

Quarterly Report
April 1st – June 30st 2014

Wadata Makiyaya
“Thriving Pastoralists” in Hausa

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



COFOB meeting in Louma (Filingué commune)

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 aimed at meeting the recovery needs of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists of the departments of Filingué and Abala, in the Tillabéri region of Niger. The goal of the program was to allow vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households along the international transhumance corridor to be food secure and less vulnerable to shocks.

During this reporting period leading to the program closeout, Wadata Makiyaya achieved the following key results:

- Construction of four additional livestock crushes;
- Creation of four crush management committees composed of 20 men and eight (8) women and training in the oversight of the new infrastructures;
- Completion of rehabilitation works of seven (7) pastoral wells and handing over to the water source management committees and local authorities on behalf of the communities;
- Construction of 34 fodder demonstration units with communities contribution in local materials in each village targeted by the Wadata Makiyaya program;
- Training of 417 pastoralists/agro-pastoralists in herd management and animal fattening;
- Training of 40 community animal health workers in business management in coordination with the local private veterinary service provider;
- One month of Cash for Work (CFW) activities with 700 households in eight (8) sites rehabilitating 112ha of degraded pasture land;
- Continued support to 50 VSLAs;
- Selection and training of 12 villages agents that will form and train VSLAs;
- Action planning support for 20 COFOBs to improve engagement with their communities;
- Final program evaluation in 15 villages on a sample of 234 households to assess the impact of the program in the intervention area; and,
- Filming of a program documentary to help communicate the results of the program.

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. PASTORAL made strides in meeting immediate needs in past crises and strengthening the recovery of vulnerable populations in the Tillabéri region, however, programming under Wadata Makiyaya in 2013/2014 was critical to solidifying the ability of these populations to rebuild their lives and weather future shocks. The program aimed at 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 helped households maintain animal assets through: increased access to and sustainable management of land and water resources; improved efficiency and effectiveness of veterinary services; and increased understanding and application of herd and business management training. Wadata Makiyaya worked 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 helped 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. 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	19,866 (2,838)	0	35,487 (5,069*)	0

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

3.1. Agriculture and Food Security

SECTOR #1 Agriculture and Food Security	<i>Objective: Strengthened production of targeted agro-pastoralists and pastoralists</i>				
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 December 2013)	9,415 individuals (1,345 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	0	Yes	52,650	0	35,487
Number of animals treated in livestock activities	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, by sex	Male	Yes	2,000	676	17,744*
	Female	Yes	2,000	669	17,743
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 benefitting from the five livestock crushes during the government-led vaccination campaign, during which 35,487 animals were vaccinated. Because the estimated household size is also 7, the total number of people benefiting from vaccination and other livestock activities is estimated at 35,487.

Livestock vaccination crushes

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 in the villages of Talcho and Bakin Toulou in the commune of Filingué and Tamatchi and Dan Maitoka in the commune of Abala during this quarter. Following the same procedure with the initial 5 crushes, the program identified and chose sites with technical service agents from the Ministry of Livestock based on an evaluation conducted with commune-level and local government officials in charge of livestock resources. Mercy Corps selected a contractor through a competitive bidding process to complete construction. As with the initial 5 crushes,

livestock management committees (COGES) were elected in each community to oversee the upkeep of materials and to monitor against theft or vandalism of the crushes. A total of 28 committee members (20 men, 8 women) were trained by Mercy Corps and government technical experts on their specific role in infrastructure management and maintenance. The committees are also responsible for sensitizing and informing pastoralists on the advantages of using crushes prior to the annual vaccination campaign. All four crushes will be used during the next annual vaccination campaign mandated by the government between November 2014 and January 2015.

Tamatchi vaccination crush (Abala commune)

Rehabilitated Hamda Daouda well (Abala commune)

Pastoral wells

During this quarter, the rehabilitation of seven pastoral wells was completed in the following villages: Dan Gari, Garin Douté, Rounfou, and Takoussa in the Filingué commune; and Hamba Daouda, Tchintchayé, and



Tanchiley in the Abala commune. The rehabilitation work carried out included: 1) Deepening to increase the duration of water availability throughout the year; 2) Rehabilitating small walls around wells to avoid contamination; 3) Providing surface equipment to keep wells clean; and 4) Building a reservoir specifically for animals.

The rehabilitated infrastructures were handed over to the communities and well management committees after water quality testing under the supervision of the hydraulic department and village authorities. The water source management committees were trained in previous quarters and are responsible for maintenance, conflict resolution and any other issues related to oversight of the wells. Fees generated from fines for breaching wells' usage rules, water usage from transhumant pastoralists, and in-kind contribution of cereals from the local community at harvest will cover the costs of maintenance and replacement of small equipment. An estimated 8,575 households and 10,150 animals already benefit directly from the rehabilitation of the seven wells.

