of the profitable use of resources described in intermediary objective 1.

#### *Participation of rural women in WFP purchasing programmes to supply school*

This involves making a priority of purchasing local products from rural women through POs, to supply school canteens. The initiative is implemented by WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Education, and with coordination by the 3N Initiative. It brings together school feeding and local agricultural production, by linking school canteens to producer organizations in the municipality.

In 2018, missions to explain and raise awareness about local purchases, in line with recommendations made in 2017, enabled 3 new women's producer unions in G Amoumoune (namely Boukata-Tabia from the village of Saidou Goula, GAFEMME from Guidan Wari, and Abounamou from Dan Mallan mai Rakouma) and one in Djirataoua to sign contracts with WFP for the purchase of local products, agreeing to make available 30 tonnes of millet and 9 tonnes of cowpeas for school canteens in the municipality. A total of six (6) farmers' organizations from the project's intervention area have participated in WFP's local purchases programme, of whom 65% of members are women, making 5 950 beneficiaries, including 3 839 women out of the 6 316 beneficiaries (5 053 of them women) planned. The difference will be made up in 2019.

The total volume has increased to 193 tonnes of millet and 31 tonnes of cowpeas. The purchases were made on the basis of 22 957 F for a 100 kg sack of millet, and 24 774 F for a 100 kg sack of cowpeas for the PO in Guidan Amoumoune, the equivalent of USD 399.4 per tonne for millet and USD 450.67 for cowpeas. A total of about USD 97 000 has been injected into the accounts of these POs. The surplus earned by these POs by selling to WFP therefore rises to USD 5 439, USD 3 535 of which are for women, and USD 1 904 for men; compared with last year, this surplus was USD 4 866, making an increase of 11.78% between 2017 and 2018.

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

In order to support PO members in the process of local purchases, fifteen mixed POs were trained by WFP and partners on two issues: 'governance of POs to develop market services' and 'quality control'. The 11 women (out of 35 planned) and 19 men who were trained will in turn train 1 291 women and 503 men. The gap will be filled in 2019.

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

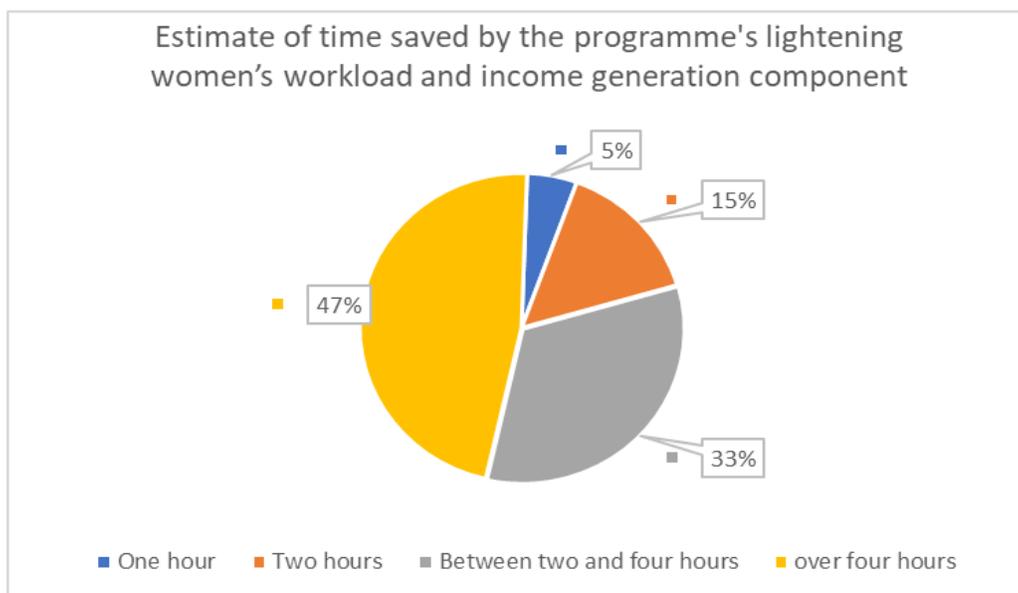
As part of this output, NGO Diko, in partnership with UN Women, continued to train 702 women (a total of 643 in 2017), having launched IGAs (+59 in the first six months of 2018), and finalized the impact study report for the component on lightening workloads. The activities planned for the second half of 2018 have not yet started, due to a high turnover of staff at UN Women.

#### ***Tangible proof of lightening the workload of rural women***

According to the evaluation report conducted by UN Women on the 'Lightening women's workload' component of the JP-RWEE programme, positive results have been obtained in terms of time saving, use of this time, and income generation. An analysis of this evaluation showed that 97% of the 184 women questioned also declared that, at the same time, their daily living conditions had improved.

**Income generation:** It also emerged that 69% observed an improvement in terms of financial revenue; 54% in children 'care; 42% in hygiene and 46% saw an improvement in living conditions with their spouses; 16% of the 105 groups were able to mobilize between 20 0 00 XOF(USD 40 and USD 100); 32% between 50 000 and 100 000 XOF, (between USD 100 and USD 200), and 15% mobilized more than 100 000 XOF (USD 200).

**Time saved:** 47% of women who benefited from the lightening women's workload and income generation component manage to save more than 4 hours per day, 33% between 2 and 4 hours, and 15% of women estimate the daily time saved to be two hours, as illustrated below:



**Use of time saved:** Most women questioned (77%) spend the time saved on household tasks: ‘caring for children’ was mentioned by 54% of women; ‘conducting income generating activities to help cover daily expenses’ by 53%; ‘improving living conditions with spouses’ by 46%; ‘hygiene’ by 42%; and ‘going to health centres’ by 39%.

#### *Number of rural women who have launched income-generating activities*

In the intervention area, rural women are conducting individual and collectives IGAs, so as to have their own resources with which to meet their needs. In 2017, the total was 643 women who have launched IGAs out of the 1 000 targeted, with the most common activities including selling fritters, groundnut oil and cooked dishes; in 2018, they accounted 232, making a total of 875; the gap will be filled in 2019.

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

A side from activities based on their savings, most groups mobilize their own resources of cereal stocks during harvest time, which are then resold during the hungry season. During the course of this year, women clubs and PO members from the municipalities of Djiratoua and Guidan Amoumoune mobilized cereals and legumes from their own resources for an estimated value of 11 940 000 FCFA (about USD 20 503.43). The total savings mobilized by women through savings and credit unions was 8 224 100 FCFA, or USD 14 122.51.

