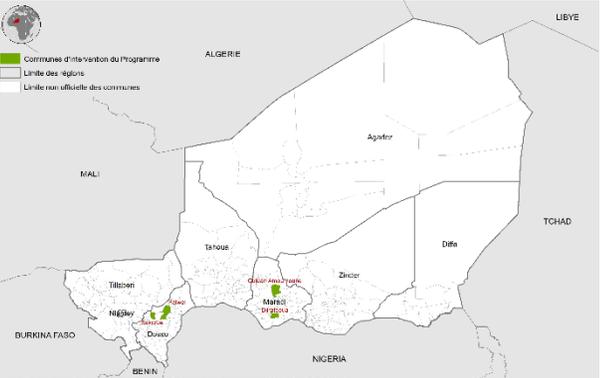


**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results
<p>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092005</p> 	<p>Republic of Niger: Regions Dosso (Falwel and Sokorbe communities) and Maradi (Guidan Amoumoune and Djirataoua communities)</p>  <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p>2019 Beneficiaries: Direct 16,120 beneficiaries; 14,745 women & 1,375 men Indirect 25, 609 beneficiaries; 17,041 women & 8,568 men</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s) FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p><i>National counterparties</i> Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock I3N (‘Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens’ Initiative) High Commission University of Niamey (CRESA)</p> <p><i>Local organizations:</i> NGO Action Educative pour le Développement Local AEDL NGO Actions pour la sécurité alimentaire et le développement intégré ASADI KAIDIYA KUNDJI FONDO; DIKO; CCD / OPRD, (Framework for Collaboration and Dialogue of Peasant Organizations in the Dosso Region / AREN) Regional Directorates of Community Development and Spatial Planning of Dosso and Maradi Departmental Directions of the Environment, Lakalkaney Group</p>

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

Total approved budget as per
project document:
MPTF Contribution
by Agency (if applicable)

Government Contribution
(None)

Other Contributions (donors)
(None)

TOTAL: US\$ 2,388,257

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Programme Duration

Overall Duration 8 years

Start Date: 15 10 2012
In Niger: 15 04 2015

End Date: 31 December 2021, subject to subsequent
signing of the Addendum

Report Submitted By

Name: Mme IDI HALIMATOU MOUSSA
Title: National Coordinator - FAO
Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women
Email address: Halimatou.Moussa@fao.org

List of Acronyms

AEDL	Local NGO (Educational Action for Development)
AREN	Association for the Revitalization of Livestock in Niger (Local association)
ASADI:	Actions for food security and integrated development / Local NGO
BAB:	Livestock feed bank (Banque d'aliments pour bétail);
BC:	Cereal Bank
CFS:	Commission of Food Security
CRESA:	Regional Center for Education Specialized in Agriculture
DACPOR:	Directorate of Cooperative Action and Promotion of Rural Organizations
DIKO:	Local NGO/ (support, mutual aid in the local language)
HI3N:	High Commission to Initiative 3N (Nigerians Feed Nigerians)
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS:	Farmer Field School
IFAD:	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGA:	Income Generating Activities
PBSG:	Planning Gender-sensitive budgeting
MPTF:	Multi Partner Trust Funds / Fonds fiduciaires multi-bailleurs
MAGEL:	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MPF/PE:	Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children
MFP:	Multi-functional platform
NGP:	National Gender Policy
OHADA:	Law on Cooperative Societies/ Organisation pour l'Harmonisation du Droit des Affaires
PO:	Producer Organization
UNDAF:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN WOMEN:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
RWEE:	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
WEAI:	Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP:	World Food Programme

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Niger, the Joint Programme on ‘Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women’ (JP RWEE) has been implemented on a pilot basis by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP since 2015 in twenty villages in four convergence communes of Dosso and Maradi. It aims to create synergies stemming from the respective mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength of each of the four UN agencies engaged to support the Government of Niger's efforts for women's empowerment and food and nutrition security. In 2019, the Niger JP RWEE targeted 16,120 direct beneficiaries, including 14,745 women and girls and 1,375 men and boys; with 25,609 indirect beneficiaries of which 17,041 were women and girls.

In 2019, all operational activities were planned and implemented. The planned studies (end line using the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index WEAI tool, global review) and capitalization to finalize the pilot phase were postponed to 2020 in order to strengthen and sustain the achievements with the additional resources totaling nine hundred thousand dollars (US\$ 500,000 from Norway and US\$ 400,000 from Sweden) received at the end of 2019.

The major achievements of 2019, by expected outcome, are as follows:

Outcome 1: an increase in animal production with an average rate of 216%, has helped to mitigate the consequences of the decline in crop production in 60% of the intervention villages. (In 2019, 100 vulnerable women benefited from 100 pastoral kits; the rate of cereal deficit varying between 52 and 67% depending on the villages); the implementation of the revised nutrition education strategy in the commune of Guidan Amoumoune has led to the design of training/awareness raising tools, and 197 individuals including 169 women, were directly trained on nutrition and who in turn trained 632 women and 300 men.

Outcome 2: the first phase of local purchases to supply school canteens enabled nine Producers’ Organizations (comprising 1,800 men and 453 women; among these, three are female POs with 171 members) to sell 128 tons of millet and cowpea, to support 63 schools in the project intervention area to sustain the enrollment of 13,996 children, (including 6,264 girls); while 1,222 girls from vulnerable households in the four intervention communes benefited from scholarships.¹

Outcome 3: One perceptible change was the improvement in the decision-making power of rural women at the community level, with the example of the village of Tégouzé Koira where, during discussions within the Dimitra clubs, the decision to explore the possibility of water raising/pumping by using the alternator of the multifunctional platform was taken and operationalized, thus facilitating access to water in this village.

Outcome 4: The institutionalization of the International Rural Women's Day by the Ministry in charge of Promotion of Women and Child Protection and the training on gender-sensitive planning and budgeting (PBSG) of communal, regional and departmental senior managers (seven women + 13 men), and members of the MAGEL gender unit; the collection and reporting of gender-sensitive data.

With regard to processes, it should be noted that the JP RWEE was presented during the session of the Dosso regional council, two joint supervision missions were conducted, followed by meetings with the platform for discussions between partners, the sharing of the communication plan and the guide to systematize good practices, and monthly planning and monitoring meetings of the technical committee.

¹ The review of the modus operandi of procurement has hampered completion of this second phase

I. Purpose

The JP RWEE aims at improving the living conditions and strengthening the rights of rural women in the context of post Millennium Development Goals (MDG) sustainable development. The four main outcomes below are intended to achieve this goal:

Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security for rural women;

Outcome 2: Rural women's increased incomes to secure their livelihoods;

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

Outcome 4: Gender-responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.

The programme activities are implemented using an integrated approach that facilitates the empowerment and capacity building of the vulnerable women, as well as their access and control of productive resources. It contributes to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) while strengthening social cohesion. The RWEE Joint Programme is a contribution of the United Nations System to the development objectives of the Government of Niger. It is fully aligned with the following policies and strategies: (i) The five-year action plan 2018-2022 for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Niger (SNAEF); particularly the implementation of JP RWEE's outcomes 1 and 2²; (ii) The common "convergence approach" of the 3N Initiative (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens), which is based on the principle of programmatic, thematic and geographical synergy among United Nations Agencies under the leadership of the Office of the High Commissioner to improve resilience of vulnerable communities. The JP RWEE is a contribution to the implementation of sub-program 6.5 of Niger 'economic and social development plan' (PDES³ 2017-2021). (iii) It is also aligned with the three strategic outcomes of UNDAF Niger 2019-2022 RS3-Social Development and Protection; RS2-Governance, Peace and Security and RS1-Resilience and more specifically with outcomes 1, 3 and 5⁴. Within the framework of the "DELIVERING AS ONE" approach to which the United Nations system in Niger is committed, the JP RWEE is classified under the UNDAF⁵ effect and contributes to its three outputs.

II. Results

i) Narrative report on results.

Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security for rural women

The aim here is to contribute to the improvement of food and nutritional security of women and their households by:

- Facilitating increased access for women and (men) to resources, assets and some basic essential services for food and nutrition security, and
- Building on their capacities so that they can better control their production and local food security stocks.

² Outcome1: Women enjoy a socio-cultural, economic, political and legal environment conducive to economic empowerment. Programme 1: Strengthening a sociocultural, economic, political and legal environment conducive to women's economic empowerment Programme 2: Strengthening the knowledge and skills of women and their organizations

Outcome 2: Women enjoy their rights guaranteeing access to and control over the means of production and their participation in markets and employment. Programme 1: Strengthening women's access to and control over the means of production, processing and conservation and access to markets.

