




COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

MPTF RWEE FUND

Duration of the project:	25/05/2022 – 24/05/2027
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UN Organization	
Name of Representative: :	ATTAHER MAIGA
Title:	FAO Representative to Niger
Signature:	
Name of Organization:	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Date & Seal:	30/05/2022

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Chair of ISC – RWEE Fund

Name of Representative: Seemin Qayum

Title: Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development

Signature:

Name of Organization: UN Women

Date & Seal: 14 June 2022 11:30 AM EST

Country Programme Proposal for Niger April 2022

<i>Total budget requested</i>	US\$ 5 million
<i>Direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex)</i>	12,000 women and 3000 men
<i>Indirect beneficiaries</i>	105,000 indirect beneficiaries
<i>Duration of project:</i>	5 years
<i>Implementing Partners</i>	FAO (direct implementation; government, NGOs), IFAD (NGOs, service providers), UN Women (direct implementation, service providers, NGOs) WFP (government, NGO)

1. Background and context

A large country in the heart of the Sahel region, Niger has a real GDP per capita of USD 404 and belongs to the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The population is estimated at 22 million, of which 65.7 percent is rural¹. The rural sector is the engine of the national economy and employs more than 84% of the active population. The poverty rate, estimated at 45.4%, is higher in rural areas (52.4%) where nearly 96% of the poor live. Natural hazards (drought, floods, locust invasions, etc.) and climate change impacts (desertification land degradation, etc.), alongside food and socio-economic crises, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing regional insecurity which has caused large refugee influxes and some internal displacement, have made it very difficult for rural populations to have secure livelihoods. This particularly affects women, as four out of five poor people are estimated to be women.

Rural women and girls face constraints to their well-being and socio-economic potential. These constraints include socio-cultural and gender discriminatory norms, illiteracy (in 2015, the literacy rate for those over 15 years of age was 27.3% for men and 11% for women); a high fertility rate (7.6 children per woman - EDSN, 2012); limited access to productive resources (land, agricultural inputs, finance and credit, extension services, technology, etc.). In addition, due to ingrained cultural norms (e.g. early marriage and localized norms such as restrictions to mobility), structural barriers and insecurity, women are overburdened with domestic work and have poor access to markets, public services, social

¹ According to 2020 data from the National Institute of Statistics

protection, information and ICTs. They lack agency, voice and participation in local decision-making processes. According to estimates for both urban and rural areas, only 5.3% of women (compared to 16% of men) use the Internet in Niger (ITU, 2021).

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) in Niger is 0.642, which ranks it 154th out of 162 countries (GII 2019). Niger's 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.394, which is 189th out of 189 countries. As measured by the Food Insecurity Scale (FIES), 66.4% of Niger's population is moderately or severely food insecure. In addition, the 2021 national nutrition survey revealed a high rate of malnutrition among children under 5 years, including a global acute malnutrition rate of 12.5%, and a chronic malnutrition rate of 43.5%. The prevalence of malnutrition in women of childbearing age is 3% and their minimum dietary diversity is 46.8% at the national level, down from 53.3% in 2020.

In 2021, gross cereal deficit was estimated at 39%, a consequence of both crop failures due to drought, and the COVID-19 related economic downturn². The persistence of food and nutritional insecurity has weakened households' ability to adapt and absorb shocks. Women play a key role in agricultural activities and in improving food security on family farms, in value chains, and in stock management and food preparation.

Although the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was not significant in terms of mortality or morbidity rates, the restrictions imposed by the government to curb the spread of the virus had a negative impact on the economy³. These restrictions disrupted travel and trade flows, limiting the food supply chain and access to income for parts of the population⁴. This resulted in a significant increase in domestic food prices⁵ and an impact on household incomes and poverty levels, pushing more than 400,000 additional people into extreme poverty⁶.

Furthermore, local level conflicts are common among the rural population, which are predominantly made up of farmers, agro-pastoralists, sedentary herders and transhumant herders. Conflict is aggravated by a number of factors including climate change impacts, increased pressures on access to land resources and obsolete mechanisms and tools for resolving rural conflicts⁷. A study conducted by ECOWAS and UNOWAS in 2017 on pastoralism and security in West Africa showed that problems between farmers and herders pose a real threat to peace and security in the region.⁸The predominant cause of land conflicts is the occupation of grazing land and damage to crops from livestock. Analysis shows that women are the least publicly present in the decision-making bodies that animate the process of prevention and management of rural land conflicts⁹.

The government of Niger has committed to supporting women's empowerment through several policies and strategies. These include the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI, 2035), which has been translated into the Economic and Social Development Programme (PDES, 2017-2021), and whose component 6 has a focus on women's empowerment. In addition, the National Gender Policy adopted in 2008 and revised in 2017, includes in its third axis "economic empowerment and inclusive growth in connection with sustainable management of the environment, climate change, risk

² Dispositif national de prévention et de gestion des crises alimentaires (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, Tillabéry, Zinder and Niamey periphery in Niger, July 2021

³ NIGER, Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) Final Report January 2021

⁴ Dispositif national de prévention et de gestion des crises alimentaires (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, Tillabéry, Zinder and Niamey periphery in Niger, July 2021

⁵ Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Niger Food Security Update, August 2020

⁶ Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Niger Food Security Update, August 2020.

⁷ Update of the Analysis on Conflict's Drivers in Niger" PBF-HACP of July 2018.

⁸ "Pastoralism and Security in West Africa", ECOWAS & UNOWAS, Nov 2017.

⁹ Update of the Analysis on Conflict's Drivers in Niger" PBF-HACP of July 2018.

and disaster management, migration and humanitarian emergencies". As part of the operationalization of these policies and strategies, the Government of Niger and its partners are implementing development programmes, including the Joint Programme on "Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Niger (JP RWEE)". The first phase of the JP RWEE was implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP from 2015 to 2021, in collaboration with the Government.

2. Geographical Location and Targeting

The new phase of the JP RWEE will build on the lessons learned from Phase I in order to maximize impact and results. The four agencies will work jointly with the government on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by supporting rural women, their households, and their organizations to address the vulnerabilities and risks they and their communities are facing and advance rural women's economic empowerment.

Geographic location

The programme will be implemented in the Dosso and Maradi regions in the South of Niger as follows: Forty (40) villages in the following four communes of Dosso: **(i)** Fabidji and Kankandi Communes (Boboye Department); **(ii)** Tagriss and Gazaoua Communes (in the Dakoro and Gazaoua Departments of the Maradi region respectively).