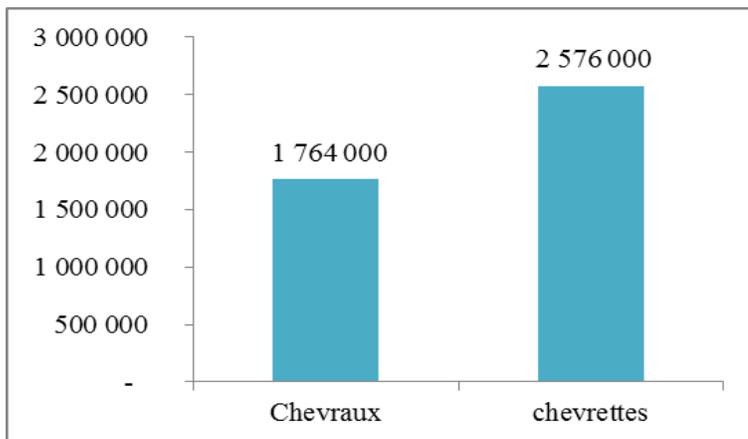
(Source UN Women, data provided by NGO Diko)

### **Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 2**

In 2018, it was not uncommon to hear people saying: “I, who never even used to own a chicken, (to underscore the extent of economic hardship), am now the owner of three goats. I sold one of the males to get through the hungry season”, or “cereal stock proved a great help last year. This year we have increased it so get through the hungry season.” The table and figures below show the financial appreciation as a direct result of owning a herd of small ruminants. The exercise was conducted using data collected in five (5) villages in the municipality of Djirataoua.

This table shows the products obtained through reproduction, and their percentage by sex. A share of the male goats (44%), represents the household’s livestock capital that can now be used, while the share of female goats (56%) will probably be used to expand the herd’s reproductive capital.

	<b>Products from reproduction</b>	
	<b>Female kids</b>	<b>Male kids</b>
Stock obtained	147 (56%)	184 (44%)
Corresponding financial value (XOF)	1 764 000	2 576 000



These charts demonstrate the economic potential offered to households by sound management of a herd of goats. It should be added that when improved breeding techniques are used, these results are even more substantial. The results show that support provided by the small kits can lead to significant advances in the economic empowerment of rural women in the 20 intervention villages.

The various witness statements made by men and women, and the conclusions of the evaluation of the lightening women's workload and income generation component, attest to a positive trend towards the achievement of this result.

### **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 and community organizations. 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**

For this output, the challenge is to work to build up rural women and girls' inner strength, so that they can participate in local governance. A number of tools are used, including training, exchange visits and awareness-raising, themed discussions, support for school attendance and for keeping girls in secondary education, supported by access to and control of resources as previously described. One of the strategies used to achieve this output is the Dimitra Clubs' approach, which offers a real process of learning about citizenship. Within their own clubs, the women/girls and the men/boys engage in analyzing community problems, to identify homegrown solutions that can address them. They then meet at the village assembly, which is open to all and chaired by the community authorities, to present the results of their analysis and their proposals for action. The village assembly subsequently decides, in a collegial manner, the measures to be taken by the village. This process gives women and girls a unique opportunity to have a voice in local decision-making and to influence decisions by expressing their needs. The process has the effect of increasing the self-confidence of women of all ages. Impact evaluation for clubs in Niger has shown the importance of this approach for local governance.

*Examples include:*

- (1) *Mrs Hadiza Seyni, leader of the Dimitra Club for girls in Falwel and host for the local community radio station, who, as a result of club discussions, has seen her character develop to the extent that she has carved a role as a confident radio host and leader of a young women's group called 'Babou Banbanki', which has at last become a member of the MADABEN Union in Falwel. She is currently a member of the Union's purchase and sales committee. She is also one of the literacy facilitators supported by the community in an effort to continue developing literacy in village households.*
- (2) *Mrs Fati Hamidou, leader of Dimitra Clubs in the village of Baziga, which belongs to the rural municipality of Sokorbé. Through Dimitra Club discussions, she has gained the trust of other women in raising awareness about the need to keep girls from the village in school. Their club has also launched a fund to undertake income-generating activities in order to purchase improved seeds for their community. Impressed by her dynamic character, the Deputy*

*Mayor of Sokorbé, who is also Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 2018 edition of the International Day of Rural Women held in Madou, invited her to prepare and broadcast a message on the community radio station, advocating for women in the municipality. During that day, the women took the prize for best local initiative. Now Chair of a group with 90 members, she has gained the trust of other partners such as Luxdev, which is supporting local women in the extraction of groundnut oil. She is currently preparing for selection as a municipal councillor in the upcoming elections.*

**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 Dimitra Club training (conducted by FAO in partnership with AEDL); the launch of, and training for women's groups, and training in community life (conducted by UN Women, in partnership with NGO DIKO), and capacity-strengthening sessions for POs (conducted by FAO in collaboration with DAC/POR).

In 2018, four training sessions (2 sessions every six months) were conducted for POs on two topics. During the first six-month period of 2018, 2 community training of trainer sessions were held on the theme of **gender-sensitive organizational and equitable analysis within POs**. These sessions benefited 61 participants, including 35 women and 25 men. The beneficiaries of these sessions were, respectively, officials from POs (31, of whom 26 were women), leaders of Dimitra Clubs (19, of whom 5 were women), NGO facilitators and moderators (5, of whom 2 were women) implementing partners, municipal technical staff (2, none of whom were women) and technical services managers, particularly the national body responsible for overseeing farmers' organizations, as well as their various branches (4, of whom 2 were women). The 61 beneficiaries, namely the members of the POs and the Dimitra Clubs, passed on the training to 3 214 members of POs and 60 Dimitra Clubs in the 10 intervention villages of the joint programme in the rural municipalities of Guidan Amoumoune and Sokorbé.

These 2 training sessions enabled officials from old and new farmers' organizations to review or develop the texts required to procure legal recognition under the country's new legislation. The process is under way for all the POs operating in the programme's 20 intervention villages.

In the second half of 2018, 2 other community training of trainer sessions were held on **Storage and conservation techniques for stocks**. A total of 61 participants were present, including 5 facilitators from partner NGOs and 4 officials from departmental directorates for agriculture. Among the 61 participants were 35 women. Under a pre-arranged plan, the 61 beneficiaries, who were members of POs and Dimitra Clubs, made the undertaking – with the support of technical staff from the NGO and technical services – to pass on the training to the 1 650 members of the 97 POs and 60 Dimitra Clubs in the joint programme's 10 intervention villages belonging to the rural municipalities of Guidan Amoumoune and Sokorbé. Currently, 680 women and 150 men have received training, and the process is ongoing.

These initiatives have been implemented by FAO, in collaboration with the Departmental Directorates for Agriculture in Loga and Mayahi.

**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 within clubs, access to information, training POs to APEX level, and supporting rural women in conducting advocacy initiatives, particularly on 15 October, to commemorate their special day.

As planned, in 2018, strengthening was provided for the four municipal networks of Dimitra Clubs to ensure the long-term sustainability of results achieved, and support women in the rural municipality of Sokorbé in preparing advocacy for 15 October, on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the activities related to community mobilization using the Dimitra Clubs' approach, the offices of the municipal networks of the four *communes* where the RWEE is being implemented, organized two brainstorming workshops. The workshops targeted young leaders (40 in total – 20 girls and 20 boys) who are expected to draw up partnerships with governmental decentralized services, with

others intervening in the town hall in the presence of local authorities and community radio stations. These brainstorming workshops proved to be valuable opportunities for the young leaders to share their ambitions with the local authorities in the context of all the community initiatives being undertaken in those villages, explaining how the communities are in the process of managing the skills acquired as part of the Programme, so that they may benefit all, men and women alike. This was also an occasion to bring different actors together to discuss all the results achieved and their long-term sustainability.