³ Programme 6 is structured around seven (7) sub-programmes, namely: (i) development of irrigated and rainfed production, (ii) restoration of the livestock system, (iii) processing of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery products, (iv) development of rural infrastructure and services, (v) empowerment of rural women, (vi) strengthening of the resilience to food insecurity of the most vulnerable, (vii) governance and coordination of the rural sector. Sub-programme 6. 5: Empowerment of rural women: This sub-programme aims at improving the income of rural women. In particular, it aims to significantly increase women's productivity and productive capacity. To that end, interventions are envisaged to reduce the drudgery of domestic chores, increase the yields, productivity and quality of production carried out by women, and improve women's economic empowerment. The sub-programme will be structured around the following actions: (i) developing activities to reduce the time devoted to domestic activities through the establishment of multifunctional centres, (ii) strengthening rural women's access to energy services, (iii) strengthening rural women's access to the means of production (including land), (iv) developing a social mobilization strategy and a women's literacy programme, (v) strengthen rural women's knowledge of technical requirements and trade standards, (vi) develop financing mechanisms for rural women's activities, (vii) establish and rehabilitate community facilities to alleviate rural women's domestic chores and (vi) strengthen rural women's leadership, (viii) develop a specific social protection programme for vulnerable women. Source PDES 2017-2021

⁴ UNDAF 2019-2021/ Outcome 1: By 2021, targeted rural populations have access to innovative value chains that create decent jobs, participate in mechanisms for the prevention and management of food and nutrition crises and disasters and in sustainable management of natural and energy resources adapted to the effects of climate change.

Outcome 3. By 2021, women and youth/adolescents in the targeted areas benefit from viable economic opportunities, acquire the skills and competencies necessary for their empowerment and participate in decision-making processes and in the promotion of practices aimed at eliminating gender-based inequalities and violence, including child marriage. Outcome 5. By 2021, the populations in the target areas, particularly women, children and adolescents, make equitable use of quality health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition services, as well as water, hygiene and sanitation services

⁵ outcome 3. By 2021, women and youth/adolescents in targeted areas benefit from viable economic opportunities, acquire skills and competencies necessary for their empowerment and participate in decision-making processes and in the promotion of practices aimed at eliminating gender-based inequalities and violence, including child marriage.

output 3.1. The most vulnerable women and young people, including out-of-school and out-of-school youth in target areas, have enhanced vocational and technical capacities and skills to access economic opportunities to ensure their empowerment. Output:3.2. Women and young people in target areas have strengthened capacities to participate actively in decision-making forums at all levels, particularly at the community level.Output: 3.3. Women and young people, as well as those affected by emergency, humanitarian and family situations, have access to high-quality, holistic services for better protection against violence, particularly gender-based violence (GBV) and child marriage.

The two outputs below were expected to contribute to this outcome.

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

This output results from the combined efforts of the four agencies to facilitate vulnerable women's access to services, loan, pastoral kits, inputs and integrated agriculture and nutrition services, so that they adopt improved farming techniques and nutritional practices. In 2019, apart from the finalization of the actions initiated in 2018, it was also planned to distribute 100 new pastoral kits and supply inputs for the Livestock Feed banks (BAB), strengthen women's access to loans through women's savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and conduct nutrition education in Guidan Amoumoune.

Pastoral kits and input provision for the Livestock Feed Banks (BAB): The Pastoral Kits activity and the provision of inputs for the Livestock Feed Bank are implemented by the JP RWEE in collaboration with the NGO ASADI in the Maradi Region and in collaboration with the Framework for Collaboration and Dialogue of Farmer Organizations (CCD/OPRD) of the Dosso Region. One hundred (100) new pastoral kits including 15 tons of livestock feed were distributed to 100 vulnerable women in the communes of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune. For the former communes of Falwel and Djirataoua, 100 goats were distributed to alleviate the problem of crossbreeding and sale of "red goats" raised in previous years. The 800 old and 100 new beneficiaries were trained to monitor the dynamics of the herd; in particular, 515 women were trained on the following areas: (i) livestock feeding and the use of crop remnants, (ii) zootechnical and health monitoring of small ruminants provided by the communal livestock services.

The creation of the Livestock Feed Bank (BAB) is a need expressed by three villages (Guidan Wari, Saidou Goula and Dan Mallam mai Rakouma) in the rural commune of Guidan Amoumoune, to support their livestock activities and generate income. The BAB has been installed in Saidou Goula, a village with premises available with 10.3 tons of local inputs that included cowpea pods, peanut husks, millet bran worth 800,000 F CFA (US\$ 1,400). The installation of this feed bank placed a particular emphasis on sustainability. In order to be sustainable, the activity enabled women beneficiaries to purchase the inputs themselves locally. In contrast, if they had opted for conventional inputs (wheat bran and cotton cake), not only would they have had no other choice than buy very expensive supplies and would have faced unfair competition from the state's sale at moderate prices through the livestock technical services and its partners. Another important aspect related to the sustainability of the BAB, was the technological training package on the management system (animal feeding in the Sahel context; strategic complements; associative life and management). It is also important to underline the participation and proximity of the communal livestock department and the district (Mairie) in monitoring and supporting the process (knowledge and achievements). At the same time, this also enabled these women's groups to generate income.

Access to loans through the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs): The JP RWEE, in collaboration with the NGO Dicko, was responsible for the creation, dynamization and training of women's groups. In 2019, this activity reached 186 women's groups, enabling 4,650 women to access loans within their savings and loan groups to conduct income generating activities (IGAs) and/or meet the needs of their families.

Nutrition education in Guidan Amoumoune: Nutrition education was conducted in collaboration with the NGO (Kundji Fondo) in the commune of Guidan Amoumoune. As a reminder, the complete package of activities per commune included a baseline study, followed by training and sensitization activities, followed by an evaluation six months after the sensitization. The baseline study conducted in collaboration with CRESA, resulted in a dietary diversity score⁶ of 3.5 out of 12 and was followed by nutritional education. The objective here was to get households in the intervention zone to improve their food, hygiene and sanitation practices by raising the average dietary diversity score from 3.5 to 6. Household dietary diversity is the number of different food groups consumed over a given reference period. The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is intended to reflect, in a snapshot form, the household's economic ability to access a diversified diet.

The new strategy for integrating nutrition into all JP RWEE activities, developed in March 2019, has been implemented in four main stages:

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

- Identification of nutrition themes specific to each activity of the JP RWEE: Nine topics related to each component of the programme have been developed according to specific guides for each category of beneficiaries and a total of three⁷ guides have been developed.
- Training of supervisors of the beneficiaries of the programme: Nine supervisors from partner NGOs (AEDL, DICKO, ASSADI), agents of the government technical services, local elected officials and community radio hosts were trained. One of the nine participants was a woman. The aim was for the supervisors to be able to integrate the nutrition aspect into the various interventions, and to help the community improve their understanding of the importance of the different interventions and their complementarity.
- Training of leaders of community structures on nutrition: A total of 197 individuals including 169 women participated in the training. In each group, COGES, Club Dimitra, 4 school canteens, a set of teaching kits (pictures) was given to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the community and serve as a support at community level. It should be noted that the trained leaders were responsible for passing on the knowledge acquired to the other members of the identified entities; a total of 632 women and 300 men have been trained.
- Identification of culinary recipes based on food with high nutritional value, supervision of community discussions on nutrition and culinary demonstrations: locally available and financially accessible culinary recipes were identified in full collaboration with the Dimitra Clubs. A total of seven culinary recipes for adults and two culinary recipes for young children were identified and their preparation was presented at village assemblies. The aim was to apply the knowledge acquired through practice, and to demonstrate to the community the possibility of having a complete and balanced diet with locally available products.

In order to improve the food security of the members of the farmers' organizations, the promotion of market gardening is an action that JP RWEE- endorses. Within this framework, five (5) basic women POs from the villages of Madou (rural commune of Sokorbé) and Téhoizé Koirra (rural commune of Falwel) with a total of 323 members obtained the fencing of their market gardening sites, with a surface area of 2 ha and 1 ha respectively. The process of building a storage warehouse with a capacity of 25 tons for the benefit of the Gafemme women's union of the village of Guidan Wari (rural commune of Guidan Amoumoune) has also been finalized. The Union is composed of 11 grassroots POs with a total of 311 members.

Output 1.2: Rural women have increased capacity to strengthen and control local food stocks

To achieve this output, the activities planned and carried out in 2019 were: (i) Training community trainers on storage, conservation and stock management techniques; (ii) Strengthening the operation of multifunctional platforms in synergy with the 'Women and Energy' project and training beneficiaries (men and women).

School mills, multifunctional platforms: Discussions were conducted with the Women and Energy project and partnership possibilities are being developed with the support of the JP RWEE coordination for the installation of solar panels for school mills and multifunctional platforms.

Capacity building for leaders of producers' organizations: Two training sessions for community trainers on cereal storage and conservation techniques were carried out in 2019. The objective was, on the one hand, to ensure the nutritional quality of the cereal stocks of the members of the POs and Dimitra Clubs and, on the other hand, to minimize the losses related to the storage and conservation of cereal products. In order to ensure a better ownership of the achievements related to the capacity building of members of farmers' organizations, the JP RWEE collaborated with the decentralized services of the DAC/POR (MAG/EL) which ensured the supervision of the farmers' organizations in Niger.

