

## Quarterly Report October – December 2014

# Madara

## “MILK” in Hausa

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



*Training of the Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC) on treating hay with urea and salt*

## 1. Executive Summary

The MADARA program, or “milk” in Hausa, will build on the achievements of the OFDA-funded PASTORAL I/II programs (March 2011-September 2013) and Wadata Makiyaya (June 2013-June 2014). Madara aims at enhancing food security and strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households in the Filingué Department, in the Tillabéri region of Niger. The program will meet the early recovery needs and rebuild the livelihoods of 21,000 beneficiaries (3,000 households) for 22 months. This report presents the activities that were conducted between October and December 2014:

- ✓ Georeferenced seven rehabilitated pastoral sites in nine villages to establish the exact measurement of hectares rehabilitated and the precise location, in order to officially establish the sites as protected, rehabilitated pastureland;
- ✓ 36 members of the seven land management committees who monitor the rehabilitated pastureland and protect its regeneration were trained on collecting herbaceous and woody seeds for future planting. They received 385 collection bags to support the seed collection;
- ✓ Identified 123 Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC) and sensitized the LVCC on their roles and responsibilities as village-level leaders in demonstrating improved livestock techniques;
- ✓ Conducted training of trainers for 118 LVCC on treating hay with urea and salt for improved livestock nutrition, and subsequently organized 22 training sessions for the LVCC to then share the techniques learned with other producers in their village. Eight-hundred and forty-one beneficiary producers were trained through this training-of-trainers model;
- ✓ Ten existing local land tenure commissions (Commission Foncière de Base - COFOB) were retrained on their roles and responsibilities. These COFOBs subsequently delivered around 25 official land tenure documents to formalize land transactions (for example, formalizing the sale of agricultural land from one farmer to another);
- ✓ Signed an agreement to work with the local rural radio of Filingue to diffuse messages on mitigating conflict over land resources and on COFOBs’ roles and responsibilities, taking into account the opening of the fields in January when conflict often arises;
- ✓ Promoted the roles and responsibilities of the local land tenure commissions, as well as conflict mitigation messaging through video projections in 11 villages;
- ✓ Installed 70 informational posters on conflict management with 10 existing COFOBs to support their outreach and awareness-raising on essential land management themes;
- ✓ Arranged for a market study of the dairy value chain by local partner CESA0-PRN, which included participatory workshops involving local stakeholders to focus and validate the study as well as to share and discuss its results;
- ✓ Completed a diagnostic assessment of the 14 auxiliary para-veterinarians in Filingue Commune to gauge capacity to cover entire zone of MADARA’s producers;
- ✓ Reaffirmed partnership agreement with local microfinance institution ASUSU SA. Two agents and one focal point have been dedicated to the project.

## 2. Program Overview

Large parts of the Nigerien population have been affected by severe food insecurity in the last decade, particularly during 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012, after a combination of drought, irregular rainfall and flooding decimated crops and forage. The pattern repeated itself in 2013 with the early arrival of the rains, followed by a prolonged period of drought that negatively affected both the production of cereals and the regeneration of natural fodder. The Filingué department, where livelihoods are centered around agro-pastoral activities, was one of the departments most affected by the recent drought. An estimated 23.4% of the population in this

department was classified as moderately food insecure in November 2013, and the risk for food insecurity increased during the lean season of 2014<sup>1</sup>.

The MADARA program is designed to help food insecure households meet their immediate needs and rebuild their livelihoods, while simultaneously strengthening the dairy sector value chain to improve availability and access to nutritious milk products. The MADARA program aims to work with communities to respond to the need for: 1) Opportunities to rebuild savings and livelihoods following successive crises; 2) Sustainable rehabilitation of pastureland to improve access to fodder; 3) Improved access to nutritious animal feed during the dry and lean season; 4) Strengthened animal health and nutrition and improved quality and quantity of milk production; 5) Increased availability and accessibility of local dairy products, and prioritization of dairy products for household consumption, in order to contribute to improved nutrition and dietary diversity; and 6) Improved hygiene in dairy production, and more sanitary conditions in local markets.

