



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



YEAR 3: First QUARTERLY REPORT

January - March 2015

Niger Development Food Aid Program “Sawki”

2012-2017



Sensitization on Essential Nutrition Actions by Lead mothers



Women vegetable garden in Banima Village

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
Moustapha Gaye Chief of Party Address: Quartier Issa-Beri, Rue IB28 BP: 10632, Niamey, Niger Telephone: +227-2073-9633/34 Email: mgaye@ne.mercycorps.org	John Stephens, Senior Program Officer Address: 45 SW Ankeny Street, Portland, OR 97204, USA Telephone: +1-503-896-5028 Email: jstephens@mercycorps.org	Award No: AID-FFP-A-12-00012 Start Date: 08/17/2012 End Date: 08/31/2017 Report Date: 04/30/2015 Total Award: \$19,312,269

I. Executive Summary

Mercy Corps and Helen Keller International are implementing a Development Food Aid Program (DFAP) entitled “*Sawki*” that is designed to respond to the food security needs of more than 92,092 beneficiaries in Maradi and Zinder, two of the most food insecure regions of Niger. Within these regions, *Sawki* is targeting 62 villages based on criteria of social vulnerability, economic opportunities and agro-pastoral linkages.

The two NGOs have joined to deliver a comprehensive package of activities, supported through partnerships with the Government of Niger (GON), local NGOs, the National Institute of Agronomy Research (INRAN) and the private sector. *Sawki*’s overall goal is to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Niger, with a special emphasis on empowering women and adolescent girls to achieve this goal. The two strategic objectives (SO) are:

SO1: Reduce chronic malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and children under five with an emphasis on children under two

SO2: Increase the local availability of and households’ access to, nutritious food by diversifying agricultural productivity, rural households’ income and increasing resilience to shocks.

During this reporting report, the program accomplished the following activities:

Sawki changed its quarterly report format. In the activities and results tables we introduced a column for yearly target followed by target accomplished during the quarter and a third column, which gives the cumulative achievement.

- ✓ 1,917 sensitization sessions conducted in pregnant and lactating women care units, husbands’ schools groups and adolescent safe spaces. A total of 39,958 participants were reached including 34,799 women and 5,159 men;
- ✓ 15 community granary committees set up in pilot villages are operational;
- ✓ Triggering of CLTS in 20 villages of the first batch;
- ✓ 2,452 cooking demonstration sessions, based on CSB+ and locally available agricultural products, were held. 11,401 participants attended the sessions;
- ✓ 5,766 home visits have been conducted during which 17,505 participants were reached including 4,090 men;
- ✓ 1,040 pregnant women (792 new), 1,903 lactating women and 7,284 children under 2 received their supplemental rations of CSB+;
- ✓ 36 literacy trainers were trained to teach 1080 students including 900 adolescent girls, 180 garden coordinators and leader mothers;
- ✓ Delivery of 10 grain milling machines, 2 threshers, 4 dehuskers, 4 groundnut choppers and 4 oil presses during the reporting period;
- ✓ Training of 44 milling machine operators for equipment management and maintenance;

- ✓ Community mobilization of a stock of 70 tons of millet for the establishment of a seed bank in the 15 villages of Maradi;
- ✓ Preparation of food for assets activities for pastoral land restoration on 280 ha in 3 sites in Maradi and 413 ha in 6 sites in Zinder.

II. Program Activities: Progress Against Targets Program achievement during reporting period (SO1)

Description of Activities	Progress Against Targets (quantitative information, disaggregated by sex where applicable)			Narrative
	Targeted	Reached this quarter	Cumulative reached	
Regular meetings				
Consortium coordination meetings in the field (weekly)	37	21	37	All planned meetings were held.
Nutrition Cluster Meetings	24	0	2	The Cluster meetings were held
Activity planning and supervision	24	7	12	The planned activity is on time
Quarterly meeting with field implementation partners.	4	0	1	Sawki was not invited in any meeting this quarter.
SO1 team bimonthly meetings	4	1	2	One meeting held this quarter
Meetings with other DFAPs	12	0	0	No formal meetings between field teams held this quarter.
IR 1.1: Appropriate nutrition practices during a child's first 1,000 days adopted by pregnant women, mothers and caretakers				
<i>A 1.1.1: Promote ENA practices and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies through district health staff, community health promoters, Care Groups, Lead Mothers, Men's Groups, community sensitization events and radio messaging.</i>				
Identification second health promoters for villages with large populations		4	11	This activity does not have a target at the beginning. This depends on the size of the population and the number of pregnant and lactating women.
Identification of new leader mothers	17	13	30	
ENA training for men's groups, by community health promoters	496	0	376	The first 376 members were trained on ENA and FP during the first quarter. The remaining batch will be trained in