To maximize the number of local skills that were leveraged to multiply the training to other members of formal and informal community organizations and consequently reach a larger number of targets, training of trainer's sessions were carried out. At the end of each training session, the community trainers formally committed themselves to passing on the content of the training to other members of the formal and informal community organizations. A total of 60 community trainers had their capacities strengthened in 2019 on cereal storage and conservation techniques. The 60 community trainers include 46 women and 14 men. The latter have

⁷ - A guide for the training of SMCs, Teachers, and school canteen managers;
 - A training guide for CEP beneficiaries, POmanagers and Dimitra Club leaders.
 - A guide for women's groups

committed to delivering the content of the training to 1,211 individuals, including 921 women members of 41 grassroots organizations. The POs training package will be evaluated in 2020.

In addition to the members of the POs and Dimitra Clubs, technicians from the decentralized technical services and NGO executing partners of the joint programme committed to attend these training of trainers' sessions. Through this involvement of representatives of technical services and partner NGOs, the objective was not only to support and facilitate the restitution of the training content at the community level but also to build on the capacities in order to consolidate the achievements.

Also, as part of the activities of targeted women's groups, a stock of 1,010 bags of 100 kg of millet and 725 bags of cowpeas and 10 bags of stumps were mobilized and stored to be sold during the lean season.

Analysis of trends towards achieving Outcome 1:

The RWEE Programme intends to measure improvements in food and nutrition security of rural women through (i) the rate of increase in agricultural production (crop and livestock) by women farmers and (ii) the increase in the household food diversity score. The process for evaluating the nutrition education package of activities to assess the dietary diversity score has not yet been completed. But an increase in agricultural production has been observed.

Increase in agricultural production of women farmers: it is measured with two sub-indicators, the increase in livestock production and the increase in crop production.

Animal production: The small ruminant kits distributed recorded a growth rate estimated at 219%. Apart from the support of the JP RWEE, several initiatives have been developed in relation with the Savings and Loans Associations and the Dimitra Clubs to promote the activity on women's own capital. However, the high rate of increase has been in farrowing (Figure 1). A large proportion of the animals was used to meet the households' needs (sale or food/slaughtering). Animal losses and deaths constitute a significant proportion (figure 2) as illustrated below.

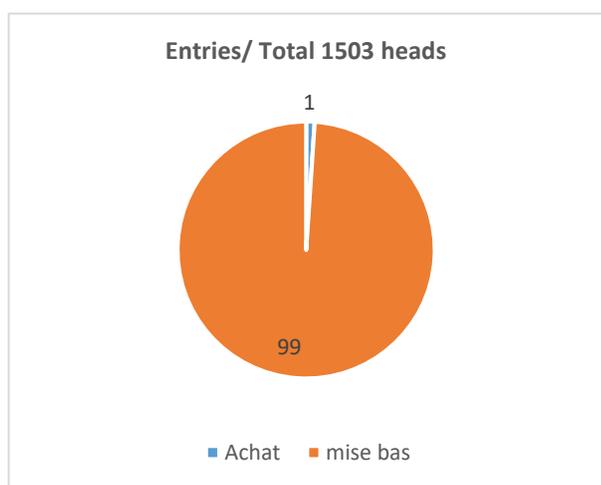


Figure 1: Proportion of entries by acquisition mode

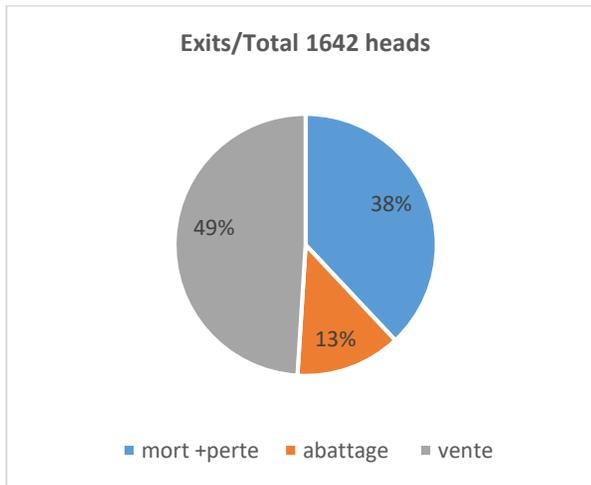
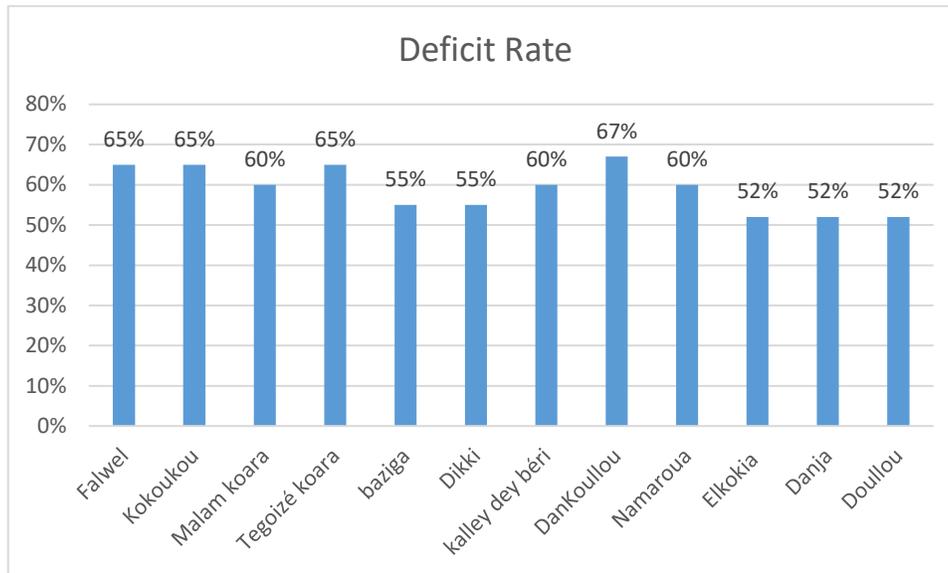


Figure 2: Proportion by exit modality

Source : IFAD annual Data Report, processed by the project coordination team

Crop production /Plant production: On one hand, compared to the baseline, there is a slight increase in crop production of vegetables grown largely by women. On the other hand, a decrease in all crops except sesame is recorded compared to the same reference period in 2018. Millet, which is the main staple consumed by households, was produced on average at 469g/ha, i.e. minus 8% compared to the baseline study and minus 50% compared to production in 2018. Thus, 60% of the intervention villages have a cereal deficit of more than 50%, ranging from 52% to 67% as shown in the table below:



Source: Data provided by the Departmental Directors of Agriculture of Loga, Mayahi and Madarounfa and processed at the coordination level.

The municipalities of Falwel, Sokorbé (Loga department, Dosso region) and Djirataoua (Madarounfa department, Maradi region) were the most affected, with more than three villages out of five having a cereal deficit of more than 50%. The specific case of the villages in the communes of Falwel and Sokorbé is described below:



Source: data provided by the Departmental Directors of Agriculture of Loga, Mayahi and Madarounfa and processed at the project coordination level.

Qualitative monitoring of the changes brought by the small ruminant kits distributed to the targeted women, conducted in collaboration with the Dosso Departmental Directorate of Community Development, has shown that more than 50% of the income resulting from the sale was used to cover households' food needs. (See below in the qualitative assessment chapter). Cross-analysis of the data reported by the partners (implementing NGOs and Departmental Agricultural Directorates) shows that the intervention villages in the communes of Sokorbé and Falwel (Loga department) are the ones that have sold the small ruminant kits and invested in food.

Outcome 1 remains stationary for 2019 and mitigation measures through market gardening support where possible are currently underway. There are also plans to strengthen the cereal bank with cereal stocks in the village of Guidan Wari (commune of Guidan Amoumoune) in 2020 to support women and the populations who get their supplies there to cope during the lean season.

Outcome 2: Rural women's increased incomes to secure their livelihoods

The following two outputs were expected to contribute to the achievement of this outcome:

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

This objective was to be reached through the access of women and men to local purchases organized by WFP to supply school canteens and training for women and POs on agricultural structuring and entrepreneurship, strengthened by IFAD, UN Women, WFP and FAO supported by the resources described in intermediate objective 1.

Local purchases from women and mixed producer organizations: During the first phase of local purchases, nine POs (comprising 1,800 men and 453 women) sold 205.3 tons of millet at US\$ 71,445.11 and 80.55 tons of cowpea at US\$ 44,976.56. This is a remunerative price, thus, contributing to the increase of their income. The second phase of local purchases from POs to supply schools commenced in October 2019, is being tested in the Maradi region, with the Dosso stage to follow; a new mechanism is being tested through cash transfer to schools, which will purchase their own supplies directly from POs and local suppliers. This process has taken longer than expected, given the innovative nature of the process, which implies the involvement of a financial partner (Niger Poste) to facilitate the transfer of funds, the training of local stakeholders on the operating mode, the appointment of representatives and the collection of reliable data for the acquisition of funds from the counters. Data on the indicators will be available at the end of the process.

