

Quarterly Report January – March 2015

Madara “MILK” in Hausa

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



Demonstration of fabrication of multinutritional blocs during a training for the Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC)



Community mobilisation workshops on health and nutrition activities

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
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1. Executive Summary

The MADARA program, or “milk” in Hausa, is building on the achievements of the OFDA-funded PASTORAL I/II programs (March 2011-September 2013) and Wadata Makiyaya (June 2013-June 2014) with the aim to enhance 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 January and March 2015:

- ✓ Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCC)¹ continued their suite of trainings and subsequent community training workshops on improved livestock health and production techniques, including:
 - 116 LVCC (91 men and 25 women) trained in herd management and fabrication of multi-nutritional feed blocs. They then organized and carried out community training workshops in 22 villages to train 718 other producers (438 men and 280 women) on these two techniques under Mercy Corps’ supervision.
 - 125 LVCC (99 men and 26 women) trained in strategic feeding practices for livestock during the hot-dry season, as well as complementary feeding for dairy cows by the public-private ranch and local partner Toukounous Station, with Mercy Corps’ assistance. At least 1,145 producers (560 women and 585 men) participated in the LVCCs’ subsequent training workshops in 24 villages.
- ✓ Ten new LVCC (six men and four women) were identified in the two additional villages added to MADARA’s intervention zone (Talcho and Soloa), bringing the program’s LVCC up to 133 covering 24 villages across the Filingué commune. The 133 LVCC receive the full packet of trainings on improved livestock techniques.
- ✓ The promotion of the roles and responsibilities of the local land tenure commissions (COFOBs) and conflict mitigation messaging was continued through video projections in four villages. An additional awareness-raising campaign focused on land rehabilitation and land conflict management was carried out, targeting nine villages where potential for land conflict is particularly high during the months between January and July due to season migration of pastoralists.
- ✓ Official land protection acts issued by the Prefect, president of the Land Tenure Commission, were obtained for the seven rehabilitated pastureland sites which cover roughly 240 Ha.
- ✓ Three potential villages (Tarkassa, Toukounous Station and Toukounous Arzika) identified for the establishment of plant nurseries to support the production of 36,000 plants for the rehabilitated pastureland sites for better and faster regeneration.
- ✓ Twelve (12) new livestock auxiliary para-veterinarians identified and trained on the first four modules of animal health in partnership with the director of the Filingué private veterinarian service and support from the Ministry of Livestock.
- ✓ A workshop was held with local private and public sector stakeholders to share and discuss the results of the dairy value chain study carried out by Mercy Corps through the consulting firm CESAO-PRN.
- ✓ Four new dairy production cooperatives and four new women’s dairy transformation cooperatives established in four villages where strengthened dairy value chain potential is highest (note: these complement three existing women’s dairy transformation groups in the intervention zone).

¹ The LVCC are the core mechanism to transmit improved livestock techniques to at least 1,000 producers across MADARA’s 24 villages. Selected by their own communities against a specific set of criteria (see previous quarterly reports), they constitute the group of model livestock owners who will also be a local resource for other producers in their communities.

