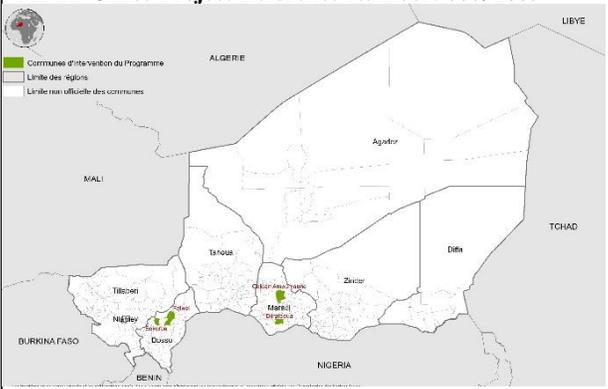


**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <p>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092005</p> 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</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.</p> <p>2020 Beneficiaries: Direct 16,791 beneficiaries; 15,291 women & 1,500 men Indirect 26 280 beneficiaries; 17,587 women & 8,693 men</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>FAO, IFAD, UN WOMEN, WFP</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock I3N (‘Nigériens Nourishing Nigériens’ Initiative) High Commission University of Niamey (CRESA) Regional Directorates of Community Development and Spatial Planning of Dosso and Maradi <p>Local organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Departmental Directions of the Environment, Lakalkaney Group INTES , private organization
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF Contribution <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <p>Government Contribution; (None); Other Contributions (donors):(None)</p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 4,088,257</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 6 years Start Date (Niger): 15 04 2015 End Date: 30 June 2021</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <p>Name: Mme IDI HALIMATOU MOUSSA Title: National Coordinator - FAO Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women Email address: Halimatou.Moussa@fao.org</p>

Abbreviations

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 : Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant

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, FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP have piloted the Joint Programme on ‘Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women’ (JP-RWEE) since 2015 in 20 villages within four communes in the Dosso and Maradi regions. The JP RWEE in Niger aims to create synergies arising from the respective mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength of each of the four agencies engaged to support the Government of Niger's efforts in enhancing women's empowerment, and food and nutrition security. In 2020-2021, it has targeted sixteen thousand and seven hundred and ninety-one (16,791) direct beneficiaries, of which 15,291 are women and girls and 1,500 men and boys. The activities have also benefited 26,280 indirect beneficiaries, of which 17,587 are women and girls.

2020 was marked in Niger by several crises that inevitably affected the smooth running of JP RWEE's activities: the COVID-19 pandemic, the security situation due to the risk of terrorism in the country, and the floods that hit JP RWEE's intervention regions. Government measures to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate the security risks have slowed the implementation of the programme. In 2020, a six-month no cost extension of the JP RWEE's activities was granted by the programme's funders. As an illustration of the programme's progress, of the thirty-five (35) sets of activities to be implemented in 2020-2021, eight (8) had not yet started as of December 31st 2020, five (5) had an execution rate of between 10% and 40% , seven (7) had an execution rate between 50% and 80%, and 15 had been finalized.

Despite the difficulties encountered in 2020, the following main achievements have materialized:

Outcome 1: (i) 150 small ruminant kits distributed to 150 new beneficiaries, totaling 1,050 the number of vulnerable women who received direct support from the programme; increase of animal growth rate of 66.45%; (ii) training/sensitization of 197 leaders, including 169 women who received training on nutrition and who in turn trained 1,050 women and 369 men. The Individual Dietary Diversity Score increased from 3.5 to 4.9 points in Guidan Amoumoune; (iii) twenty-nine (29) bags of peanut seeds distributed to 120 women initially trained on the processing of agro-pastoral products and USD\$8,500 mobilized to strengthen the development of two communal gardening sites; the ten existing multifunctional platforms have had their functional capacity increased with the installation of additional equipment; and an extension of the water network through four fountain terminals.

Outcome 2: Forty (40) collective micro-enterprises created by 293 women (trained on entrepreneurship skills) through the Dimitra Clubs; 200 women (out of the 80 planned) became literate.

Outcome 3: The intervention villages and neighboring villages were sensitized on the prevention measures against Covid-19; 1,141 adolescent girls, out of 970 targeted, received scholarships to support their schooling.

Outcome 4: Support to the Ministry of Women's Promotion and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for the celebration of the International Rural Women's Day in Garagoumsa (Zinder) provided: 10 COVID-19 kits, 600 masks for the events, five tons of rice, 200 liters of oil, and 1,000 kg of salt granted to support flood victims in the host community.

In addition, the following results can be highlighted: all the intervention villages were sensitized on COVID-19, its mode of propagation and preventive measures; the members of the National Steering Committee carried out a supervision mission of the JP RWEE activities and formulated recommendations to strengthen the microenterprises.

I. Purpose

Program goals / objectives and expected results (intermediate objectives)

The RWEE Joint Programme aims at improving the living conditions and strengthening the rights of rural women in the context of post-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;

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 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);
- (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.
- (iii) The RWEE Joint Programme is a contribution to the implementation of sub-program 6.5 of Niger ‘economic and social development plan’ (PDES 2017-2021).
- (iv) The JP RWEE 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 (5). 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 UNDAF3 effect and contributes to its three outputs.

II. Results

i) Narrative report on results

Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security for rural women

This outcome contributes 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;
- Building on their capacities so that they can better control their production and local food security stocks.

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

To contribute to the achievement of this output, it was planned in 2020 to conduct nutrition education activities in Sokorbé and reinforce what had been done in Guidan Amoumoune, Falwel and Djirataoua; distribute 150 small ruminant kits to 150 new beneficiaries, set up and monitor ten farmer field schools, and monitor women's access to credit through support to Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

Nutritional education

The aim was to conduct nutrition education activities in Sokorbé and to reinforce them in Falwel, Guidan Amoumoune and Djirataoua. As a reminder, the complete package of the activity per commune includes a baseline study, followed by training, sensitization, culinary demonstration based on local products, and an evaluation to be conducted six months after the sensitization.

In 2020, the evaluation of nutrition education in Guidan Amoumoune, as well as the baseline study for the same activity in Sokorbé, were conducted in collaboration with the research firm INTES. This study revealed an average dietary diversity score¹ of 4.2 for the commune of Sokorbé. This is the highest basic level achieved in this commune and shows that the various experience sharing has produced results. In collaboration with the NGO Kundji Fondo, training and sensitization sessions were conducted. A total of 197 leaders, including 169 women beneficiaries of the JP RWEE, were trained and in turn trained 1,419 beneficiaries, including 1,050 women.

The overall evaluation for Sokorbé as well as the completion of activities for Falwel and Djirataoua will be done in 2021. The evaluation in the commune of Guidan Amoumoune shows that the dietary diversity score increased from 3.5 to 4.9, which is close to the target of 5 or 6.

Changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices are shown in the following tables:

¹ 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

Indicators		Baseline data	Final data
Breastfeeding and infant feeding	Immediate Breastfeeding	60%	97%
	Age of introduction of complementary food	73%	91%
	Exclusive breastfeeding	No data	89%
Malnutrition	Insufficient food	50%	68%
	Diseases	39%	43%
Fruit and vegetable consumption		70%	66%
Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	Key handwashing time	28%	43%
	Latrine use	34%	95%
Average Individual Dietary Diversity Score for the whole area		3.52 (from 2.5 to 4.7)	4.9 (from 4.7 to 5.5)

The analysis of the different domains in terms of knowledge, attitudes and practices shows that the use of latrines is the knowledge that is most practiced while the one that has dropped is related to the consumption of fruits and vegetables. This decrease is due to the disruption of the markets as a result of restrictions related to the security situation and COVID-19, which reduced access to fruits and vegetables that are sold and purchased in the weekly markets.

Setting up of eleven Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

In 2020, eleven of the ten planned farmer field schools were created, in which 80 men and 234 women discussed and learned farming techniques. According to the data reported by the NGO AEDL, the most used techniques are:

- Seed selection and conservation techniques
- Composting techniques
- Technique of using fertilizer by pocket
- Production and use of bio pesticides

Distribution of 450 pastoral kits

In 2020, 450 small ruminant kits were distributed, i.e. 300 females and 150 males, to 150 direct women beneficiaries. This helped to balance the difference in the number of beneficiaries supported between the villages of Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune and between those of Falwel and Sokorbé. Other activities included: the distribution of 22,450 tons of livestock feed in the communes of Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune; the establishment of a livestock feed processing unit at the Saidou Goula feed bank; and the support to former and new beneficiaries in the communes of Falwel, Sokorbé, Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune.

All stages of implementation of this activity were carried out in an inclusive manner with all stakeholders (Dimitra Club leaders, local authorities, livestock services, implementing NGOs, etc.) who were strongly involved and took ownership of the handover process.

The program distributed 1,920 small ruminant kits between 2016 and 2020 and supported 700 direct beneficiaries. After 4 years of intervention, the total number of small ruminant kits currently available is 3,196 (66.45% growth rate), which are owned by 1,552 beneficiaries (221.71% increase rate).

During this year, 755 beneficiaries were trained on the following topics: herd management; strategic feed supplementation; animal health; and feed bank management for Guidan Amoumoune

Support for the development of three market garden sites and two irrigated school fields

The implementation of this activity was done with resources from the JP RWEE and TELEFOOD funds. During the period, eight thousand five hundred US dollars (8,500) were mobilized from TELEFOOD funds for the purchase of solar equipment for irrigation of communal gardens. Agricultural inputs consisting of 1,225 kg of vegetable seeds and equipment (2 solar kits, 3 motor pumps, 20 wheelbarrows; 45 rakes; 145 hoes; 95 watering cans, 60 hoes, 60 *dabas*) were purchased. The identification of the types of equipment and inputs was done after a participatory process that involved the beneficiaries and the Departmental Director of Agriculture in Loga. JP-RWEE resources were used for the organization, the various trainings for the beneficiaries and monitoring. A management committee was set up for each

communal garden site, and 323 women beneficiaries were trained in market gardening and the use of market garden products.

Output 1.2: Rural women have increased capacity to strengthen and monitor local food security reserves

Diagnostic study of the Multi-Functional Platforms (MFPs) to assess their operationality and the usefulness of tools or components that had not been previously provided

In 2020, JP RWEE provided the expected complementary equipment, consisting of an alternator, a welding station and an electrical load for the 10 multifunctional platforms installed after a diagnostic study that had revealed a need to add additional components to the platforms to enable them being used to their full potential and in line with local government directives.

Purchase and installation of multifunctional platforms and water standpipes

Two platforms have been purchased for the “Maison du Paysan” in Sokorbé and Guidan Amoumoune. It was agreed that each of the communes would build the premises to house its platform. However, due to the challenging context of severe flooding and COVID-19 local authorities had to reallocate resources planned for the project, and the JP-RWEE will support the construction of the premises and the installation of the platforms in 2021. In addition, four of the six planned standpipes have been installed. The other two will be installed in 2021. The equipment has enabled a reduction in the level of household chores of rural women beneficiaries and saved them time, which is used to undertake income-generating activities and work towards the achievement of sustainable livelihoods.

In addition, the capacities of 20 women and 20 men have been strengthened in the maintenance of the equipment so that they are able to repair the machines in case of breakdown. Thanks to these activities, the women's income has increased and their household chores have been reduced.

Strengthening the Guidan Wari Women's Union Cereal Bank with cereal stocks and pallets

The 2020 work plan included the purchase of 10 tons of millet and 25 pallets. In March 2020, a tender for the purchase of millet and pallets was issued and three suppliers were selected. However, the closure of borders following the advent of Covid-19 led to a spike in food prices in the local markets, exacerbated by a poor agricultural season in 2019. For example, the price of a 100 kg bag of millet tripled. Faced with this unprecedented situation and after a month of reflection, the three suppliers notified the purchasing committee of their inability to provide the tonnage at the price proposed in their financial offers. A price review was proposed by the purchasing committee, but given the scarcity of cereals on the markets, due to the lean season in the country and the difficulty of accessing the area during the rainy season, the suppliers proposed a price that could not be covered by the program budget. After discussions with the beneficiaries, it was requested by them to purchase 25 pallets and 7 tons of rice in place of millet for the 311 women who run the cereal bank.

Technical support to beneficiaries of agro-sylvo-pastoral product processing kits for packaging, marketing and management of processed products

A follow-up study of four hundred and two (402) women beneficiaries, conducted in late 2019, had highlighted that regular access to quality raw materials for processing, in sufficient quantity, is one of the major problems facing women involved in processing the products. In 2020, a support of twenty-nine (29) 100 kg bags of groundnut seeds, with an estimated value of US\$ 3,674.8 was provided to the groups that proved to be the most entrepreneurial and dynamic. These groups are those of Baziga and Madou (commune of Sokorbé), Tegoyzé koira zéno and Malam koira (commune of Falwel), Danja and Tajaé peulh (commune of Djirataoua), made up of one hundred and twenty (120) members in total. For the 2020-2021 campaign, technical support to increase the engagement with the microenterprises for their sustainability started at the end of 2020.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 1:

The JP RWEE proposed to measure the improvement of food and nutritional security of rural women through (i) the increase in the food diversity score within households; (ii) the rate of increase in agricultural production (plant and animal) of women farmers.

The food diversity score rose from 3.5 to 4.9 for Guidan Amoumoune. Despite the large increase, there is still a slight difference with the target, a difference that can be explained by the low access to markets mentioned above.

The increase in agricultural production by women farmers is measured with two sub-indicators: the increase in animal production and the one in crop production.

Livestock production

For animal production, the growth rate is estimated at 66.45% in 2020. In 2019, it was 216%. This difference is explained by the use of animals to compensate for the daily needs increased by the various shocks of 2020: the COVID-19 crisis, security situation and floods. The increase rate is made up of registered calves (Figure 1). A large portion of the total stock was used to meet household needs (sale or feed/slaughter).