Support women producers in cooperatives for marketing throughout the value chain: As part of the capacity building of women's groups in agricultural entrepreneurship in relation to local purchases, JP RWEE organized training on governance and market service development for the eight Maradi POs and on WFP procurement procedures; 16 women attended.

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

JP RWEE planned and implemented the following three activities in partnership with the Diko NGO: (i) purchase and installation of labour saving equipment; (ii) training of millers and maintenance workers and (iii) finally, coaching of female associations and women in conducting individual and collective IGAs.

Purchase and installation of labor-saving and income-generating equipment: To reinforce previous achievements (10 multifunctional platforms, two standpipes, nine pulleys, 55 carts), the same types⁸ of labor-saving and income generating equipment were installed in the second half of 2019 to meet the demands of women: 49 cattle carts, including 30 in Maradi and 19 in Dosso, which makes a total of 108, the number of donkey and cattle carts provided at the level of beneficiary POs; nine pulleys installed in 2019, for a total of 18 placed on community wells to facilitate pumping. All this equipment benefited 14,745 women and 1,300 men in the target area. Also, 14 peanut processing kits were provided by the programme in 2019, bringing the number of processing kits in the intervention zone to 36.

As a reminder, this activity was initiated in 2017 and currently, the program supports four processing topics, in 20 villages in the four communes Falwel, Sokorbé (Dosso region) and Djirataoua. Guidan Amoumoune (Maradi region). The four topics are: cowpea, millet, peanuts and milk. The 402 women beneficiaries received a series of technical trainings and processing kits (small materials and equipment) in 2019.

⁸ Thirteen (13) villages benefited from forty-nine carts distributed as follows : Maradi with a distribution as follows: Seven (07) for the village of Danja; three (3) for the village of Doullou II; three (3) for the village of Elkoukia; five (5) for the village of Namaroua; two (2) for the village of Tadjáé Peulh. Four (4) for the village of Dan Mallam. Three (3) for the village of Seydou Koula Three (3) for the village of katre Linkidim

For Dosso, nineteen (19) carts were distributed to five (5) villages including four (4) carts for each of the villages of Falwel; Teguoizé koira; kokoukou; Mallan koira and three (3) for the village of Dey tagui Yamba.

14 transformation kits distributed at the rate of one kit per village (14) in three (3) communes Falwel, Djirataoua and G. Amoumoune

09 pulleys installed including : Five (05) in three villages of Maradi; Two (2) for the village of Dan Mallam; One (1) for the village of Seydou Koula; Two (2) for the village of Katare Linkidim(Fada) to facilitate water drainage.

And 04 pulleys installed in three villages of Dosso: (Mallan Koira; Teguoizé koira and Deytégui yamba) to facilitate water drainage.

Danja(2) ; Doulo(1) ; Elkoukia (1) ; Namaroua (2) ; Falwal(1) ; Teguoizé Koira(1) ; Dey tegui Yamba(1) ; Kocoukou(1) ; Dan Mallam(2) ; Katre(1)

Of the four processing topics supported, groundnut processing is the most practiced by the beneficiaries according to monitoring results. The largest processing volumes were recorded in Baziga and Madou in the commune of Sokorbé, then in Tegoizekoira zeno and Malam koira in the commune of Falwel and finally Danja and Tajae peulh in the commune of Djirataoua.

Number of rural women who have initiated income-generating activities: In the intervention area, rural women conduct individual and collective income-generating activities (IGAs) in order to have their own resources to meet their needs. Of the 1,000 women targeted, 875 initiated IGAs, the most common being the sale of doughnuts, peanut oil and ready-made meals; in 2019, this total rose to 998, i.e. 123 new IGAs.

Value of the stock mobilized by women on their own funds and amount of savings mobilized: Women's groups mobilized grain stocks from their own funds during the harvest period that are resold during the lean season. During 2019, 2,625 women, members of 105 POs, mobilized either from their own funds or harvested in collective fields, cereals and pulses with an estimated value of CFA 44,170,000 (approximately US\$ 76,155). The amount of savings mobilized by women through savings and loan credits was CFA 18,862,000/ US\$ 32,520⁹

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 2

While in 2018 the focus was on cereal stocks and small ruminant kits, in 2019 processing of agricultural products is highlighted, with new options for access to credit with the BAGRI (Agricultural Bank), small ruminant kits and the prizes won during the October 15 celebrations (see testimonials). The increase in income, which is very noticeable, shows the positive trend of this outcome.

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

To achieve this outcome, JP RWEE strengthened the leadership of rural women and girls and their active participation in decision-making bodies, in households, organizations and communities. It was achieved through the following four outputs:

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

The aim is to work for the internal empowerment of rural women and girls to participate in local governance. Several tools were used: training, exchange visits, awareness-raising, thematic debates, support to school attendance and keeping girls in secondary school, supported by access to and control of resources as described above. One of the approaches used to achieve this output is the process of learning citizenship through the Dimitra Clubs approach. In 2019, the following four activities were planned and implemented:

- Community-led literacy training, which made it possible to train 245 literacy facilitators (104 women and 141 men) in their mother tongue language (Hausa in Maradi and Zarma in Dosso) and also to train them as promoters of the use of the written local language in the 20 villages. They subsequently enrolled and taught 1,830 individuals (1,159 women and 671 men) to read and write.
- Support for the schooling of young girls and boys through school canteens, whose objective is to ensure quality basic education for all girls and boys of school age, 13,996 pupils, including 6,264 girls, received nutritious meals at school, enabling them to improve their learning capacities and also to stimulate school attendance. In order to reinforce the objective of the canteens in several areas, complementary activities were implemented through school vegetable gardens, school herds and grain mills.
- Scholarships for girls to continue secondary education: in 2019, a total of 1,222 girls in the four intervention communes benefited from scholarships to encourage them to continue their education - these were girls enrolled in primary (CM1 and CM2) and secondary (all levels - middle school and high school) education who received respectively 6,000 F CFA (US\$ 9.88), 12,000 F CFA (US\$ 19.76) and 18,000 F CFA (US\$ 29.64) per term depending on the level. In addition to this support, targeted schools and villages where parents live also received awareness-raising sessions for behavioral change through topics on early marriage, the importance of schooling for young girls and nutritional education.

Output 3.2: Rural women have improved organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate in POs, cooperatives and unions.

⁹ Source UN Women, data provided by NGO Diko

This output was achieved through the combined effects of the coaching of Dimitra Clubs (conducted in partnership with AEDL); the creation and strengthening of the structure of women's groups, and training in associative life (implemented in partnership with the NGO DIKO), sessions to strengthen the organizational capacities of POs carried out in collaboration with the DAC/POR).

In order to support community trainers in the delivery of training to members of the POs, the training guidelines were translated into local Hausa and Djerma languages in collaboration with the technical services for literacy. The multiplication and availability of POs will be finalized in 2020.

In partnership with NGO DIKO, the JP RWEE continued to support POs to comply with the new law on association and grouping (OHADA) and enable these to improve their access to economic opportunities. This resulted in 105 POs having complied with the new law.

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

The only activity planned and carried out in 2019 under this product was the exchange visits of the Dimitra Clubs.

Dimitra Interclub visit: A study tour was organized between the communes of Falwel, Sokorbé, Guidan Amoumoune and Djirataoua in the Maradi region (19 to 23 February 2019) and Falwel (27 April to 1 May 2019) that enabled the 22 participants (12 women and 10 men) to share their ideas. As a result, the following achievements were made: i) the 4 communal networks of the Dimitra Clubs mutually enriched each other regarding the experiences related to different areas of intervention of the RWEE Joint Programme; ii) the local elected officials witnessed the added value of the Dimitra Clubs and their synergy with the other components of the programme; iii) the successes and difficulties of implementation have been shared. In addition, the following lessons and findings emerged:

- Dialogue at a household level has become frequent, and women's ideas are taken into account in decision-making processes at village and commune levels;
- The result shared by the different Clubs from four communes are very similar, even though they come from different backgrounds;
- The clubs' activities are in line with the grassroots development objectives advocated by the country's authorities.

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

The aim is to continue coaching the Dimitra Clubs as well as supporting rural women in implementing initiatives to promote their rights, and the enrolment of young girls in school through granting scholarships.