The JP-RWEE programme has also supported organization of the International Day of Rural Women in Madou, in the rural municipality of Sokorbé. An unusual feature of this year's edition is that it was jointly organized by two ministerial departments – the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in collaboration with technical and financial partners. Women took the opportunity to advocate for:

- Support for lightening their daily workload ;
- Opening up transport links to their municipality to facilitate market access for women ;
- Support for rehabilitation of degraded land to improve production ;
- Support for seeds and ploughing equipment for their horticulture plots;
- The sinking of new wells and repairs to the old ones near the horticulture plots;
- Facilitating water withdrawal by fitting wells with pullies and drilling new shafts.

An exhibition and sale of agricultural and livestock products made by women in the rural municipality of Sokorbé was held, and the first visitors were from an official delegation during the commemoration ceremony. Stands were erected to display the women's goods. The officials' attention was drawn by products processed by the women, such as porridge made from cowpeas, tigernuts and sorghum, which brought out the women's creativity and the nutritional originality of the foodstuffs. More than 1 200 people (700 women and girls; 500 men and boys) took part from the regions of Dosso and Niamey.

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

This involves continuing to provide support for Dimitra Clubs, and to support rural women in implementing initiatives to promote their rights.

During 2018, it was therefore planned that thematic discussions should be increased within the clubs. FAO, in collaboration with AEDL, has responsibility for training the clubs; 3 600 Dimitra Club members<sup>4</sup>, including 2 400 women, have been reached in this way. Monitoring has revealed that in the region of Dosso, one club closed due to lack of members, and another was inactive, due to lack of leaders. The trainers supported the restructuring of these clubs, and helped people in the community to understand the concept behind the clubs.

The club that closed, in the village of Baziga (Sokorbé) was a club for girls, who left the village to attend school. A new club set up in its place has already identified important themes to be debated, to help guide the future of its members. These include reprisals exacted by boys on some girls who refuse their offers of marriage, as well as domestic work during school days, early marriage and violence against girls at school.

The impetus of the club is driven by the leaders, who take every opportunity to benefit from missions and capacity strengthening so that they can better perform their role. Whenever a leader leaves a club, generally for social reasons, the post is systematically filled in a spirit of continuity.

In some clubs set up in villages belonging to the rural municipality of Sokorbé, especially the youth club of Kalley Dey Béri, the women's club of Baziga, the youth club of Wasey and the women's club of Madou, trainers have noticed that the concept of the club is seen in a different way by its members. The training has led

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<sup>4</sup>The FAO Dimitra Clubs are groups of women, men or youth – mixed or not – who decide to self-organize so as to take joint action for their own community. They meet regularly to discuss the problems they face in their daily lives, make decisions and take action to resolve them.

to a common vision being established. In several other clubs, strong capacities for reflection and pooling solutions to problems can be seen in action. Examples include:

- As a result of deeply felt and long-lasting disagreements between villagers, it was observed that in some villages, young men and women no longer married between each other. With support from the clubs, this issue has been vigorously tackled, drawing on the influence of the village elders, religious leaders and those young people who have decided to take themselves in hand, difficult though this might be, in order to distance themselves from the type of unacceptable behaviour of which they are accused (including lack of respect of the young towards their elders and drug taking).
- Widows who found themselves with several young children to look after, but were unable to remarry due to pressure from their older children, or the brothers or sisters of the dead husband. This hurdle has been overcome through club debates, where logical, biological, humanitarian and religious arguments have been presented to counter the resistance. Since then, about a dozen widows have remarried, and several of them have gone on to have more children.
- In the village of El Kokia, a Dimitra Club initiative has led to the collection of straw to make *secko* (traditional plaited straw mats, used to construct the roofs of mud brick houses and warehouses), at a current value of 200 000 FCFA (USD 4 000), which will go into village funds.
- Given the high cost of marriage, the village assembly in Danja has lowered the dowry from 600 000 F to 200 000 F.
- To combat juvenile crime in Danja, clubs are tackling the consumption of narcotic drugs, which has reached alarming levels. Drugs are banned and a watchdog committee has been set up in the village. Awareness-raising sessions and thematic debates have been held by the clubs, and a fine of 5 000 F imposed against any offender.

Addressing other sensitive issues such as making children's education more widespread, especially for young girls (to stop forced marriages), Koranic school for women (so that they too can learn to read the Koran, and in the long term be protected from inaccurate interpretations) are among the immediate challenges. Many constructive ideas are discussed at the village assembly, as these stories show, which emerged from the Dimitra Club impact study.

*Our club gives great importance to the conditions of women. The subjects we discuss most often are household violence against women, family planning, forced and early marriage, monitoring and keeping girls at school, and visits to health centres. We have even fixed fines, which are as follows: 5 000 F for any woman who refuses to use family planning, if her husband has given his agreement; 2 000 F for each parent who refuses to send their child to school; 20 000 F for any man who prevents his wife from using family planning. (Young Women's Club, Malam Koirà)*

Source : "FAO DIMITRA CLUBS IN NIGER : AN IMPACT STUDY" /Version 2.1/ Sabrina Aguiari, PhD/ January 2019

*The women's clubs proposed the topics of hygiene, birth spacing and lightening certain household tasks. Our club and others approved these themes during the village assembly for clubs. The women are absolutely right, as they really do suffer. (Leaders of Young Men's Club, Malam Koirà)*

Source: "FAO DIMITRA CLUBS IN NIGER: AN IMPACT STUDY" /Version 2.1/ Sabrina Aguiari, PhD/ January 2019

To enhance these efforts, tools to monitor the implementation of recommendations will be developed as part of the next trainers' assignments.

### **Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 3**

The changes observed reveal a positive trend towards achieving this result, which should be supported.

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

The objective is to help develop a more gender sensitive policy environment, which is conducive to the promotion of the economic empowerment of rural women, 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 jobs. The next step will involve advocacy with institutions to use the WEIA (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index). 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.**

A number of training sessions on gender, and gender sensitive budgeting and monitoring and evaluation have been planned for 2019, aimed at local and national decision-makers.

**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**

Work to achieve this output will follow a two-pronged approach: (i) application of the WEAI tool, with a view to it being adopted by the team and applied at national level, and (ii) capacity-strengthening for women and POs, technical services and partner NGOs.

At the start of the programme, the WEAI tool was used in Falwel for the baseline study, and the report helped to guide implementation. In 2019, an evaluation study is planned using the WEAI tool.

Also, the JP-RWEE has integrated its 2018-2019 planning into the five-year plan of action 2018-2022 for implementing the national strategy for women's economic empowerment in Niger.

**Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes**

JP-RWEE is the main donor, making technical and financial contributions to the MPF/PE and to MAGEL for the commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women, whose theme 2018 in Niger was "**Strengthening women's access to resources and markets to increase their resilience to vulnerable situations**". This commemoration was not only an opportunity to spread the word about the SDGs, but also to create a space for the expression of women's leadership in rural areas. Several prizes, in kind and cash, were awarded to women, their organizations and to villages that had distinguished themselves through the quality of agricultural production (animal and livestock), the high level of revenue generated through local purchases, or implementation of a relevant community initiative. In total, three million, one hundred thousand CFA francs were distributed to women and their organizations. In addition, it should be noted that the programme has also mobilized two potential donors for the next editions – the Konrad. A Foundation and the Millennium Challenge Account.

