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Samaritan's Purse

USAID/FFP/EFSP

Support for the Resiliency of Communities in Diffa (ARCAD¹)

Republic of Niger

Agreement No. AID-FFP-G-14-00027 Quarterly Report

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Project Overview

Launched in May 2014, ARCAD is a one-year Emergency Food Security Program funded by USAID's Food for Peace initiative and implemented by Samaritan's Purse (SP) in the Department of Bosso, Niger. Through emergency targeted food distributions (TFD), seeds for training (SFT), off-season gardening, nutrition education, and food for asset (FFA) activities, ARCAD aims to improve food security for vulnerable host community members and displaced populations that fled Nigeria due to insecurity, while building resiliency in the 30 targeted villages.

Project Summary

Sector:

Food Security

Objective:

Improve food security and resiliency in the Department of Bosso through increased year-round access to food, improved household nutrition, and increased dietary diversity for 31,621 beneficiaries in 30 villages of the communes of Bosso and Toumour in southeast Niger.

¹ "Appui à la Résilience des Communautés à Diffa" in French

Number of Targeted Beneficiaries Planned (Entire Project):

Emergency TFD: 31,621 direct beneficiaries (15,178 male and 16,443 female)

SFT: 3,790 direct beneficiaries (2,842 male and 948 female²)

Off-Season Gardening and Nutrition Activities: 400 direct beneficiaries (all female)

FFA: 3,729 participants (2,797 male and 932 female); 26,102 direct beneficiaries

Number of Beneficiaries Reached to Date:

SFT: 1,395 direct beneficiaries (1,010 male and 385 female)

Accomplishments:

While in the ARCAD project agreement, the effective date is June 5, 2014, SP began preparing for activities in Diffa in May, as authorized through a pre-award authorization letter. During this first month, staff were recruited and trained, bases in Diffa and Bosso were set-up, and warehouses were identified in Diffa, Bosso, and 16 distribution points. Since this is a new area of intervention for SP, a focus was placed on making contacts and establishing relationships with local authorities and the humanitarian community.

The 31,621 emergency TFD planned beneficiaries were identified during the month of May in the 30 targeted villages, and a beneficiary master list was created. The 31,621 beneficiaries from 4,814 households include 5,203 refugees/returnees from 818 households.

Table 1: Planned vs Actual # of Emergency FTD Beneficiary Registration

	Estimated Planned # of Direct Beneficiaries ³				Actual # of Direct Beneficiaries Identified to Date			
	Male	Female	Total	# HH	Male	Female	Total	# HH
Emergency TFD Refugees/Returnees	2,649	2,870	5,519	788	2,594	2,609	5,203	811
Emergency TFD Host Community Members	12,529	13,573	26,102	3,729	12,749	13,669	26,418	4,003
TOTAL	15,178	16,443	31,621	4,517	15,343	16,278	31,621	4,814

In May, a total of 1,395 households within the emergency TFD host community beneficiaries were targeted for SFT activities to receive 21 MT of millet and cowpeas seeds. The remaining SFT beneficiaries, who will receive maize and potato seeds, will be targeted later, along with off-season gardening and FFA beneficiaries. Agriculture training sessions were organized in June in order to train the majority of beneficiaries before seed distributions. Thus far, the number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training is 1,349 (out of 1,395 that are planned to receive millet and cowpeas seeds). Attendance lists are used to monitor beneficiaries' participation. Out of the three sessions conducted thus far, the average number of participants trained per session was 1,239.

Millet and cowpea seeds are ready to be distributed before the rainy season starts, after the procurement, packaging, and certification phases have been successfully completed.

² 25% of SFT participants were planned to be women.

³ According to ARCAD proposal, Annex A.

The baseline survey was conducted in June to measure results indicators and market prices before the start of activities. Data was entered into tabulation tables and analyzed.

Issues, Concerns, and Adaptations:

Fewer refugees/returnees were targeted than originally planned at the proposal stage (5,203 instead of 5,519), which means that more host community members were targeted than planned (26,418 instead of 26,102). The main reason for this adjustment was that the World Food Programme has distributed food to refugees/returnees for 11 months through the Nigerien Red Cross in seven of the ARCAD targeted villages. The Nigerien Red Cross and refugees/returnees focal points in these villages provided SP with their beneficiary lists and the necessary support in order to avoid duplicating beneficiaries. Samaritan’s Purse found that a large gap still remained in these villages, especially in terms of vulnerable host community members affected by the grain deficit and refugees/returnees who had arrived after the Red Cross’s beneficiary selection.