				quarter 3.
Provide food rations to leader mothers, and Health promoters every three or six months	1694	0	847	Next distribution is planned for May
Sensitization of community members on community granaries	62	0	15	The pilot phase was for 15 villages. The remaining 47 villages will be visited one month in advance to the coming harvest
Monthly meetings on ENA themes and behavior change by community health promoters / field workers with leader mothers	744	204	7,758	These are the meetings between leader mothers and health promoters and sensitization sessions of pregnant and lactating women by leader mothers.
Monthly meetings on ENA themes and behavior change by leader mothers	20,808	2,843		
Radio messaging	1,980	463	649	This activity was delayed for one month in Maradi and two months in Zinder.
Follow-up visits by health staff (nurses) every three months for support, answer questions, reinforce key ENA messages with community promoters, leader mothers, girls, husbands schools.	6	2	4	2 joint supervisions with DRSP-District in Maradi and 2 in Zinder
Husband schools hold monthly meetings (analyze problems & devise action plans). Organize community discussions through husband schools : mobilize local religious and traditional leaders to hold discussions to advocate for healthy birth spacing	1,026	436	436	This is accounted in behavior change listed earlier in ENA sensitization.
<i>A 1.1.2: Provide supplementary feeding to pregnant and lactating women and children under 2.</i>				
Monthly follow up of beneficiary listing	6	1	2	Update PM2A beneficiaries list
Food distributions for pregnant and lactating women and children under 2	14,493	10,828	21,489	Number of PM2A beneficiaries who received food rations during the quarter. When this figure is aggregated, this will represent number of rations instead of number of beneficiaries.
<i>A 1.1.3: Train HHs on the preparation and consumption of nutrient-rich foods and animal products</i>				
Cooking demonstrations at distribution sites	372	62	186	

Training of field agents on recipes using locally available products.	14	14	14	
Training of health promoters and leader mothers by Sawki field agents on recipes using locally available products.	372	186	309	This represents the number of leader mothers and health promoters who have been trained in the use of locally available food to enhance their nutrient quality
Cooking demonstrations at villages sites	22,896	2,452	4,448	This represents the number of participants
<i>A 1.1.4: Rehabilitate/construct wells in communities</i>				
Requests prepared for well rehabilitation tenders	32	32	32	
<i>A 1.1.5: Establish and train gender-balanced water committees at each water point</i>				
Establish water-user committees (includes defining management roles and responsibilities, water use payment system, etc.)	32	0	0	Waiting for the geophysical studies report that will determine where the water infrastructures can be set up before creating water committees.
<i>A 1.1.6: Identify, market and provide subsidies for cost-efficient individual solutions to improve water quality</i>				
Training of field agent on water purification techniques and use of Aquatab	14	6	14	3 Sawki nutrition supervisors participated in this training in addition to the 14 field agents
Training of water management committee (WMC) members on management and water purification	32	0	0	Waiting for site identification before continuing with the training.
Sensitizing communities on water purification techniques by WMC	744	0	0	Same reason as above
Advocacy with Anima Sutura for the sale of Aquatab (Once per quarter in each village)	1	1	1	All 3 meetings planned with Anima Sutura were held. The contract was finalized and submitted for signature
Discussion with Anima Sutura for supply channel of Aquatab setup in each village	3	3	3	
<i>A 1.1.7: Implement Community Led Total Sanitation approach</i>				
Installation of hygiene kits in each village	41	41	41	All hygiene kits have been installed in the 41 villages in Zinder Region