### 3. Performance Summary

#### Award-Level Beneficiaries:

Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
21,000 (3,000*)	0	8,134 (1,162*)	0	18,634 (2,662*)	0

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

#### SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security

<b>SECTOR #1</b> Agriculture and Food Security	<i>Objective: Protect and enhance productive performance of existing animal assets to improve animal nutrition and strengthen dairy production</i>				
Geographic Area (s)	Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	7,000 individuals (1,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	8,134 individuals (1,162 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	8,134 individuals (1,162 households)				
Subsector: Livestock					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	N/A	Yes	28,000	26,988	26,988
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	3,500	5,005	5,005
	Female	Yes	3,500	3,129	3,129

Over the course of the reporting period, a more formalized training of trainers (ToT) targeting capacity-building in the livestock sector was initiated. This approach will better ensure local ownership and sustainability of the project's outcomes, as well as enable the program to more efficiently reach the 1,000 producers with key messages about improved livestock care techniques. A group of 123 Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC) were identified to be community leaders. The LVCC, who are organized into

<sup>1</sup>GoN "Enquête National", p. 3.

groups according to village (see table below), will receive the full packet of trainings and the tools created by MADARA to help them transfer the skills they learn to producers in their villages. MADARA staff organized discussions with the LVCC about their roles and responsibilities as model producers.

For the identification of the LVCC, several criteria were taken into account including:

- Must be an agro-pastoralist or pastoralist;
- Must own livestock, with a preference for dairy cows;
- Must be capable of leading trainings on the techniques learned through the training of trainers;
- Must be available to receive the full packet of trainings (cannot leave the training during the dry season, for example);
- Must be designated and validated by the community;
- Must be willing to undertake the role; and
- Preference for ability to read, write and count in French, but not required .

It should be noted that the 29 local pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who were previously trained on improved harvesting and storage of fodder (ref. MADARA July-September Quarterly Report) are included among the full group of LVCC.

**Table 1** : Number of LVCC by Village, with Disaggregation by Sex

Villages	Number LVCC	Male	Female
Banguir Bouzayé.	6	5	1
Banguir Barébari	7	4	3
Banguir Kourfayawa.	5	3	2
Tarkassa	5	3	2
Makani Souleymane	6	5	1
Rounfou	5	4	1
Tanfadara	5	4	1
Kania Tagui	5	4	1
Kania Zéno	5	3	2
Louma	6	4	2
Tchiolé	5	5	0
Toukounous Arzika	6	5	1
Toukounous Station	7	4	3
Gorou	6	5	1
Tidiba	6	5	1
Garin. Mangassa	5	4	1
Dinkim	5	5	0
Tanagorjet	6	6	0
Garin. Kimba	6	6	0
Takoussa	6	5	1
Maitalakia	5	4	1

Ajiguidi	5	4	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26</b>

During the reporting period, 118 LVCC (93 men and 25 women) were trained on a technique to treat straw with urea and salt to improve the nutrition of their livestock. This was the second training of a packet of about six or seven total which producers will receive. This technique is especially targeted towards maintaining animal health during the lean season when there is no natural fodder available. Mercy Corps worked with the district livestock agency (Direction Départementale de l’Elevage de Filingué) to carry out this training of trainers in four two-day workshops in two different sites. Five LVCC from the village of Rounfou were unable to participate in the training because of transportation difficulties; however, Mercy Corps carried out a catch-up training in Rounfou for these LVCC.

Following the ToT, each village LVCC group (22 total groups) received a demonstration kit with the materials to carry out the training for other producers. The kits include a plastic bucket, a hose, 4kg of salt, 4kg of urea, 5m of black plastic tarp, a pair of gloves and a pair of plastic boots. With Mercy Corps’ supervision, the LVCC subsequently carried out 22 workshops in their villages to demonstrate how to treat straw with salt and urea to improve animal feed. In total, 841 beneficiary producers (515 men, 326 women) were trained on this technique.



