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**Project Quarter 4:
July – September**

2013

Samaritan’s Purse

USAID/FFP/EFSP

Food Assistance to Build Resilience in Communities (FABRIC)

Republic of Niger

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Project Overview

Launched in September 2012, FABRIC is a one-year Emergency Food Security Program under USAID’s Food for Peace initiative, implemented in partnership with Samaritan’s Purse (SP). It is decreasing household vulnerability to food insecurity in four communes (Ayorou, Banibangou, Goroual, and Dingazi) in the northern Tillabéry Region of Niger, targeting 40 communities and 8,100 direct beneficiaries. Through food for work (FFW) activities, off-season gardening, nutrition and environmental awareness education, and water point installation and rehabilitation households will have increased year-round availability of food and improved dietary diversity.

Project Summary

Sector:
 Food Security

Objective:
 Decrease household vulnerability to food insecurity in 40 communities in the northern Tillabéry Region of Niger through increased year-round availability of food at the household level and improved dietary diversity

Number of Targeted Beneficiaries Planned (Entire Project):
 8,100 direct beneficiaries/participants; 30,600 total beneficiaries



FFW beneficiaries receiving food

Total FFW participants: 3,500
Total gardening direct beneficiaries: 4,600

Number of Beneficiaries Reached to Date:

8,100 direct beneficiaries/participants from 7,603¹ households (HHs); 89,715² total beneficiaries
Total FFW participants: 3,500 (883 female; 2,617 male)
Total gardening direct beneficiaries: 4,600 (3,607 female; 993 male)

Cost per Beneficiary to Date:

\$ 275 per direct beneficiary/participant
\$ 24.83³ per beneficiary

Accomplishments:

With the progression of the rainy season, barren land that was rehabilitated through FFW activities has been transformed. Demi-lunes and banquettes are filled with grass and animal fodder on land that was once infertile. The fodder and new grazing land has brought hope and peace to the communities.

Officially planned FFW land rehabilitation and food distributions (according to planned rations) were concluded in June 2013. However, as mentioned in the previous quarter's report, select FFW activities continued into this quarter. Certain participants from all four communes volunteered to continue tree nursery activities through August. A portion of the participants watered tree seedling in FABRIC tree nurseries until adequate rain was received for



FFW beneficiaries tending tree seedlings

transplantation, while others transplanted the seedlings on rehabilitated land. Approximately 217,000 tree seedlings were transplanted. To compensate for the seedlings that did not survive, participants planted 188,000 trees through the direct seeding method, for a total of over 400,000 trees as planned. Additionally, 70 FFW committee members supervised all tree nursery activities. In August, 3,282 households received 11.507 MT of oil for their voluntary contribution to tree nursery activities in July and August. According to the value of daily wages, difficulty and length of tasks, and available remaining food, reasonable rations were set to compensate beneficiaries for their work⁴.

Despite challenges that were created by heavy rains and flooding, seven additional water-storage basins were constructed this quarter. The basins allow beneficiaries to store water that has been collected from ponds, rivers, and

¹497 households were involved in both activities: gardening and FFW

²Total beneficiaries from 7,603 households, with an average household size in the target communes of 11.8, as shown in the baseline assessment; no duplication (Total targeted beneficiaries were calculated using the national average of seven members per household, and assuming duplication of numerous households involved in both activities.)

³Amount calculated using the total direct and indirect USAID cost-share expenses through September 2013 (\$2,227,446.68) divided by the total number of beneficiaries reached to date (89,715)

⁴1.5 liters of oil per day of work transplanting seedlings or direct seeding; 0.5 liters of oil per day of work watering or supervising

boreholes to be used for irrigation. To date, 27 basins have been constructed according to gardening sites' needs.

As planned, an end-of-project evaluation was carried out in July and August to assess FABRIC's impact.

Issues, Concerns and Adaptations:

Due to a late start of the rainy season, FFW tree nursery activities continued into July and August, increasing the final amount of food that was distributed. Additionally, in order to reach the target of 400,000 trees planted, direct seeding was used to complement the transplantation of tree seedlings that were grown through FFW tree nursery activities. In Goroual Commune, the majority of the rehabilitated land is used for pasture, and there was not enough room to accommodate for the 55,000 tree seedlings that were grown in the commune. Thus, on national "tree celebration day," August 3rd, 20,000 tree seedlings grown by FABRIC beneficiaries were transplanted in partnership with government authorities and local communities on secure land⁵.

The challenges caused by the raining season were the primary reasons why SP requested a no-cost extension to the project. September was the first month of the extension; yet, rains and flooding have continued to deter progress on water point installations and rehabilitations. Fences have been constructed around all rehabilitated wells, but minor work still remains to be completed once the sites become more accessible. Several gardening sites are still flooded; thus, no new water points were installed this quarter. Samaritan's Purse will visit the sites in the next quarter to assess the damage caused by the unexpected flooding. To date, 16 of 20 water points have been installed. It is predicted that rains will have subsided by the beginning of October, and work will continue on the remaining water points.