At the request of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, the JP-RWEE provided technical and financial support to help in preparations for the 62nd session of the CSW, whose priority theme in 2018 was 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'. Strengthening the capacities of the gender units and the authorities at MAGEL are planned for 2019. A roundtable is envisaged for resource mobilization based on results of the programme evaluation deferred to 2019.

**Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome**

The activities planned in 2019 will strengthen the positive trend towards achieving this result.

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

The year 2018 was marked by a turnover of staff in the agencies, which had something of an impact on implementation of activities in the second half of the year, and on the process of data feedback, specifically:

**UN Women:** Mrs Beatrice Eyong was the JP-RWEE focal point for UN Women Niger. Following her promotion to programme officer, she was replaced by Mr Paul Moussa. Mr Moussa carried out his role as focal point with support from Mrs Eyong, who represented the institutional memory of the JP-RWEE, on behalf of UN Women Niger. In the second half of 2018, she was promoted to bureau chief at UN Women Mali, and Mr Paul Moussa was given responsibility for other UN Women projects. This change had an impact on the process of contracting the NGO to implement activities in the field. A volunteer from the United Nations has just been recruited to perform the role of focal point for the JP-RWEE; the replacement for Mrs Eyong has also started work, and the process will be set in motion again so that activities can be implemented in the field.

**IFAD:** Mr Kadre Kadei, Country Programme Officer for IFAD in Niger, provided technical support to the IFAD focal point for the JPRWEE, and facilitated communication with headquarters and decision-making. In May 2018, he took a position in Cameroon. His replacement recently met the technical committee for a briefing and to request support. The process of contracting the NGOs will probably now be set in motion again so that implementation can be accelerated.

**FAO:** FAO is involved in four components of implementation of the JP-RWEE. (i) the Dimitra Clubs, (ii) strengthening the capacities of farmers' organizations; (iii) the Farmer Field Schools, and (iv) nutritional education. Mr Farmo Ibrahim was the focal point for JP-RWEE on behalf of the Dimitra Clubs; Mr Abdou Salifou was the focal point for strengthening the capacities of farmers' organizations. The two officials took it in turns to assume the role on behalf of FAO of centralizing data and producing a consolidated report for the agency, the nutrition officer being generally overwhelmed with work. At the end of 2018, Mr Farmo chose to continue his path outside FAO, and Mr. Salifou Abdou assumed responsibility for coordinating the joint FAO-UN Women project funded by the PBF. These changes have had an impact on the data feedback process for the annual report. Dimitra has recruited an intern and the process of replacing Mr. Farmo has been launched.

It should also be noted that the post of ASG at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children has changed hands, with the new incumbent taking office at the end of 2018.

Among activities that suffered delays in implementation, mention should be made of the mid-term evaluation, because it was under-budgeted. It should have been conducted in the second half of 2018, the terms of reference have been finalized, and an inter-agency committee has been set in place to coordinate the exercise, together with consultants who will be recruited; advocacy for resource mobilization is also under way to the agencies, in order to increase its budget. The evaluation has now been rescheduled for 2019.

## **Lessons learned and best practices**

### ***Workshop to strengthen synergy***

In terms of the process of learning, and monitoring and evaluation, the frameworks for discussion, which are the technical committee, and the platform for exchange with partner NGOs extended to the technical committee, are the spaces where challenges, good practices and lessons learned are discussed. The technical services and the NGOs enrich the debates with experiences from other projects and programmes.

During 2018, the following themes were identified as warranting closer examination by the team:

- Discussion on the process of rotating small ruminant kits;
- The contribution of all the programme activities to the food and nutrition security of rural women and their households;
- Strengthening formal and informal organizations. In this context, a brainstorming workshop was held in October 2018 to explore these themes in greater depth. The workshop brought together members of the

discussion frameworks, together with the partner NGOs extended to the technical committee and facilitated by the regional directors for community development in the regions of Maradi and Dosso.

The aim of the workshop was to develop and adopt a common vision for all the agencies and all partners regarding synergies in implementing activities of (i) launching and training women’s groups with the Dimitra Clubs; (ii) refurbishment of pastoral kits and school herds, (iii) processing kits for agro-sylvo-pastoral products and positioning agencies in the processing component, and (iv) taking greater account of nutrition in implementation of activities.

**Main workshop conclusions:**

**(i) On launching and training women’s groups in synergy with the Dimitra Clubs**

An analysis of the meeting shows that the current problems are the result of inadequate communication (lacking in certain details). At the start of the project, the activities to be implemented were referred to loosely, including the distribution of inputs, but precise details were not given about the method of targeting beneficiaries. Also, prior to the distribution of inputs, complete information was not shared with all actors. Failure by some NGOs to involve the technical services in implementing certain activities was noted by the technical services. The meeting acknowledged that an agreed timetable, developed together with the club trainers, the women’s group trainers and members of the POs and clubs, supported by strong awareness-raising, can address this problem in a definitive manner. In addition, a growing need was highlighted for discussions between implementing NGOs. The following actions were selected for each group of actors.

- **Actions by group of actors**

<b>Technical services</b>	<b>Implementing NGO</b>	<b>United Nations agencies</b>
Ensure and contribute to synergy building for interventions in the field by guiding actors to existing entry points instead of needlessly multiplying community structures.	Each organization must: register in the programme’s intervention regions to satisfy requirements and take advantage of existing supervisory opportunities. Regularly present activity reports for supervision. Involve the technical services in implementing activities.	Strengthen synergies with other agency initiatives by sharing useful information with the technical committee in good time. Ensure greater synergy in work when setting up agreements with implementing NGOs.
Support the modeling of approaches that have been proved to work.	Organize a joint supervisory mission, not only to manage problems of communication and rivalry, especially in Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune, in line with recommendations from the last joint supervisory mission, but also to check targeted actions conducted in the 20 villages. Strengthen exchanges between NGOs, even through WhatsApp.	Support skills development in partner NGOs by facilitating themed debates and sharing of experiences, based on existing skills witnessed within the technical committee and in resource people available within participating structures.
Ensure quality during implementation.	Track all information in reports. Adopt behaviour that causes neither confusion, nor suspicion, nor rivalry between actors, but which promotes complementarity of actions.	Provide financial support to a joint supervisory mission with partner NGOs. Support the performance of consultative frameworks at municipal level. Centralize, at coordination level, all data from HEA analyses conducted.

