

Quarterly Report FY14 Q2 January-March 2014

Wadata Makiyaya “Thriving Pastoralists” in Hausa

Funded by USAID / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)



Pastoralist in the Filingué Department

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
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1. Executive Summary

Designed as a follow-on to the USAID/OFDA award-winning *Projet d'Appui à la Sécurisation des Terres et Ouvrages de Rehabilitation des Aires Locales* (PASTORAL) program (March 2011-September 2013), Wadata Makiyaya is meeting the recovery needs of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists of the departments Filingué and Abala, in the Tillabéri region of Niger. The goal of the program is to allow vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households along the international transhumance corridor to be food secure and less vulnerable to shocks.

During the reporting period, Wadata Makiyaya achieved the following key results:

- ✓ Five vaccination crushes were monitored during the annual government-led vaccination campaign, to support to management committees on data collection (number of animals reached), at least two visits per month for each of the five crushes;
- ✓ 35,484 animals were served during the government vaccination campaign at the five crushes constructed by Wadata Makiyaya;
- ✓ Rehabilitation of seven pastoral wells
- ✓ 242 malnourished children and their mothers benefitted from three different culinary demonstrations, a total of 135 demonstrations conducted in total;
- ✓ 2,679 people (2,358 women, 321 men) reached through awareness-raising activities on reproductive health and essential nutrition actions (ENA), led by Leader mothers and community health promoters, in collaboration with health center (CSI) nurses;
- ✓ 50 village savings and loans associations (VSLA) completed the final two modules of their training, and an additional training from AUSU in how to manage income-generating activities;
- ✓ 12 village agents were identified to receive training in VSLA during the next quarter, who can then train future VSLAs in their area;
- ✓ 34 communities prepared and contributed local materials for the planned construction of a fodder storage demonstration unit in each of their localities (34 in total);
- ✓ Monitoring mission conducted to all 20 community land tenure commissions (COFOB) established under Wadata Makiyaya, in collaboration with the commune (COFOCOM) and department (COFODEP) level land tenure commissions of community-based land tenure commissions (COFOB)
- ✓ 3,054 people (1,643 men, 855 women and 556 youth/children) benefitted from a mass awareness-raising campaign on local land tenure commissions, laws governing land use and conflict resolution around natural resources, conducted in collaboration with local authorities, COFOCOM and COFODEP.

2. Program Overview

Repeated food crises in recent years, particularly the poor harvests in the 2011/2012 growing season, have systematically weakened the ability of communities to meet household needs and mitigate future risks. With projected food shortages for 2013, areas of the Tillabéri region remain especially vulnerable, as they face continued food insecurity due to high malnutrition, strained resources and poor harvests. PASTORAL made strides in meeting immediate needs in past crises and strengthening the recovery of vulnerable populations in this region, however, programming under Wadata Makiyaya in 2013/2014 is critical to solidifying the ability of these populations to rebuild their lives and weather future shocks.

Wadata Makiyaya is supporting vulnerable communities by enabling the population in the target areas to maintain their animal assets, strengthen their economic base and ensure sustainable management of natural resources, while mitigating and reducing their risks of future hazards. Wadata Makiyaya is protecting and reinforcing the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the Filingué and Abala departments through a community led, market driven approach to recovery.

Specifically, the program is helping households maintain animal assets through: increased access to and sustainable management of land and water resources; improved efficiency and effectiveness of veterinary services; increased understanding and application of herd and business management training; and strengthening linkages between livestock stakeholders to better address market failures.

Wadata Makiyaya is working to strengthen the economic base of vulnerable households through financial management training for target households to encourage positive coping mechanisms, savings and sound investments; financial and governance training to community associations to increase savings and loan opportunities, and support other coping mechanisms such as cereal or fodder banks. Finally, the program is helping communities better manage natural resources and mitigate risks through improved access to fertile land and water resources; and more community-based land and water management committees embedded in existing government systems.

3. Security

The security situation remained calm in the Wadata Makiyaya program areas, including the town of Filingué where the Mercy Corps office is located. However, there were small student protests that did occur in the towns of Filingué and Abala, though without incident. The road conditions between Balleyara and Filingué, as well as between Filingué and Abala have deteriorated, which has caused vehicle accidents. There have also been joint military, police and gendarmerie missions in the area, focusing on patrolling the Malian border and deterring banditry in the region.