Fodder management demonstrations

During the reporting period, the Wadata Makiyaya program completed the construction of 34 fodder storage demonstration units in 34 villages, including 30 villages targeted by the Wadata Makiyaya program and 4 villages targeted by the previous PASTORAL program. 900 participants (590 men and 310 women) who were trained in fodder management techniques last quarter were involved in the construction. Beneficiaries contributed local materials for the construction of demonstration units, such as bricks, sand and clay and the program purchased the remaining materials and contracted local builders to rehabilitate existing structures or construct new ones.

The demonstration units are managed by fodder training participants in the target communities, and serve as models for improved fodder storage techniques to help promote best practices to other community members. Hay is bought or cut in November-December and stored in the fodder storage units to be used over the

subsequent lean season. The 22m³ structure has the advantage of preserving the nutritional value of fodder, unlike the common practice of storing fodder outside or on the roofs of homes. The leaders of VSLA groups in each village were also sensitized and involved in the units' construction. They will promote fodder storage units construction within their respective associations and help members build their own units by offering loans. Households in six villages in the Filingué commune have already initiated the construction of their own fodder storage units, using locally-available materials, and for their personal usage or shared between several community members.



Tamatchi (outside and inside roof views) (Abala commune) and Banguir Bare Bari fodder storage demonstration units (Filingué commune)

Training on herd and micro-business management

Mercy Corps trained 417 pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (66 men and 351 women) of the Filingué and Abala communes in herd management and animal fattening. The beneficiaries of this training included members of five vaccination crushes and seven water sources management committees, 75 mother leaders and 15 male community volunteers involved in culinary demonstration and nutrition activities during previous quarters, and 250 VSLA members. Trainees made a commitment to promote the practices learned and provide advice and mentoring to a minimum of 10 other pastoralists in their communities, thus enlarging the program's indirect beneficiaries. The two-day training held in seven villages of the Filingué commune and two of the Abala commune was led by technical service agents of the Ministry of Livestock and included the following themes: 1) Goat and sheep selection for fattening; 2) Sheltering small ruminants; 3) Feeding practices; 4) Animal health and hygiene practices; and 5) Business-minded herd management.

During this quarter, the program supported a two-day training of 40 community animal health workers (all men) in micro-business management. The local private veterinary service provider and field agents delivering the training focused on the following modules:

- Financial literacy and micro-business management;
- Quality of animal health services and vaccination dosage recommendations;
- Stock management of veterinary products; and,
- Responses to potential animal disease epidemics.



3.2. Economic Recovery & Market Systems

SECTOR #2 Economic Recovery and Market Systems	<i>Objective: Increased access to financial services and savings for targeted communities.</i>				
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 December 2013)	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 MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	Male	Yes	0	1	1
	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%	100%	100%
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through microfinance activities	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Cash for Work activities

In order to improve availability of and access to natural fodder and secure progress made in improving vulnerable households' food security and recovery, Mercy Corps organized CFW activities in eight villages of the Filingué commune for 700 beneficiary households (584 men and 116 women) selected among the most vulnerable based on the HEA methodology. The rehabilitation of grazing land was the primary focus of CFW projects, which also helped the most vulnerable households in the target area to meet their immediate needs during the lean season and maintain animal assets to rebuild their livelihoods. The daily rate was 1,300 FCFA, based on Government of Niger and other cash programming actors' standards. Beneficiary households received about \$68 over the five weeks of CFW activities.

113 ha of communal pastureland were rehabilitated through the construction of 35,000 half-moons as advised by the government technical extension services. These structures capture rain fall and slow its run-off so as to prevent erosion, increase soil moisture, and promote plant growth. Communal sites to be rehabilitated were identified and selected by the sub-regional committee on the management and prevention of food crisis (CSRPC/GCA) in collaboration with communal authorities. CFW participants received training on the

techniques to be used and safety guidelines, and were supervised in coordination with local technical services (Departments of infrastructure and environment and CSRPC/GCA). The constructed structures will be seeded as part of the CFW activities conducted under the Madara program funded by USAID/OFDA and aiming at protecting animal assets and increasing dairy production in the department of Filingué. The Madara program started in May 2014 and will build on the results of the Wadata program to establish and train grazing land oversight committees in each site to ensure sustainable use and maintenance of pastureland during the transhumance and beyond.