### **(ii) Distribution of pastoral kits and school herds<sup>5</sup>**

**The meeting agreed** that the system of onlending<sup>6</sup> must be **discussed at community level**, together with the management arrangements for the exit strategy/long-term sustainability of initiatives. Harmonization is not required *per se*, but what is crucial is that all beneficiaries have the capacity to find adequate solutions to daily challenges. The village assembly for clubs should be the space for discussion and identifying solutions at community level for the challenges posed in managing community goods and services. For the current planning period, the kit (2 female goats + 1 male goat) per beneficiary will be distributed; for future operations, efforts will be made to harmonize the kit composition with that of the 3N Initiative (three (3) female goats + one (1) male goat). Regarding stress linked to transport<sup>7</sup>, the implementing NGOs and technical services must ensure that the animals meet the technical criteria<sup>8</sup> at the time of purchase, prior to transport, and oblige transporters to create favourable conditions for transporting animals, to minimize stress, especially by reducing long periods on the road without food, which could cause deaths.

### **(iii) Positioning agencies on support to processing agro-sylvo-pastoral products**

The fundamental question was to reach a common understanding of who does what, to avoid duplication and optimize the use of limited resources. The meeting agreed on the aforementioned actions, with implementation to be launched by IFAD.

WFP shared the inception report for the Project to fortify processed foods (FOFAT); in collaboration with INRAN, IFAD must check whether a diagnosis is always useful in the same municipalities, and promote the study that has already been done;

- As needed, all the agencies should enrich the tools presented to collect the required data during the study that INRAN will conduct. (awaiting feedback from IRAN);
- All the agencies are awaiting the study findings before making a final decision on who does what, where and how.

### **(iv) Taking greater account of nutrition in implementation of activities.**

This involved identifying and establishing links between the Dimitra Clubs, Farmer Field Schools (agricultural and horticultural production), and activities connected to pastoral kits (livestock production and by-products) and kits for processing agro-sylvo-pastoral products (processed food products), multifunctional platforms, school canteens (feeding pupils), school mills and food and nutrition security. This should enable each programme activity to contribute to the nutritional security of women and their households by ending an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. The conclusions will be taken into account by FAO in the next contract for implementation of nutritional education in the municipality of Guidan Amoumoune. Meetings to refine the process will be held beforehand with the NGOs responsible for local training.

## **Participation in parallel global event organized by the JP-RWEE during CFS 2018**

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<sup>5</sup> The school herd is an activity that is complementary to the school canteens. A certain number of small ruminants are made available to school canteens with the aim of improving the quality of school meals. The management method depends on community decisions.

<sup>6</sup> The onlending system involves passing on small ruminants to another beneficiary on the list after offspring have been produced and the animal weaned.

<sup>7</sup> Stress linked to transport has caused the death of some animals distributed.

<sup>8</sup> Technical criteria for an animal's general condition: live animal not emaciated (weight  $\geq 12$  Kg), presenting no sign of asthenia or disease; absence of lesions and/or locomotor disorders; absence of signs of gastro-intestinal disorders (vomiting, diarrhea, bloating, etc.); absence of signs of lesions or oral, eye or respiratory disorders ; absence of genital disorders (lesions, discharge, etc.); good udder conformation (symmetric, without atrophy or hypertrophy or hardening to the touch); absence of clinically detectable disease; complete and not worn dentition; age is also to be respected (age of females between 1 and 2 years; age of males between 2 and 3 years)

The main objective of the parallel event was to present new evidence that emerged from joint implementation by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women of initiatives to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through a holistic and integrated approach aimed at giving economic empowerment to women, which involves interventions designed to promote women's access to means of production, technologies, education, information, services, decent work, markets and skills in leadership. The indicative question posed in the **concept note for the event is: 'to what extent does the holistic approach used by the JP-RWEE** accelerate the results obtained in the area of food and nutrition security? The aim of the presentation in Niger is to show the innovative use of KAP studies to measure the impact on food and nutrition security of JP-RWEE interventions in Niger, through the FAO Dimitra Club approach. It has demonstrated the impact of the holistic intervention on nutritional practices through a comparative approach between different regions and communities.'

This involves a comparative analysis of the results obtained through the RWEE approach and other KAP studies, examining at least one different approach so as to reveal the presumed evidence. The programme officer for food and nutrition security at FAO has made a comparative analysis of the different project reports with a focus on nutritional education, to reveal the evidence presented by DR BANGANA IBRAHIM, Technical Advisor to the Minister of State for Agriculture and Livestock. The key messages from his findings are given below:

- **Message 1:** *Applying a holistic, multisectoral approach demands effective coordination by those in charge of planning and implementation, but above all it requires setting up a local mechanism, such as that of the Dimitra Clubs. It is important that the programme really listen to the communities – men, women and youth, especially by using a tool such as that of the clubs, which makes it possible to develop the participatory capacities of the most marginalized, including women and young people, as well as local governance.*
- **Message 2:** *It is clear that nutritional education cannot be limited to a transfer of knowledge. It must also involve genuine dialogue between the main actors involved. Participatory approaches and ownership are crucial to ensure real adoption of knowledge acquired from nutritional education, and hence the sustainability of new attitudes and practices.*
- **Message 3:** *It is important to conduct a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study on the subject of nutrition for this kind of project. To evaluate the impact of interventions focusing on nutrition, indicators of nutritional status are most commonly used. However, for long-term impact, it is also critical to have a deeper understanding of the way in which communities feed themselves, as well as of personal factors that underlie their dietary habits. The KAP studies supply useful information and contribute to better planning of programmes and projects; using this type of approach also enables a link to be made with other multisectorial interventions and nutrition, and to involve all actors more effectively.*

## • **Qualitative assessment<sup>9</sup>:**

During 2018, results of the evaluation of the impact of initiatives to lighten workloads were made available, and IFAD and its implementing partners conducted an assessment of the dynamics of herds in villages that benefited from small ruminant kits. In addition, the Dimitra programme carried out an impact study of clubs, including in two intervention villages targeted for the JP-RWEE (Malam Koira and El Kokia Sofua), from which report several extracts are cited in this document.

The evaluation of the dynamic of herds in the beneficiary villages revealed that:

- a) The distribution of small ruminants to vulnerable women enabled several of them to own one herd per year. This is due to the fact that the red goat produces offspring twice a year, often twins or triplets. A number of women defined as highly vulnerable currently own a herd of 6 to 8 goats. So reductions in the herds of women beneficiaries that may seem dramatic are not just write-offs (deaths or losses), but justified uses for household consumption or the development of income generating activities (IGA), in short, transparent expenditure. This type of support represents one of the main sources of their economic

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<sup>9</sup> It is important to also fill this paragraph, and elaborate on:

- The partnerships you were able to establish, for instance with other UN Agencies, other International Organizations (like the World Bank), private sector, etc. to create synergies and increase the impact of RWEE;
- The overall achievement of the JP in **qualitative** terms: how the women, their families and the target communities in general assess the impact the programme has had in their lives; provide details on how the qualitative information on WEE was gathered and analyzed. This section should be different from the specific story including concrete and generalizable qualitative evidence
- How you organized the coordination among the four partner agencies and within the UN System (One UN)

empowerment (for women who not only have no livelihood, but also and above all, have no recourse to outside help).

b) The initiative has generated a number of advantages to households, of which the main ones are the following:

- ✓ Consumption of red goat's milk (its production is not quantified but its contribution to improving dietary scores is far from negligible, especially in villages in the region of Maradi, held to be the centre of child malnutrition);
- ✓ Sale of goat's milk
- ✓ Production and sale of organic manure;
- ✓ Other IGA practices (sale of groundnut oil and cereals, introduction of knitting and sewing);
- ✓ Children's clothing;
- ✓ Purchase of condiments for household meals;
- ✓ Payment of dues to school management committees;
- ✓ Payment of inscription fees for Koranic education;
- ✓ Payment of medical expenses.