Crop production /Plant production

There has been a slight increase in crop production compared to last year for all crops, as shown in the figures below:

- Groundnut 634kg/ha (53% of the reference and +14% of the previous year)
- Cowpea: 486kg/ha (34% of the reference and +33.8% of the previous year)
- Sesame: 429kg/ha (29% of the reference and +2.06% of the previous year)
- Millet 543g/ha (+9% of the reference and +15.7% of the previous year)

However, the rainfall was poorly distributed and was insufficient, which impacted vegetable production. Furthermore, despite the risk minimization measures taken through support for communal gardening where possible and the strengthening of the cereal banks, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that performance under this outcome did not increase significantly, with the exception of cowpea.

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

The following two outputs will contribute to this outcome:

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

Regarding the two activities planned for this output, the one related to local procurement has been initiated and the training of beneficiaries has been postponed due to restrictions related to Covid-19 and security issues.

Local purchasing from women and joint producer organizations

Following the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures taken by the Government, including the closure of schools for a 3-month period and restrictions on movements, the local procurement process involving WFP for the purchase of food for school canteens, has been postponed until the end of 2020. Currently, three hundred and ninety-four (394) tons of food have been purchased from local Producer Organizations (POs) and suppliers as part of the direct cash operation to schools with canteens. Seven hundred and ninety-six (796) women and 304 men from two (2) POs benefited from WFP's local procurement operations during the 2020-2021 campaign. During 2021 training will take place to enable POs to develop their skills in engaging with potential other larger scale buyers for increased sales and sustainability.

Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities

Economic and financial trainings for young women to boost their existing small businesses and support them in developing business plans (and seizing opportunities to implement them)

As part of this activity, discussions within the Dimitra Clubs have led to the creation of community-based social enterprises by young women. A mechanism was created to accompany the groups of young women who wanted to re-dynamize their existing small businesses and start developing business plans. A total of two hundred and ninety-three (293) women (in 40 groups) were supported and developed business plans. The coaching was done in compliance with the distance measures against COVID-19.

Literacy training was also carried out in order to contribute to the development of women's business and management skills.

In each of the 20 villages, all competent and available literacy facilitators (who are also programme beneficiaries) trained by the JP RWEE in previous years participated in a selection test to identify two facilitators per village. A practical refresher course enabled the selection of one literacy facilitator per village while the second one is on a waiting list. Out of an estimated 80 young women entrepreneurs, 200 motivated women decided to invest in the literacy program to better equip themselves to develop their businesses.

A first assessment has showed that over 50% of the registered women beneficiaries have mastered all of the basics of reading, writing and simple arithmetic. They use these skills in their daily lives and in their businesses. The remaining women taking part in the training have mastered some, but not all, components of literacy and are working towards this achievement. Each of the literacy centers has been provided with a calculator, each facilitator with a cell phone for ongoing training, and each of the businesses has kept a notebook to record the economic operations related to its activities. During the communal forums, the mobilized women received a written summary of the village forum that had been held in their own language. They referred to it when speaking to inform the audience and took written notes.

Financing four business plans (one per municipality)

In order to award the most successful initiatives, the forty microenterprises were analyzed and ranked. Ranking criteria inspired by the criteria used at the national level allowed the members of the Technical Committee and the designated representatives of the Steering Committee, to identify and validate the most promising microenterprises in each commune. The enterprises were ranked in each commune according to the criteria.

It was agreed to award them with equipment and raw materials for their proposed businesses (including peanut oil extraction and millet processing). The purchase process is underway and the awards will be made available to the recipients in 2021.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 2

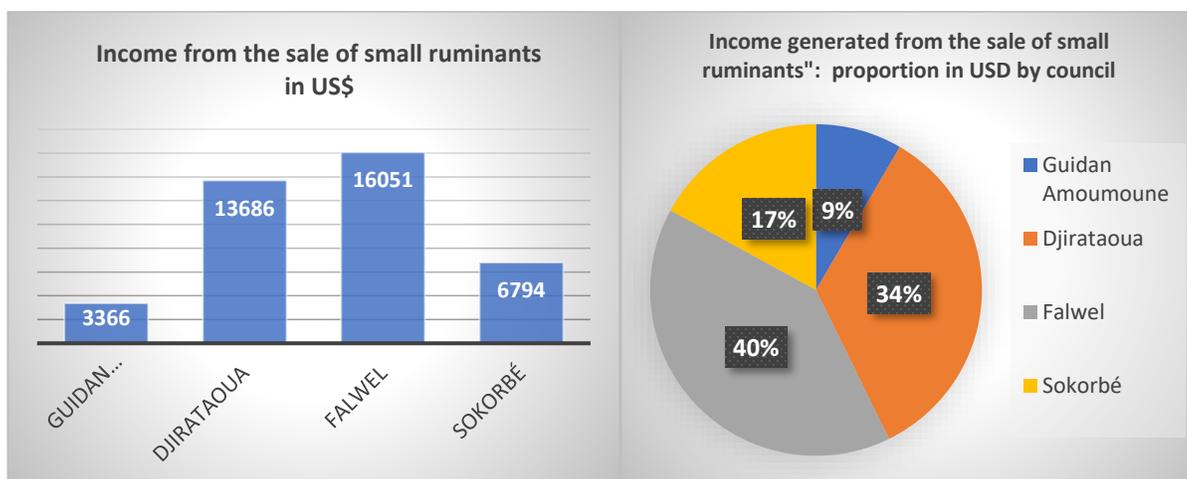
The program proposes to measure the achievement of this outcome with the following two main indicators:

(i) The change in income generated by women and/or their organizations through their sales to WFP and other markets and (ii) the proportion of rural women empowered in terms of resource control, measured with the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. Although neither of these two indicators could be completed in 2020, the following findings and data were brought back from the field.

During 2020, it was mainly the previously accumulated resources that were used to deal with the various shocks. This has been done to reduce the impact of flooding on the local economy, slow down the spread of the Covid-19 and improve security. There was a decline in the practice of income-generating activities (IGAs) because of reduced mobility and scarce and expensive raw materials. Through their participation in the JP RWEE, rural women have access to diversified sources of income that have enabled them to meet household needs.

The social network and strengthened solidarity have allowed them to support each other.

The savings and loan associations and the income generated by the various collective activities have provided easy access to cash; cereal stocks and cereal banks have reduced the impact on household food supplies over a long period. Many small ruminants were sold to secure livelihoods. Thus, the total income from the sale of small ruminants for the four communes totaled XOF 21,513,000, or the equivalent of US\$39,897.44, broken down as shown in the figures below:



For the most part, the purchase and installation of goats this year was done locally for the first beneficiaries, firstly out of concern for biosecurity, but also and above all the local purchase constituted a great opportunity for market access

for rural women. We note that the two communes Falwel and Djirataoua where the activity started in 2016 and 2017 cumulate respectively 40% and 34% of the total revenue.

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, the JP RWEE strengthens rural women's and girls' leadership and active participation in decision-making bodies, within households, organizations and communities. This is achieved through the following four outputs.