4. Performance Summary

Award-Level Beneficiaries:

Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
28,000 (4,000*)	0	35,487 (5,069*)	0	35,487 (5,069*)	0

* Total beneficiaries is based on an average of seven members per household; in parentheses is the # of households

4.1. Agriculture and Food Security

SECTOR #1 Agriculture and Food Security	Objective: Strengthened production of targeted agro-pastoralists and pastoralists				
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	28,000 individuals (4,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (31 March 2014)	35,487 individuals (5,069 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	35,487 individuals (5,069 households)				
Sub-sector Livestock					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	N/A	Yes	52,650	35,487	35,487

Number of animals treated in livestock activities	N/A	No	-	-	-
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, by sex	Male	Yes	2,000	5,069	5,069*
	Female	Yes	2,000	310	310
Number of veterinary interventions (e.g., treatments, vaccinations, etc.) in livestock activities	N/A	No	-	-	-

*This figure is based on an average of seven animals per household (based on the Agricultural and Livestock Government Survey – RGAC), and is an estimation of the number of pastoralists benefiting from the five livestock crushes during the government-led vaccination campaign, during which 35,487 animals were vaccinated.

Vaccination crushes

During this quarter, the five vaccination crushes constructed under the Wadata Makiyaya program, were used during the annual government-led vaccination campaign against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPRV). A total of 35,487 animals were vaccinated in the crushes, including 13,400 cattle, 311 camels and 21,772 small ruminants. Vaccination crush management committees also worked with their communities to improve local awareness about this communal asset, and encouraged their communities to utilize the crushes during the vaccination campaigns, reaching a total of 890 people through awareness-raising activities. Mercy Corps infrastructure supervising agent worked closely during this time with the vaccination crush management committees in each of the five localities to gather data on the number of animals reached and the proper management of these assets. All five committees were visited six times over the three-month period.

Table 1: Animals vaccinated at livestock crushes constructed by the program

Type of animal	Number of animals reached
Cattle	13,400
Camels	311
Small ruminants	21,772
Grand Total	35,487

During this reporting period, the program also planned the construction of four additional vaccination crushes in the program area. Due to the difference between estimated costs and the contractual agreement for the construction of the original five crushes, the program was able to fund the construction of four additional crushes. Following the same procedures as before, the program is working with technical service agents from the Ministry of Livestock to identify the sites, which will be chosen based on an evaluation conducted with commune-level and local government officials in charge of livestock resources. The construction contract was signed mid-March, after which the contractor began preparations for the new crushes. Next quarter, the program will work with communities to identify members of the crush management committees, to be trained in the oversight of the new infrastructure.

Pastoral wells

The program continued to monitor the progress of the rehabilitation of seven pastoral wells, and confirmed that at the end of March all wells were 95-99.5% completed. These wells are located in the following villages: Dan Gari, Garin Douté, Rounfou, and Sabon Gari in the Filingué commune; and Hamba Daouda, Tchintchayé, and Tanchiley in the Abala commune. The training for the seven well management committees, comprising 42 members, was also completed during this quarter. After their training, management committees played an important role in overseeing the construction, informing the

community of the progress towards completing the wells, and will be also be signing off on the work (alongside Mercy Corps and local authorities) once the wells are officially completed.

Fodder management and demonstration units

During this quarter, the Wadata Makiyaya program focused on identifying sites and planning for the construction of the fodder demonstration units. Program staff completed an assessment to identify the participating grange sites and the materials needed to rehabilitate an existing structure or construct a new one. In total, 34 sites have been identified for the rehabilitation/ construction of a fodder demonstration unit, targeting the localities of the 900 fodder management training participants. After having trained pastoralists in the last two quarters on fresh and dry fodder harvest, conservation and storage techniques, the program will work with these beneficiaries to build fodder storage. These will be managed by the fodder training program participants in the target communities, and will serve as models for improved fodder storage techniques to other community members. The specific fodder unit management approach will be finalized in collaboration with the participating fodder training beneficiaries. Thus far, beneficiaries have contributed local materials for the construction of demonstration units, such as bricks, and the program will arrange the purchase of the agreed remaining materials early in the next quarter. The construction will be contracted with local builders in the program areas, early in the next quarter.

Nutrition

The Wadata Makiyaya programs works to improve adoption of important nutrition and health practices through culinary demonstrations with mothers of malnourished children as well as awareness-raising activities in the wider community. During this reporting period, 242 children and their mothers benefitted from monthly culinary demonstrations involving locally available and nutritious foods for supplementary feeding, and a total of 2,679 people benefitted from awareness-raising activities on health and nutrition.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps continued to work with local volunteers to carry out culinary demonstrations in 15 villages, without health centers or other nutrition interventions and whose baseline research indicated higher levels of food insecurity. In the first quarter, 15 male community volunteers and 75 Mother Leaders were trained each month on culinary demonstrations using local ingredients including millet and peanut meal. In close collaboration with the Filingué Health district, 242 children from 15 villages were identified as suffering from moderate malnutrition. Only one case of severe malnutrition was found, and handled by the nearest health center.