While seed quantities were calculated for all 3,729 planned emergency TFD host community households with a 1% margin for loss, 4,003 host community households have actually been targeted. The total amount of planned seeds (36 MT) will enable SP to distribute seeds to 3,790 participants. Households that don’t have the capacity to grow the seeds or to attend trainings and apply the improved agriculture techniques that are taught were not targeted for SFT activities.

Delayed signing of the project agreement has had a major impact on emergency TFD activities. Even though SP started the food procurement planning before the agreement was signed, food purchase contracts could not be signed before the fourth week of June. Taking into account the food delivery period, commodity safety, and quality assurance inspections by a laboratory from Niamey before transport, as well as a minimum time to transport the 589 MT to 16 distribution points during the rainy season, the probability of being able to organize the first distribution in July is low. Although the initial plan was to distribute seeds and food at the same time at the end of June, in order for beneficiaries to have the seeds available on time for planting, seed distributions will now take place before the first food distributions.

Plan for Next Quarter

Seed distributions are planned for the beginning of the next quarter, and training for SFT beneficiaries will continue. As soon as the food is available, food distributions will be organized.

The remaining SFT and off-season gardening beneficiaries will be targeted and trained, and ten gardening sites will be identified. Procurement processes will continue, especially for garden fencing and irrigation systems, potato and maize seeds, and tools for gardening.

Performance Indicators

Table 2: ARCAD Activity Monitoring Chart			
Activity Indicators	Project Target	This Quarter	Cumulative to Date
# of MT of commodities distributed	2,435.9 ⁴	0	0
# of people benefitting directly from USG-supported social assistance programming (Emergency TFD)	31,621	0	0
# of households (HHs) benefitting directly from USG-supported social assistance programming (Emergency TFD)	4,814	0	0
# men's/women's days (FFA)	146,160	0	0
# of USG social assistance beneficiaries participating in productive safety nets (FFA)	3,729	0	0
# ha of land rehabilitated through FFA activities	TBD	0	0
# of meters of dikes fortified	TBD	0	0
# of meters of canals built	TBD	0	0
# of meters ² of dunes stabilized	TBD	0	0
# of MT of millet, cowpeas, maize, and potatoes	57	0	0
# of HHs benefitting directly from USG interventions (SFT)	3,790	0	0
# of individuals who have received USG-supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (SFT)	3,790	1,349	1,349
# of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs	2,000 (400 x5)	0	0
# of beneficiaries receiving seed, tools, and inputs for gardening	400	0	0
# of ha under new or rehabilitated irrigation and drainage services as a result of USG assistance	10	0	0

All planned results indicators have been measured through the baseline survey. Detailed survey findings and the updated result framework can be found in the baseline report submitted on June 25, 2014. Table 3 below presents baseline measurements and targets for the three results indicators that will be measured and reported through quarterly reports.

⁴ This tonnage is the total amount of food planned to be purchased for distribution, including 1% margin for loss.

Table 3: ARCAD Results Monitoring Table (Post-Distribution Monitoring)

Result	Indicator	Baseline Data	Lean Season Target	End-Line Target
Increased year-round access to food at the HH level amongst targeted beneficiaries	HH Coping Strategy Index	26.9	13.6	13.6
	Prevalence of HHs with moderate or severe hunger	57.7%	25%	25%
Access to sufficient, adequate, and nutritious food is increased	% of HHs with a borderline or poor food consumption score	36.1%	30%	25%

Success Stories

Gamgara is one of the 30 ARCAD villages and is located close to the border with Nigeria in southern Bosso Department. Mamadou Moustapha, his wife, and seven children are amongst the ARCAD refugee beneficiaries who have been identified for emergency TFD.

Mamadou is from a small Fulani village in northern Nigeria where the majority of the population refused to embrace radical religious teachings. Because of their refusal, the village was ambushed and many were killed. Those that survived were forced to flee to save their lives. “It was a terrible experience; some of my brothers were killed. My family and I had to walk 10-13 km to Niger for safety,” said Mamadou.

When asked about what his life has been like since his arrival in Niger, Mamadou responded, “I was a farmer, and I had many farms in my village. But, now, I have left all of that and lost all of my belongings, and find myself begging for food here. I am not able to do anything here because I cannot get a piece of land to farm. I am just relying on the help from generous people from Gamgara and other places. Whenever I wake up in the morning, the first thing that comes to my mind is how to feed my family—my wife and my children.”

After Mamadou was issued his ration card for ARCAD food distributions, he said, “Really, my family and I are grateful and we are looking forward for the start of the food distributions. I believe Samaritan’s Purse when they say they will give me food, for I see them coming and going and talking with the authorities. Surely they will keep their promises, for it takes a sacrifice for someone to travel a long distance just for us.”



An ARCAD emergency TFD beneficiary with her ration card