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women, have increased confidence and skills to participate in local governance

The aim here is to work towards strengthening the internal power and the agency of rural women and girls so that they participate in local governance. Several tools are used: training, exchange trips, awareness-raising, topical debates, support for school attendance and retention of girls in secondary school, supported by access to and control of resources described above. One of the approaches used to achieve this output is the citizenship learning process through the Dimitra Clubs approach. In 2020, the following activities have been planned and implemented.

Support the strengthening and sustainability of the Dimitra Clubs approach

During the first half of the year, this reinforcement consisted in renewing the "Committees" (*Bureaux*) of the Dimitra Clubs Communal Networks in the four communes of intervention of the JP RWEE, respectively on March 28, 2020 in Sokorbé, March 29 in Falwel, April 25 in Djirataoua and May 20, 2020 in Guidan Amoumoune, in the presence of the mayors of the respective communes and their advisors.

Each member of the Dimitra club's network makes four monthly field monitoring visits. During the last week, they all meet at the town hall to share the findings of their missions with the mayor.

The choice of the *bureau* members was made among the 10 leaders delegated by the 5 villages of each commune, including 5 young women and 5 young men.

In the second half of the year, village forums were held, followed by communal forums. At village level, each club was first asked to review all the JP RWEE actions that benefited the communities, as well as the achievements in view of their consolidation. The results of these reflections were shared in village assemblies called "village forums" and a synthesis was made, resulting in two main categories:

- Actions for which there are skills available in the village that can be used to train other members of the community;
- Project investments that the community must make profitable for the benefit of the greatest number and in a sustainable manner.

During the second part of the year, a forum was organized in each commune to share and enrich the findings of the village forums. These findings will be updated and shared during a national forum.

As part of the strengthening of the collaboration between the clubs and community radio stations, a meeting with the managers of each of the community radios enabled a strengthening of the strategy for collaboration. Community radios are an important tool for sharing good practices and experiences between women and community members. These processes involved the 2,400 women and girls and the 1,200 men and boys of the 120 Dimitra Clubs grouped within the 4 communal networks.

Support women to increase the visibility of their technical and leadership skills through the commemoration of October 15

The commemoration of the International Rural Women's Day (JIFR) is an activity of the five-year action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment. The 2020 edition was celebrated in the commune of Garagoumsa in the department of Takeita (Zinder region) under the topic "Political participation and decision-making of rural women". This topic was chosen because of the general elections planned for late 2020 and early 2021 in Niger. Considering the context (floods, COVID-19), the Ministry for Women's Promotion and Child Protection (MPF/PE), the National Preparatory Committee of the JIFR, and the technical and financial partners decided to commemorate the 2020 edition in a sober way and to give a voice to the population of the commune of Garagoumsa. No rewarding ceremony for the women and their organizations was organized as initially planned, but support was provided to them to face the floods and COVID-19. JP RWEE contributed with ten (10) COVID-19 kits, six hundred (600) masks, and with 5 tons of rice, 200 liters of oil, 1,000 kg of salt for the flood victims of the host village. Some 250 women leaders

were sensitized regarding the importance of an active participation in the elections, both as voters and candidates. The total technical and financial support provided to MPF/PE for the organization of the event is estimated in about 15,000 USD.

Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to form, maintain and participate in producers' organizations, cooperatives and unions

This output emerges from the combined effects of: the supervision of Dimitra Clubs, conducted in partnership with the NGO AEDL; the creation and/or strengthening of women's groups; the training in associative life conducted in partnership with the NGO DIKO; and the organizational capacity building sessions for POs implemented in collaboration with the Directorate for Cooperative Action and the Promotion of Rural Organizations (DAC/POR).

Of the two activities planned for 2020, the activity below has been completed.

Support to women's groups to structure themselves in unions and federations or to join the existing ones / Reinforcement of the vertical structuring of VSLA women's groups

A stock-taking exercise was conducted in order to appreciate the functioning of one hundred and eighty-five (185) groups and unions through their executive bodies. The exercise concerned the operations of loans and savings. The results show that the executive bodies of the groups and unions play their roles fully. In addition, it was noted that the vast majority of women members of these groups are active in the extraction of peanut oil and pressed cakes for cattle. This allows them to generate substantial income, which contributes to the strengthening of their leadership and the economic empowerment of the groups and their members.

In addition, five (5) women's groups unions were created in Falwel council and the capacities of 11,725 women members of 469 producer organizations (POs) were strengthened in leadership skills, IGAs and associative life. The women training facilitators of the NGO DIKO continued to provide coaching to make these structures more dynamic and operational. Thus, 469 operational POs obtained their registration in accordance with the OHADA treaty, including 141 POs in the 10 villages of Dosso, 127 POs in the Commune of Djirataoua and 201 in the Commune of Guidan Amoumoune.

The activity relating to the study of the impact of PO training and the collection of new needs will be implemented in 2021.

Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence political forums at the national and regional levels

No activity was planned under this output in 2020.

Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, are more aware of their rights in an enabling community/local environment

This involved the following activities: to continue supporting the Dimitra Clubs, support rural women in implementing initiatives to promote their rights and support the schooling of young girls through the granting of scholarships.

Supporting the schooling of adolescent girls

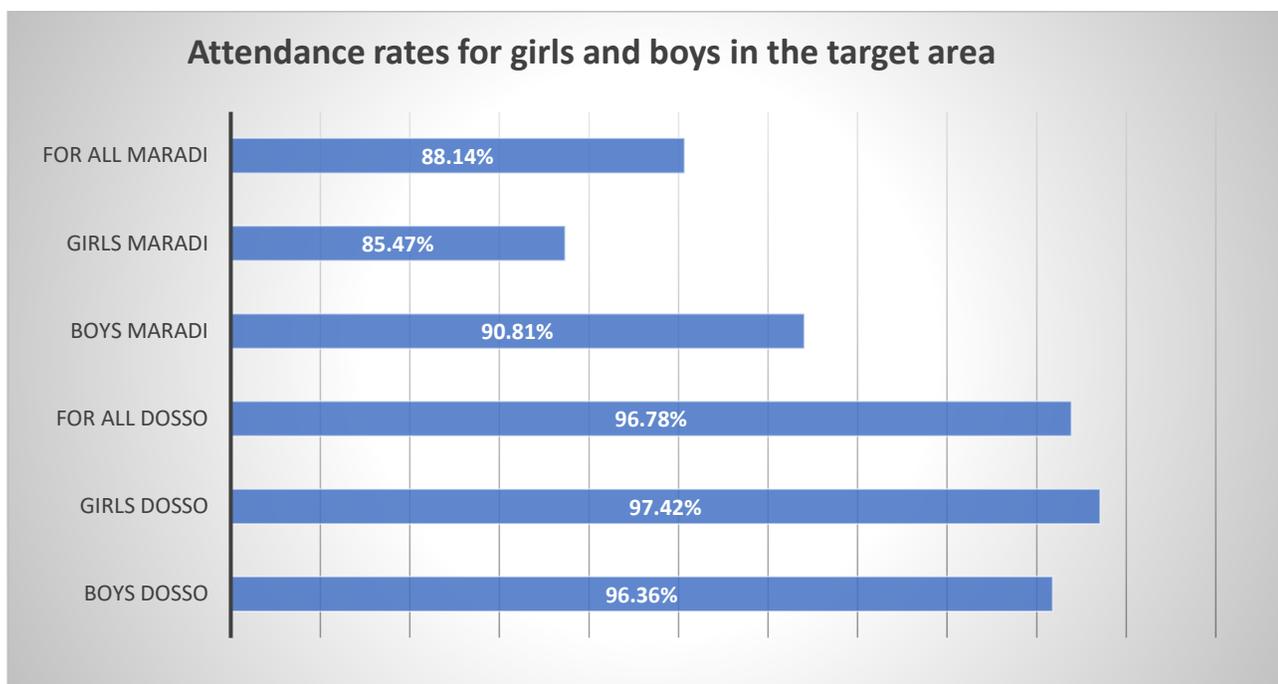
From January to December 2020, JP RWEE continued to support basic education through school canteens for girls and boys attending school in the programme area. Scholarships are granted to disadvantaged adolescent girls, allowing them to continue their education at secondary level. A total of one thousand and two hundred and four (1,204) girls received scholarships over the three terms of the school year.