- ✓ Thirty representatives across six of the women's dairy transformation groups visited the women's dairy transformation cooperative of Toukounous Station (the semi-public ranch in Filingué) to learn modern traditional cheese making techniques.
- ✓ Micro-entrepreneurs across 13 villages submitted 699 project proposals and 487 were pre-selected to pass to the business plan stage. Mercy Corps and the partner Microfinance institution ASUSU S.A. carried out thirteen workshops in the villages to present the preselection results, share information about the next stages of the micro-entrepreneur component of MADARA, and help the micro-entrepreneurs complete and submit business plans based on their initial proposal. In total, 215 business plans have been submitted thus far during this quarter.
- ✓ The nutrition strategy and activity plan was approved by the Filingué Public Health Department and a revised partnership agreement was signed.
- ✓ Three community mobilization workshops reaching 80 representatives from 16 villages carried out in Filingué town, Toukounous Station and Takoussa, to inform communities of MADARA's nutrition activities and solicit their full participation in the identification of beneficiaries for nutrition activities. The representatives in turn carried out community workshops in 14 villages, supervised by Mercy Corps, to identify MADARA's primary targeted nutrition-component beneficiaries (pregnant and lactating women, mothers with children under two years, and young and/or newly married women were prioritized to receive nutrition messaging). A total of 1,080 beneficiaries were identified through this approach. The workshops also served to identify the Local Health and Nutrition Coordinators (CLSN) in each village, selected by communities through a mobilization process.
- ✓ 727 people (515 women and 212 men) participated in the 17 community workshops listed above under the nutrition component. They received initial messaging on the importance of essential nutrition practices and participated in discussions about local nutrition practices, including identification of local taboos.

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 2014².

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.

²GoN "Enquête National", p. 3.

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

Progress under the agriculture and food-security component is on track to meeting program targets. Livestock value chain coordinators participated in and delivered two key trainings on improved livestock techniques critical for animal health as the lean season approaches.

SECTOR #1 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					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
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

Continuing their suite of trainings in improved livestock techniques to increase livestock's productive performance, LVCC participated in and then re-delivered two technical trainings. A total of 116 LVCC (91 men and 25 women) participated in a three-day training on herd management and fabrication of multi-nutritional blocs. The training was organized at two centers and was led by Mercy Corps' livestock advisor and the district livestock advisor of Filingué. Seven LVCC missed the training due to funerals, sickness and several having left on season migration; however, they were later trained on these techniques. At the end of the training, LVCC in 22 villages of MADARA were equipped with a demonstration kit which included 6.5 kg of wheat bran, 1 kg of salt, 1.5 kg of cement, 1 kg of urea and 4.5 kg of bone meal. In total, 718 producers (438 men and 238 women) participated in the herd management and multi-nutritional bloc training workshops led by the LVCC in their villages with Mercy Corps' supervision and support. To help the LVCC deliver the workshops and share key technical messages, each village received a visual support guide translated into local languages (Hausa and Djerma).

A total of 125 LVCC (99 men and 26 women) were trained on strategic feeding practices for livestock during the hot-dry season and complementary feeding for dairy cows, one of the most important technical trainings of the program as it focuses on techniques to maintain and increase milk production. The two-day training, which took place at the Toukounous Ranch, was carried out by the ranch's director and built on the previous trainings LVCC received. With Mercy Corps' assistance, the LVCC led community workshops in 24 villages to share this information with 1,143 other producers (558 women and 585 men). (See the Monitoring & Evaluation section for information about the uptake of information shared through the community trainings.)

Over the course of the reporting period, two new intervention villages were identified because of their high dairy and market potential and the interest shown by livestock owners (Talcho and Soloa). Ten LVCC (six men and four women) were identified based on the previously established criteria³.

Table 1: Number of LVCC by village with disaggregation by sex

Village	Number of LVCC	Male	Female
Talcho	5	3	2
Solowa	5	3	2
TOTAL	10	6	4



Training LVCC on strategic feeding: an LVCC leading a subsequent community training in Banguir bouzayé village

Table 2 : Repartition by village and sex of the LVCC trained in strategic feeding during the hot-dry season and complementary feeding of the dairy cow

Villages	Participants		Total
	Men	Women	
Kania zeno	7	10	17
Kania Tégui	19	8	27
Rounfou	5	20	25
Tanfadara	40	18	58

³ For the identification of the LVCC, several criteria were taken into account, including: 1) Must be an agro-pastoralist or pastoralist; 2) Must own livestock, with a preference for dairy cows; 3) Must be capable of leading trainings on the techniques learned through the training of trainers; 4) Must be available to receive the full packet of trainings (cannot leave the training during the dry season, for example); 5) Must be designated and approved by the community; 6) Must be willing to undertake the role; and 6) Preference for ability to read, write and count in French, but not required.