Over the previous and current reporting quarters, Mercy Corps continued monthly trainings with local volunteers, varying recipes according to seasonal changes in food availability. The mother leaders and male volunteers, in turn led demonstrations in the 15 target villages. A total of 242 children (183 girls and 59 boys) suffering from moderate malnutrition identified in the first quarter were reached through monthly cooking demonstrations. Mercy Corps provides the ingredients and materials for demonstrations. Each month, the mothers and their children participate in three of these sessions, after which their malnourished children receive an allotted portion of the demonstration cooking as supplementary feeding. During this quarter, January to March, mothers of the 242 children learned the following three recipes: 1) Dan mou moui – based on cowpea, maize flour and oil; 2) Fourra de mai – based on millet flour, milk curds and oil; and 3) Tsaki – based on ground sorghum, fresh tomatoes and onions, and oil. In total 135 cooking demonstrations were conducted with these mothers.

As part of the monitoring and evaluation plan, the program team conducted a small survey with mothers participating in cooking demonstrations to assess their understanding of the monthly recipes. Program staff conducted focus group questionnaires with a sampling of women, covering five recipes taught over the period from October 2013 - February 2014. In total, 18 focus groups in 12 of the target villages were

completed on a monthly basis. Participants were asked a series of four questions to evaluate their understanding of the five recipes, including: 1) what is the name of the recipe; 2) what are the main ingredients; 3) what is the amount for each ingredient and dosage per child; 4) what should be done with the leftovers. The following table illustrates the results of these series of surveys:

Table 2: Participant comprehension of cooking demonstrations

Month demo conducted	Training themes	Average incorrect responses	Average correct responses	Total number respondents
October	Bouillie au pain de singe (last quarter)	10%	90%	167
November	Bouillie aux tourteaux (last quarter)	36%	64%	201
December	Dan wake (last quarter)	13%	88%	177
January	Dan mou moui	4%	96%	159
February	Foura da mai	19%	81%	198
March	Tsaki (survey in progress)	-	-	-
Average		15%	85%	152

On average, across all four questions asked about the cooking demonstration, there was an 85% correct response rate among focus group participants. The table above reveals that mothers understand the majority of concepts in the cooking demonstrations, and for those with less clarity (such as Bouillie aux tourteaux), the program will consider refresher sessions in the next quarter.

In addition to specific demonstrations for the 242 malnourished children, the program continued community awareness-raising activities on health and nutrition. Each month, health center (CSI) nurses from the nearby area work alongside program volunteers (all 75 Leader mothers and 15 health promoters) to conduct at least two mass sensitizations per month in each of the 15 communities. During this quarter, awareness-raising activities reached 2,679 people (2,358 women and 321 men). These focused on health and nutrition-related topics such as: family planning, the different food groups, community-level care for malnutrition, visits to health centers, hygiene and the respect of immunization timelines.

Economic Recovery & Market Systems

SECTOR #2 Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Objective: Increased access to financial services and savings for targeted communities.				
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	8,750 individuals (1,250 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (31 March 2014)	9,891 (1,413 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	9,891 (1,413 households)				
Sub-sector: Microfinance					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number of people, by sex, or	Male	Yes	0	1	1

MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	Female	Yes	1,250	1,412	1,412
Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	N/A	Yes	100%	0	0*
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through microfinance activities	N/A	No	-	-	-

*This indicator will be measured during the program's end line evaluation.

Village Savings and Loan Associations

In partnership with ASUSU CIIGABA, 50 VSLAs with a total of 1,413 beneficiaries (1,412 women and 1 man) were created at the beginning of the program. These groups are from 30 villages in the communes of Filingué and Abala. In collaboration with ASUSU, all 50 VSLAs completed the final two of nine training modules this quarter, covering the following topics: 1) monitoring and evaluation of activities; 2) income generating activities. During this quarter, program staff and ASUSU field agents continued to monitor the progress of the 50 VSLAs, which were able to save and loans the following between January and March:

- Total saved (credit fund): \$4,881
- Total currently on loan: \$2,569
- Total members currently borrowing credit: 394
- Total solidarity funds: \$764

The program has also identified during this time 12 village agents who will be trained in VSLA methodology in the following quarter, and will be capable of training future VSLAs for a small fee to be contributed by the groups seeking the training.

During this quarter, all 50 VSLAs benefitted from an ASUSU-led training on management of income-generating activities (IGA), including how to chose or adapt an activity based on the market (avoid market saturation, price inputs etc.), how to market your IGA products and calculate profits and losses. This training was in compliment to the VSLA methodology training completed this quarter, and aimed at building the capacity of group members to invest in their livelihoods activities.