Supporting the schooling of young girls and boys through school canteens

In order to support children's schooling and reduce the disparities between girls and boys, fourteen thousand and seventy (14,070) children were supported in 2020, including 6,264 girls, from 71 schools. Given the context of the pandemic, an operational adjustment has made it possible to replace hot meals with the distribution of dry rations to be taken away by the pupils. Hygiene kits for the prevention of the disease have been put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic in all targeted schools. The attendance rate of girls and boys through the school canteens is as follows by region:

Region	Attendance rates for girls and boys		
	Girls	Boys	for all
Dosso	97,42%	96,36%	96,78%

Maradi	85,47%	90,81%	88,14%
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The increase in the girls' attendance rate thanks to the school canteens is visible in Dosso with nearly 5 points increase above the reference average of 92%; whereas in Maradi a decrease was observed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and security issues. The average rate for the two regions has remained stable.

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 3

The achievement of this result is measured with the two indicators below with: (i) percentage of rural women empowered in leadership, measured with the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index and (ii) percentage of rural women members of land commissions.

The second indicator remained stationary, identical to its value in 2019. In contrast, during 2020, which was a year of multiple shocks in Niger, rural women's leadership was most evident in flood management, in sensitizing communities on barrier measures against COVID-19, and in the preparation of general elections in the country.

Outcome 4: A more gender-sensitive policy environment for rural women's economic empowerment is created

The objective is to contribute to a more gender-sensitive policy environment that values rural women's economic empowerment and makes tools available to measure progress. The original design of the program provided for capacity building of parliamentarians and policy makers to enable them to integrate the gender approach into strategies, policies, participatory land, food, agricultural and nutrition budgets and advances in rural employment.

The initial discussions retained the strategic choice to work first on the ground (in view of the mobilization of resources) in order to have a bottom-up approach focusing on capacity building of targeted vulnerable rural women. This would enable them to make strategic choices based on their priorities and participate in the development of local laws. Second, it would be necessary to work with the national level and facilitate the connection between the two levels. The following outputs are expected to contribute to this outcome.

Output 4.1: Policymakers and parliamentarians have increased capacity to effectively integrate gender into land budgets, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies and laws

No action implemented under this output.

Output 4.2 Increased availability of tools and data to monitor the progress of rural women's economic empowerment is promoted

The final evaluation was planned to be conducted using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). At the start of the program, the WEAI tool was used in Falwel for the baseline study and the report has helped guide

implementation. The final study using the WEAI tool has been conducted and the report validation process is underway and will be available in 2021.

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

One of the two planned activities was completed, as follows:

Support the follow-up and capitalization of RWEA achievements by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG/EL)

This activity was carried out through the supervision activities of the Steering Committee members and the organization of the communal forums organized through the Dimitra Club and identified the following progress in all targeted communes:

- 1) The activities implemented
- 2) The changes achieved
- 3) Activities that communities can continue without the support of the JP RWEA
- 4) Strengths and weaknesses
- 5) Testimonies of men and women beneficiaries

The following changes were identified in all of the targeted communes:

- Strengthening of social cohesion and good understanding within the households;
- Reduction of domestic violence experienced by women;
- Contribution to the fight against early marriage and school dropouts;
- Reduction of the rural exodus, in particular of young girls and women;
- Contribution to the promotion of female entrepreneurship;
- Reduction of domestic chores;
- The building of numerous community infrastructures thanks to the Dimitra Clubs. For example: a health facility and classrooms for a general education middle school in the village of Madou (rural commune of Sokorbé);
- Engagement of beneficiaries to build their vision towards progress and contribute to making women more autonomous;
- Reduction of marriage costs;
- Improvement of women's and children's health;
- Reduction of community conflicts;
- Promotion of family planning;
- Improved nutrition at the community level;
- Active participation of women in local decision-making bodies

Some testimonies below:

<p>"The very noticeable positive change observed in our villages is that the houses are repopulated with goats; cohesion, good understanding and mutual aid within couples have returned. And the availability of rice, during a very critical period, has greatly benefited the population." <i>Chief of the village of Guidan Wari - Commune of Guidan Amoumoune</i></p>	<p>"The series of activities (Dimitra Clubs, workload reduction, goat kits, school kits, market gardening seeds, and cash for work) have allowed people to stay and work in their own fields instead of going to work as hired labor and abandoning their land, which has improved our agricultural production. It has also allowed the women not to migrate and to live a harmonious life in their households." <i>Badjé Djibo, Tegoize Koira Zeno village, Falwel</i></p>
<p>"We have learned to transform agricultural products and generate resources. In addition, our money stays in our village because we do not go out to look for products elsewhere (oil, peanut paste, <i>Beroua</i> and others). These activities have put an end to the rural exodus of women and young girls." <i>Mrs. Halima Hamani, village of Malla Koira, commune of Falwel</i></p>	<p>"As a positive change, I will say the same again: the reduction of women's migration because it had negative consequences (unwanted pregnancies, rape, robberies, divorces and others) on the population, especially us women." <i>Mrs. Safia Garba from the village of Dikki, commune of Sokorbé</i></p>

Analysis of trends towards the achievement of Outcome 4

This outcome will be boosted in 2021 with the completion of all planned activities and further analysis.