The 40 villages to be targeted will be identified in collaboration with the communal authorities (ten villages per commune) using the following criteria: (i) villages with a high proportion of women (population size disaggregated by gender); (ii) remoteness and poor presence of development of partners; (iii) intensity (number) of conflicts related to access and management of natural resources; (iv) presence of economically active women and extremely vulnerable women; (v) other criteria proposed by the intervention communes.

The criteria for selecting the communes were as follows: (i) the communes have at least one ongoing or completed initiatives enabling to strengthen "Delivery as One"; (ii) it is possible to work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; (iii) the communes are remote and have little presence of development partners; (iv) exchange and learning from the beneficiaries of the first phase of the JP RWEE will be possible.

Targeting of beneficiaries

In its second phase, the JP RWEE will target 15,000 direct beneficiaries, including 12,000 women and girls and 3000 men and boys (105, 000 indirect beneficiaries).

Direct beneficiaries

Women

A strategy of double targeting focusing on two groups will be adopted:

- (i) **Extremely vulnerable women:** they will be targeted to receive support in terms of agricultural inputs (improved seeds, pastoral kits, etc.), organizational skills, and initiation to income generating activities (IGAs). To leave no one behind, the targeting will include pregnant and breastfeeding women, women with physical disabilities, women with children up to 5 years old, women in the informal sector, those with a minimum of education, and women heads of household. Girls will be included in the Dimitra Club activities.
- (ii) **Economically active women** (rural women producers in the agro-sylvopastoral sector or those working in non-agricultural sectors): they will be targeted in relation with individual and collective agricultural entrepreneurship support, digitalization, various technical trainings, and managing the virtual marketing platform. Women who have attended "safe spaces¹⁰" will also be

¹⁰

targeted for membership in Dimitra Clubs to increase their access to economic opportunities. Those women who have not previously been economically active women will learn from their more experienced economically active peers through coaching and mentoring.

Men and boys

Men from extremely vulnerable households will also be targeted in mixed producers' organizations, maintenance activities of work relief equipment, home grown school feeding, and social protection activities (cash for work, reforestation, etc.). There will be Dimitra Clubs of men and boys. Men living with physical disabilities will also be targeted; the proportions will be defined after the baseline study.

Religious and local leaders will be targeted, as well as government staff, for training on gender and positive masculinity, lobbying and advocacy.

Indirect beneficiaries

Indirect beneficiaries are the members of the households benefiting from all JP RWEE activities.

3. Justification

Between 2015 and 2021, the JP RWEE in Niger was implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP, alongside the Government of Niger, in twenty villages in four communes in the regions of Dosso and Maradi. This proposed second phase of the programme is strongly supported by the Government and by the administrative and customary authorities at all levels, as expressed during the joint supervision missions, closing processes and stakeholder consultations during the first phase. The experiences, successes and lessons learned from phase I, identified by the evaluation and other final assessments, have been considered in the new programme design. The participating agencies, along with government, will continue their strong collaboration to address the barriers to gender equality and the economic empowerment of rural women.

Key Lessons Learned and Recommendations (phase 1)¹¹

Lessons Learned

- The participatory approach promoted by the Dimitra Clubs allowed beneficiaries to identify and express their needs, helping agencies to develop relevant interventions and promoting a culture of listening and dialogue among all stakeholders.
- The importance of good coordination between all stakeholders (UN agencies, implementing partners, local and national authorities, etc.).
- Beneficiaries have the solutions to their problems; strengthening their accountability is possible through fostering dialogue and reflection.
- It is crucial to engage actively from the beginning in learning and developing advocacy materials to lobby at the policy level.
- Involvement of key stakeholders (ministries, line agencies, decentralized services, municipalities, and community-based organizations) is important for future adoption, replication and sustainability.

Best practices

Engaging Men and Boys: Developing women's agency and recognition of their value is not possible without the support of their households and wider community members. The JP RWEE engaged men and boys in constructive dialogue which contributed to societal change. The Dimitra Club approach facilitates the involvement of women, men and youth, in the decision-making process at the community level and was an entry point in the targeted communities, proving critical to achieving programme outcomes.

¹¹ JP RWEE Global Term Evaluation, Niger Case Study.

Multifunctional platforms: The multifunctional platforms that were distributed under the programme proved to have a significant impact on reducing women's workload. Multifunctional platforms are driven by a diesel engine, power devices such as shellers, flour machines, batteries and telephones. By providing multi-use energy, these platforms lighten domestic chores, free up women's time and allow them to generate income.

Coordination mechanisms: Creating a framework for exchange with implementing partners (local NGOs) enabled them to develop a greater sense of ownership of the programme's theory of change and impacts, as well as improving local civil society ownership, supported by local and national government who were key participants in the coordination and governance mechanisms.

Other successful initiatives and strategies in the first phase included the implementation strategy for nutrition education, the pastoral kits retrocession strategy which reintroduced poultry farming as a viable livelihood, working with women's organizations to access local procurement and other institutional markets. Lessons include the need for the systematic integration of preparation and response to shocks, in addition to food crises, as a necessity in the Sahelian context.

Phase II of the Joint Programme in Niger

The JP RWEE identifies the need to respond to the identified challenges by providing holistic and integrated interventions which will address the underlying causes of, and barriers to, rural women's economic empowerment. The programme also recognizes the need to adopt specific measures to improve women's resilience to shocks and crisis, including the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices, given the devastating impacts of climate change on rural communities in Niger over the past decade, and their threat to women's empowerment.

The programme is well placed to respond to the context and needs outlined above as it draws on the complementary knowledge and gender expertise of the four UN agencies in Niger: FAO's technical knowledge in food security, nutrition, climate-smart agriculture, community engagement and support to cooperatives; IFAD's experience in addressing gender inequalities at the household and organizational levels, and building resilience through the livestock programme strategies; WFP's technical knowledge and innovations in implementing food security and nutrition programs through producer organizations linked to home grown school feeding programmes; and UN Women's expertise in mainstreaming a gender perspective in agriculture and engaging with women's organizations and men to tackle discriminatory social norms and practices in formal and informal sectors in rural areas.