*LVCC in Louma Village carry out the training on treating straw to other producers*

Mercy Corps’ post-training review conducted after the LVCC had demonstrated the straw treatment technique to other producers in their villages revealed that the producers had begun stocking a significant amount of straw to treat for their animals during the lean season (March – June) when natural fodder is not available. In the village Toukounous Arzika, 45 km north of Filingué, 52-year old Mr. Attaher Maidaji remarked to Mercy Corps’ field agents that after trying this technique, his animals had clearly preferred the treated straw to dry straw. He said that he was stocking straw but was waiting for the lean season to treat it with salt and give it to his animals; otherwise, the animals would not want to go out and graze in pastures if they had already tasted the treated straw.

As part of monitoring activities, Mercy Corps is conducting a small survey among the LVCC on the trainings, the methods employed to teach the techniques, the LVCC’s grasp on their role, and what would help them be more effective trainers during their demonstrations in their communities. The results will serve as a feedback loop for Mercy Corps to adapt the LVCC strategy for improved effectiveness.

**Table 2** : Beneficiaries Trained by LVCCs in Straw Treatment, Disaggregated by Sex

Villages	Beneficiary Producers trained through the LVCC trainings in straw treatment		
	M	F	total
Louma	58	50	108

Kania Tagui	9	12	21
Kania Zéno	5	8	13
Tchiolé	10	7	17
Garin Kimba	8	12	20
Tamagorjek	18	0	18
Banguir Kourfayawa.	14	9	23
Banguir Bouzayé	20	13	33
Tarkassa	14	3	17
Banguir Barébari	7	6	13
Makani	17	0	17
Dinkim	15	3	18
Toukounous Station	27	18	45
Toukounous Arzika.	61	13	74
Gorou	23	6	29
Maitalakia	51	29	80
Agiguidi	22	57	79
Garin Mangassa	16	0	16
Tidiba	18	12	30
Takoussa	31	14	45
Tanfadara	28	10	38
Rounfou	32	19	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>805</b>

Concerning the management of pastoral sites and conflict management over land resources, Mercy Corps collaborated with the district-level land tenure committee in Filingué (COFODEP) to geo-reference the seven sites that were previously rehabilitated through cash-for-work<sup>2</sup>. Across the seven sites, a total of 2,945 hectares of pastoral land were rehabilitated and geo-referenced to verify the size and location. With the geo-referencing completed, the next step is for the sites to be officially classified as protected. This process will take place in the next quarter. Also during the reporting period, Mercy Corps brought together the 36 members of the seven land management committees to discuss the value of rehabilitating these sites and how to mobilize their communities to collect herbaceous and woody seeds which can be used for the replanting. The committees received 385 collection bags to support the seed collection, which will be implemented in the next quarter.

Following an informal evaluation to assess their capacity and level of activity, ten local land tenure commissions in ten villages were revitalized and retrained on the rural land code, as well as their roles and responsibilities as local representatives to enforce and promote the code. They were also retrained on how to fill out and issue official land transactions. They registered 25 land transactions during the reporting period, including supporting and documenting the formal sale of agricultural land. In addition, Mercy Corps worked with the official land tenure committee at the district level (COFODEP) to ensure the local level commissions received tools to promote critical themes of land management. In total, each committee received 10 posters on each of seven themes: securing agricultural land, harvesting straw, compensation for damage to countryside, access to water, appropriately dealing with stray animals, the process for raising and managing rural land disputes, access to grazing land and security/protection of grazing land. Mercy Corps

<sup>2</sup> The seven sites include the villages of Banguir Barébari, Tarkassa, Toukounous Station, Toukounous Arzika, Tidiba, Tanfadara and Rounfou.

and the district-level land tenure commission carried out discussions with the local-level committees about these themes and how to use the posters to facilitate awareness sessions.

With the “liberation of the fields” in late December/early January in which grazing animals are let free to feed on the land after it has been harvested, Mercy Corps noted the potential for land conflicts to arise. Mercy Corps and the local land tenure commissions organized video projections in 11 villages<sup>3</sup> about land conflict management and the roles of the local land tenure commissions to enforce the rural code and address conflicts that arise. In addition, a partnership agreement was signed with Filingué’s rural radio to launch a 12-week radio campaign and create a bank of radio programs in Haoussa and Djerma about mitigating land conflict. To date, no conflicts have been recorded among villages in MADARA’s intervention zone. Monitoring activities in the next quarter will assess communities’ uptake of these messages.