Delays in Implementation, Challenges, Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Delays and Challenges

As detailed above, Niger experienced multiple shocks in 2020: a security crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and flooding following heavy rains between July 2020 and September 2020. The first case of COVID-19 was detected in Niger in March and was followed by the imposition of strict measures restricting movement in order to contain the spread of the virus. These measures disrupted travel and trade flows, which in turn limited food supply and access to income for significant parts of the population, including in the JP RWEE programme areas 2. The closure of international borders disrupted regional trade flows and resulted in a significant increase in food prices in domestic markets.³ Furthermore, severe flooding heavily affected 44% of the country's eight regions, including JP RWEE areas of intervention. More than 632,000 people nationwide (three times more than the government's forecast for 2020) were affected, 50,000 houses destroyed, more than 18,200 hectares of agricultural land destroyed, as well as more than 19,000 heads of livestock killed. The loss of livelihoods, climatic disruption, and the impact of Covid-19 have exacerbated the poor food situation of the affected population.

Movement restrictions imposed by the Government as a result of COVID-19 delayed the start-up of some activities, including the supervision of the POs. Programme implementation slowed down as some activities were put on hold. A six month no cost extension was received from donors as a result of the unprecedented situation and its impact on the programme.

UN staff also adapted their way of working as offices were closed and staff worked from home. Whilst meetings, including monthly technical meetings and meetings with government, were maintained, challenges were experienced in internet connectivity which was disruptive at times. Furthermore, agency staff were unable to travel to the field to monitor and supervise activities when they resumed. However, government extension workers were able to carry out supervision and monitoring and provide progress updates accordingly.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Despite these challenges, it was evident that the diversification of income sources helped to build resilience of women beneficiaries in the JP RWEE to withstand the impact of the shocks. This was a significant learning from the programme during the reporting year. As outlined above, and in relation to outcome 2, women were able to generate income and sustain their livelihoods despite the multiple challenges they encountered. A key learning for future programme design and implementation is the need to incorporate preparedness for shocks (climatic shocks, disease outbreak and economic shocks).

In terms of good practice, monitoring visits have shown that women who received animal carts under the programme have experienced a reduction in their daily workload, and are using the equipment for the collection of water and firewood, for fieldwork and transportation to market, etc. The carts have also been used extensively to transport pregnant women to delivery clinics, thus increasing the rate of deliveries attended by medical staff and facilitating the registration of children in the birth register for the issuance of birth certificates.

The strong community management of the installed standpipes has contributed to generating revenues that have contributed to the petty cash fund of the women's unions to promote IGAs and help expand their potential to diversify income sources.

¹ National Food Crisis Prevention and Management Agency (DNP-GCA) et al, Impact assessment of restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic on food security, livelihoods and household income in the regions of Diffa, Dosso, Tillaberi, Zinder and Niamey periphery in Niger, July 2020

⁴Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Niger Food Security Update, August 2020.

Qualitative Assessment

The qualitative assessment of the reporting period is limited due to the delays in activity implementation and the limitations on field visits due to the travel restriction imposed to contain the spread of COVID -19.

In terms of the impact of the pandemic, an analysis of the situation of the beneficiaries in mid-2020, based on simple questions asked in separate focus groups of men and women, provided an overview of the impact of the floods and Covid-19 on the beneficiaries. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with two NGOs (AEDL and Diko) who administered the questions in the field. The exercise revealed the following situation in the first few months of the pandemic: a decrease in IGAs due to reduced mobility and the scarcity of raw materials; violence against women also increased; the burden of care for women increased; expenditure was limited to more essential items; there was decrease in commercial activities and income generation for some, whilst income stagnated for others and there was limited access to foodstuffs. There was also reduced attendance at health facilities in the area due to the fear of catching COVID-19.

Dimitra clubs adapted their activities and limited attendance at meetings in line with guidelines. However, the clubs were still able to function and play a key role at this very critical time, whilst community radio also proved a valuable tool. It was also observed that women played a greater leadership role at the community and household level during the pandemic. They were central to the local level response and were at the forefront of sensitization efforts through the Dimitra Club networks and in women's groups, as well as linking in with community radios to raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention in surrounding villages. For example, in the commune of Guidan Amoumoune, the beneficiaries of the village of Guidan Wari trained participants from seven other villages on barrier measures against the disease. This was evidence of the increasing acceptance within the community of women taking on central roles in leadership and community life.

As outlined above, data from the women's groups also shows that, despite the shocks, families were able to sustain their income and cope with the challenges.

Further qualitative assessment will be available following the completion of activities in 2021.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	Achieved 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: % increase in agricultural production (plant production PP) and animal production (AP) of women farmers</p> <p>Baseline : 0 Planned Target : TBD</p>	<p>PP: groundnut 634kg/ha (53% from baseline and +14% to last year) cowpeas: 486kg/ha (34% from baseline and +33,8% to last year) Sesame: 429kg/ha (29% from baseline and; +2,06% to last year); Millet: 543g/ha (+9%) from baseline and +15,7% to last year)</p> <p>AP: 66.45%</p>	<p>No defined target for this indicator considering the strong dependence of climate related events</p>	<p>Local government reports</p> <p>IFAD Report</p>
<p>Indicator: 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 ; SDA Sokorbé 2019-2020 =4,2 Planned Target: 5 out 6</p>	<p>Falwel SDA= 5</p> <p>Djirataoua : SDA =3,73</p> <p>SDA Guidan Amoumoune = 4,9</p> <p>SDA Sokorbé: Evaluation for Sokorbé in 2021</p>	<p>The corona virus pandemic influenced data collection.</p>	<p>INTES nutritional end line study report for Guidan Amoumoune and baseline report for Sokorbe</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: 60 members of Dimitra clubs (43 women and 27 men)+ 60 women (food processors)+ 30 women and 15 men (45 school canteens and stand manager) total 195 who will in turn train 900 people (600 women and girls and 300 men and boys) / they are all new beneficiaries for this activity</p>	<p>600 women</p> <p>197 leaders of whom 169 women; they train 1419 beneficiaries of whom 600 adopted nutrition practices</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>FAO Report and CRESA and INTES report</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2: Decrease in the rate of malnutrition in the area / Decrease in the rate of malnutrition compared to that of the basic survey</p> <p>Baseline: Maradi 57,4%; and Dosso :36,8% Planned Target: 30% / 60 members of Dimitra clubs (43 women and 27 men)+ 60 women (food processors)+ 30 women and 15 men (45 school canteens and stand manager) total 195 who will in turn train 900 people (600 women and girls and 300 men and boys) / they are all new beneficiaries for this activity</p>	<p>Maradi region: 58%;</p> <p>Dosso region: 34,1%</p> <p>197 leaders of whom 169 women; they train 1419 beneficiaries of whom 600 adopted nutrition practices</p>	<p>The increase in the malnutrition rate on Tuesday is said to be due to the impact of COVID-19, especially the closure of the borders and terrorist attacks that have caused the movement of people</p>	<p>FAO Report / and national survey</p>
<p>Indicator 113: 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 ; SDA Sokorbé 2019-2020 =4,2 Planned Target: 5 ou 6 / 60 members of Dimitra clubs (43 women and 27 men)+ 60 women (food processors)+ 30 women and 15 men (45 school canteens and stand manager) total 195 who will in turn train 900 people (600 women and girls and 300 men and boys) / they are all new beneficiaries for this activity</p>	<p>Falwel SDA= 5</p> <p>Djirataoua : SDA =3,73</p> <p>SDA Guidan Amoumoune = 4,9</p> <p>SDA Sokorbé: Evaluation for Sokorbé in 2021</p> <p>197 leaders of whom 169 women; they train 1419 beneficiaries of whom 600 adopted nutrition practices</p>	<p>GAP =0,1 for point for Guidan Amoumoune /</p>	<p>FAO Report and INTES report</p>