Mobilization & community awareness on CLTS	35	35	35	20 new villages included in CLTS. 1,030 persons volunteered to advocate for behavior change on CLTS and community action plans were elaborated.
Training of Sawki staff on CLTS approach.	18	7	18	3 supervisors in addition to the field agents.
Number of modern CLTS latrines constructed	448	84	84	167 additional latrines are currently on final phase but were not completed at the end of the quarter.
Clean Village Contest	372	141	193	
Meetings of natural leaders network members	2	0	1	No meeting was conducted this quarter.
IR 1.2: Appropriate nutrition practices and healthy timing of first pregnancy adopted by adolescent girls and their partners				
<i>A 1.2.1: Sensitize communities on delayed child birth and the health and economic benefits of girls' education through influential male and female community members</i>				
Mobilize "bright spots" among religious and community leaders				There is no target for this activity. This was done during ENA sensitization at community level targeting husbands' schools members.
<i>A 1.2.2: Establish/strengthen Safe Spaces (Weekly Discussion Groups for adolescent girls on ENA practices and life skills)</i>				
Sites visits for safe space by health promoters	1,632	187	586	Data segregation will take place next quarter.
Regular site visits for girls by field workers/health promoters	24			
<i>A 1.2.3: Promote family planning and contraceptives through trained peer educators and communication campaigns</i>				
Monthly sensitization sessions on FP by health promoters	1,772	201	201	Data segregation will take place next quarter.
Monthly sensitization sessions on FP by leader mothers	9,276	1,782	1782	
Training of leader mothers on FP	0	0	0	Not planned this fiscal year
Identify community-based distributors of contraceptive products	62	0	0	Under development

<i>A 1.2.4: Advocate the MOH and UNFPA to strengthen supply management of family planning supplies</i>				
Work with GON and UNFPA to strengthen and advocate for regular supply of contraceptives		0	2	No target was set for this activity
IR 1.3: Counseling and care appropriately provided by health centers and other community actors				
<i>A 1.3.2: Coordinate the training and facilitation of health center and health post staff to provide IMCI services.</i>				
<i>A 1.3.3: Train public health facility managers in planning and management of available resources.</i>				
Support MOH in organizing regular, monthly outreach visits (growth monitoring and promotion, nutritional counseling, EPI, family planning)	324	28	136	Due to late submission of report by the District Health Office, this activity was conducted only in March.
<i>A 1.3.4: Establish an active screening and referral system for malnutrition at the community level</i>				
Organize monthly community meetings with all mothers and children under 5 for MUAC screening	744	137	262	10,789 children screened in 41 villages including 1,153 children referred (279 for SAM and 874 for MAM)
Monitoring of children referred to health facilities	252			This activity will be included in the coming quarter.

A- Description of Activities and Analysis of Results

IR 1.1: Appropriate nutrition practices during a child's first 1,000 days adopted by pregnant women, lactating mothers and caretakers

During this quarter, field activities continued with a primary focus on behavior change activities that promote best practices within households. The program built staff capacity on CLTS - water purification techniques - PCAC Maradi field agents - cooking demonstration for 14 field agents - EWS/ER for all field agents and their supervisors in both Maradi and Zinder - training of trainers on ENA for 7 participants including Sawki staff and 3 technical partners of the three Health Districts.

Community mobilization focused on ENA awareness sessions continued through all community structures. 1917 sensitization sessions were conducted in care units, groups of husbands' schools members and adolescent girls in safe spaces. 39,958 participants were reached including 34,799 women and 5159 men. The sensitization themes focused on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding for children over six months, pregnant and lactating women diet, the benefits of vitamin A, hand washing, hygiene and women household workload. Other awareness sessions were conducted to sensitize communities on the importance of creating community granaries to secure incentives for community health workers who provide health services to the population.

Dissemination of messages to radio: 463 broadcasts sessions in local languages made during the reporting period through four radio stations (ORTN, Anfani, Gobir and Geyar). Messages focused on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, attendance at health centers and benefits of family planning.

Cooking demonstrations: Sawki conducted 2452 cooking demonstrations during the quarter and reached 34,203 participants. These demonstrations are based on local products that are produced either in the vegetable gardens and the cereal crop fields as well as animal products such as milk goats, meat and eggs. The program did cooking demonstration also using CSB+.

Home visits: to allow monitoring of best practices at household level, home visits are organized by members of the care groups, community health workers and Sawki field agents. During the quarter 5766 visits were conducted reaching a cumulative 17,505 people including 4,090 men. The objective of these visits is to monitor the correct execution of the practices taught in each household.

Food distribution: Food distribution to PLW and children under 2 was done this quarter and 11,019 beneficiaries were reached. 1,040 pregnant women (792 new), 1903 lactating women and children 6-23 months received their complementary rations. Enrollment of new pregnant women was halted in the first 26 villages at the end of March.