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<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>			
Indicator: % increase in agricultural production (plant production PP) and animal production (AP) of women farmers Baseline: 0 Planned Target: TBD	<b>PV:</b> groundnut:124,47%; cowpeas: 64,25%; et sesame seeds:20% <b>PA : 55,19%</b>	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) <u>Baseline: Falwel 2015-2016: HDDS= 3.8 et Djirataoua 2016-2017: HDDS= 2,42</u> Guidan Amoumoune 2018 : SDA=3,52 Planned Target: 5 or 6	Falwel SDA= 5  Djirataoua SDA: 3,73	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 Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune
<i>Output 1.1. Les femmes rurales ont un accès accru aux ressources, actifs et services essentiels à leur sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle</i>			
<b>Indicator 1.1.1.</b> Number of women who have access to information and participatory communication <b>Baseline: 24</b> <b>Planned Target: 2400 femmes</b>	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>
<b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> Number of women who adopted improved nutrition practices <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 600 Fawel +600 Djirataoua=1200</b>	<b>1200 femmes des communes de Falwel et Djirataoua</b>	Work in progress as planned	<i>FAO Report</i>
<b>Indicator 1.1.3 :</b> <i>Number of women who have adopted/improved agricultural techniques</i> <b>Baseline:0</b> <b>Planned Target: 1425 (dont FIDA 1300+FAO 125)</b>	<u>220 women (110 men) with total 1396 women of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua et Guidan Amoumoune</u>	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
<b>Indicator 1.1.</b> Number of women who have access to integrated service <i>Nutritional Education + FFS+ schools canteens</i> <b>Baseline: 256</b> <b>Planned Target: 3600</b>	<b>600 (with a total of 2810)</b>	support in small ruminants is underway in school canteens; the gap will be filled by April	Reports of FAO and WFP
<b>Indicator 1.1.5 :</b> Number of rural /omens/women's groups accessing credit in VSLA groups <b>Baseline: 256 women of 16 groups of Falwel concil</b> <b>Planned Target: TBD</b>	2973 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
<b>Indicator 1.2.2.</b> Mode of access to the land affected by the program and the number of women accessing this mode <b>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</b> <b>Planned Target: all the beneficiaries of improved seeds</b>	665 women have globally access to 988 ha of lands. The total number of women who accessed to land is 2064 (1399+ 665). Loan is the mode of access to land, the most used in the area of intervention. The activities of the programme allowed 1829 women to access to land by this mode	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
<b>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</b>			



<p><b>Planned Target : 1000</b></p> <p><b>Indicateur 2.2.4. Value of the stock mobilized by women on their own resources</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: TBD</b></p>	<p>value estimate at 11940000 fcfa (approximately 20503,43 USD)</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Report of FAO and UNWOMEN + NGO Diko</p>
<p><b>Indicateur 2.2.5. Montant de l'épargne mobilisée par les femmes à travers les caisses d'épargne et crédit :</b>  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target : TBD</b></p>	<p>1 162 500 FCFA for the groups of the region: Dosso (1125 women, 7 061 600 FCFA) for those of Maradi (1848 women) for a general total of 8224100Fcfa approximately 14122,51 USD</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>It's the savings mobilized through credit and savings groups - UNWOMEN reports</p>
<p><b>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</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator: 3.1:</b> % of rural women Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.2.</b> % of rural women who are members of land committees  <b>Baseline: 10% (18 women)</b>  <b>Planned Target: 22% (40 women)</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.3</b> Number/Percentage of Producers Organisations led by women  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 80%</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.4</b> Preuves/évidence d'une amélioration du pouvoir de décision de la femme rurale au sein des ménages, organisations et communautés  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 4 communes intervention du programme RWEE</b></p>	<p>If WEAI end line report</p> <p>80% (32 women of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune) no evaluation in 2018</p> <p>77.44% of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune / evolution in 2018 in 3 communes, 129/167 of the 105 Ops of the communes of Sokorbé, Djirataoua and G Amoumoune are led by women. The mixed OP (Elkoussa) of G Wari village is led by a club leader</p> <p>story in annex</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><b>Indicator 3.4. Increase in the attendance rate of girls through school canteens</b>  <b>Baseline: 91%</b>  <b>Planned Target: 98%</b></p>	<p>93%</p>	<p>This is the global average rate in the 2 regions, in the municipalities of the project intervention rates can exceed that</p>	<p>WFP Report</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including girls, have improved their self-confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1.</b> Number of rural women who were trained in participatory communication and women's leadership  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target: 160</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2.</b> 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.  <b>Baseline:</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator: 3.1.3.</b> Number /Proportion of rural women/girls enrolled in literacy courses  <b>Baseline:</b></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>1159 women and 671 men</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>FAO Report</p> <p>Reports of the agencies FAO, IFAD, WFP thrive and joint supervision reports</p> <p>UNWOMEN Report</p>

<p><b>Planned Target: 275</b></p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.4. Number of rural girls from school canteens who received a scholarship to continue secondary</i>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 277</i></p> <p><i>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.</i>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 160</i></p>	<p>963 middle and high school girls received quarterly scholarships of 12000f, 6000f and 18000f respectively</p> <p>had no formal training in 2018, the reinforcement was done within the clubs</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>WFP Report</p> <p>FAO Report</p>
<p>Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to create, maintain and participate in producer organizations, cooperatives and unions</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.1. Number of men and women POs that were strengthened</b>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 181 POs</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.2:</b> Number of rural women from POs who received training in gender, good governance and efficiency  <i>Baseline:0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 208 members of 167 PO from 4 districts of intervention of the JP- RWEE</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.3. Tangible evidence of rural women who have increased their capacities to organize and collectively intervene at community level</b>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: women from the 4 districts of intervention of the JP RWEE</i></p>	<p>167 POs from Districts of Falwel (25), Sokorbé (43) Djirataoua (40) and Guidan Amoumoune (59) regrouping 5397 members (4277 women)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>See quotes on Falwel  Two other networks of Dimitra clubs formed bringing to 4 the number of network see club achievements in the text.</p>	<p>There are two training sessions to organize by April 2018 according to the planning</p> <p>The strengthening of POs and the ongoing process</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Training report of FAO</p> <p>FAO Report</p> <p>FAO Report</p>
<p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 3.3.1: Number of POS at apex level trained in gender and equity,</b>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 6 PO at the apex level</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.3.2.</b> Evidence of an improvement in the decision-making power of rural women within the household, organizations and communities  <i>Baseline:</i>  <i>Planned Target:</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.3.4. Number of advocacy efforts initiated by rural women 15 October</b>  <i>Baseline: 0</i>  <i>Planned Target: 16</i></p> <p><b>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</b>  <i>Baseline:0</i>  <i>Planned Target : 2 in 2017 et 0 from 2018</i></p>	<p>3 OP on apex level in witch( 2 unions (Madda Ben et Kada Naka) and 1 federation (SA'A)</p> <p>See testimonies in the annex</p> <p>3 advocacy initiatives conducted supported by local authorities by Falwel and Djirataoua councils in 2016 and 2017 of the rural women's day editions.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Strengthening continuous, objective will be reached by April 2018</p> <p>NA</p> <p>The Gap will be filled by 2018 because all municipalities have committed to commemorate October 15 in 2018</p> <p>The goal is ownership by the Government so that October 15 is the beach for rural women for their advocacy efforts</p>	<p>FAO Report</p> <p>Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation</p> <p>Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation</p> <p>Supervision report of the Technical Committee and monitoring of local NGOs in implementation</p>
<p>Output 3.4: Rural women, included young women, are more aware of their rights in an enabling community/local environment</p>			