<p>Indicator 1.1.4: Improved knowledge and good practices/improved percentage compared to basic food survey</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Indicators/knowledge on</th> <th>Baseline data</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Breastfeeding and infant feeding</td> <td>Immediate Breastfeeding</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age of introduction of supplemental food</td> <td>73%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exclusive breastfeeding</td> <td>No data</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Malnutrition</td> <td>Insufficient food</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diseases</td> <td>39%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fruit and vegetable consumption</td> <td>70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Water, Hygiene and Sanitation</td> <td>Key handwashing time</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latrine use</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Planned Target: 60 members of Dimitra clubs (43 women and 27 men) + 60 women (food processors) + 30 women and 15 men (45 school canteens and stand manager) total 195 who will in turn train 900 people (600 women and girls and 300 men and boys) / they are all new beneficiaries for this activity</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.5. Number of women who adopt improved agricultural techniques Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 400 (150 for IFAD +250 FAO)</p> <p>Indicator: 1.1.6 Increase of animal production Baseline: 0 Planned Target: not defined in advance</p>	Indicators/knowledge on		Baseline data	Breastfeeding and infant feeding	Immediate Breastfeeding	60%	Age of introduction of supplemental food	73%	Exclusive breastfeeding	No data	Malnutrition	Insufficient food	50%	Diseases	39%	Fruit and vegetable consumption		70%	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	Key handwashing time	28%	Latrine use	34%	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Indicators/knowledge on</th> <th>Final data</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Breastfeeding and infant feeding</td> <td>97%</td> <td>97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>91%</td> <td>91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>89%</td> <td>89%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Malnutrition</td> <td>68%</td> <td>68%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>43%</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fruit and vegetable consumption</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Water, Hygiene and Sanitation</td> <td>43%</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>95%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>197 leaders of whom 169 women; they train 1419 beneficiaries of whom 600 adopted nutrition practices</p> <p>150 women for animal production techniques and 234 for vegetable production techniques. In total 384 of 400 planned</p> <p>Average of 66.45% for 1050 beneficiaries</p>	Indicators/knowledge on		Final data	Breastfeeding and infant feeding	97%	97%	91%	91%	89%	89%	Malnutrition	68%	68%	43%	43%	Fruit and vegetable consumption		66%	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	43%	43%	95%	95%	<p>Access to fruits and vegetables has fallen due to market dysfunction linked to COVID-19</p> <p>The gap is due to the fact that 234 women enrolled in the Farmers field school fields instead of 250 as planned</p> <p>Animals were to mitigate 2020crisis' impact</p>	<p>FAO Report and INTES report</p> <p>FAO Report and INTES report</p> <p>FAO, AEDL and IFAD Report</p> <p>IFAD report</p>
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<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 having access to innovative technologies Baseline:0 Planned Target: 5,000 former beneficiaries: / 3,500 women and 1,500 men (out of the 14 705 beneficiaries of the platforms and kits for processing agro pastoral products. These 14705 beneficiaries were reached in 2017, it is the global target)</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1. Tangible Evidence of Alleviating the Workload of Rural Women Baseline: 5hours to have enough water for the family Planned Target ND: Reduce time to access to water</p>	<p>5,000 former beneficiaries: / 3,500 women and 1,500 men. These 3,500 included 402 beneficiaries of kits for agro pastoral processing products</p> <p>Water search time reduced from 5 hours to 1,5hours</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>UN Women and DIKO report</p> <p>UN Women and DIKO report</p>																																														
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women having access to innovative technologies Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 5000</p>	<p>The functioning of multifunctional platforms (PTFM) and the usefulness of their tools or components has been assessed</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>FAO report</p>																																														

	Additional equipment for the 10 platforms has been purchased and installed for 3500 women and 1500 men		
Indicator 1.2.2 Tangible Evidence of Alleviating the Workload of Rural Women Target: 6 standpipes installed for 5000 former beneficiaries (3,500 women and 1,500 men)	4 standpipes are installed,	2 standpipes will be installed in 2021	UN Women and Diko report
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of women having access to technologies Baseline:0 Target: 3,500 beneficiaries (2,000 women and 1500 men)	A feasibility study has been conducted and two multifunctional platforms for the 2 Maisons du paysan (Farmer Houses) of Sokorbe and Guidan Amomoune , purchased	Installation of the two platforms will be done in 2021	UN Women and Diko report
Indicator 1.2.4 Number of women who control local food reserve Target: 10 tons of millet and 25 pallets for 311 former beneficiaries	cereal Bank (Guidan Wari's warehouse): Improvement of stock and 25 pallets and 7 tons of rice purchased and placed in the cereal bank for 311 women	Delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions	FAO and AEDL report
Indicator 1.2.5 Number of women having access to innovative technologies Target: 402 former women	Technical support has been provided to 402 beneficiaries of agro-silvo-pastoral products processing kits for packaging, marketing and management of processed products.	N/A	IFAD report
Outcome 2 Rural women has increased incomes to secure their livelihoods.			
Indicator: Variation of women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales to WFP and other markets (% of baseline) Baseline: 83,090.65 USD Planned Target: To be determine	Data not yet available	Local purchases have been postponed due to CORONA virus	WFP report
Indicator: Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (control over use of income) Baseline: Planned Target : TBD	Data not yet available	The process of the End line study with WEAI tools is under way NA	IFAD's End line study using WEAI tools report
Output 2.1: Rural women have improved their entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets with their products			
Indicator 2.1.2. Number of women of formal and informal groups/POs who received training on entrepreneurship and improvement of agricultural techniques Baseline: Planned Target: 40 women from 20 former female POs beneficiaries	Training not yet taken place	Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions	FAO report
Indicator 2.1.2. Percentage increase in PO income Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 15%	Data not yet available	Delayed due to COVID-19	WFP Report
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities			
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of young women who received training on economic and financial literacy	200 women and girls	exceptional interest among the beneficiaries and extra training was able to be provided within the resources available	FAO and AEDL report