## SECTOR 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

<b>SECTOR #2</b> Economic Recovery and Market Systems	<i>Objective: Restore livelihoods of vulnerable households and improve access to affordable dairy products for communities in the Filingué department through strengthening of the dairy value chain</i>				
Geographic Area (s)	Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	21,000 individuals (3,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	10,500 individuals (1,500 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	10,500 individuals (1,500 households)				
<b>Subsector 2.1 Livelihoods restoration</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people assisted through livelihoods restoration activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	No	1,575*	0	0
	Female	Yes	1,575*	0	0
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	N/A	Yes	90%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$7,500	0	0
<b>Subsector 2.2 New Livelihoods Development</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people assisted through new livelihoods development activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	1,400**	0	0
	Female	Yes	1,400**	0	0
Number of new MSEs started	N/A	Yes	400	0	0
Percentage of people, by sex, continuing in their new	Male	Yes	90%	0	0

<sup>3</sup> Villages included Banguir Barébari, Makani souleymane, Kania tagui, Kania zéno, Louma, Maitalokia, Garin Magassa, Tarkassa, Gorou, Banguir Bouzayé et Banguir Kourfayawa

livelihoods by program completion	Female	Yes	90%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$124,000	0	0
<b>Subsector 2.3 Temporary Employment</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people employed through Cash-for-Work activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	1,050	0	1,086
	Female	Yes	450	0	414
Average total USD amount per person earned through CFW activities	N/A	Yes	\$134	\$0	\$ 70
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.	N/A	Yes	\$201,000	\$0	\$105,313

\*450 women are targeted for this activity. With an average household size of seven, we estimate approximately 1,575 males and 1,575 females will benefit.

\*\*120 men and 280 women will directly participate in new livelihoods development, to benefit their households of approximately 1,400 males and 1,400 females total.

### **Subsector 2.1: Livelihoods Restoration**

MADARA is behind schedule with respect to the livelihoods restoration and new livelihoods development activities, primarily due to severe staffing delays with MFI partner ASUSU SA; however, at the time of this report, these issues have been largely resolved and a rigorous plan is in place to ensure rapid advancement in the next quarter.

Under the livelihoods restoration subsector this reporting period, Mercy Corps laid the foundation for organizing cooperatives among dairy producers and dairy “transformers” (those who take raw milk and make other products). Mercy Corps carried out 18 awareness-raising sessions—12 among dairy producers and six among women who transform dairy into cheese and sour milk—to explain the benefits of the cooperative model and to gauge interest among beneficiaries in forming new or reenergizing existing dairy cooperatives. These meetings were carried out in 12 villages which have higher numbers of dairy cows and show some level of existing dairy transformation activity (villages include Tchiolé, Tamagorjet, Tanfadara, Garin Kimba, Ajiguidi, Maitalazia, Sabon Gari, Louma, Kania zéno, Toukounous, Ajiguidi and Makani Souleymane). These participatory discussions confirmed a high willingness to organize into cooperatives. In the next quarter, Mercy Corps will work with these groups to organize into more formal structures. The formalized structures will enable dairy producers and transformers to more fully participate in and benefit from the dairy value chain.



*Cheese made by a women's group in Makani Souleymane*

Mercy Corps also began a needs assessment among the two existing women's cooperatives in the villages of Toukounous and Makani Souleymane to identify weaknesses in and strengths of their current capacity – both technically and materially – and to evaluate their overall associative health. Following the completion of this assessment, a capacity building plan will be developed next quarter in collaboration with the Toukounous Ranch, micro-finance partner ASUSU SA, and the regional department of community development and planning (la Direction Départementale du Développement Communautaire et de l'Aménagement du Territoire de Filingué).