Toukounouss station	9	20	29
Djolé	19	19	38
Solowa	15	32	47
Banguir Kourfayawa	13	8	21
Banguir Bouzayé	34	12	46
Tamagorjeck	24	31	55
Tarkassa	14	41	55
Dinkim	40	12	52
Louma	31	35	66
Talcho	11	5	16
Garin Kimba	22	15	37
Makani S	15	24	39
Banguir Barébari	7	25	32
Garin Mangassa	7	12	19
Tidiba	28	16	44
Gorou	37	21	58
Ajiguid	59	47	106
Takoussa	39	26	65
Toukunous Arzika	41	33	74
Maitalakia	49	68	117
TOTAL	585	558	1143

In order to ensure a better coverage of animal health services across the Filingué commune including zones where peer agencies are working in livestock health, twelve new auxiliary para-veterinarians (AE) were identified through a joint mission with the Department of Livestock and the local private veterinary service. Existing and new AE were trained in standard animal health services modules 1 through 4 during the reporting period by the local private veterinary service with Mercy Corps' support and the supervision of the Ministry of Livestock. Specifically, 16 AE were trained on modules 1 and 2, roles and responsibilities of auxiliary para-veterinarians and basic animal health. Thirteen AE were trained on the third module, animal parasites, and 14 were trained on diagnosing animal diseases and principal treatments. The AE received a manual on each module.

During the reporting period, a workshop with local stakeholders and program partners was held to share the results from the dairy value chain study led by research and consulting agency CEASO-PRN. Stakeholders included the Ministry of Livestock, private veterinary services, animal feed supplier representatives, the public-private Toukounous Ranch, women's cooperative representatives, a private rancher, agro-pastoralists representatives, ASUSU S.A., a national milk company representative, private research institutions and peer agencies. At the end of the workshop, a guidance committee for the program's implementation composed of a portion of these stakeholders was established, which will meet several times over the program's cycle in order to maintain up to date on MADARA's activities and bring additional inputs, support, information and coordination. The report, which was financed by another program partner, is currently being translated from

French to English and will be forwarded to OFDA soon. MADARA is using the results to refine its activities to better enable beneficiaries to participate in the dairy value chain and to inform the program's long-term vision for sustainability. Additionally, the Program Manager participated in a learning visit to Mercy Corps Ethiopia's USAID-funded PRIME program in order to study the dairy value chain component, including milk collection centers and processing activities, and draw out successful lessons from East Africa which can be applied to MADARA.

Concerning the management of pastoral sites and conflict management over land resources, video projections in four villages were organized which shared information on the role of the local land tenure commissions (COFOBs) in managing land and helping peacefully resolve conflicts (this complements the 11 villages which were reached in the last reported period with video projections). Overall, 1,009 people (566 men and 443 women) were reached through the projections.

Table 3: Repartition of beneficiaries at video projections by village and sex

Villages	# Beneficiaries participating in video projections		
	M	F	total
Louma	20	10	30
Kania Tagui	20	40	60
Kania Zéno.	20	30	50
Tarkassa	17	3	20
Tanfadara	64	27	91
Rounfou	57	9	66
Tamagorjet	50	75	125
Dinkim	56	90	146
Garin Mangassa	24	6	30
Maitalakia	71	37	108
Makani Souleymane	58	31	89
Banguir Bouzayé	34	38	72
Banguir Kourféyawa	21	5	26
Banguir Barébari	18	15	33
Tchiolé	36	27	63
TOTAL	566	443	1009