<p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target:80</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2: Number of women supported to develop their business plans</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target:80</p> <p>Indicator: Number of business plans received</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: ND not determined</p> <p>Indicator: Four prizes given to the best ideas for boosting small enterprises led by young women from the Dimitra Clubs</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 prices</p>	<p>293 women and girls</p> <p>40 business plans</p> <p>Activity not implemented yet</p>	<p>Number of women participating in collective enterprises resulted in a greater reach of beneficiaries</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Delayed due to COVID-19</p>	<p>FAO and AEDL report</p> <p>FAO and AEDL report</p> <p>FAO and AEDL report</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: % / Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: 3.3 Number/Percentage of Producers Organizations led by women</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 80% is the global target on which 78% (131 out of 167 POs) is reached</p>	<p>Data not yet available</p> <p>131/167= 78%</p>	<p>The process of the End line study with WEAI tools is closed, report validation is under way</p> <p>Will be completed in 2021</p>	<p>IFAD Evaluation Report based on WEAI</p> <p>FAO and AEDL reports</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including girls, have improved their self-confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of networks of Dimitra Clubs strengthened</p> <p>Baseline: 4 Planned Target: 4 (3,600 former beneficiaries – 2,400 women and 1,200 men)</p>	<p>4 networks including 3600 beneficiaries (2400 women +1200 men)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Report of FAO and UNWOMEN</p>
<p>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of Fora held</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 (four, one per council) (3,600 former beneficiaries – 2,400 women and 1,200 men)</p>	<p>4 fora were held (one per council) including 3,600 former beneficiaries – 2,400 women and 1,200 men)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>AEDL report</p>
<p>Indicator 3.131: number of women and women groups whom received gratification</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	<p>15 October / International Rural Women’s Day commemoration took place in Garagoumsa council (Zinder region)</p>		<p>JP RWEE supervision report</p>

Planned Target: 100 women from whom 45 new beneficiaries	The celebration of the IRWD was revised by government; Some 250 women leaders have been sensitized for an active participation in the elections.	The gap is due to the change of IRWD celebration mode decided by authorities because of covid-19 and floods					
Output 3.2: Rural women have increased organizational capacities to create, maintain and participate in producer organizations, cooperatives and unions							
Indicator 3.2.1: Number of women's group Unions created Baseline: Planned Target: ND	5 women's group Unions created in Falwel municipality	N/A	Reports of FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women				
Indicator 3.2.2: number of women and women groups strengthened Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3,500 women and girls of 345 groups	11,725 women members of 469 farmers' organizations	Five new union created allow to reach 469 groups and their members	FAO Report				
Indicator 3.2.3.: Changes brought by POs training Baseline: Planned Target: 167 POs/5,397 former beneficiaries (of which 4,277 women)	Data not yet available	Study will be carried out in 2021	AEDL Report / FAO				
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels							
<i>No activity planed under this output</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Output 3.4: Rural women, included young women, are more aware of their rights in an enabling community/local environment.							
Indicator:3.4.1 Number of girls having received scholarships Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 970 girls' beneficiaries out of which 345 formers	1,204 girls received scholarships over the three terms of the school year	The difference with the planned 970 girls is due to the taking into account of the outgoing and incoming flows following the update of the enrolment (new inscriptions of student).	WFP report				
Indicator 3.4.2. Increased attendance rate of girls through school canteens / Students attendance rate Baseline: 92% Planned Target: 98% and supporting schooling of 6,309 girls and 7,792 boys	Average rate of 92% and (14,070) children, including 6,264 girls are supported <table border="1" data-bbox="781 971 1152 1029"> <tr> <td>Dosso</td> <td>97,42%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maradi</td> <td>85,47%</td> </tr> </table>	Dosso	97,42%	Maradi	85,47%	In Maradi it is a dropdown that is observed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and security issues. The average rate for the two regions has remained stationary	WFP report
Dosso	97,42%						
Maradi	85,47%						
Outcome 4: Gender-responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women							
Indicator 4.1.: <i>Percentage of the municipal budget allocated to programs that benefit to the empowerment of rural women in the targeted councils</i> <i>Baseline: 12%</i> <i>Planned Target: 30%</i>	20%	The average in the 4councils showed an increase in the percentage of the budget allocated to the empowerment of women because of the opening of two new projects	Budget Report from the communes				
Indicator 4.1.: <i>Percentage of the national Budget allocated to the Ministry of promoting women and protecting child</i> Baseline: 0,01% Planned Target: TBD	1%	The total amount 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>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of policy designers strengthened Baseline:20 Planned Target: 64 of which 14 women</p>	Activity not yet implemented	Postponed to 2021	FAO report
<p>Indicator: 4.1.2. Number of government services staff trained Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30 beneficiaries including 15 men and 15 women</p>	Activity not yet implemented	Postponed to 2021	FAO Report
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
<p>Indicator 4.2.1. Extent to which data on agricultural and rural development take into account gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Planned Target: gender-disaggregated data available at the level of departmental agriculture directors</p>	<p>The quantitative and qualitative study on women's contributions in the household economy and market economy in the regions of Dosso and Maradi and the quantitative and qualitative study on the labor force requirements of the agricultural sector in the regions of Dosso and Maradi will be carried out in 2021</p>	Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions	FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP report
<p>Indicator 4.2.2.: number of studies conducted to provide data</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 6</p>	Studies will be carried out in 2021	Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions	FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP report
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.			
<p>Indicator: A mission of the capitalization of achievements of RWEE by the MAG/EL is done.</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 10, of which 4 women</p>	<p>A mission of capitalization of achievements of RWEE by the MAG/EL has been conduct by some members of the NSC.</p>		NSC mission report

ii) A Specific Story

1) Rakia Abdoulaye

Ms Rakia Abdoulaye is one of the women beneficiaries of the JP RWEE of the village of Guidan Wari, municipality of Guidan Amoumoune, Maradi region. She is 50 years old, married, and a mother of eight children. Her youngest girl benefits from the school feeding programme in place in their school. Rakia is the leader of the Dimitra older women's club in her village and is also part of the group of groundnut-to-oil processors and a VSLA member.

In 2017, the JP RWEE organized a training course on food storage and conservation for women producers. Rakia participated and has since been able to apply the techniques she learned and increase her income through better preservation of produce. Through her membership of the VSLA she has also benefited from access to credit. With her income savings and a loan taken out, she was able to buy an ox for \$146 at the weekly market. Rakia grass-fed the ox for one year and sold it for US\$ 273, enabling her to buy a plot of land with an area of 1.5 hectares with the money earned.

Rakia is also enrolled in her village's farmer field school, where she has learned the farming techniques she applies in her field. In 2019, she produced 74 bundles of millet and 45 measures of cowpea. In 2020, the rains were poorly distributed in her area and she did not have a good harvest: she collected 17 bundles of millet and 30 measures of cowpea. Despite this, she was still able to provide for her family and is happy with the field she bought on her own and for which she holds the deed of transfer. Rakia will continue to apply the techniques learned at the farmer field school in order to increase its yield and realize the land's productive potential.



III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

As part of the JP RWEE's global learning plan, two assessments were conducted in late 2020, the findings of which will be available in 2021: WEAI Endline survey and a global evaluation including a Niger country cases study.

II. Resources

Participating	Total received	Received in 2019	Total received up to 2020	Delivery rate
Organization	Total received up to 2018			31 December 2020
FAO	1190250	341 250	1 531 500	70%
IFAD	661543	181 250	842 793	97%
UNWOMEN	656193	196 250	876 521	70%
WFP	680271	181 250	837 443	<i>Unavailable</i>
Total Niger	3188257	900000	4088257	