Area of rehabilitated pastureland and number of households involved in CFW per village

Village	# households	Rehabilitated area (ha)
Rounfou	40	6
Tanfadara	60	10
Banguir barébari	60	10
Banguir Kourfeyawa	60	10
Tarkassa	100	16
Toukounouss station	180	29
Toukounouss Arzika	100	16
Tidiba	100	16
Total	700	113

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. During this quarter, program staff and ASUSU field agents continued to support the groups in their weekly meetings and prepared them to close their first cycle of savings and loans. The groups shared the capital they had accumulated and interests gained on loans between members based on the number of shares of each. All 50 VSLAs have given positive feedback about the VSLA process and have expressed interest in initiating a second cycle at the end of the agricultural campaign in September/October. All groups have already established their legal status with the local authorities during the program’s life, further strengthening member cohesion and commitment in pursuing their activities. All 50 VSLAs also opened a bank account with ASUSU SA, the Microfinance Institution arm of the ASUSU group. The program staff has encouraged VSLA members demonstrating sound business plans and a need for further investment to apply for loans with the ASUSU micro-credit branch. At the end of their first cycle, the results from the 50 VSLAs supported by the program included:

- Savings totaled \$7,573 overall;
- 469 members have received a loan;
- Loans have totaled \$3,663;
- \$843 has been raised to assist members in emergency situations.

In order to support the 50 groups beyond the program life and promote the sustainable growth of savings and credit groups in the target areas, Mercy Corps and ASUSU CIIGABA had identified 12 community volunteers (11 men and 1 woman) last quarter to promote the VSLA methodology. During this reporting period, the 12 community volunteers were trained on the VSLA methodology by the service agents of the Planning Ministry with the support of ASUSU CIIGABA. The program provided them with the tools needed to form and train additional groups within their communities, building on their previous experience in microfinance activities, and for a small fee to be determined and contributed by the groups seeking the training or continued support. The program has seen steadily increasing demand to participate in VSLA activities after communities observe the gains made by existing groups. The village agents will provide this service, thereby increasing further access to financial services and savings for targeted communities.

3.3. Risk Reduction Policy and Practice

SECTOR #3 Risk Management Policy and Practice	<i>Objective: Sustainable management of environmental and conflict-related risks by pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities</i>				
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	60	90
	Female	Yes	25	20	20
Number of trainings conducted	N/A	Yes	2	2	4
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	N/A	Yes	85%	97%	97%

Land tenure commissions (COFOB) training and support

During the first quarters of the project, twenty communities in the communes of Filingué (12) and Abala (8) were identified for COFOB development. These land tenure committees play an important role at the village level in managing land transactions and mitigating potential conflicts. Mercy Corps worked with communities to select 80 COFOB members and train them on conflict mitigation and resolution, land tenure issuing, leadership and financial management. The program continued to provide support to the new COFOB members through periodic follow-up visits. Those visits were conducted with a representative of the appropriate commune (COFOCOM) and department (COFODEP) level land tenure commissions and aimed at monitoring COFOBs activities, discussing issues and providing organizational guidance.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps conducted a two-day refresher training for the 20 COFOBs with an action planning session to ensure a smooth transition at the program closeout. The plans focus on the following main activities that will be carried out over the next 6 to 9 months to continue raising community awareness about their role and promote transparency and accountability to better engage with communities:

- Improve recording of agricultural land transactions and revenues generated;
- Organize monthly COFOB meeting, facilitating members' active participation, and feedback to COFOCOM, local authorities and communities;
- Annual communal pastureland identification prior to the rainy season;
- Community sensitization on pastureland closure at the start of the agricultural campaign; and,
- Record conflicts reported and mitigated to Ministry of Agriculture for support in resolving land tenure conflicts.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

An endline survey was conducted prior to program close-out to assess the impact of Wadata Makiyaya's activities in strengthening livestock production and increasing access to financial services and savings of targeted pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the Filingué and Abala departments. The Mercy Corps M&E department carried out the survey on a sample of 234 households in 15 villages, focusing on the food security status of the target population and including relevant dietary, food self-sufficiency and coping strategies indicators. Mercy Corps M&E team also evaluated the perception of households in the efficiency of their community level natural resource and conflict management mechanisms and institutions. The results of the survey will be presented in the program endline report and main findings reported in the Wadata program final report. At the end of the reporting period, a documentary was also produced in order to communicate the successes of Wadata Makiyaya, hearing those directly from the mouth of beneficiaries, local authorities and partners involved in program activities.

5. Coordination

The Wadata program continued to work closely with local authorities at the commune and department levels, notably the sub-regional committee on the management and prevention of food crises (CSRPC/GCA) and technical service agents of the Ministries of Environment and Infrastructure for the identification of sites to be rehabilitated and training of CFW participants and of Infrastructure and Hydraulics for the acceptance of work and handing over of rehabilitated wells and constructed vaccination crushes. As from the onset of the program, Mercy Corps worked in close collaboration with our partner ASUSU CIIGABA for the mentoring and support to VSLA groups and village agents. We also continued to coordinate with community members, local actors, private partners, and government to ensure ownership and sustainability after the program close-out.

6. Conclusion

The Wadata Makiyaya program, concluded June 30th, 2014, has demonstrated continued success in strengthening livestock production and increasing access to financial services and savings of targeted pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the Filingué department, thus equipping them to weather future shocks and stresses. From the beginning, Mercy Corps 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.