### **Subsector 2.2: New Livelihoods Development**

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps, in collaboration with local research agency CESAO (Centre d'Etudes Economiques et Sociales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest), undertook a market analysis of the dairy value chain in the Filingue Department. This study was funded by a private partner. The results of the study, shared preliminarily with Mercy Corps in December but finalized in January 2015, identify specific existing market constraints which constitute barriers for beneficiaries (including animal feed suppliers, producers, and MADARA's micro entrepreneurs) to restore or develop their livelihoods in relation to the dairy sector, as well as the potential of the dairy value chain to strengthen livelihoods. The study's findings are pivotal to refine the micro-entrepreneurship and new livelihoods activities so that they are well targeted towards high potential opportunities. The study and results will be shared in the next quarterly report.

The market analysis was carried out in a participatory manner, with full engagement of local stakeholders including district and local level government and livestock authorities, traditional village chiefs, representatives of the animal feed market, the national milk company SOLANI, technical experts in livestock and animal health, the Toukounous Ranch, representatives of the women's cooperatives, local dairy producers and herders, and implementing peers such as local NGO KARKARA and the USAID-funded REGIS-ER program.

A financial and business management needs assessment of the two identified animal feed suppliers is also currently underway, and will pinpoint their specific constraints and capacity building needs. In the next quarter, Mercy Corps and ASUSU will develop a realistic plan to reinforce their capacity, and facilitate connections with the 12 potential dairy production cooperatives mentioned above. Findings from the value chain study will also be taken into account to further inform the capacity building plan.

### **Subsector 2.3: Temporary Employment**

No activities under the temporary employment subsector were planned or carried out during the reporting period.

## SECTOR 3: Nutrition

<b>SECTOR #3 Nutrition</b>	<i>Objective: Improve uptake of key Infant and Young Child Feeding and optimal maternal nutrition practices</i>				
Geographic Area (s)	Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	21,000 individuals (3,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	0				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	0				
Subsector: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavior Change					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number and percentage of infants 0-<6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	N/A	Yes	700 (40%)	0	0
Number and percentage of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	N/A	Yes	1,500 (40%)	0	0
Number of people receiving behavior change interventions, by sex and age (0-11 months, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, 60+ years)	Age	Female	Male		
	0-11months	450	450	0	0
	1-4 years	2,100	2,100	0	0
	5-14 years	5,000	4,000	0	0
	15-49 years	3,200	2,600	0	0
	50-60 years	340	250	0	0
	60+ years	310	200	0	0

As noted in the previous quarterly report, full-scale nutrition activities kick off in January 2015. During the reporting period, the recruitment of a project officer for the nutrition component was finalized, and a revised strategy and results chain are now in development. Preliminary results from the dairy value chain study showed that households are taking 50% of the milk produced for consumption, on average. MADARA will closely monitor household-level consumption habits to ensure that improved dairy production is accompanied by improved nutrition. Dairy consumption habits, in addition to essential family nutrition and hygiene practices, will be further examined and addressed in the next quarter.

## 4. Monitoring & Evaluation

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps carried out a number of diagnostics to learn from previous experiences and better refine future program activities to the current needs and context. These include:

- *The large-scale dairy value chain study in partnership with local research company CESA0.* Findings were used to guide the new livelihoods strategy, especially in selection of viable micro-enterprises and to illustrate market potential and entry points for beneficiaries.

- *An assessment of the reach and effectiveness of Filingué's rural radio as a messaging tool to share information about land conflict management and potentially animal health and nutrition.* Findings validated use of radio for messaging and a partnership agreement was signed to develop targeted messaging in Haoussa and Djerma languages.
- *A participatory diagnostic conducted with the 14 existing private auxiliary para-veterinarians (APV) in the Filingue Commune.* Results showed that while all villages within the program's intervention zone are technically covered, nine of the fourteen APVs cover too broad a zone to ensure satisfactory services<sup>4</sup>; thus, in the next quarter MADARA will work with the local livestock authority to identify and train additional APVs for sufficient coverage. The study also identified capacity strengthening needs in animal health and disease prevention as well as animal feeding, hygiene and sanitation. This information is being used to create a plan to improve the APV's services. Mercy Corps will also use this information to guide the APVs towards the micro-entrepreneurship component of the program where they can access further opportunities to reinforce their business training with the help of local MFI partner ASUSU S.A. and access micro-grants to grow their veterinary services business.