<p><b>Indicator 3.4.1</b> Number of women participating in the Dimitra Clubs Dimitra <b>Baseline:</b> <b>Planned Target:2400</b></p>	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
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.2.</b> Number of villages/communities that have integrated the approach of the Clubs Dimitra (ownership) <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target:20</b></p>	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
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.2.</b> Number of networks of young members of DIMITRA Clubs set up and framed for sustainability achievements <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 4 districts networks</b></p>	2 district networks in Falwel and Djirataoua	The process is committed to the other two councils and will be completed by end of 2018	FAO Report
<b>Outcome 4: A more gender-sensitive policy environment is promoted to guarantee rural women's economic empowerment</b>			
<p><b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of the municipal budget allocated to programs that benefit to empowerment of rural women in the targeted councils <b>Baseline:</b> 12% <b>Planned Target: 30%</b></p>	15%	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	Report on budget implementation of Councils
<p><b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of the national Budget allocated to the Ministère de la promotion de la Femme et de la protection de l'enfant <b>Baseline:</b> 0,01% <b>Planned Target: TBD</b></p>	0,01% no change	The total has increased, but did not affected the percentage of the overall budget, which also increased	Follow-up report of the Directorate of studies and programming of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child
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><b>Indicator 4.1.1.</b> Extent to which the implementation plan of the revised National Gender Policy integrates JPRWEE activities  <b>Baseline:</b> There is a National gender policy revised 2017  <b>Planned Target:</b> Taking into account of actions and good practices of the JP-RWEE in at least these two national documents</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	RAS Follow up to ensure the effective inclusion of the proposals in the validated version	The validated documents of implementation of PNG validated and strategy action plan
Output 4.2: 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 <b>Baseline:8</b> <b>Planned Target:20</b></p>	17 cadres et plateformes répertorié au niveau régional, départemental et communal	The training process is underway	Report of FAO and UNWOMEN
<p><b>Indicator 4.3.2:</b> Number of session of thematic debate organized to stimulate the participation of women and the OP in the spaces and dialogue platforms <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target:4</b></p>	2/no Progress in 2018	Les autres seront organisées avant avril 2018	FAO Report
<p><b>Indicator 4.3.3.</b> Number of technicians, technical services and NGOs trained to support the OP (gender, governance, equity, dialogue platform, law OHADA etc.) <b>Baseline:8</b> <b>Planned Target:20</b></p>	45 in witch 12 ONG (4 women);28 ST (6 women);4 local authority(1 women); 1 Project who accompanies the trainers trained in the return of the training to the members of the op	The training process is underway	FAO Report

### iii) A Specific Story

#### 1) In Deytagui Yamba, the struggle against early marriage continues

Deytagui Yamba, a village situated 17 km southeast of Falwel, is a partner in the Joint Programme (JP-RWEE), and has six Dimitra Clubs like four other villages from the same rural municipality of Falwel.

Beneath a shady neem tree, which offers shelter from the searing heat of 44 degrees on this April day, Fati Moumouni, who is in her forties and is the women's leader of one of the clubs in her village, is flanked by about 30 women members, as she sits with barely concealed pride on a stool carved from the branch of a tree, and which appears very subtly to increase her stature.

Before her audience of men and women, she presents a reassuring manner as she takes the floor at their request. Speaking clearly, she reminds everyone that it is now three years since Dimitra Clubs were set up in the village. She describes the satisfaction experienced by her club at the prospect of analysing – at village, club and individual level – the quantitative and qualitative results obtained through the initiative of the Dimitra Clubs.

One of the first themes to be discussed by the clubs, and considered an increasingly recurrent problem in the village, was the early marriage of young girls, she says. Those debates have led the clubs to launch a number of awareness-raising activities about the consequences. A watchdog committee was set up to give support to parents in an effort to dissuade them and to impose fines on young boys or men who are suitors, as soon as any attempt at marriage should become public knowledge. This voluntary system has greatly helped to reduce cases of early marriage.

Despite such measures, the mother of Fatia Seydou, a young girl aged thirteen when the clubs were launched, who had not attended school and whose father is dead, came under pressure over a two-year period. This mother, club leader Fati Moumouni, describes how she made every effort to avoid such a disastrous fate for her daughter. "Men introduced themselves, promising to take care of my daughter, offering material possessions and bribery," she recalls. "Some suitors came through the channel of family ties, and this was often followed by threats that my refusal could lead to some misfortune for my daughter and myself. I stood my ground, with constant support and encouragement from the men and women club members.

They told me: 'If, as our leader, you give in, our club decisions will always be destined to fail, and what is more, your daughter will never forgive you for this mistake, which has already been made by other parents, with whose situation you are all too familiar.' Today, I am delighted to say that my now 17-year-old daughter talks to me on the subject, telling me how often women and girls in this and neighboring villages refer to me when discussing the men and women who have led this struggle against the early marriage of young girls.

Increasingly, we are seeing that all girls are feeling more involved in the decision about their marriage, and are themselves choosing when and whom to marry. They also feel more respected in their households, because before marrying they had the opportunity to discuss and even negotiate with their suitor, unaffected by what were the once unilateral decisions of their parents."

"I remain convinced that in future, these women will not allow their own children to endure the fate that they managed to avoid through increased awareness."

*Source: Report by NGO AEDL as part of implementation of JP-RWEE*

#### **2: Discriminatory social norms undergo change at local level/Widows are remarrying**

Amina Kaillou, 61, is the leader of one of four Dimitra Clubs for women in Malla Koira, a village situated 18 km east of the rural municipality of Falwel. She was married at the age of 15, in 1973, and has raised seven children – four girls and three boys. Her eldest, Abdoulaye Djibo, married in 2001 and is now the father of three children. In 2004, when she was 46-years-old, Amina lost her husband Djibo Zako as a result of a road accident. Since then, she had been a widow. Up until 2016.

According to tradition, widows whose mothers-in-law are still alive cannot remarry, and men are reluctant to approach them for fear of having the finger pointed at them. It is said that a man who courts a widow must have been in love with her before her husband died.