Coaching the Dimitra Clubs to ensure the sustainability of achievements: The Dimitra Clubs were strengthened through monthly support missions in to guarantee the sustainability of the activities and the management of the new challenges identified. Six supervision missions were carried out in each of the four communes. As a result, 20 village meetings were held to take stock of the achievements of the Clubs' dynamics in preparation of the exchanges between the two regions. The 3,600 members of the 120 Dimitra clubs (2,400 women and 1,200 men) took part in the meetings. Main achievements that resulted from these activities, as selected and listed by the communities are, among others, the following:

- In the commune of Falwel: In Tégouizé Koira, the pumping at the borehole had been out of order for 5 years. With their own funds, the Dimitra Clubs mobilized to link the forage to the energy of the multifunctional platform thereby allowing automatic pumping for the whole village. Innumerable difficulties were resolved to the great satisfaction of the community members, including: access to drinking water, reduction of waste of time and labor, and fights around the well; reduction of women's and girls' workloads, which contributed to improving girls' school attendance; improved awareness in relation to the "common good". In Mallam Koira, the spirit of citizenship has increased and materialized through mobilization of resources which has allowed the 100% timely payment of individual taxes (levies), as declared by the village chief in May 2019; In the village of Baziga which is in the commune of Sokorbe, the Dimitra Clubs initiated and succeeded in mobilizing 90 women to improve their income

through the extraction of peanut oil. They kept their ‘accounts’ in writing in the local language and were to be able to read and write in the local language. This came from the literacy activity led by the communities,

- In the commune of Djirataoua: the clubs engaged in a community consultation that led to the unprecedented decision to reduce the marriage dowry from FCFA 500,000 to FCFA 200,000 (about US\$ 860 to US\$ 340). This decision supported by the village chiefs was corroborated by the mayor who signed an official decree to bring its application to the entire commune. In the village of Djirataoua, some 20 marriages were celebrated as a way to materialize such decision.
- In Guidan Amoumoune: in Kataré Linkidime, the clubs took advantage of the expertise developed by two of their members to train them in building half-moons and Zaï to fight climate change. These techniques are practiced through a WFP Cash for work program implemented in a village 2 km distance from theirs. A total of 177 participants, representing about 70 households, have been trained through the clubs' initiative on an exclusively voluntary basis. The outcome obtained by these participants is the sense of pride that is reflected in the whole village and the surrounding villages.

Concerning the distribution of scholarships to vulnerable girls to motivate them to continue their schooling: 1,222 girls from the four intervention communes benefited during the 3/4 of the school year from scholarships and awareness sessions on early marriage, the importance of schooling for young girls and nutritional education.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 3

The irreversible dynamics within the Dimitra Clubs in terms of discussions and concerted decision-making within the villages, collective achievements, and exchanges within the POs, show clear trends that the achievements under this outcome will be sustainable.

Outcome 4: Gender-responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women

The objective under outcome 4 is to contribute to facilitate a more gender-responsive policy environment that values rural women's economic empowerment and makes tools available for its measurement. For this reason, the original design of the programme planned to develop the parliamentarians and policy makers' capacities to enable them to integrate a gender-sensitive approach in various areas such as land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment strategies, policies and budgets. Advocating efforts were needed to promote the use of the rural women's empowerment index in agriculture. To achieve this, the following outputs were defined.

Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced their capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets

Three training sessions on gender-sensitive planning, gender budgeting and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation were conducted in 2019 for local and national decision-makers.

The first focused on Gender Sensitive Planning and Budgeting (GSPB) directed at 20 () key local stakeholders (including seven women) from the 4 JP RWEE communes (Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune). It took place from 26 to 28 June 2019 and was facilitated by the UN Women Representative and Desk Officer, assisted by the gender expert, the UN Women Focal Point and the JP RWEE National Coordinator. A WhatsApp exchange group, created at the end of the training sessions, made it possible to know that feedback to the mayors and their teams had been made. The knowledge acquired will be used during the renewal of the Communal Development Plans (CDPs) of the four communes which are in the process of being renewed and will be waiting for the partners to support the re-planning.

The last two sessions were directed at the central, regional and departmental senior staff of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry (MAGEL). The topics covered were as follows: (i) gender analysis of agricultural policies, programmes and projects for national level managers and members of the MAGEL gender unit - 26 women and eight men trained and (ii) gender-sensitive data collection, gender analysis of data and production of gender-sensitive reports in the framework of national agricultural surveys. The training was provided to 26 men and seven women, all of whom are agricultural statistics managers, through expertise made available to the JP RWEE by FAO. A total of 33 women and 34 men were trained and provided with training materials. Several testimonies allow us to say that the training met a real need for information.

Follow-up to the training: regarding the implementation of the action plans developed and exploring possibilities for mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of the recommendations.

Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress is promoted related to the economic empowerment of rural women

Achievement of this output was planned in two stages: (i) application of the WEAI tool for data collection and analysis, its ownership by the team and partners with a view to its application at the national level; (ii) studies and data collection to produce evidence.

At the start of the programme, the WEAI tool was used in Falwel for the baseline study and the report was used to guide implementation. An evaluation study using the WEAI tool, review and capitalization process on the JP RWEE pilot experience in Niger was planned for 2019. The final study using the WEAI tool and the global review have been postponed to 2020 to complete the current phase. The international coordination provided the national teams with a guide for identifying and systematizing good practices. Documentation will continue until the first half of 2020.

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

It was planned in 2019 to support the Ministry for Women's Promotion and Child's Protection in institutionalizing the organization of the International Day of Rural Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Office of the High Commissioner for the 3Ns Initiative, through the phased process that began in 2016; this was done. During 2019, the preparatory committee was established by order of the Ministry for Women's promotion and Child's Protection, thus creating on 15 October the space for the promotion of leadership and the defense of rural women's rights.

Also, upon request of this Ministry, the JP RWEE provided technical support to contribute to the preparation of the 63rd session of the CSW. The delegation of Niger prepared several presentations in order to facilitate or attend panel discussions¹⁰. The JP RWEE contributed to the enrichment of the presentations on labour saving technologies and income generation. During the celebration of May 13, 2019, the National Women's Day, a film was done on multifunctional platforms, including the ones in Kokoukou and Tégouzé Koira, with the technical and financial contribution of JP RWEE.

As part of the implementation of the five-year action plan of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women (SNAF), the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children celebrated the International Day of the rural woman under the theme 'female entrepreneurship, a tool for the empowerment of women: let's strengthen their capacities in the livestock sector'. The national organizing committee selected the village of Toro in Barmou commune, Tahoua region to host the event. The JP RWEE provided technical and financial support for the organization of the event, with an allocation of US\$ 13,500 to the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, as well as six tons of enriched livestock feed, a demonstration on how to prepare livestock feeds, exchanges with women from the JP RWEE area of intervention and finally three individual prizes for the "best agricultural producer" were given in the Toro village. An article was written on this event and is included below.

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

Challenges

The main challenge of the JP RWEE remains its financing modality in line with its ambitions. While acknowledging the multiple efforts made in resource mobilization at the international and national levels, and expressing gratitude to Sweden and Norway for their continued support of the initiative, and welcoming the profound changes that have taken place, it is important to emphasize that the annual planning as experienced does not provide much room for maneuver to keep NGO partners in the field; and to address the root causes of heteronomy and denial of rights of vulnerable women. For example, one of the challenges we considered addressing, which was the "timely data collection and processing", was encountered during the reporting period. It was envisaged that quantitative and qualitative data would be collected jointly by the technical committee and the platform for exchange with partners during regular

¹⁰ The topic of 2019 International Women's Day is "Thinking Equitably, Building Smart, Innovating for Change" and focused on innovative ways to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure. The panel moderated by Niger focused on "Access to Sustainable Infrastructure for Women's and Girls' Empowerment: Building Multifunctional Platforms, Niger's Experience"

meetings. It turned out that during the first half of 2019, the NGOs Diko, Kundji Fondo, ASADI, AREN were not in the field because they did not have contracts with the respective agencies. The long processes of the procedures for contracting and disbursement have also an impact on the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the activities. The discussions held during the second meeting of the exchange platform with the partners made recommendations on how to facilitate data feedback with the support of the government services.

Lessons learned & good practices

Within the framework of knowledge management, the JP RWEE global coordination has made two documents available to the national teams:

- A communication plan whose objective is to reinforce the visibility of the JP RWEE within the participating agencies and outside;
- A guide that provides a quick orientation to recognize, justify and document good practices resulting from the local implementation of JP RWEE.

A workshop to share these two documents was held at the end of November 2019 and brought together, apart from the technical committee, the members of the platform for discussions with partners (local NGOs and government departments at regional and departmental levels). The new allocation obtained made it possible to plan visibility actions for 2020 on the occasion of the commemorative days 8 March, 13 May and 15 October, to tweet and tag on the events and activities of the programme. It is worth noting that the sharing of the communication plan was supported by the communication officer of the lead agency, which is FAO.

The guide for systematizing good practices has been applied and topics have been identified, confirmed in the field and prioritized which are:

- The Dimitra Club approach as an entry point of the programme
- Pastoral kits (rotation system)
- Nutrition education (the approach)
- Local purchases / JP RWEE cases
- Loan savings groups

The team met on 20 December 2019 to prioritize and identify at least one good practice to be documented: it was agreed that all the topics identified were related to already known good practices and that it was their combination which constituted the innovation as such to be shared. Therefore, the topic selected is: 'holistic and integrated approach to boost the economic empowerment of vulnerable women for food and nutrition security in Niger'. The main ideas were identified during the workshop and the drafting of the first draft will be prepared in 2020 by the JP RWEE national coordinator. At the level of nutrition education: a deepening of the understanding of discrepancies in the outcome achieved is being conducted by FAO and partners with the support of international coordination.