This new phase of the JP RWEE will build on the learnings of the first phase and will use the same approaches based on inclusion and diversity, in addition to new ones that have already proven successful in the country. For better synergy and to contribute to social cohesion at the community level, the four agencies propose to work alongside the government on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus and on climate change response. This will be achieved by accompanying rural women, their organizations, and men (local authorities, male and female members of targeted structures such as Dimitra Clubs, mixed Farmer Organizations (FOs), to strengthen their resilience and that of their communities in the face of vulnerability and risks. Rural women and their households are expected to be able to anticipate, adapt and respond to climate change and other shocks, while minimizing environmental and COVID-19 impacts. As recommended by the country gender assessment conducted by FAO in 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture will be supported in the development of a gender strategy specific to the agricultural sector. The JP RWEE will also address the majority of gender equality issues

highlighted by the interim report of the Common Country Analysis¹² conducted in 2022 (for example, child marriage, forced marriage, unpaid care and domestic work, lack of women's participation and leadership).

Access to digitalization will be strengthened through training in **digital literacy** and facilitating access to **digital tools and ICTs** for networking, market information, improved market access, and climate and weather information. In addition, activities will systematically include a gender sensitive nutrition approach. Each of the agencies will contribute to the JP-RWEE results through its well proven approaches and added value, in close collaboration with government and local NGOs. The Dimitra Clubs will continue to be the entry point for community-level activities and will contribute to the local coordination of the four agencies' activities as in the first phase.

Four community-based networks of Dimitra Clubs will be created and coached. They will then be connected to the clubs established in the first phase and to community radios, through a platform for the exchange of experiences and good practices on WhatsApp. As in the first phase, discussions within the Dimitra Clubs will contribute to identifying and transforming discriminatory practices and social norms. The dialogue and discussions will be relayed to other groupings and farmer organizations, and in opinion leaders' meetings with a view to transforming gender norms. Support for each package of activities is provided according to the mandate, comparative advantage, and institutional strength of each agency. Synergies and complementarity will be developed in the field with the main partners identified during the baseline study. At national level, these synergies will be established with other UN agencies as well as with all other partners working on the same themes/issues as: Regional Women's Empowerment Programme and Demographic Dividend (World Bank); Economic and Social Development of Women through Renewable Energies in the Sahel (Senegal, Mali, and Niger) (EU).

FAO will be responsible for several components: community engagement through the establishment and support of Dimitra Clubs and their communal networks; the provision of agricultural inputs and infrastructure; training on climate-smart agricultural techniques in agro-pastoral field schools; capacity building of small-scale producers on technical and organizational aspects; economic and digital literacy; nutrition education; and participatory research on food recipes based on local products.

IFAD will focus its interventions on capacity development activities for rural women's resilience through the distribution of pastoral kits, the promotion of micro-enterprises for processing and conservation of agricultural products and also brings its expertise to the programme in the use of the WEAI tool for measuring progress.

UN Women is working on developing the entrepreneurial skills and capacities of rural women for the development of women's economic leadership through task-relief activities, their access to market via a digital marketing platform, and advocacy for the promotion of women's rights.

WFP will increase rural women's access to markets by linking women's producer groups to schools for the supply of home-grown school feeding.

All agencies will work in collaboration with government technical services and in partnership with local NGOs. Particular attention will be paid to the sustainability of the results achieved. The approaches used to implement the activities will broadly remain the same as in Phase I and will be enriched with the lessons learned and recommendations described above.

The programme will contribute to the implementation of the priority actions selected by the

¹² (i) The gender inequality index remains very high; (ii) The primary and secondary school completion rate of girls compared to boys remains low due to pregnancy and early marriage; (iii) Women and children, especially girls, are vulnerable to gender-based violence; (iv) Women's access to jobs remains difficult and limited and pay gaps are common and difficult to justify; (v) The burden of domestic work further penalizes women and girls whose bargaining power and ability to be heard are generally weak.

Government of Niger following the 2020 voluntary review of the SDGs. Thus, the planned activities concern SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and will directly impact SDGs 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16. It is aligned with the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy 2035, the current economic and social development plan (PDES), the national gender policy and the economic empowerment strategy for women in Niger, the action plan, the 3N initiative (2022-2025), and the sectoral policies of the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, and the Environment.

4. Programme Description by Outcome

Overview

The overall goal of the JP RWEE is to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights, and resilience to advance sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Two crosscutting perspectives will be applied across the programme interventions: (i) **gender transformative approaches**, including engaging with men and boys, to address unequal power dynamics and gender discriminatory social norms. This will contribute to positive, transformative, and structural change at the household, organizational, community and local/national policy levels; and (ii) **a resilience lens** to enable rural women and their households to anticipate, adapt, and respond to climate change, hazards, and other shocks, while minimizing environmental and COVID-19 impacts.

Description of activities by outcome

Outcome 1: Improved food security and nutrition for rural women and their households that contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems

(6,000 direct beneficiaries - 3,000 women, 1,000 girls + 1,000 men and 1,000 boys)

This outcome includes implementing activities to improve the food security and nutrition of rural women and their families, which is essential for building resilience and achieving economic empowerment. Building on the knowledge and skills of women smallholder farmers, their productive potential will be enhanced through capacity development and increased access to and control of productive resources and services. Particular attention will be given to promoting time- and climate-saving infrastructure and technologies to enhance productivity, protect biodiversity, and reduce women's unpaid burden of care and domestic work. This will be supported using proven methodologies¹³ to engage women, men, households, and their communities in identifying and addressing the root causes of gender inequalities and the ways in which they impact on household food security and nutrition. The aim is to boost agricultural production and productivity (plant and animal) to enhance women's contribution to food security, but also to ensure that they have a marketable surplus. To this end, FAO will put into practice its "four betters" with actions in crop production and nutrition; IFAD will focus on livestock production. FAO, IFAD, and WFP will work together in improving post-harvest storage through the establishment of storage infrastructure and capacity development,

Output 1.1. Rural women have increased access to resources, assets, and technologies critical for climate-resilient agricultural production, food security, and nutrition

Under this output the following activities will be implemented:

- Support the establishment and provision of equipment for the Local Land Commissions, linking with the Dimitra Clubs, to secure access to land for women (FAO).
- Support women's access to markets by linking women farmers with school feeding programmes.(WFP)

¹³ For more details on some of the key methodologies, see the program strategy section below.