WASH activities: WASH activities focused on construction of latrines for the first 26 villages, installment of tippy-tap for hand washing and village and household cleanness. An action plan has been established in all the villages at the end of community meetings. During the quarter in the 17 villages engaged in latrines construction 251 masonry latrines have been started, of which 84 were completed.



Latrine completed and in use at Zangon Jika

Latrine under construction in Gaouna

IR 1.2. Appropriate nutrition practices and healthy timing of first pregnancy adopted by adolescent girls and their partners.

Discussion gatherings are regularly held in adolescent girls safe spaces and other groups (care units, care groups and husbands schools in each village. The idea around these meetings is to discuss family planning and reproductive health matters. In safe spaces mentors discuss topics on early and forced marriage, early and frequent pregnancies, the benefits of family planning, education of the girl, etc. A total of 973 discussion sessions were held which reached a cumulative 11,718 adolescents. 1,983 sensitization sessions on family planning were held in care units and care groups conducted respectively by leader mothers and community health worker (health promoters).

IR 13 Counseling and care appropriately provided by health centers and other community actors.

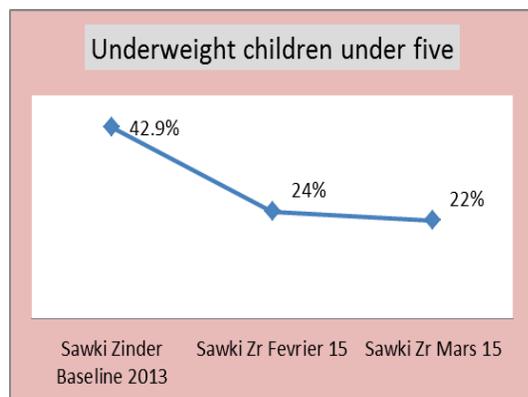
To promote behavior change in a sustainable way Sawki aligns its development actions with the public health regional structures mandate. In order to achieve this, Sawki support health centers in the delivery of quality services to the population. This is done through joint supervision with District Health Offices and through the organization of outreach visits to remote areas where vulnerable communities lack health facilities.

Two joint visits were conducted with Zinder DRSP and Mirriah health District. All Sawki strategic objective team leaders participated in the visits.

The Program supports the three districts through funding of four outreach visits per month for all 18 CSIs of our intervention area. This support will probably improve health indicators such as immunization coverage, the monitoring of antenatal and healthy infants and many other activities within the scope of the activity of the outreach visit’s agenda.

As part of active screening of malnutrition among children under the age of 59 months were carried out in the villages of Sawki’s intervention area. For this quarter an cumulative 10,789 children were tracked through 3 sessions of testing including 1,153 (average of 384 children) were referred to the health centers including 279 with severe acute malnutrition and 874 with moderate acute malnutrition.

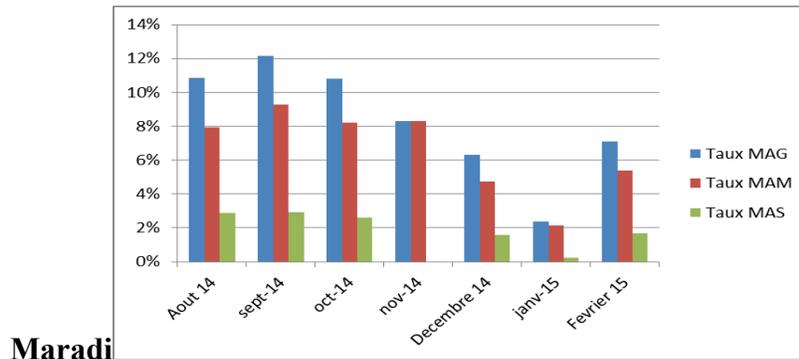
1. Nutritional Status in Sawki Area



Comment:

There is a significant decrease in the rate of underweight of children 6 to 36 months of age in the villages that were used as a sample for analysis in the Zinder region.

2. Analysis of the nutritional situation in the villages of Maradi



This graph shows the results of malnutrition screening of children 6 to 23 months in the region of Maradi. It clearly confirms the idea that transpired from the analysis of the PCAC. The high rate (although still lower than the average of the region 16-17%) during the month of February was due to the reopening of six villages in Sabon Machi long deserted because of a absence of field agents for 4 months delaying the activities.

2. The motivation of communities in the strategy of community granaries: (Example : Village Garin Galadima)



3.