Due to the approval of a no-cost extension, the project will now carry into another gardening season. Thus, SP will use a portion of the remaining budget to purchase vegetables seeds and other inputs that will be distributed to 4,600 gardening participants and used in the established gardening sites in October. Providing support for beneficiaries to plant more vegetables for a second off-season will further ensure their food security and resilience.

Performance Indicators

The end-of-project evaluation data is being analyzed, and will be included in the final results report. Except food distributed data, activity indicators have not changed since last quarter's report.

Table 1: FABRIC Activity Monitoring Table						
Strategic Objective	Intermediate Result	Activity Indicators		Current Quarter	Cumulative to Date	Total Target
<i>Increased year-round availability of food at the HH level</i>	Increased availability of food for beneficiary HHs	# of MT of commodities purchased & distributed	Planned	0	1,107	1,107
			Actual	11,507	1,182,193	1,182,193
			% achievement	-	107%	107%
		# ha of land	Planned	0	1,360	1,360

⁵Other sites in the area where there is less risk that the trees will be eaten by animals

		rehabilitated through FFW	Actual	0	1,264	1,264
		% achievement	-	93%	93%	
	Increased local food production from gardening	# of beneficiaries receiving seeds, tools, and inputs	Planned	0	4,600	4,600
			Actual	0	4,600	4,600
		% achievement	-	100%	100%	
		# of garden water sources established	Planned	0	20	20
			Actual	0	16	16
	% achievement	-	80%	80%		
	Increased knowledge of sustainable environmental practices	# of FFW participants attending sessions on all training topics	Planned	0	3,500	3,500
			Actual	0	3,447	3,447
			% achievement	-	98%	98%
	<i>Improved dietary diversity</i>	Rehabilitated wells are functioning and well maintained	# of wells rehabilitated	Planned	0	5
Actual				0	5	5
% achievement				-	100%	100%
# of water point committee training sessions			Planned	0	10	10
			Actual	0	25	25
			% achievement	-	250%	250%
Increased knowledge of HH nutrition practices; increase in HHs consuming vegetables		# of gardening participants attending sessions on all ten nutrition topics	Planned	0	4,600	4,600
			Actual	0	3,237	3,237
			% achievement	-	70 %	70 %

Table 2: FABRIC Food Situation

	Past Quarters				Current Quarter				Cumulative To Date			
	Millet	Beans	Oil	Total	Millet	Beans	Oil	Total	Millet	Beans	Oil	Total
Food Purchased (MT)	944	189	49.781	1182.781	0	0	0	0	944	189	49.781	1182.781
Food Distributed (MT)	943.853	188.772	38.061	1170.686	0	0	11.507	11.507	943.853	188.772	49.568	1182.193
Losses/Damages (MT) ⁶	0.147	0.228	0.213	0.588	0	0	0	0	0.147	0.228	0.213	0.588

Plan for Next Quarter

By the end of November, remaining work on the hand-dug irrigation wells will be completed. Furthermore, final corrections on all four rehabilitated wells will be completed so that all wells reach the sanitary risk score target. Gardening seeds and other inputs will be distributed to gardening beneficiaries in order to increase food security and dietary diversity for 4,600 households for a second year. An evaluation will be conducted next quarter to assess the sanitary risk scores of rehabilitated wells.

⁶Detailed loss/damage reports were filed for each instance of loss. Transporting 1,183 MT of food to 40 distribution sites in remote areas of Niger assumes many risks. For example, there was bad packaging in some cases and one transportation issue. Precautions were taken to avoid further losses and/or damages.

Success Stories

Laya Agali is 30 years old and the mother of four children. She lives in the village of Waylabon in Ayorou Commune and there are a total of nine members in her household. Her household was selected to participate in FABRIC FFW activities.

She explained that before the FABRIC project's intervention, her household's main problem was lack of food. Not only did the family not have enough food to eat, but there was little fodder for their animals as well.

"This pushed our animals to enter into farmers' fields to look for food, so there was always tension between us and the farmers," stated Laya.

"Also, because our husbands did not have any work, they left the area to look for work," she continued, "I would have to go out to the bush every day to look for wood to sell so that I would have money to buy food for my children."

With the arrival of the FABRIC project, Laya's situation started to change. Her husband was given work through FFW activities and was able to stay in the village instead of migrating in search of work.

"Now we have food available in our home," said Laya.

Not only did Laya's household receive food, but there is now fodder available for their animals on the rehabilitated land. "Fodder is available in sufficient quantities for our animals, so they don't need to enter into farmers' fields anymore. This has caused the conflicts between herders and farmers to come to an end," said Laya, "Also, our animals can drink the water that was collected on the rehabilitated land instead of us having to take them far away for water."



Goats grazing on rehabilitated land in Waylabon



Laya Agali (with baby)

Finally, now that there is food available in Laya's home she does not have to spend her time searching for wood to sell; she is able to invest in small income generating activities.

"This year I planted okra, beans and sesame near the rehabilitated sites, and they are growing very well because there is no longer any runoff," said Laya.

"The land rehabilitation activities have really helped our household," she concluded.