- Strengthen the capacities of women farmers in climate-resilient and nature-based agricultural practices including field preparation, cultivation, fertilization, pest and disease control, and harvesting, through participatory approaches such as Farmer Field Schools (FAO).
- Support livestock production through the provision of pastoral kits (IFAD).
- Strengthen women's access to extension services and weather information (FAO).
- Promote workload reduction through the provision of energy saving cooking technologies (UN Women).
- Support food processing and storage, using innovative, productivity enhancing and culturally and ecologically acceptable technologies and facilities' (IFAD).
- Awareness raising and training for women and adolescent girls (WFP).
- Support producer organizations in food processing and storage, using innovative, productivity enhancing and culturally and ecologically acceptable technologies and facilities. (WFP)
- Build on indigenous knowledge systems and neglected foods to strengthen resilience by linking rural women with Sahara Sahel Food (SSF) for the picking and marketing of wild fruits (WFP).

Output 1.2: Rural women have enhanced skills and capacities to increase nutritious food production, food quality and local food security reserves; reduce food losses and waste; and improve household diets

- Implement nutrition education activities and support participatory research on balanced recipes based on local products (FAO).
- Strengthen the capacities of women farmers in climate-resilient and nature-based agricultural practices including field preparation, cultivation, fertilization, pest and disease control, and harvesting, through participatory approaches such as farmer field schools. Strengthen the capacities of producers on biological control, alternative pest control, and the use of biological pesticides (IFAD).
- Strengthen women's access to food storage and conservation facilities for crop production (FAO).
- Strengthen the capacities of beneficiaries in storage and conservation techniques for animal products and agro-food processing (IFAD).
- Establish feed banks and zoo-technical input stores to benefit women and men (IFAD).
- Train women para-veterinary auxiliaries (IFAD).
- Strengthen women's access to extension services and weather information (FAO).
- Train women and men producers and their organizations on food safety (FAO).
- Strengthen the capacities of women farmers in post-harvest handling, storage and processing, including multi-use platforms for food transformation, product loss reduction and waste prevention (WFP)
- Ensure that women and adolescent girls have access to training and awareness-raising on life skills, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, as required in collaboration with UNFPA (WFP)

Outcome 2: Rural women's income, decent work and economic autonomy increased to secure their livelihoods and build resilience (12,000 women and girls)

To achieve this outcome, the programme will focus on: the creation, support and development of rural women-led associations and enterprises, including small-scale ones, to broaden and deepen their engagement along existing and new value chains and take advantage of new and diversified market opportunities; women's improved access to social protection, which has become increasingly critical in the context of multidimensional vulnerability in Niger; the strengthening of women's skills and access to credit and information for women's economic empowerment and resilience.

The four agencies will work together in the achievement of this outcome and will use a gender sensitive "value chain" approach to boost the individual and collective entrepreneurship of women, including

young women, as well as agro-food processing and marketing, in conjunction with financial institutions. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) will be established and supported. Access to ICTs will be strengthened through the Dimitra Clubs, and access to markets through local purchases and the creation of a digital marketing platform. WFP, UN Women, and FAO will support the creation of productive assets through social protection actions for the most vulnerable. The following activities will be implemented under each respective output:

Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced capacities, skills and time for entrepreneurship and access to markets and value chains

- Facilitate market access for women-led businesses and associations through local purchases for home-grown school feeding (WFP).
- Boost individual/social entrepreneurship through the Dimitra Clubs (FAO).
- Train leaders of producer unions involved in marketing on accessing institutional markets for agricultural products and linking with financial institutions (FAO).
- Provide labour saving technologies (multifunctional platforms, carts, standpipes) to the twenty (20) villages (UN Women).
- Build capacity of 500 beneficiaries, including 350 women, on the maintenance of above-mentioned labour-saving technologies (UN Women).
- Connect POs with digital platforms for marketing (UN Women).
- Build capacity on financial literacy (UN Women).
- Link 60 rural women members of POs federations with wholesale traders and dealers (UN Women).
- Provide access to market information, improved market access and mobile banking through digital tools (FAO),
- Increase women's access to institutional markets and facilitate their access to credit (FAO).
- Support the establishment and operation of a microenterprise producing infant flour from local products (FAO).
- Support POs and women's groups in the processing and fortification of food products (FAO);
- Support women-led associations and businesses to progress beyond the production stage and develop links to value addition and markets, including, for example, high-end ventures, rural to urban linkages, and home-grown school feeding (WFP).
- Provide training in processing and product diversification transformation and value addition (WFP).

Output 2.2: Rural women's increased access to decent work and off-farm jobs, and to social protection

- Support access to social protection systems, social safety nets and off-farm income-generating activities through cash for work/Food for Assets/ Food for Work (WFP).
- Carry out awareness raising and capacity building on decent work at household and community levels (WFP).
- Assist at least 20 rural women's groups in the establishment of forest nurseries (FAO).
- Provide motorbikes with trailers to young men to drive women farmers to market, as a way to promote decent jobs (UN Women).
- Create decent work opportunities for beneficiaries in one business selling spare equipment for labour saving technologies and repairing mobile phones (UN Women).

Output 2.3: Rural women's increased access to gender-responsive financial and business support services, ICTs and other products and services

- Build the capacity of 1000 rural women on gender-sensitive procurement and private/ public contracting procedures (UN Women).
- Create and structure community savings and credit associations according to the AVEC approach (UN Women).
- Link POs federations with microfinance institutions (UN Women).
- Strengthen the use of ICT through Dimitra Clubs (FAO).

Outcome 3: Rural women's voice and agency enhanced for better leadership and full and equal participation in their households, communities, organizations, and governance (12,000 women and 3,000 men)

This outcome promotes rural women's participation and leadership in rural producer organizations, cooperatives, and local governance systems (land committees, natural resource management committees, and community development initiatives). It will focus mainly on working with women's groups, including community-based and self-help groups, informal savings and credit groups, and formal women's and mixed cooperatives. As evidenced by phase one, these groups act as a powerful transformative driver for advancing women's economic empowerment and inclusion in rural life. Reaching a critical mass of women as members and leaders ensures that the decisions and services provided by organizations and governance systems reflect the needs and priorities of women, as well as men. If women are not present, they miss opportunities to reshape the agenda, further perpetuating gender inequalities such as lack of access to information, resources, and economic opportunities.