In addition, Mercy Corps carried out an awareness-raising campaign in the nine villages where MADARA had rehabilitated pastoral grazing sites (roughly 240 Ha) and which had higher potential for conflict due to their proximity to grazing corridors. The Prefect, the mayor and a representative from the district-level land tenure commission accompanied Mercy Corps on this caravan. Messages included the importance of reseeding rehabilitated lands, using the local land tenure commission as a resource to resolve conflict if it arises, and officially protecting pastoral grazing areas for regeneration of natural forage. The prefect also delivered

official land protection acts for the nine sites after the sites had been geo-referenced during the last reporting period (villages of Tidiba, Banguir, Tarkassa, Toukounous Station, Toukounous Arzika, Tanfadara and Rounfou). No land conflicts have been recorded in the nine villages to date. For these pasturelands to regenerate growth of natural forage, Mercy Corps submitted a revised strategy to partner ASUSU S.A. for the regeneration of the sites through reseeding and replanting. This strategy changed vision from simply planting 10,000 trees through ASUSU's normal approach, to instead finance the production of at least 36,000 plants through strengthening capacity of local nurseries, thereby favoring the local market and encourage sustainability. Three potential villages with water access and some nursery experience were identified for production of locally adapted plants which, along with seeds collected by communities, will be used to replant the grazing sites (Tarkassa, Toukounous Station and Toukounous Arzika).

Following the signing of a partnership agreement, the local radio of Filingué began compiling messages along three main message streams: land resource management and land conflict mitigation, improved animal production techniques, and good nutrition practices. Local personalities are interviewed for the radio series. During the reporting period, field interviews were completed by a male and female representative of the LVCC, the AE, beneficiary producers, the head of the Ministry of Livestock, the Toukounous Ranch director and the local private veterinarian service. Messages which will make up a twelve-week radio campaign will air starting in the next reporting period. Mercy Corps will communicate air times to and organize listening sessions among beneficiaries. Program monitoring activities in the next quarter will track the effectiveness of radio messaging for reduced conflict and behavior change.

SECTOR 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

Program activities under the economic recovery and market systems sector are on track. Of particular note, the establishment and training of eight new dairy cooperatives, which complement three existing cooperatives, was a core milestone to professionalize and strengthen dairy value chain actors. While micro-entrepreneurs have not yet received their first disbursement, this is planned for early May; in the meantime MADARA's selection process has been highly participatory and leans heavily on community actors and local partners to ensure stronger local ownership.

SECTOR #2 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)	N/A				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	10,500 individuals (1,500 households)				
Subsector 2.1 Livelihoods Restoration					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
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
Subsector 2.2 New Livelihoods Development					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
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 livelihoods by program completion	Male	Yes	90%	0	0
	Female	Yes	90%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$124,000	0	0
Subsector 2.3 Temporary Employment					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
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

Over the course of the reporting period, in partnership with the Department of Planning, Territory and Community Development, four new dairy production cooperatives and four new women's dairy transformation cooperatives (which complement three existing groups in the intervention zone) were established in four villages (Makani Souleyman, Garin Kimba, Tamgorjec and Toukounous Station). Sixty-six members of the managing level of the eleven cooperatives and women's groups were trained in cooperatives' functions, management and bylaws. The cooperatives and women's groups, which represent 346 members, provide a structure to better organize dairy and dairy by-products production and commercialization along

the value chain. The eight new dairy cooperatives and women’s groups received legal status through a special agreement with the Mayor of Filingué, who waived registration fees.

Table 4: Repartition of dairy cooperatives by village

Village	Men	Women	Total
Makani Souleymane	28	5	33
Garin kimba	54	4	58
Toukounous Station	176	164	340
Tamagorjec	32	8	40
Total			471

Table 5: Repartition of women dairy transformation groups by village

Village	Men	Women	Total	Name of the Cooperative
Makani Souleymane	0	24	24	ADALCHI
	0	33	33	OUNFANI
Toukounous Station	0	26	26	AFPEN WELLY
	0	21	21	NIIMA
Tamagorjec	0	24	24	DADIN ZAMA
	0	20	20	FARIA
Garin Kimba	0	32	32	MOUNIAL
Total		180	180	