With the launch of Dimitra Clubs in the village of Mallam Koira in April 2015, as part of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP-RWEE), one of the women's clubs proposed discussing the theme of the ban on the remarriage of widows of child-bearing age. Given the importance of the topic, the idea was immediately approved by the village assembly, enabling the village clubs to debate the issue, and they subsequently returned to the village assembly to present the results of the discussions and proposals for solutions, thereby lending popular legitimacy to the 'remarriage of widows'.

One year later, in March 2016, this favourable environment enabled Amina Kailou to remarry in a ceremony that was unparalleled, since it was the first time that any widow in the village had remarried. The occasion marked the decisive blow to this discriminatory and baseless practice. A daughter has since been born to the new couple, and Amina has become an ambassador for the village cause. Wherever she goes, she offers sage advice to widows, encouraging them to remarry, and moves discussions forward on the subject within the Dimitra Clubs.

Aissa Amadou was the first woman in the village to follow in her footsteps, several months later, and more than 12 such marriages have since been celebrated in Mallam Koira. Amina says she has even continued her work beyond the village, with one of her cousins who was a widow for 5 years and who now lives under her roof. She claims to be satisfied with her new life, and is proud of the two-parent household that the children from her first marriage are able to benefit from.

### 3) Lightening workloads and developing income-generating activities

Aissa, 55, lives in the village of Madou, situated 22 km west of the rural municipality of Sokorbé. "I trade Moringa leaves which I prepare each day, so that I can buy kola and meet my daily needs (kola is a nut generally chewed by older people as a way of overcoming fatigue and aches and pains; kola is also a term used to describe someone's status, to convey the idea that this person can afford to buy something, without relying on anyone else).

Unfortunately, due to the burden of fetching water, which took me about four hours each day, my small business started to slow down. I had to leave the pot on the fire, and often I found it had been kicked over by the animals. After a while, as a result of these constant losses, I became discouraged and gave up.

Now, with the installation of 12 pulleys in the two wells of my village, my task of fetching water takes just one hour! Given this daily saving of three hours of my time, I decided to resume my trade in Moringa, which is known as Kopto in the local language. With average sales of three tias per day (a cup used as a local measure; its capacity in cereals is equivalent to 5 kg), I make a profit of 450 FCFA per day (USD 0.80), or 13 500 FCFA (USD 23.50) per month. Thanks to this profit margin, I am able to give 150 FCFA each morning to my three grandchildren (2 girls and a boy) who live with me, to spend during the school break. I also use this extra money to buy condiments, and to pay my social dues – the contributions

that I make to neighboring women who organize weddings, christenings or other ceremonies.

The benefit of the pulleys is now widely accepted, as the results can be felt in every household. I am very satisfied, and I am grateful to the Joint Programme for having eased this burden for us. I hope that one day a public standpipe will be installed, which would free us up even more time to spend on strengthening our income generating activities and becoming involved in entrepreneurship.”

## **I. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

A mid-term evaluation of the JP-RWEE is currently being prepared.

Meanwhile, at national level, Niger registered in 2018 to present its first national voluntary report to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018, whose theme was *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*. The National Voluntary Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was conducted in a participatory manner by the Ministry of Planning, which set up a Technical Supervisory Committee that includes the Directorate General for Planning and Forecasting, the National Institute of Statistics, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and agencies from the United Nations system (UNEP, WFP, UNICEF). This first National Voluntary Review report highlights the extent to which the SDGs have been taken into account in the strategy for shaping a better developed Niger by 2035.

In a general sense, the report notes a contrasting trend in progress towards the Goals, and more particularly, those considered by the High-level Political Forum in July 2018, which were SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. It is clear that Niger needs to increase efforts to achieve universal access to drinking water, tap its strong energy potential (especially solar) and make this accessible to all, reduce the proportion of households living in poorly serviced cities and in inadequate housing, and scale up successful experiences and good practices in the sustainable management of land and land ecosystems. To do that, Niger is setting its sights on a radical transformation of the education system, building recognized competence in all sectors of the national economy and introducing a change in social and societal behavior, in both urban and rural areas. The Report outlines the different processes integrated into national planning to take account of the SDGs, and provides a general overview of implementation of all the SDGs, with the exception of SDG 14, which does not concern Niger.

## **IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)**

[An overall process of revising planning documents for the programme in the light of available resources was finalized in the first three months of 2018. Therefore, in common with other countries, Niger has finalized the programme document based on the concept note, lessons learned in 2017, input from the National Steering Committee and feedback from the International Technical Advisory Committee. The main areas of intervention highlighted, and modifications to be made, concern clarification regarding the targeting of beneficiaries, consolidating gains made, sustainability and the strategy to ensure the long-term future. In addition, the International Technical Committee successfully negotiated an extension of the opening of the trust fund until June 2020.

## **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, and UN WOMEN) and from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; and a representative of the Directorate for Women's Economic Empowerment at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children. 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. Meetings were therefore held regularly on this basis in 2018, 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.

**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 draw up recommendations for their smooth operation. The ordinary meetings of the National Steering Committee are held annually, and as needed. The ordinary meeting for 2017 was held in February 2018 in Dosso. It was preceded by a field visit to two villages in the region of Dosso. It was this field visit that enabled members of the steering committee to witness the extent to which progress has been made in activities, and to validate the planning strategy 2018-2019, which was subsequently approved by the International Steering Committee.

**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. In 2018, one meeting was combined with a joint supervisory mission, and the second was held in tandem with the workshop to strengthen synergies, described earlier.

## VI. Resource

Niger has received an additional allocation of US \$ 800,000 by 2018. The table below gives per agency the level of budget consumption; the situation at the end of December 2018 was extracted from the MPTF's validated financial report.

Participating	Total received	Received in juillet 2018	Total received	% dépensés
Organization	jusqu'en 2017			Décembre 2018
FAO	900250	290000	1190250	79,05%
IFAD	491543	170000	661543	
UNWOMEN	486193	170000	656193	
WFP	510271	170000	680271	
Total Niger	2388257	800000	3188257	

## Actions for mobilizing resources carried out in 2018

A response to a call for proposal GIP3 of the Peace Building Fund (PBF) was drawn up, and a joint FAO-UN Women submission was approved for a total of USD 1 500 000. This project, 'Promotion of social cohesion between farmers and livestock keepers (men and women) in the regions of Dosso and Maradi through a gender and diversity-based approach' was designed based on lessons learned from the JP-RWEE, and will be implemented in four other municipalities of the regions of Dosso and Maradi. The last paragraph of page 9 of the project document notes that: "Several lessons learned from implementation of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP-RWEE) in the 4 local municipalities that have come together in the regions of Maradi and Dosso will be capitalized on during the implementation strategy for this initiative. It involves:

- using the Dimitra Club approach as an entry point for putting activities into practice in the field;
- the setting in place of a technical committee to oversee operational planning, monitoring implementation and strategic decisions to refine it;
- the setting in place of a platform for exchange with implementing NGO partners extended to technical services to promote synergy and drive knowledge management,
- the setting in place of land commissions; integrating the gender perspective into national documents (the ordinance supporting the launch, composition and operation of the land commissions for villages and tribes)."