Actions to promote gender equality and build equitable gender relations/roles will be supported using gender transformative methodologies such as the Dimitra Clubs approach to change discriminatory norms and raise expectations for rural women's leadership. In the Niger context, there is a need to work with men, religious leaders, traditional leaders, as well as local government, community representatives, and women's networks to create an enabling environment in which rural women will acquire both the opportunity and skills to assume leadership roles. Further efforts will focus on strengthening the agency and leadership of women and youth (men and women) through the setting up of Dimitra Clubs and their communal networks, enhancing organizational capacities and the developing social capital of farmers' organizations. A "peace building and early warning" component will be added through linkages with the Local Land Commissions (*Commissions foncières de base*) to strengthen social cohesion between farmers and herders and build resilience to disaster.

Planned activities for each output are outlined below:

Output 3.1: Increased leadership skills and capacities to participate in local governance and decision-making structures

- Establish and support 200 Dimitra Clubs and successively create and support 4 communal Dimitra Clubs' networks (FAO).
- Build the capacity of Producer Organizations (POs) on the themes of gender, women's leadership, political participation, and local governance (UN Women).
- Organize peer-to-peer exchanges between selected women and men beneficiaries of phase II (15 beneficiaries/commune) with women beneficiaries of phase I who have high quality leadership positions (UN Women).
- Establish a network of women leaders to provide peer-to-peer support and learning exchange, and act as role models for other women (UN Women).
- Undertake community dialogue to promote positive changes in gender norms and attitudes, the sharing of knowledge networking and consultative mechanisms through Dimitra Clubs (FAO).
- Engage with men as religious and traditional leaders, chiefs, local authorities, and men in general to guarantee political and social recognition of the role of women (UN Women).

- Build the capacity of women members of Dimitra Clubs on women's leadership and political participation (FAO; UN Women).
- Strengthen the capacity of rural women, including young women, to take on high quality leadership positions (beyond administrative positions) in local governance systems and producer organizations through adapting existing leadership training (WFP).

Output 3.2: Organizational capacities and social capital strengthened regarding the setting-up, participation and support of producers' organizations and unions, cooperatives, savings groups, and self-help groups

- Strengthen the capacity of rural women and men to organize themselves and create legally recognized farmers organizations (UN Women);
- Strengthen the capacities of leaders and members of farmers' organizations (FOs) on the procedures for creating and operating rural organizations (OHADA Uniform Act) (FAO).
- Establish women mediator groups at community levels to help prevent and mediate in local conflicts such as those related to natural resource management (UN Women).
- Support producer organizations, cooperatives, and unions to make their corporate governance more transparent, effective, accountable, gender-equitable and age inclusive by, for example, quotas for board membership; gender policies and strategies; managerial and leadership training; ensuring by-laws do not act as potential barriers to membership (FAO)
- Support **regional level dialogues** among rural producer organizations, both mixed and women and youth only, through participatory communication, networking, exchange of experiences, dissemination of information, and stakeholder consultations (FAO).

Outcome 4: Legal frameworks, policies and institutions are strengthened from a gender perspective to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights, and resilience (12,000 women/girls + 3,000 men/boys)

This outcome aims to contribute to strengthening the capacity of governments to facilitate the emergence of a more gender-responsive policy environment, necessary to achieve long-term systemic change. Interventions will be undertaken jointly with the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Environment, Women's Development and Child Protection, as well as with parliamentarians, local elected women, and civil society organizations. Key policy areas will be related to land rights and security, food security and nutrition, agriculture, social protection, climate change, and workload reduction. The voice of rural women will be strengthened so that they can engage in local, national, and regional policy dialogues with government and contribute to and influence policy processes. Capacity development on gender and advocacy will be carried out. Support will be provided to the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture (gender strategy) and to the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Child Protection in the framework of actions related to the national strategy for women's empowerment and/or the national gender policy. In addition, awareness-raising interventions on women's right to land ownership will be held and will targeted women, religious leaders, customary, administrative, and municipal authorities. This in turn will allow local actors to create an enabling environment for the achievement of women's empowerment and rights. The following activities for each output are envisaged:

Output 4.1: Enhanced capacities of policy makers and other stakeholders to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive policies, strategies, legal frameworks, and budgets

- Develop the capacities of policy makers at the local and national levels on women's rights in development management, political participation, conflict prevention and management, social cohesion, discriminatory social norms, etc. (UN Women).

- Organize communal forums (religious leaders, customary authorities, municipal authorities, judicial authorities, communal networks of Dimitra Clubs) on the different rights (religious law, customary law) of women to land ownership, which will constitute an evolution or revolution in relation to the practices underpinned by the secular marginalization of women (UN Women).
- Strengthen the capacities of 100 beneficiaries distributed among municipal authorities and their departments on gender responsive planning and budgeting (GRBP) (UN Women).
- Provide technical support for the revision and/or elaboration of communal development plans (PDC) (UN Women).
- Strengthen the capacities of 30 members, including 20 women of the gender units from partner sectoral ministries on gender responsive planning and budgeting (GRP) (UN Women).
- Provide training to improve Monitoring and Evaluation, including on SDG 5 indicators related to Gender Equality (UN Women).
- Identify and award 40 HeforShe Male Champions, 10 champions per commune from local government and POs (UN Women).
- Support the revision of the national strategy for women's economic empowerment. This involves providing technical expertise in the development of the said strategy in collaboration with the gender units of the other partner ministries of the program (UN Women).
- Support the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a gender strategy for the agricultural sector (FAO).
- Advocate and provide support to analyse policy and enhance the design and implementation of gender-responsive agricultural and rural development policies, strategies and plans including in resilience building, preparedness and response, and social protection (WFP).

Output 4.2: Increased capacity of rural women and their organizations to participate in and influence relevant policy forums at national, regional, and global levels

- Support rural women's advocacy initiatives during the commemoration of International Rural Women's Day and World Food Day (FAO).
- Technical and/or financial support to rural women for their participation in policy forums at national and sub-regional levels (UN Women).
- Sensitize beneficiaries and organize radio debates on gender and land (UN Women).
- Organize multi-stakeholder fora at commune level on gender issues, positive masculinities, and women's rights to access land and markets (UN Women).
- Conduct a study to list and analyze existing intra and multi-sectoral consultation frameworks on social protection in terms of assets and gaps; technical support and advocacy for the implementation of the action plan to improve the gaps identified by the study (UN Women).
- Enhance the skills and capacities of civil society organizations to strengthen their role in increasing gender-responsive climate action at the community level (WFP).