Comment: *The creation of community granaries in 15 villages showed a great step forward into sustaining community health worker services in the communities. All 15 pilot villages accepted the idea of each household to contribute a jointly set quantity of cereal to constitute a stock from which the community health workers will be paid for their services to the community. 10 villages already fully contributed to the stock and the remaining 5 villages are on their way of completing their contribution. Sawki nutrition field agents monitor the process. This strategy will be scaled up in all Sawki communities.*

III. Program achievement during reporting period (SO2)

During this reporting period, the following activities were implemented by the agriculture and livelihood strategic objective (SO2):

Program Achievement during reporting period (SO2)

Description of Activities	Progress Against Targets (quantitative information, disaggregated by sex where applicable)			Narrative
	Targeted	Reached this quarter	Cumula tive reached	
IR 2.1: Household consumption of diversified nutritious food increased from agricultural and pastoral production				
<i>A 2.1.1.2 Establish Demonstration Farms (2.1.1) (n=champs)</i>				
Finalizing FFS evaluation, and identification of more performing participants	48	15	48	48 FFS were setup out of 57 planned. Among the 48, the first 33 were assessed the previous quarter and the remaining 15 during the reporting period. A restitution workshop is planned for the coming quarter when INRAN will be available.
<i>A 2.1.1.6 Village Garden Coordinator training by master trainers (2.1.1)</i>				
Training of trainers on vegetable gardening practices	23	10	10	6 Sawki field agents and 4 ministry of agriculture field agents in Maradi. The training has not been conducted yet for 13 persons in Zinder.
Training of new garden coordinators on vegetable production practices	35	35	35	35 garden coordinators including 7 new, were trained. The training was conducted in the women own vegetable gardens.
Supervision at vegetable gardens	38	38	38	38 vegetable production sites were supervised with 3,139 women producers.
Distribution of Irish potato cuttings	31	31	31	The 31 vegetable gardening sites in Zinder benefited from this support.
women vegetable producers training in organization management	7	0	0	This training was not conducted due to the unavailability of the trainers.
<i>A 2.1.4.2 Rehabilitation or construction of gardening wells and rainwater harvesting techniques</i>				
Launching of construction works	113	0	0	The works will start once the request for tender is finalized.

IR 2.2: Land and Livestock productivity increased at household and community levels				
A 2.2.1. Provide crop, livestock and soil conservation technical assistance				
Monitoring of forage production (rainfed cowpea fodder)				In Maradi, monitoring of 24 fodder producers who planted bourgou; but this year the River Goulbi did not allow water recession agriculture on river banks which affected the whole crop. In Zinder, 26 producers of irrigated cowpea fodder were monitored, 9 producers on bourgou and 1 producer on alfalfa.
<i>A 2.2.2.4 Each livestock extension worker responsible for training 5 livestock value chain coordinators per village (LVCC)</i>				
Training of Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC) on multinutrient blocks				The training was not conducted this quarter but will start with the acquisition of 14 new straw choppers
Monitoring of LVCC activities (reddish goats and male animals for genetic improvement)				In Maradi 1,516 people including 792 women and 724 men received training in animal health, hygiene of livestock habitat and the treatment of animals. In Zinder 1,151 people including 749 women were sensitized on breed selection, management of animal reproduction and hygiene of animal habitat.
<i>A 2.2.3.11 Subsidy to cover 50% of price of 3 goats (year2)</i>				
Monitoring of the reddish goats and rams distributed to vulnerable households and village development committees	621	113	176	In Maradi out of the 812 goats at the beginning of the quarter 793 are still alive out of which 38% are pregnant and 76 baby goats were born. In Zinder only 61% of the villages were monitored because of the lack of field agents.
<i>Subsidies for improved breeding stock (2.2.2)</i>				
Introducing laying hens and roosters in vulnerable households.	205	205	205	41 villages in Zinder.
Monitoring of laying hens and roosters	350	104	145	In Maradi the number of poultry fell from 54 to 39 during the quarter due to mortality. A total of 394 eggs were produced of which 280 were sold at an average price of 75 cfa each. 101 chicks were produced of which 47 are still alive. In Zinder 154 out of 164 hens are still alive out 41 roosters 40 are still alive.
<i>Subsidies for seed multipliers (2.2.2)</i>				
Certification of seeds produced by seed multipliers	21	21	21	The seeds produced by the 21 multipliers were tested and certified as very good by the relevant departments of agriculture at regional level.