Mercy Corps also refined important M&E tools, making updates to the logframe, developing results chains for the agriculture/food security and markets recovery sectors, finalizing all monitoring tools, and reworking data quality control lists to ensure high-quality data collection.

Also this quarter, MADARA program staff put in place an additional nine complaints committees composed of about six members each in the remaining beneficiary communities (13 had already been established as reported in the previous quarterly report). Community members were informed on the process to raise concerns or provide recommendations to Mercy Corps. In addition to the community complaint committees, suggestion boxes at Mercy Corps' office and at the mayor's office have been established.

## 5. Coordination

As noted above, the participatory market study of the dairy value chain brought together numerous local stakeholders to discuss and validate constraints and opportunities related to the dairy value chain. A partnership was established with the rural radio of Filingue to diffuse messaging about land conflict management. Mercy Corps also hosted a meeting with the local private veterinary service (SVPP) and with the department of livestock (DDE). During this meeting, Mercy Corps, SVPP and DDE representatives discussed the results of the assessment of the 14 auxiliary para-veterinarians and agreed on recommendations to better cover animal health needs in MADARA's intervention zone. With these recommendations, Mercy Corps also linked up with USAID's REGIS-ER program to coordinate efforts that both programs are undertaking to strengthen APVs through targeted trainings.

It must be noted that there have been some challenges coordinating with local partner, ASUSU SA. While a partnership agreement had been signed, they have shown limited follow-through on commitments of dedicating field agents to co-lead the microfinance component. At the time of this report, the partnership agreement had been reaffirmed and the staffing issue is mostly resolved.

## 6. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities

Despite on-schedule implementation of activities under the agriculture and food security sector of MADARA, there are delays with respect to the micro-entrepreneur sub-sector in particular, and slight delays in nutrition activities. Delays for the former are due primarily to challenges with MFI partner ASUSU; for the latter, they are due to late staffing of the Nutrition project officer. Plans are in place to guide on-time implementation going forward.

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<sup>4</sup> For example, coverage per APV should be limited to no more than a 15km radius to ensure sufficient capacity for services. The diagnostic showed that 9 of the APVs cover from 16km up to a 66km radius.

For the next quarter, MADARA will focus on the following key activities:

- Identification and training of 12 new auxiliary para-veterinarians in animal health, in coordination with the local livestock authority;
- Training of trainers with the 123 LVCC in herd management and fabrication of multi-nutritional feeding blocks, as well as strategic feeding of dairy cows and hygienic milking;
- Providing support to the LVCC to carry out further trainings themselves with 1,000 beneficiary producers;
- Development and distribution of didactic training materials for the LVCC to carry out trainings more effectively with other producers in their communities;
- Carrying out a learning survey to assess the effectiveness of ToT methodology for producers; findings will be used to improve trainings and ensure additional support needed for uptake of techniques;
- Formally organizing, training and equipping dairy cooperatives;
- Facilitating relationships between dairy cooperatives with animal health product suppliers and with women's groups who transform milk into other dairy products;
- Informational sessions and preliminary business training of 400 micro-entrepreneurs, as well as support to develop business plans;
- First grant distribution to micro-entrepreneurs and regular monitoring and follow-up;
- Upon judging best timing with the arrival of the lean season, rehabilitation of pastoral lands through Cash for Work for 1500 beneficiaries;
- Supporting local authorities to deliver land securitization and protection acts for rehabilitated pastoral sites;
- Training of the 36 members of the land surveillance committees on plant reproduction for rehabilitating pastoral sites;
- Creation and diffusion of radio messaging on conflict management, the rural land code and roles of the local land tenure commissions;
- Identification and training of Mother Leaders and village educators on essential family hygiene and nutrition practices, and development and installation of supporting tools to promote key messages;
- Community awareness-raising on malnutrition prevention, essential family hygiene practices and essential nutrition practices.