5. Participatory Methodologies

To foster community participation, ownership, and the sustainability of the programme achievements, the JP RWEE will use the same participatory, inclusive, and people-centered methods and approaches successfully applied in Phase 1 and as appropriate to the context in Niger.

A comprehensive **participatory gender assessment** will provide a detailed description of the initial situation in terms of infrastructure, community and inter-community decision-making structures, farmers' organizations, women's groups, etc. at village level. A description of the status of women, men, and partners involved in each village will be established. **The Household Economy Analysis (HEA)** tool (included in the baseline study) will be used to classify households, according to their level of

vulnerability, followed by an analysis to better determine the activity packages according to the level of vulnerability.

Dimitra Clubs¹⁴, a gender-transformative community engagement approach will serve as a community entry point for all partner agencies' activities and as a local coordination mechanism. The clubs will identify issues in each village that the community will work on independently. An **inter-community diagnostic using the Participatory Community Planning (PCP)**¹⁵ approach will be conducted to analyze the problems related to the management of shared community resources in clusters of villages. Through the linkages between PCP and the Dimitra Clubs, issues of access to natural resources will be addressed. The Dimitra Clubs will provide safe spaces where topics and issues of interest to women and men can be discussed, and action taken, particularly with regard to power imbalances which have a discriminatory impact on women's daily lives. Identified solutions are agreed during a public meeting (village assembly) and is legitimized by the local (traditional, religious) authorities and the community itself so that new norms, behaviors, and roles are accepted and "acceptable".

Another methodology that will be used is the Village Savings and Loan Associations (**VSLAs**), which allow women to come together to save money and engage in income-generating activities. The strengthening of producers' organizations (POs) will use a **gender-based organizational analysis methodology** to diagnose and draw up a participatory strengthening plan for the POs.

Special attention will also be put on social norms, resilience, and early warning.

Early warning/ anticipatory action: community engagement and gender transformative approaches, will help to develop various capacities such as those to adapt, communicate, and intervene in case of disasters or conflicts. An inclusive approach to anticipatory action needs a context-specific understanding of the ways inequality impacts vulnerability and resilience. This means working with communities to understand how intersecting categories, such as gender, age, nationality, socio-economic status, physical abilities, etc. can be included and benefit from these systems. Inclusive anticipatory action must ensure that the most vulnerable have an active voice in decision-making and can influence the programmes to address their specific needs and priorities, becoming the key actors in strengthening their resilience.

6. Theory of Change

The Theory of Change and ToC narrative have been developed based on the context in Niger and included in Annexes 1A and 1B respectively.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

To implement the lessons learned from phase 1, an effective monitoring and evaluation system will be put in place. The monitoring and evaluation system will make it possible to capture changes in gender equality and women's empowerment.

A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed and a Performance Monitoring Framework is attached (Annex 5). A MEAL Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the M&E plan. He/she will work closely with the monitoring and evaluation officers of the PUNOs and will be supported by the M&E Specialist of the Global Coordination Unit. He/she will use the appropriate jointly

¹⁴ **The Club Dimitra Approach** is a gender-transformative and empowerment approach that is considered a good practice by FAO and development partners in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in least developed countries and post-conflict contexts. Everywhere, it has proven to be successful to promote community engagement, empowerment and resilience, women's and girls' leadership, behaviour change, including gender-related changes, and social cohesion. The clubs are groups of women, men, and youth - mixed or not - who decide to self-organize to act together on their own environment. They meet regularly to identify and discuss common problems related to their environment, act together to solve them and improve their quality of life.

¹⁵ Participatory Community Planning (PCP) used by WFP is an approach to analysing problems related to the management of shared community resources and planning solutions. PCP is developed for clusters of villages that share natural resources.

selected collection tools and will be responsible for ensuring the regular collection and reporting of quantitative and qualitative data to assess the progress and performance of the programme. He/she will coordinate the major studies planned in the implementation of the programme.

The logical framework, in Annex 2, presents the core indicators and three optional indicators to cover specific activities that are important for the context in Niger as well as the main assumptions underlying a successful implementation of the programme. A detailed performance-monitoring framework (PMF) has also been developed and will be fully completed after the initial studies. It describes the performance, data sources, methods, and frequency of data collection as well as responsibilities for each indicator.

Initial studies: The baseline study will be the first activity to be conducted in the villages and will generate quantitative and qualitative baseline data. The baseline survey will include tools from Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (**KAP**) survey in Nutrition and Household Dietary Diversity Score (**HDDS**) will be a specific study conducted by FAO once the Dimitra Clubs have been established.

Monitoring: A joint approach to monitoring and evaluation will be adopted by the participating agencies. While each agency will be responsible for monitoring the activities it implements, the MEAL coordinator will coordinate the baseline and final studies, the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan, including a mid-term review, and the consolidation of data. A database will be set up for the entire programme implementation process. Continuous monitoring of the plans, as well as technical support, will be carried out by the MEAL Coordinator with the technical supervision of the M&E Specialist of the Global Coordination Unit. Capacity building and oversight of the M&E system will be carried out by the Global Coordination Unit as required, with the participation of PUNO teams and implementing partners. This will help ensure understanding and alignment with data collection and M&E practices in accordance with JP RWEE protocols, including the ability to analyze and interpret data.

Operational monitoring will be conducted at two levels: the first level includes close monitoring by the implementing partners. The sub-offices of the UN agencies/regional offices will also closely monitor the activities, as will the decentralized technical services. Each quarter, the MEAL Coordinator will share with the Global Coordination Unit a brief periodic monitoring and evaluation report, including the main activities carried out as well as a description of the progress of the project and the main conclusions and recommendations for the continuation of activities. This report will be shared with all agencies.

The second level of operational monitoring will be conducted during joint supervision missions: Two joint supervision and monitoring visits will be carried out per year, during which coordination platforms between local JP RWEE stakeholders will be held. They will be an effective means of providing technical advice and feedback to implementing partners and adjusting implementation plans as needed.

Field visits to programme sites will be part of the performance monitoring framework and a monitoring and implementation support plan will be prepared on a quarterly basis at the programme field unit level.