Organization of information days and distribution of seed produced by local seed multipliers	21	0	0	The activity did not take place because of the delay in the seed certification process.
<i>A 2.2.3.5 Subsidized input packages (year 2)</i>				
Procurement of crop straw choppers	17	14	14	14 crop straw choppers were procured this quarter but will be distributed to 10 communities in Zinder and 4 in Maradi during the following quarter.
Training of trainers on composting	23	10	10	6 Sawki field agent and 4 agents of the Ministry of Agriculture have been trained in Maradi.
Training and provision of composting kits to local producers	124	0	0	The delay in organizing the training of trainers did not allow the training of 124 local experts in composting technique.
<i>Subsidies for farmers' inputs (2.2.2)</i>				
Support to vegetable growers in pumps	5	0	0	Both the terms of references and the procurement request were submitted and waiting for management approval
Support to forage growers in pumps	4	0	0	Both the terms of references and the procurement request were submitted and waiting for management approval
<i>Para-vet subsidy medical kit (2.2.3)</i>				
Supervision of para-veterinarian activities	22	19	19	Activity ongoing
Identification of new para-veterinarian	15	15	15	5 para-vet identified in Maradi and 10 in Zinder.
Para-veterinarian activities	264	65	131	In Zinder, 376 cattle, 503 sheep, 519 goats, 73 camels, 19 donkeys, 76 horses, 1234 Poultrys were treated by para-vets. 1,101 people have benefited from the service of para-vet during the first quarter. In February 209 cattle, 231 sheep, 222 goats, camels 6, 12 donkeys, 649 poultrys were treated and 569 people have benefited from the para-vet services.
<i>A 2.2.3.9 Subsidy of \$35 to producers</i>				
Turning FFS farmers into adopters of new practices	24	24	24	13 communities in Maradi and 11 in Zinder have contributed a substantial stock of millet to secure their purchase of agricultural inputs the coming cropping season.
Support for the construction of warehouse for farmers	24	13	13	8 out of 13 communities in Maradi completed the construction of their storage facilities and are

contribution for input purchase and for input storage				waiting for the program's support to finish the structure. In Zinder construction has not yet begun.
IR 2.3: Household incomes increased				
<i>Value chain assessment (2.2.1)</i>				
Organization of validation workshops of value chain studies	2	2	2	Validation Workshops of the value chain study took place during the quarter and the Program approved the reports
Cross-cutting IR: Household and community resilience to shocks improved through community development and good governance				
<i>Early warning systems training (CCO 1)</i>				
Training on EWS/ER	41	30	30	30 Sawki field agents were trained.
<i>Natural resource management field activities (2.3.1)</i>				
Identification of forestry plant production sites	8	18	18	8 plant production sites were planned but given the high number of forestry seedlings needed to cover 20,000 plants per site Sawki increased the number of production sites to 18
Identification of Food For Assets (FFA) beneficiaries	3,080	3,080	3,080	1379 in Maradi including 1033 men and 346 women. 1701 in Zinder including 635 women.
Setup and training FFA sites management committees	15	9	9	3 management committees and 3 monitoring committees set up in Maradi. 6 management and monitoring committees have been set up in Zinder.
Launching of FFA activities	15	9	9	Activities started on 3 sites in Maradi to recover 280 ha and 6 sites in Zinder to recover 413 ha for a total of 693 ha. To date 198 ha have been recovered in Zinder and counting 62,198 half-moons. In Maradi 261 ha have been recovered with 81,639 half-moons.

3.2.1- Description and Analysis of Results : Agriculture / Livestock

IR 2.1: Household consumption in rich and diverse food increased through plant and animal production.

To improve household consumption of rich and diversified food, Sawki continued its support to market gardening activities. In addition to the creation of 31 vegetable garden sites in 2014, 7 new sites were supported during the 2015 vegetable growing campaign. The 38 market gardens led by women comprise 3139 women including 2599 in Zinder and 540 in Maradi. The 3139 women operate nearly 15 ha growing cabbage, lettuce, carrot, onion, potato, tomato. In response to problems related to water availability and access, 113 gardening wells including

48 in Maradi and 65 in Zinder 65 will be built. The contract for the completion of the feasibility study was signed and the study will start in the month of April.