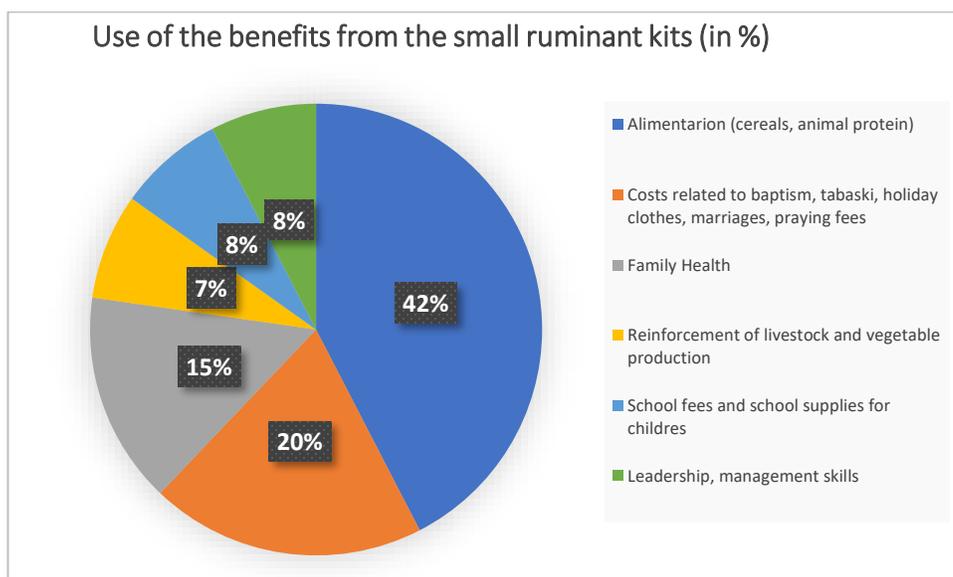
The JP RWEE targets men and women in order to take into account social dynamics. Many studies have shown the important role of men in the empowerment process of women and girls in several contexts. The building and maintenance of self-confidence, popular legitimacy, recognition and appreciation of women's contribution to development cannot be sustainable without the support of members of the household and the community in which women live. For this reason, JP RWEE works with men and women to mitigate the risks of tensions or conflicts between men and women, that may be triggered as a result of women's improved economic situation, particularly domestic violence. With the Dimitra Clubs as an entry point at village level, the programme targets two thirds women and one third men so that access to information and training, decision-making, thematic discussions on law and gender equality are shared resources. POs' strengthening and local purchase wise, apart from women POs, mixed groups are also targeted so that women have more allies to access opportunities and decisions.

At the level of multifunctional platforms, constraints such as the handling of alternators for starting up, the supply of spare parts which requires traveling to neighboring countries several times, have led to the need to train maintenance workers alongside female millers. In 2019, 1,375 men were directly targeted by different activities. Their participation in gender training shows that they are also victims of their socialization (see testimony below, in the specific history section).

- **Qualitative assessment:**

A qualitative study on small ruminant kits was conducted by IFAD and partners. This study was carried out by the Regional Directorate of Land Management and Community Development of Dosso, the Falwel communal livestock department, the presidents of the communal networks of the Dimitra of Falwel and Sokorbé clubs for the Dosso region. For the Maradi region, it was conducted with the involvement of the communal and departmental livestock services and the Dimitra clubs of Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune. The objective of the study was to highlight how this intervention (support in pastoral kits) has impacted the lives of the targeted women and their households.

The communes of intervention (Falwel, Sakorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune) are among the ones that are chronically in food deficit. This is why the impact of the operation is much more visible in the area of improving food security. Several other testimonies highlight the improvement of family well-being, health and the provision of schooling for children (clothing and supplies), and soil fertility with the organic manure produced.



"I am one of the first beneficiaries of the small ruminant kits. We can only say thank you to the Joint Programme. Thanks to these animals, we are able to help our husbands with various family expenses. I paid for millet, I bought party clothes for my children. Today, we sacrifice these animals also during tabaski, which was not possible before."

Zalika Issoufou, from the village of Doullou, Djirataoua commune.

In the framework of monitoring, the Technical Committee organized its regular meetings and its two joint supervision missions as planned, one in March 2019 and one in November 2019, followed by exchange meetings with partners. Field visits were made in the intervention villages as well as exchanges with the mayors of the intervention communes. During these exchanges, the Falwel town hall highlighted that the visible impacts of the JP RWEE are:

- Impact 1: Organizational plan: the women organize themselves and are ahead of the other villages on the sanitation aspect of the villages, which has improved a lot. This positive result is based on the awareness raising and capacity building brought by the JP RWEE and through their entry point of the Dimitra Clubs. It should be noted that women's participation in decision-making within the communities has improved.
- Impact 2: Livestock production: the success of the pastoral kits operation in the area has enabled other implementing partners to purchase the breed from the beneficiaries and make it available to other vulnerable people who will benefit from the same type of intervention (case of purchase of the breed from the beneficiaries of Malam Koira).
- Impact 3: Alleviating tasks related to IGA development: Alleviating of tasks through the implementation of multifunctional platforms. IGAs and pastoral kits that have enabled the increase of 'assets' for women.

Joint UN missions under the framework of the "ONE ONE" also visited the JP RWEE interventions in the village of Danja. The main recommendations resulting from all the visits are (i) build the capacities of the targeted women in management, (ii) enhance the visibility of the JP-RWEE's actions in Niger. The NGO partners recommended timely disbursements and build their gender capacities.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security for rural women			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Percentage increase in agricultural production (plant production PP) and animal production (AP) of women farmers</p> <p>Baseline : 0 Planned Target : TBD</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Household dietary diversity score (HDDS) - (% increase from baseline)</p> <p>Baseline : Falwel 2015-2016 : SDA= 3.8 et Djirataoua 2016-2017 : SDA= 2,42 Guidan Amoumoune 2018 : SDA = 3,52 Planned Target: 5 ou 6</p>	<p>PP: groundnut 642kg/ha (54% from baseline and -1,2% to last year) cowpeas: 315,8kg/ha (22% from baseline and from baseline and -22% to last year) Sesame: 417kg/ha (39% from baseline and; 2% to last year) Millet: 469g/ha (-8%) from baseline and -50% to last year)</p> <p>AP: 219%</p> <p>Falwel SDA= 5</p> <p>Djirataoua: SDA =3,73 Data colleCtion for Guidan Amoumoune council is not closed yet</p>	<p>No defined target for this indicator considering the strong dependence of climate related events</p> <p>The review of the implementation strategy the design of the aids and change of partners impacted data collection that would be available in 2020</p>	<p>Reports from DDA Loga, Madarounfa, Mayahi</p> <p>IFAD Report</p> <p>FAO Report</p>
Output 1.1. Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services essential to their food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of women who adopted improved nutrition practices</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 600 Fawel +600 Djiratoua=1200 +600 Guidan Amoumoune</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of rural women who have adopted/improved agricultural techniques</p> <p>Baseline:0 Planned Target: 1425 (IFAD 1,300+FAO 125)</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3. Number of rural women/women’s groups accessing credit in VSLA groups</p>	<p>Data not yet available for Guidan Amoumoune / evaluation process in progress</p> <p>402 women use improved techniques for the processing of agriculture products 1058 use improved livestock technique</p> <p>4,650 women from 186 POs created and trained have access to internal loans through savings mobilized within VSLA</p>	<p>The review of the strategy allows to target many groups, but the process is not yet finalized</p> <p>RAS</p> <p>Since access to loans is voluntary and based on the capacity of women to engage in IGAs a target has not been defined accordingly ahead of time</p>	<p>FAO Report</p> <p>IFAD report</p> <p>UN Women and DIKO report</p>

<p>Baseline: 256 women from 16 groups from the Commune of Falwel Planned Target: TBD</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.4. Mode of access to the land affected by the program and the number of women accessing this mode</p> <p>Baseline: On a sample of 996 women surveyed to Djirataoua: 563par heritage; 275 by purchase; 96 by gage; 61 by rental, 105 by the loan, and 215 by donation Planned Target: all the beneficiaries of improved seeds</p>	<p>In 2019, 515 women have reported to have acquired land</p>	<p>There is no gap; All women have access to land when they wish. Land ownership is diversely appreciated depending on the communes; for example, in Sokorbé and Falwel, women do not inherit land; however, in Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune, they do so; the purchase and renting are much more frequent in the targeted villages of the Maradi region than that of Dosso</p>	<p>UN Women and DIKO report ONG Diko/source ONU Femmes</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1. Number of women with access to innovative technologies</p> <p>Baseline:150 Planned Target: 14,705 beneficiaries of the platforms and kits for processing agro pastoral products and technologies</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2: quantity of cereal stock mobilized by rural women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: TBD</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.3 Number of rural women who have access to integrated service Nutritional Education + FFS+ schools' canteens</p> <p>Baseline: 256 Planned Target: 3,600</p>	<p>14,705 target is reached in 2017 the new ones are for the same target (49 carts, 9 pulleys, 36 processing kits)</p> <p>A stock of 1010 bags of 100 kg of millet and 725 bags of cowpeas and 10 bags of stumps were mobilized and stored to be sold during the lean season</p> <p>632 women</p>	<p>The overall target has been reached, but the distribution of processing kits by IFAD is not finished yet. Since the beneficiaries of the kits are also beneficiaries of the platforms, the total number is achieved.</p> <p>It is their own collective stock, different from individual stocks RAS, different from their individual production</p> <p>RAS</p>	<p>IFAD Report + UN Women and DIKO report</p> <p>UN Women and DIKO report</p> <p>FAO report</p>