Strategic monitoring: Regular meetings of the Technical Committee (monthly and *ad hoc*) and the National Steering Committee (annual) will provide an opportunity to share information on activities with relevant stakeholders, and to take corrective action as necessary.

Reviews: Output level indicators will be monitored on a quarterly basis, and outcome indicators will be monitored semi-annually, annually, or periodically, depending on the indicator. Reviews sessions will take place between the PUNO and the implementing partners. As in Phase 1, an annual review meeting will be held, with the participation of all programme staff and implementing partners, government representatives, and relevant staff of the four agencies. The Global Coordination Unit will also attend these reviews (remotely or in person). Annual pre-sessions will be held with beneficiaries to provide an opportunity to gather feedback and capture changes. The results will feed into the preparation of the following year's work plan, which will be monitored accordingly.

Reporting: Regular reporting will be an integral part of the M&E system for the systematic and timely provision of information. Quarterly M&E reports will be provided by implementing partners in collaboration with participating agencies. A synthesis will be produced by MEAL to inform stakeholders. Progress reports will be prepared on a semi-annual basis.

Evaluations: An end line survey and final evaluation will be organized towards the end of the programme. FAO will be responsible for conducting the final evaluation and IFAD will be responsible of the end line survey. The process will be coordinated and incorporate lessons learned from the conduct of the joint baseline study. Information on monitoring and evaluation will be widely shared with all stakeholders involved in the programme to inform future initiatives.

8. Sustainability and Exit Strategies

Programme sustainability will be achieved through the implementation of programme strategies and approaches which are aimed at enhancing the likelihood of sustainability beyond the programme interventions. A detailed sustainability strategy, including exit strategies and potential for replication, will be developed during the programme inception phase.

Individual and Household Level

Individual ownership, and consequently sustainability, will be facilitated through the capacity development of women, including in leadership. Women's participation and leadership will be supported through working with both men and women in the household and developing the philosophy of self-reliance and the spirit of dialogue and solidarity. Bringing about gender transformative change through shifts in household social norms will increase the recognition of the value of women, their contribution to livelihoods and will enhance the likelihood of sustainability.

Community Level

The entry point that the Dimitra Clubs represent will also be the exit point. As in the first phase, the beneficiaries and the communities will be at the centre of decision making on issues that affect them. The Dimitra clubs provide a space for issues to be identified, prioritised and addressed as a community. This creates buy-in and ownership and increases the likelihood of sustainability. The Dimitra Clubs will be self-sufficient by the end of the programme and will continue beyond the programme completion date. In each village, two (2) leaders (1 man and 1 woman) will be trained as endogenous facilitators, capable of taking their actions to other villages in addition to guaranteeing the sustainability of their own clubs.

UN Women adopts an approach that aims at enabling the target population to better own its interventions, through training in gender and positive masculinity, training in the management of task-relieving equipment, work on national strategies as well as building women's organizational capacities, all of which guarantee the sustainability of actions.

Institutional Level - Local

There will be close involvement of local government. The managers of the government technical and extension services will support the beneficiary communities in the implementation of some activities and decision-making and are the guarantors of the sustainability of the actions. During programme implementation, emphasis is placed on local authority institutional capacity building on topics such as gender equality, positive masculinities, rural women's rights and gender responsive planning and budgeting, so that the services provided can continue through local organizations.

Dimitra Club networks will work closely with local commune staff, which will allow for the establishment of solid links between the communal level and the services of the town hall, the State, and the targeted villages. Commune-village dialogue will be supported by the mayors and village leaders and will feed into communal planning. The communal networks of Phase II will be connected to those of Phase I for

more sharing and sustainability. Capacity building through a specific exchange framework; the link created between the exchange framework with local partners and the government's decentralized services strengthens the availability of technical expertise at the communal level.

Institutional level - National

The programme is implemented by the four UN agencies in collaboration with the technical ministries and the High Commission for the 3N Initiative (HCI3N). The decentralized representations at the regional, departmental, and communal levels of the various technical ministries will be heavily involved in the implementation of the programme. These decentralized representations, and the HC3N regional coordination structures, support the technical supervision of beneficiaries and are fully engaged in the monitoring, evaluation, and supervision of activities. Training for state services (statistical services, Gender Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture) will give them the capacity to provide post-programme support to communities.

9. Knowledge Management and Communications

A simple communications and KM strategy, with a subsequent comms/KM plan will be developed, with support from the Comms/KM officer in the Global Coordination Unit.

The lead agency communications officer will provide further support and work closely with the UN System Communications Group in Niger. Good practices will be documented and widely shared through social and mass media. The plan will include the following:

- Theoretical and practical training of implementing partners in communication to facilitate reporting (shooting, interview techniques, photo captioning information, etc.).
- Production of communication and visibility materials (kakemonos, documentary films from a video follow-up every 6 months, 2 project sheets; testimonial photos and videos, T-shirts or polo shirts, caps, briefcases, hijabs, scarves, palisades, etc.). The video follow-up will be an opportunity to establish a baseline situation with the beneficiaries.
- In the field, communicators will collect testimonials and produce images that will feed into programme publications (report, articles and press releases, tweets, and other products). At the end of the programme's implementation, a capitalization video will be produced to accompany the final report.
- Media outreach on JP RWEE activities: media documentation mission on the programme's achievements (conduct field missions with media to report on success stories based on the results of the programme's mid-term review).
- Documentation of all relevant achievements through articles in the online press and social networks/media.
- Leveraging the UN System Communications Group and the Humanitarian Communications Group in Niger to contribute to the visibility of the JP-RWEE and its results. The media that will be used are the "ONE UN" website, the newsletter, kakemonos during visits of personalities in the country, the twitter account, talking points on the results of joint activities, etc.
- Organization of community fairs to showcase the know-how of the communities benefiting from the program, especially on the International Days of "Rural Women" and "World Food Day".

The main communication themes will be identified after the baseline studies. Documentation of good practices and lessons learned will be systematized after the mid-term review. The best practices will be widely disseminated through articles, success stories, audio and visual supports, etc. These good practices can be replicated by other projects/programmes by adapting them to their socio-cultural and economic contexts and realities.