Risk Reduction Policy and Practice

SECTOR #3 Risk Management Policy and Practice	Objective: Sustainable management of environmental and conflict-related risks by pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger
Beneficiaries Targeted	230 individuals (30 members of surveillance committees+200 COFOB members) (0 IDPs)
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	3,054 individuals (awareness-raising activities and trainings)

Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	3,054 individuals				
Sub-sector: Capacity Building and Training					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management, by sex	Male	Yes	205	90	90
	Female	Yes	25	20	20
Number of trainings conducted	N/A	Yes	2	2	2
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	N/A	Yes	85%	0	0*

*This figure will be officially measured in the endline evaluation, although it has been monitored throughout programming.

Land Tenure Commissions (COFOBs)

During this quarter, the program continued to monitor COFOBs established and strengthened under Wadata Makiyaya. In terms of monitoring, program staff completed joint monitoring visits to all 20 COFOBs created under the Wadata Makiyaya program, with a representative of the appropriate commune (COFOCOM) and department (COFODEP) level land tenure commissions. These visits were an opportunity for local authorities and program staff to verify the land transactions and completion of other COFOB roles (conflict management), as well as exchange with members on the perceived challenges and progress. Some of the challenges remain include that community members still struggle to understand local laws governing land use, and as such hesitate to register land transactions.

In addition, the program continued to gather information on a sampling of 12 out of the 20 COFOBs established under the Wadata Makiyaya program to assess the progress of these new structures. Among the 12 COFOBs that were monitored, there were zero conflicts registered, six community meetings conducted by four COFOBs, and six land transactions registered by three COFOBs. Of the 310 community members who participated in 12 focus group discussions (one per village), 52.5% were satisfied with the work of the COFOBs. Some of the reasons participants were not satisfied included a lack of understanding around the roles of COFOBs. The program will continue to reinforce the role of COFOBs and local authorities in raising community awareness about the work of these institutions, likewise to promote transparency and accountability to their communities. In the next quarter, the program will conduct a two-day refresher training for the 10 previously established COFOBs, as well as action planning with all 30 COFOBs around how to better engage their communities.

Awareness-raising

During this quarter, the program supported mass awareness-raising campaigns on the roles and responsibilities of land tenure commissions, laws governing land use and conflict resolution around natural resources. Campaigns also covered disaster risk reduction measures such as prevention and mitigation measures concerning brushfire. These campaigns were completed in collaboration with local authorities and members of the COFODEP and COFOCOM such as the Mayors of Filingué and Abala communes, the Filingué and Abala Department permanent secretaries, and technical service representatives from the Ministries of Livestock and the Environment. The sensitization activities utilized

local radio coverage, as well as community gatherings to reach a total of 3,054 people (1,643 men, 855 women and 556 youth/children) from 30 villages.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

The Wadata Makiyaya project team continues to work with the Mercy Corps Niger Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to monitor progress against indicators for all program activities related to the project's three objectives. The program also focused on preparing for the final evaluation, which will take place in June, before the end of the program June 30th, 2014. This included a mission conducted by the M&E manager based in Niamey to the Filingué field office to work closely with program staff on the terms of reference and the tools for the evaluation. These will be finalized in the following quarter.

5. Coordination

During this quarter, Mercy Corps continued to coordinate with local authorities and traditional leaders in the target area at the community, commune and department levels. These include the technical service agents of the Ministries of Livestock, the Environment, and Hydrology etc., as well as local and international non-governmental organizations such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), which works on health in adjoining areas. The program also continued to work closely with its national partner, ASUSU in the training and monitoring of VLSA groups. Mercy Corps also continued to participate in coordination meetings for the sub-regional committees on the management and prevention of food crises (CSRGPACA).

6. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities

The program made definite progress during this quarter, including through the monitoring of the vaccination campaign, the preparations for the construction of four additional livestock crushes and 34 fodder demonstration units, near completion rehabilitating seven pastoral wells, nutritional demonstrations and awareness-raising are continuing, VLSA training and monitoring of COFOBs also continuing.

During the next and final quarter, the program will focus on the following activities:

- Training for pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists in herd management and animal fattening,
- Training for para-veterinarians in business management,
- Refresher trainings for 10 previously established COFOBs, and action planning support for all 30 COFOBs to improve engagement with their communities,
- Construction of four additional livestock crushes,
- Construction of 34 fodder demonstration units,
- Filming of program documentary, which will help communicate the results and lessons learned of the program,
- Cash for Work (CFW) activities with 700 households.
- Endline

The Wadata Makiyaya program will finish at the end of June, thus during the next quarter Mercy Corps will undertake preparations to ensure a smooth transition at the program closeout. Mercy Corps Niger will follow internal standards that include following the established transition plan, taking into account program, logistical, financial and administrative aspects of program closeout. From the beginning, the program created an exit strategy that would ensure the sustainability of program activities, by emphasizing the transfer of knowledge and building the capacity of local leaders, structures and beneficiary communities.