Outcome 2 Rural women's increased incomes to secure their livelihoods			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Variation of women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% of baseline)</p> <p>Baseline : 83,090.65 Planned Target : TBD</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (control over use of income)</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target : TBD</p>	<p>15% for millet and for bean / 205.3 tons of millet at US\$ 71,445.11 and 80.55 tons of cowpea at US\$ 44,976.56.</p> <p>End line with WEAI tools will be done in 2020</p>	<p>The review of the strategy impacted the second phase of local purchase</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>The first phase of local purchase from POs involved 9 unions, including 3 female unions. The second phase has been delayed this year; the process is currently underway. Data will be integrated for 2020</p> <p>IFAD report on End line with WEAI tools will be done if additional resources</p>
Output 2.1: Rural women have improved their entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets with their products			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1. number of women's POs or mixed POs (with women in decision-making positions) that participate in the purchasing programme in the service of the progress of WFP</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 1692 women</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.2. Number of women of formal and informal groups/POs who received training on entrepreneurship and improvement of agricultural techniques.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target:600</p>	<p>During the first phase of local purchases, 9 POs (comprising 18,00 men and 453 women - among these 9 POs, there are 3 female POs with 171 members) sold</p> <p>A total of 418 women</p>	<p>The review of the strategy</p> <p>Target is reached</p>	<p>WFP report</p> <p>IFAD Report+ WFP report</p>
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1: Evidence of alleviation of the burden of rural women's work</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 6,500</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2: Number of rural women who initiated income generating activities</p>	<p>49 cattle-drawn carts, 9 pulleys and 15 transformation kits placed in 2019</p> <p>In 2019 they are 998 women in total (cumulative)</p>	<p>The training is underway for 2019</p> <p>The process continues on the ground and the 1,000 targeted women will be reached by April 2018</p>	<p>UN Women and DIKO report</p> <p>UN Women and DIKO report</p>

<p>Baseline: 90 Planned Target: 1,000</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.3: Monetary value of the cereal stock mobilized by women from own funds</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: TBD</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.4: Amount of savings mobilized by women through savings and credit unions</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target : TBD</p>	<p>A total of 44,170,000 XOF / US\$ 76,155</p> <p>FCFA 18,862,000 / about US\$ 32,520</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>UN Women and DIKO report</p> <p>Savings mobilized through credit and savings groups – UN WOMEN reports</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women’s enhanced leadership and participation in their communities, in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1: Percentage / Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Percentage of rural women who are members of land committees</p> <p>Baseline: 10% (18 women)) Planned Target: 22% (40 women)</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: Number/Percentage of Producers Organizations led by women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80%</p> <p>Indicator 3.4. Increase in the attendance rate of girls through school canteens</p>	<p>Only if evaluation with the WEAI tool</p> <p>80% (32 women from the municipalities of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune) / no change in 2019)</p> <p>77.44% of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua et Guidan Amoumoune/ in 3 municipalities / 129/167 POs of the Communes of sokobè; Djirataou and G Amoumoune are headed by women. The mixed PO (Elkoussa) from the village of G. Wari is led by a club leader / no change in 2019</p> <p>92%</p>	<p>Data not yet available</p> <p>The 20 villages have land commissions; only the gap is due to the fact that some women died / left the village and have not yet been replaced; The expressed need is to reinforce the capacities of the members and to provide them with working materials (registers, pens, stamps)</p> <p>The process continues not only in the creation of female POs but also in the strengthening of the capacities of women and men for improved participation of women in the governing bodies of POs Reinforcement continues</p> <p>This is the global average rate in the two regions, in the municipalities of the</p>	<p>IFAD Evaluation Report based on WEAI</p> <p>FAO and IFAD reports /Monitoring from technical committee</p> <p>FAO and IFAD reports/ Monitoring from technical committee</p> <p>WFP Report</p>

Baseline: 91% Planned Target : 98%		project intervention rates can exceed that	
Output 3.1 Rural women, including girls, have improved their self-confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1. Number of rural women who were trained in participatory communication and women's leadership</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 160</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2. Evidence of improved self-confidence and self-esteem of rural women (ex: stories of women who were elected in rural councils and/or in a leadership position in a PO; formal participation of women in village assemblies, etc.</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.1.3. Number /Proportion of rural women/girls enrolled in literacy courses</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 275</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.4. Number of rural girls from school canteens who received a scholarship to continue secondary</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 277</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.5. Number of members of the informal groups of women who received formal training in gender, participatory communication, good governance and leadership.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 160</p>	<p>160 women leaders trained and have then trained 2,400 women from 120 Dimitra Clubs /target is achieved / no planned action</p> <p>In the text</p> <p>1,159 women and 671 men learned to read and write</p> <p>1,222 girls at the primary and secondary levels (college) have received scholarships of FCFA 12,000, 6,000 and 18,000 in 2019</p> <p>No formal training in 2019 but strengthening continues within the clubs</p>	<p>RAS</p> <p>NA</p> <p>Through the literacy strategy led by the communities, 104 women facilitators and 141 men facilitators will train the participants in the literacy courses. The learners have been registered to achieve the target at the end of the training</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Report of FAO and UNWO MEN + NGO Diko</p> <p>Reports by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women and joint supervision reports</p> <p>Report FAO+AEDL</p> <p>Report WFP</p> <p>Report FAO</p>
Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to create, maintain and participate in producer organizations, cooperatives and unions			

<p>Indicator 3.2.1. Number of women POs that were strengthened</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 181 POs</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2: Number of rural women from POs who received training in gender, good governance and efficiency</p> <p>Baseline:0 Planned Target: 208 members of 167 PO from 4 districts of intervention of the JP- RWEE</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.3. Tangible evidence of rural women who have increased their capacities to organize and collectively intervene at community level</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: women from the four districts of intervention of the JP RWEE</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.3: Number of POS at apex level trained in gender and equity</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6 PO at the apex level</p>	<p>In 2018, 167 POs from the Communes of Falwel (25), Sokorbé (43) Djirataoua (40) and Guidan Amoumoune (59) regrouping 5,397 members (4,277 women); / in 2019, 9 Unions of PO strengthened; and in 2019, 105 PO complied to the new law.</p> <p>46 women (+14 men) from 41 grassroots PO were trained on cereal conservation techniques</p> <p>See community achievement in Téhoizé koira in the narrative.</p> <p>No action was planned in 2019 for this indicator</p>	<p>It is planned to provide them with the guidelines translated in local languages. Translation and editing are being finalized</p> <p>An assessment of the impact of the trainings is planned in 2020</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>Training report of FAO</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>Indicator 3.3.1. Evidence of an improvement in the decision-making power of rural women within the household, organizations and communities</p> <p>Baseline :</p> <p>Planned Target :</p>	<p>Testimonials in annex</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Report from Technical Committee's Supervision and from executing NGOs</p>
<p>Output 3.4: Rural women, included young women, are more aware of their rights in an enabling community/local environment.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.4.1. Number of women participating in the Dimitra Clubs Dimitra</p>	<p>2,400 women and 1,200 men of 4 communes of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune Target achieved</p>	<p>RAS: target achieved, continuous strengthening; 1,800 in the first half of the year, the rest during the second semester</p>	<p>Activity Report from NGO AEDL supervision missions</p>

<p>Baseline: Planned Target:2,400</p> <p>Indicator 3.4.2. Number of villages/communities that have integrated the approach of the Clubs Dimitra (ownership)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target:20</p> <p>Indicator 3.4.3. Number of networks of young members of DIMITRA Clubs set up and framed for sustainability achievements</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Four districts networks</p>	<p>20 villages of communes of Falwel Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune /target achieved</p> <p>In 2018, two communal networks of clubs in Falwel and Djirataoua, in 2019 4 operational networks</p>	<p>RAS: strengthening continues in the 20 villages through exchange visits</p> <p>RAS</p>	<p>Activity Report from NGO AEDL supervision missions</p> <p>FAO Report</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Gender-responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1: Percentage of the municipal budget allocated to programs that benefit to empowerment of rural women in the targeted councils</p> <p>Baseline: 12% Planned Target: 30%</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: Percentage of the national Budget allocated to the Ministère de la promotion de la Femme et de la protection de l'enfant</p> <p>Baseline: 0,01% Planned Target: TBD</p>	<p>15% / Report not available yet at commune level</p> <p>0,01% - no change</p>	<p>The average in the 4councils showed a decline in the percentage of the budget allocated to the empowerment of women because of the closing of some projects, and the reduction in the budget of the JP RWEE from US\$ 700,000 to US\$ 400,000</p> <p>The total has increased, but did not affected the percentage of the overall budget, which also increased</p>	<p>Budget Report from the communes</p> <p>Follow-up report of the Directorate of studies and programming of the Ministry for the advancement of women and the protection of the child</p>
<p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1.1. Number of senior staff at central, and communal levels trained on PBSG</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target:</p>	<p>Staff at communal level: 7 women and 13 men Staff at central level: 33 women and 34 men</p>	<p>No GAP</p> <p>RAS</p>	<p>The documents of the Action plan for the implementation of the national strategy of women economic empowerment</p>