Following a diagnostic of the function and health of two of the more established women’s dairy transformation groups of Makani Souleymane and Toukounous Station, a capacity building plan was developed, focused on strengthening the financial management and local governance processes of the group. Visits were organized for 30 representatives from six of the women’s dairy transformation groups to the established women’s group at Toukounous Station in order for them to learn improved cheese-making and understand how the Toukounous Station women’s group organizes their production among members. The participants shared about their experiences making tchoukou, a traditional cheese and the primary dairy product of the women’s groups, the types of materials they normally use to transform milk into cheese, their sanitary practices and processes, and techniques for making tchoukou. Representatives from the Toukounous Station women’s group led live demonstration sessions. The women’s groups highly appreciated the learning visit, and suggested creating a federation of women’s dairy transformation groups, in order to standardize the process for making tchoukou and regulate its price, as well as to better organize the flow of the product to the market for sale. Professionalization and organization in this way will help meet the strong market demand both locally and in Niamey, which was an opportunity highlighted in the value chain study.

Using the Toukounous Station women’s group as model, Mercy Corps carried out an assessment of materials needed to make tchoukou, in order to develop a recommendation for a standard production kit which the other women’s groups will look to as a model. Mercy Corps started and is continuing discussions with village leaders to advocate for a dedicated cheese-making location for the six women’s groups who currently do not have a special location like Toukounous Station.



Learning visit of members of women's dairy transformation groups to share experiences with the women's group at Toukounous Station

A diagnostic assessment of two animal feed suppliers operating in the intervention zone showed weaknesses in their business processes and financial management. Mercy Corps organized a meeting with them to discuss these results and other factors which may be limiting them from reaching a larger market across MADARA's intervention zone and beneficiaries. The two feed suppliers proposed solutions which could increase their potential to reach more clients, which included asking Mercy Corps to facilitate their relation with the dairy cooperatives to discuss possible regular supply. This meeting is planned for the next quarter.

Subsector 2.2: New Livelihoods Development

Over the course of the reporting period, 699 potential micro-entrepreneurs (356 women and 343 men) submitted initial proposals. Of these, 487 were preselected (300 women and 187 men) based on feasibility and relevance, among other factors, to advance to the business plan development stage. Among these proposals are 12 group proposals (five dairy cooperatives and seven dairy transformation groups), which represent 210 micro-entrepreneurs (190 women and 120 men).

Table 6: Repartition by village and by sex of proposals that were preselected

Villages	Candidates		Preselected		Rejected	
	Women	Men	W	M	W	M
Tarkassa	16	22	13	4	3	18
Sabon Gari	24	24	19	4	5	20
Louma	21	56	8	22	13	34
Banguir						
Kourfayawa	8	8	5	4	3	4
Toukounous station	68	34	62	18	6	16
Kania Zéno	10	3	3	1	7	2
Agiguïdi	26	6	21	3	5	3
Toukounous Arzika	17	40	12	8	5	32
Maitalakia	15	13	13	3	2	10
Tamagorjec	57	33	57	30	0	3
Garin Kimba	41	65	36	52	5	13
Makani	53	39	51	38	2	1
Total	356	343	300	187	56	156
Proportion	51%	49%	62%	38%	26%	74%

Workshops in 13 villages were held with the support of ASUSU S.A. to share information about the results of the preselection and the micro-entrepreneur process, including development of business plans. A selection committee was established to recommend final business plans to be funded. The committee is composed of the mayor of Filingué, representatives from the local government technical service division, ASUSU S.A. and Mercy Corps, and was approved by the prefect. The committee held two meetings to establish a selection process, and to approve the business plan template and grading criteria. During the reporting period, 215 business plans were drafted by the micro entrepreneurs (203 individual and 12 collective) and elaboration of the plans are still underway. Selection will occur in the next quarter with the first disbursement planned for the first week of May.