IR 2.2 Land and Livestock productivity increased at household and community levels

During the past cropping season Sawki implemented 48 Farmer Field Schools (35 for millet and 13 for cowpea). 21 FFS were in Maradi and 27 in Zinder for a total of 1,138 trainees, including 644 in Zinder and 494 in Maradi. INRAN identified the best trainees who are able to replicate the technologies learned in their own field as well supervises other producers. 606 trainees were considered best performant (270 in Zinder and 334 in Maradi). These performers will mentor other producers who volunteer to apply the technologies learned in their own field. The 270 best trainees in Zinder will supervise 4 volunteer farmers each. This will give a total of 1,350 producers (4 volunteers plus 1 good performer) who will replicate in their own farms the new agricultural practices on 0.5 ha of land each sowing 5 kg of millet and 3 kg of cowpea. For Maradi out of the 334 best performers, 179 who did not receive subsidized inputs during the last cropping will supervise each 7 farmers who volunteer to apply the new practices on 0.5 ha sowing 5 kg of millet and 3 kg of cowpea.

To sustain the initial support received from Sawki (fertilizers and improved seeds) during the last cropping campaign, the producers contributed more than 70 tons of agricultural products from their harvest to procure improved seeds and mineral fertilizers for the coming rainy season. Under Sawki supervision these producers are getting organized in order to develop a management plan for this stock. The stock will be sold and the proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase agricultural inputs. 8 communities out of the 13 which contributed the stocks constructed their community storage facility to store their contribution and ultimately the inputs they plan to purchase soon. The communities are asking Sawki to help complete the construction of the community warehouses.

21 seed multipliers have been trained and supported by Sawki and all 21 have been certified by the ministry of agriculture as legal seed multipliers. Seeds produced by the multipliers have to be certified to by the Department of Agriculture. With respect to the certification of the seeds, samples of seeds were sent for laboratory analysis by the regional agriculture department.

In Maradi out of the 812 goats which were initially distributed to the more vulnerable household women 793 are alive among which 38% are pregnant and 76 births recorded. In Zinder only 61% of villages have been followed because of the lack of field agents during the period. Regarding the monitoring of male animals which were introduced in the villages for breed improvement it appears that in Maradi 71 male goats out of 76 early in the quarter are alive and 19 rams out of 21. These genitors are mixed to the village herds. In Zinder out of 61 male goats installed 59 are still alive and have been solicited 175 times by goats' owners.

IR 2.3 Household incomes increased

The value chain reports on cowpea and small ruminants were finalized and validated. An action plan for implementing the recommendations of the study was also submitted. Given the relevance and urgency of some of the recommendations, Sawki is putting into action some of them. The most important is the establishment of private businesses for breed improvement and multiplication of more performant reddish goats and Balami rams. Sawki proposes to help setup

8 private businesses (counting 5 for reddish goats and 3 for Balami). This will account for one business per commune where Sawki implement the program.

Cross-cutting IR: Household and community resilience to shocks improved through community development and good governance

As part of land recuperation Sawki started FFA activities to recover a total of 693 ha in Maradi and Zinder. The community management committees of recuperated land have already been created in both regions. Sawki planned to recuperate 1125 ha but the population targeted a total of 693 ha but requested that the gap be used for reforestation through forest plant production sites. Sawki and the communities identified 18 plants production sites with a target of 20 000 plants per site. 40 community members coming from vulnerable households were identified by site to do the plant production in the nurseries for 4 months.

IV. Gender sector

✓ Gender Analysis

Based on feedback on gender analysis report received from FFP, the program reviewed the action plan introducing activities that are consistent with program objectives, shared responsibility between Sawki staff of all strategic objectives, regional government technical services and other partners.

✓ Safe spaces Activities

During the reporting period Sawki started the literacy activities for adolescent girls. The program trained 36 literacy teachers in charge of the literacy training centers. 1080 learners were identified including 900 adolescent girls, 180 garden coordinators and leader mothers to strengthen them in their leadership roles within their groups.

The program has also initiated the process of vocational training for adolescent girls and defined the strategy to be used. The objective is to open 8 training centers in communities for adolescent girls to learn new skills.