<p>Indicator 4.1.2. Extent to which the implementation plan of the revised National Gender Policy integrates JP RWEE activities</p> <p>Baseline: There is a National gender policy revised 2017 Planned Target: Taking into account of actions and good practices of the JP RWEE in at least these two national documents</p>	<p>The commemoration of 15 October, the strengthening of the capacity of women and their organizations, the creation of savings and credit groups; The establishment of infrastructure and equipment to lighten women's household tasks, quantitative and qualitative study of women's contribution to the domestic economy and market economy are some activities</p>		
<p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.3.1. Number of mechanisms of regional rural development dialogues involving groups and rural women Pos</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:20</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.2. Number of sessions of thematic debate organized to stimulate the participation of women and the OP in the spaces and dialogue platforms</p> <p>Baseline : 0 Planned Target :</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.3. Number of advocacy efforts initiated by rural women 15 October</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 6</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.4. 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 JP RWEE staff</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: in 2017 and 0 from 2018</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.5. Number of technical staff from the technical services and partner NGO trained to support the POs (gender, governance, equity, platform of dialogue, Law OHADA etc.)</p>	<p>17 senior staff and platforms identified at regional, departmental and communal levels- no action</p> <p>2 / (no progress in 2019)/ no actions planned; the debates take place within the Dimitra Clubs</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>The commemoration of the 15 October is institutionalized by the Ministry for the advancement of women and the Protection of the child</p> <p>45 of which 12 NGOs (4 women);28 technical staff (6 women); 4 district authorities (1 women); (1 Project) who</p>	<p>The strengthening process continues</p> <p>Others to be organized before April 2018</p> <p>The gap is Guidan Amoumoune council</p> <p>Target is reached</p> <p>The training process continues</p>	<p>Report FAO+UN Women</p> <p>Sessions reports -FAO</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>FAO Report</p>

Baseline: Planned Target:20	support the trainees in restituting knowledge acquired during the training to the PO members in 2018		
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iii) A Specific Story/



Rakiya Oumarou, 27 years old and a mother of one child, is a beneficiary of the programme from the village of Danjah. “I have made a lot of profit from the goats I raise, and I have also sold goats to buy 5 bags of groundnuts, since I make groundnut oil”. Rakiya even bought millet to help her husband who is a disabled person. According to her, it is thanks to these animals that they can face many of the burdens together. Her husband admits he benefits directly from his wife’s support. He thinks that beyond the animal production and farming, group life is a great advantage for women, because they learn many useful things for their families, which is why he strongly encourages his wife, because he is sick and she is the one who faces many challenges.

Use of the prizes won by women and their villages during the celebration of October 15 Diversification of collective IGAs and access to loan

1) Experience of the village of Baziga (rural commune of Sokorbé, Dosso region)

On 15 October 2018, with the support of the RWEE Joint Programme, the third edition of the International Rural Women's Day was celebrated in the Dosso region, rural municipality of Sokorbé, Madou village. On this occasion, the village of Baziga was awarded two prizes: the prize for the best initiative to the Dimitra Clubs, amounting FCFA 800,000 (about US\$ 1,378) and the prize for the best animal production of 1,000,000 FCFA (US\$ 1,725).

Proud of these awards, when back at the village, the members of the Dimitra Clubs discussed how this money could bear fruit for the benefit of all the club members. Collegially, they decided to buy bags of maize the first year to be sold during the lean season. As for the second group of women, they planned to engage in peanut oil extraction and sheep fattening. About 80 women accepted to be involved in this project. They divided into two groups of 27 members each and a third group of 26 members to constitute the Union Lakalkanay of Baziga.

The Union first bought 57 bags of maize at FCFA 12,500 (US\$ 22) per unit, which it sold at FCFA 16,000 (US\$ 28) per bag, thus making a net profit of one FCFA 199,500 (US\$ 344). The Union also acquired two sheep for fattening, which were entrusted to two members of the Union. The profits from the sale are returned to the Union's treasury and a new cycle begins.

The main activity of the members of the Union of Baziga, remains unquestionably the extraction of peanut oil. At the beginning of the activity, 27 bags of peanuts of 100kg at FCFA 15,000 (US\$ 26) per unit were granted to each group. A rotation system of oil extraction between groups was defined in order to make permanent the products derived from the extraction. Each processed bag provides a profit of FCFA 3,500 (US\$ 6). The activity is going on at the moment and other ambitions have been added along the way. The members of the group strongly felt the need to obtain cattle carts to reinforce the existing ones and be more autonomous in managing their activity. LUXDEV and Banque BAGRI are in the process of validating this contemporary attitude. The Union has already mobilized at the level of Bagri the personal contribution of 7% per beneficiary required in the contractual clauses with the Bank.

(Source: AEDL report)

2) Experience of the women of Danja village, in the commune of Djiratawa (Maradi)

The 2017 edition of the International Rural Women's Day organized by the RWEE Joint Programme in the village of Elkokia, rural commune of Djirataoua (Maradi), awarded the women of the Dimitra Clubs of the village of Danja the first prize of eight hundred thousand (FCFA 800,000, about US\$ 1,378) through their Producer Organization (OP) called "ABU NA ALLAH".

About 12% of this amount was used to compensate the efforts of the members of the PO who travelled to the venue of the ceremony. The women then organized themselves to use the rest of the amount by investing in several income generating activities for the benefit of the women members. Part of the amount, FCFA 200,000, about US\$ 345), was placed on a bank account to serve as a contribution (personal input), as part of the purchasing of a multifunctional platform (PTFM) from the joint programme. This mill (PTFM) is another source of financial resource mobilization for these women but also and above all an opportunity that now allows them to save time to carry out other very profitable activities and to push them further towards the economic empowerment advocated.

A sum of FCFA 230,000 (US\$ 397) was used by the women to lease a plot of land where they collectively produce millet and beans. They then bought 20 bags of millet at FCFA 320,000 (US\$ 552) which they sold to WFP-supported schools at a profit of FCFA 3,500 (US\$ 6) per unit. The rest of the money, FCFA 150,000 (US\$ 259), was used to process the beans into couscous, biscuits and pasta, this way making available local products with high nutritional value as they had learned during nutrition training with RWEE. This activity is implemented by 44 women who are paid according to the benefits produced by the activity. To date, these women from the Danja Clubs that have formed POs have a cash sum of one million seven thousand (FCFA 1,007,000, about US\$ 1,736), in addition to food products already processed but not yet sold and the agricultural production of the current year that is about to be harvested. (Source: AEDL report)

A few testimonies collected during the training on collecting and analyzing gender-sensitive data

"Throughout this training, I noticed the motivation of the participants who followed the different presentations with interest. This training will also allow us to revitalize the MAG/EL gender unit"

Mrs. Ramatou Dibey, head of the gender unit.

"I have a special plea to the training's participants: mainstream gender in your activities, develop action plans with disaggregated data and create synergies with the Ministry for the Promotion of Women."

Ms. Niandou Maimouna

"I participated in the development of the Development Communal Plans of Loga, Falwel and Sokorbé but unfortunately at that moment – we did not have the tools. Now with this training, I will be able to support the development of the action plans differently and fully participate in developing them by integrating gender."

Representative of the Dosso Regional Council

"I am very satisfied with this training. At first, I didn't believe in it and I thought that the gender means women that it is for women only. But now my capacities have been built and I have understood the concept."

Dr. Koné, executive staff, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Manager

II. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

The studies planned in 2019 to complete this phase have been postponed to 2020, namely the endline using the WEAI tool and the global review of the programme. It was important to use the additional resources received to reinforce the achievements and close the phase.

III. Resources

Niger received an additional allocation of US\$ 800,000 for the implementation of the 2019 annual work plan. Planning was built on ensuring the sustainability of the achievements, closing the current phase and generating data for the design of a future phase.

The table below summarizes how the funding was received from Sweden and Norway.

Total received by Niger from donor in US\$

Funding received	2014-2015	April 2016- March 2017	April 2017- April 2018	June 2018- December 2019	January - December 2020
Norway	245,822				500,000
Sweden	1,042,435	700,000	400,000	800,000	400,000
Total	1,288,257	700,000	400,000	800,000	900,000
Grand total 4,088,257					