Subsector 2.3: Temporary Employment

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

SECTOR 3: Nutrition

Activities under the nutrition sector are on track. High interest and responsiveness from local health officials has been particularly encouraging and has helped facilitate successful community mobilization workshops to identify key nutrition messaging recipients across 16 villages.

SECTOR #3 Nutrition	<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

During the reporting period, the program narrowed nutrition activities to 16 intervention villages out of MADARA's 24 villages. The other eight villages are already being covered with preventative nutrition activities by a peer agency. The nutrition strategy and activity plan was approved by the Filingué Public Health Department, with whom a revised partnership agreement was signed based on the refined activities. After being trained in behavior change communication, Mercy Corps staff organized three community mobilization workshops with 80 representatives from the 16 villages, including village chiefs, religious leaders, pregnant and lactating mothers, and community health workers. The objective of the community workshops was to identify local nutrition and health practices and taboos which may constitute barriers to good health practices, as well as begin to raise awareness among participants on optimal nutrition practices. After these workshops, the 80 representatives organized 14 community meetings through which they identified pregnant and breastfeeding women, newly married women, and women with children under two years of age, to be beneficiaries for nutrition activities. A total of 1,080 beneficiaries were identified to participate in nutrition activities.

Through the community mobilization process, representatives also selected their Local Health and Nutrition Coordinators (CLSN) in each village, who will serve a key role in organizing and leading subsequent nutrition activities. The CLSN in each village include : two male community health worker representatives (to raise awareness among husbands and male leaders of the community), two female community health workers, one 'mother leader' to share experience of her success using essential family practices, and one newly married couple to raise awareness among the newly married about essential family practices

The criteria for selection were:

- 1) Community Health Worker: be voluntary, available, between 30 and 45 years old, be a person who is listened to in the village, have good relationships within the village, and have a good capacity to understand training themes.
- 2) Mother Leader: be voluntary, available, know and apply at least three essential family practices, have practiced exclusive breastfeeding with at least one child and be able to talk to its advantages, be between 18 and 45 years old, be a person who is listened to in the village, and have good relationships within the village.
- 3) Young Married Couple: Be a newly married couple without children, be voluntary, and be available.

Table 7: Repartition of beneficiaries and CLSN by village and sex

Villages	Participants		Beneficiaries Selected			CLSN
	Men	Women	Pregnant Women	Breastfeeding Women	Newly Married	
Gorou	23	111	40	93	18	7
Ajiguidi	17	32	7	43	6	7
Garin Narwa	7	23	6	19	1	7
Dinkim	20	41	20	52	24	7
Solowa	15	32	12	25	3	7
Tamagorject	10	35	8	27	4	7

Djolé	19	19	12	17	6	7
Rounfou	18	32	6	37	4	7
Tarkassa	14	41	38	123	6	7
Tanfadara	28	45	36	79	2	7
Banguir Kourfayawa	7	23	20	47	0	5
Banguir Bouzayé	12	32	11	20	24	7
Banguir Barébari	7	25	6	26	12	7
Makani souleyman	15	24	6	26	12	7
TOTAL	212	515	228	634	122	96

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

Program monitoring during the reporting period looked at the rate of application of the techniques taught in trainings thus far. Results among a sample size of 115 producers showed that 63% said that they understood well or very well the techniques shared through the LVCC's community trainings. 29% claimed an average understanding, and 8% said they understood nothing. 38% of the producers surveyed said that they had applied at least two of the techniques taught through MADARA. 62% said they had not, with the most common reasons being due to not mastering the techniques (17%) and not having the means to buy the materials (14%). A small after-action learning survey asked 22 LVCC which techniques to help retain information were working well during trainings and how the program could better support them as they shared the techniques with other producers during the organized sessions. This information is being used to improve the remaining trainings. For example, the remaining trainings for LVCC and the subsequent community-level trainings led by LVCC will include a sequence on summarizing in simple terms the techniques shared through previous workshops, with reminders of low-cost alternatives to employ the improved feeding techniques.