10. Coordination Mechanisms

As the coordination and governance mechanisms put in place in the first phase have proven to be effective, the same structure will be established for this new interventions as follows:

1. A National Steering Committee
2. A Technical Committee, including a Programme Management Unit
3. A platform for exchange between local partners and stakeholders (local NGOs and decentralized government services)

The UN Country Team in Niger will be involved through the office of the Resident Coordinator, whose representative will sit on the Steering Committee and will support in strengthening the planned resource mobilization efforts and programme visibility. The Steering Committee, as well as the Technical Committee and the Programme Management Unit will be established at programme start up.

Steering Committee

The National Steering Committee will be responsible for the governance of the programme. It will be composed of: a chairperson (a senior official appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture); First Vice-Chair (a senior official from the Ministry of Women's Promotion and Child Protection); Second Vice-Chair (a senior official from the High Commission of the 3N Initiative); Third Vice-Chair (a representative of the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator). Members will include regional and local administrative representatives. The National Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance to the Joint Programme, validate the planning of activities, support the mobilization of resources and review programme progress. They will contribute to the overall oversight of the programme, and make recommendations for its successful implementation. Steering Committee meetings are held annually and as needed.

Lead Agency

In Niger, FAO will assume the role of lead agency. As such, it will be responsible for: coordinating the approval of annual work plans, budget reviews, stakeholder relationship management, in collaboration with sister agencies; coordinating programme implementation, monitoring, and reporting in collaboration with sister agencies, ensuring synergies and engagement with government and local funding partners; contributing to programme communication within the UNCT and RCO; raising the profile of the JP RWEE at country level.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee will be composed of technical experts of the four UN agencies and the Programme Management Unit and will meet on a monthly basis. Every three months, technical focal points from the Ministries of Agriculture, Women's Promotion and Child Protection, High Commission of the 3N Initiative, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Livestock will also attend. Its work will consist of: developing activity plans and budgets; ensuring regular monitoring of the programme activities; developing synergies and making recommendations to stakeholders for the achievement of objectives; providing technical advice and programme oversight. It will meet monthly and as needed to share progress, constraints, best practices, and find solutions to challenges and bottlenecks. The Technical Committee will also lead quarterly programme reviews and conduct two joint oversight missions per year. Ad hoc meetings will be held as needed.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

The PMU has the main responsibility of implementing the project's Annual Planning and Budget (PTBA) workplan and will be hosted within FAO. It is composed of two full-time staff: A National Coordinator (NC) and a Monitoring and Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Coordinator.

The National Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the programme and for developing and maintaining relations with JP RWEE stakeholders. It will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the programme, including coordination and finalization of progress reports, smooth implementation of the work plan, and organization of regular coordination meetings among JP RWEE stakeholders. The NC will play a key role in ensuring that synergies are created among the agencies and

that strong coordination is in place amongst participating agencies, implementing partners, and the government, and that the programme has strong visibility. The PMU is under the oversight and management of FAO and will also be accountable to the Global Coordination Unit. The unit will also participate in coordination processes and learning events organized by the Global Coordination Unit and learning to enable cross-fertilization and sharing of good practices between participating JP RWE countries.

Local Partners and Stakeholders Exchange Platform

The platform is composed of members of the Technical Committee, representatives of the decentralized services of the technical ministries involved in the implementation of the JP, and local authorities. It aims at encouraging "the experience sharing and the development of synergy". Two annual meetings coupled with joint oversight missions will be planned.

11. Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment

Niger's context exposes the country to several threats that contribute to the multidimensional vulnerability of a large portion of the population. The main risks that may impact the implementation of the JP RWE as well as the mitigation measures are summarized in the Risk Assessment Matrix (Annex 3).

In addition, women producers may be exposed to climate-related risks that have significant impact on their health, their physical environment and their livelihoods. Regarding health, the main sanitary issues for women are morbidity and mortality resulting from vector-borne diseases such as malaria, water-borne diseases related to extreme weather events (floods, etc.) such as diarrhea and cholera, respiratory diseases, meningitis, and measles. For the biophysical environment, the possible impacts related to the pre-identified activities are the degradation of soils used by women for their agricultural activities and the use of phytosanitary products (both preventive and curative).

The activities planned by the project are mostly in categories C (the negative impacts are minor on the biophysical and human environment) and D (the negative impacts are insignificant on the biophysical and human environment). For the second category, no specific measures will be implemented, but for the first category, the activities will be subject to environmental and social prescriptions. Good practices will be used in terms of management and preservation of resources (water, air, soil, vegetation, fauna, and biodiversity), safety and health, land security, cultural heritage, living environment and waste management, to help in the fight against climate change.

In this regard, the project will support the establishment and operationalization of mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of these types of risks during implementation, such as the implementation strategies for the following activities:

- Use organic manure as fertilizer as much as possible, provide living hedges for fencing; use bio-pesticides to fight against predators/crop pests as well as registered Phyto products.
- Supporting the establishment and management of a microenterprise to produce infant flour: set up the microenterprise at a distance from local houses, provide individual protective equipment for the transformers, clarify the land status of the site. The individual protective equipment must include all activities, such as medicine boxes and COVID kits.
- Support the establishment of a pilot aquaculture farm in one of the program's intervention villages to improve market garden and fish production: size of less than one (01) ha, means of drainage with solar equipment, use of organic manure for market gardening, use of bio-pesticides and/or approved plant protection products against crop pests, clarify the land status of the site.

12. Overall Budget

PROGRAMME BUDGET					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and Other Personnel Costs	495 000	72 818	65 818	107 910	741 546
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	160 000	-	716 678		876 678
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	120 000	-	-		120 000
4. Contractual Services	225 000	771 565	-		996 565
5. Travel	220 000	59 000	-	19 000	298 000
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	650 000		-		650 000
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	139 346	134 000	31 218	686 174	990 738
Total Programme Costs	2 009 346	1 037 383	813 714	813 084	4 673 527
8. Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	140 654	72 617	56 286	56 916	326 473
TOTAL	2 150 000	1 110 000	870 000	870 000	5 000 000

13. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations



Name: : **ATTAHER MAIGA**

Title: FAO Representative to Niger

(On behalf of FAO)

Date: 30/05/2022

(On behalf of IFAD)

Name: **ERIC RWABIDADI**

Title: Representative and Country
Director for Niger

Date:

30/5/2022

(On behalf of WFP)

Name: **GENTILE JEAN NOËL**

Title: Country Director

Date: 01 Juin 2022

(On behalf of UN Women)

Name: **Rachelle Mian DJANGONE,**

Title: Country Representative

Date:

31 Mai 2022