✓ Women's workload reduction

Women's domestic workload reduction is becoming more and more effective in Sawki communities. This has been triggered by the work reduction equipment installed by the program in the communities, but the main factor remains men's engagement in this objective. Members of husband schools continue to sensitize men in the community to help women in accordance with commitments they made in the past with regards to water fetching. This emerges in the testimony of a woman member of a care group who said "Before the women did the chore with buckets or canaries. Now it is the rickshaw which is used for transport water. This allows for 6 cans of water to be carried home in one round instead of 1 bucket on the head. It's often the young boys or men who take the cart at home instead of women. Now women have more time to dedicate to more productive activities." In addition, to support these activities Sawki installed 10 grain mills, 2 threshers, 4 groundnut dehuskers, 4 groundnut grounders and 4 oil pressers during the quarter. To ensure good management and maintenance of the equipment, the program organized two training sessions for 44 millers, including one woman.

V. Commodity Management

Summary of commodities received and distributed this quarter

Total Metric Tons distributed & Beneficiaries

Component	January		February		March		Total	
	Kilogram	Bens	Kilogram	Bens	Kilogram	Bens	Kilogram	Bens
Pregnant women	0,000	0	14 312	1 789	0,000	0	14 312	1 789
Lactating women	0,000	0	14 992	1 874	0,000	0	14 992	1 874
Children under 24 months	0,000	0	57 320	7 165	0,000	0	57 320	7 165
TOTAL	0,000	0	86 624	10 828	0,000	0	86 624	10 828

Location / Commodities (MT)	CSB	BULGUR	LENTILS	OIL	TOTALS
Physical Inventory Warehouse	366.882	250.130	166.122	37.735	820.869
Closing Balance Distribution Sites	1.527	5.189	1.271	0.549	8.536
TOTAL	368.409	255.319	167.392	38.284	829.405

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E unit implemented several activities during the quarter:

✓ *Pilot resilience project data collection:* The resilience project collected data at the household level in communities using the HEA tools to determine household resilience score. This pilot project was conducted jointly by the three DFAP implementing organizations (Lahia; PASAM-TAI and Sawki). The collected data was transmitted to the Food Economy Group (FEG) for analysis.

✓ *Monitoring of field activities in Zinder after Africare termination:* Several recommendations were made in order to improve the quality of the field activities. These recommendations focused mainly on the roles and responsibilities of Village Development Committees members and data filling system in the field.

✓ *Post Distribution Monitoring:* The M&E team conducted a second post distribution monitoring. Data were collected in 16 villages with a total of 432 interviewees. Data entry has been completed; the report will be available on April 16, 2015.

✓ *RISING Survey:* RISING is a research project on adolescent girls, members of the "safe space" promoted by Sawki. The objective of the research project is to assess the difference in behavior change and knowledge between girls involved in safe space activities and those who are not.

✓ ***Qualitative Observation of pregnant and lactating women using the Most Significant Change approach:*** M&E team initiated a monitoring activity to track early qualitative changes as perceived and described by the beneficiaries. The approach of the most significant change was used to investigate 15 women benefiting from nutrition activities in 7 villages. Analysis of interviewees opinions showed some changes induced by the intervention of the Program, for example, women reported anecdotally fewer children are being referred to health centers. This is further reinforced by a 20% decrease in underweight children we've found in 17 of our villages.

✓ ***Finalize and share the M&E program guidelines data quality:*** Following recommendations from Mercy Corps Technical Support Unit which trained the staff on data quality assessment (DQA) last November, the M&E team prepared M&E guidelines for the program. The guidelines describe the roles and responsibilities of each program participant on the quality control of the data generated by the program. The quality control has to be effective throughout the information flow.

Coordination Activities

- ✓ Quarterly coordination meeting of the program was held in Zinder;
- ✓ Sawki continued the weekly and monthly coordination meetings in Maradi and Zinder as usual. Weekly meetings are essentially to update on the progress of the program and adjust plans based on the security and logistics environment. The quarterly program coordination meeting is an open forum for all the program's implementing partners.
- ✓ Joint supervision mission of the senior program members. For 8 days the team has traveled to all villages in Zinder to physically assess the progress of the program implementation. Overall the program implementation is going well. However, one weakness was noted in some villages where the program needs to emphasize community mobilization more, and encourage the community structures in place to sustain the current project achievements.

Challenges and Constraints

- ✓ The effective implementation of community granaries in all of our communities, and engage communities around the strategy;
- ✓ The construction of a higher number of modern latrines in villages
- ✓ The epidemiological situation in Mirriah (Zinder) which handicap the program implementation of certain activities such as malnutrition screening;
- ✓ Difficulties having literate female at high school level who can assume the role of literacy leaders. This is especially true for Zinder where only 8 out of the 26 are from the villages. The others were recruited outside the Communes.