Program monitoring also showed high understanding (88%) among the local land tenure commissions of their role in land management and how to carry out processes entrusted to the local commissions. The land tenure commissions successfully delivered 20 official land acts during the reporting period. MADARA had focused on using lessons learned about previous barriers to COFOBs functionality in these communities to improve their functionality.

Mercy Corps also refined important M&E tools, notably collection tools to better monitor the change in milk production and the progress of micro-entrepreneurs, as well as MADARA's overall beneficiary database.

5. Coordination

A number of coordination activities were achieved during the reporting period to share information with stakeholders, coordinate amongst partners and peer agencies, and seek input on the program's direction:

- ✓ An exchange was carried out with the USAID-funded REGIS-ER program to coordinate interventions pertaining to the nutrition sector which led to Mercy Corps selecting 16 of the 24 villages in which to focus. Mercy Corps also coordinated with REGIS-ER to identify the auxiliary para-veterinarians in the zone adjacent to MADARA's activities who needed retraining in animal health modules and could take part in the planned training.
- ✓ A meeting was held with the Ministry of Livestock's quality control division to discuss Mercy Corps' collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and the local private veterinary service, and specifically

to ensure the quality of the trainings provided by the private veterinary service and their compliance with national principals on animal health. This resulted in the Ministry of Livestock taking increased measures for smooth collaboration between the private veterinarian service and the Ministry of Livestock and to support the private veterinary service. For instance, an additional Ministry of Livestock representative was placed in the local office.

- ✓ An exchange was carried out with OCHA in Tillabery Region to discuss Mercy Corps' participation in regular meetings for humanitarian coordination at the regional level, especially to present MADAR's achievements and share lessons.
- ✓ A revised partnership agreement was signed with the District Public Health Authority on an updated nutrition activities plan.
- ✓ An informational exchange was conducted with the NGO 'Harog' of Tahoua to discuss experiences with dairy value chain programs and lessons learned.
- ✓ Mercy Corps collaborated with local livestock-focused NGO KARKARA to design and produce effective visual BCC support guides showcasing improved livestock techniques which the LVCC will continue to use during community training workshops.

6. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities

The delays in micro-entrepreneur and nutrition activities noted in the previous quarterly report have been resolved. For the following quarter, MADARA will focus on the following activities :

- ✓ Training of 14 auxiliary para-veterinarians on the final animal health module;
- ✓ Training of trainers for 133 LVCC and members of the cooperatives and women's dairy transformation groups on hygienic milking practices, and organization of community trainings to share learned techniques with other producers;
- ✓ Development of additional visual support aides for the LVCC to better present improved animal production techniques learned to other producers;
- ✓ Continued creation of and airing key messages for radio programs, notably on herd management, animal health and resolving land conflicts;
- ✓ Organization of a learning visit for 19 representatives of the dairy cooperatives, women's dairy transformation groups and animal feed suppliers to visit existing dairy collection centers in Hamdallaye and Kollo;
- ✓ Capacity building of the cooperatives and women's groups on financial management skills for cooperatives;
- ✓ Training of women's dairy groups on hygienic practices for cheese making;
- ✓ Working with the women's groups, and establishment and equipping of small centers for dairy transformation and small-scale milk collection;
- ✓ Production of at least 36,000 plants to regenerate natural forage growth of rehabilitated sites through training plant producers in three villages;
- ✓ Final selection and first disbursement of funds to least 400 micro-entrepreneurs, and support to their small businesses with help from ASUSU S.A. in technical business training;
- ✓ Training of trainers of representatives of community health centers on MADARA's nutrition interventions, including essential nutrition actions and essential family practices; and
- ✓ Training of 96 local nutrition and health coordinators (CLSN) and support to help them carry out awareness raising activities among pregnant and breastfeeding women, newly married women and women with children under 2 years.