

## Quarterly Report October – December 2015

# Madara

## “MILK” in Hausa

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



### PROJECT SUMMARY

Award No:  
AID-OFDA-G-14-00084  
Start Date: May 1, 2014  
End Date: February 28, 2016  
Report Date: October 30, 2015  
Total Award: USD \$1,529,825

## 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 strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable households in the Filingué Department, Tillabéri region of Niger. The program is meeting the early recovery needs and rebuilding the livelihoods of 21,000 beneficiaries (3,000 households) over the course of 22 months.

Notable achievements this reporting period (October – December 2015) include:

- ✓ Conducted joint technical supervision of 12 auxiliary para-veterinarians (with the Department of Livestock and the local Private Veterinary Service);
- ✓ Carried out technical monitoring of the rehabilitation and construction work on five mini dairy collection and processing centers in Toukounous Station, Makani Souleymane, Tamagorgeck and Garin Kimba (funded by another partner);
- ✓ Assured technical supervision and monitoring of 160 producers (132 men and 28 women) in the harvesting and preservation of hay;
- ✓ Monitored surveillance committees’ activities in the pastoral areas of villages of Toukounous Station, Toukounous Arzika, and Banguir villages;
- ✓ Monitored the six small animal feed businesses and their restocking in Toukounous Station, Makani Souleymane, Tamagorgeck, Dinkim, Garin Kimba and Tchiolé;
- ✓ Provided technical support and monitoring of cheese production by the seven women’s dairy processing groups in Toukounous Station, Garin Kimba, Makani Souleymane, and Tamagorgeck;
- ✓ Supported the development of business and action plans for the seven women’s dairy processing groups and six dairy production cooperatives;
- ✓ Conducted a performance evaluation of the 154 micro-enterprises to determine those continuing to a second round of funding;
- ✓ Trained/retrained 265 micro-entrepreneurs in business management;
- ✓ Disbursed 26,532,610 FCFA (approximately USD \$44,970) to 133 micro-entrepreneurs as part of a second round of support funds;
- ✓ Organized 32 cooking demonstrations across 16 villages focused on three recipes (peanut paste and milk-enriched porridge, oil-enriched sweet potato and squash purée, and oil-enriched cow pea purée);
- ✓ Created and launched 36 women’s listening clubs, which were equipped with solar radios and memory cards containing messages on the five Essential Family Practices;
- ✓ Provided *pagnes* (local fabric) featuring images of nutrition and health practices to the 110 members of the local health and nutrition committees to increase their visibility in the community and encourage them to continue in their leadership role; Assured transmission of 90 awareness raising messages (45 in Hausa and 45 in Zarma) on the radio on the five Essential Family Practices; and,
- ✓ Organized four viewings of a video on exclusive breastfeeding, general hygiene, and complementary feeding options in the villages of Takoussa, Tarkassa, Gorou, et Makani Souleymane.

## 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 on 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	3,584 (512**)	0	24,038 (3,434*)	0

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

\*\*Because we are unable to disaggregate among the beneficiaries of each of the three objectives this quarter and ensure the absence of double counting, we took the largest number of households reached under any individual objective as our total reached for the quarter.

### SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Program activities under this sector were focused this quarter primarily on strengthening practices around animal production taught through the program. This included monitoring the work of Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCCs) in the education and mobilization of producers on harvesting and preservation of hay and the collection and treatment of straw with urea and salt (for livestock feed); monitoring the work of surveillance committees in pastoral areas; joint technical supervision of auxiliary para-veterinarians with partners; holding stakeholder meetings on animal health; and technical supervision of the construction of mini dairy collection and processing centers.

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

<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)	1,204 individuals (172 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	3680*	26,998
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	3,500	590**	5,005
	Female	Yes	3,500	644**	3,129

\* Estimated by multiplying the total number of households reached through hay production activities (160) by the average number of livestock owned by households in the area of intervention (23).

\*\* Calculated by multiplying the total number of households reached (172) by average household size (7) and then estimating the percentage of men and women reached by taking the proportion of the total population in the area, which is 51% female and 49% male, and dividing the total accordingly.

Surveillance committees charged with protecting pastoral areas in the villages of Toukounous Arzika, Toukounous Station, and Banguir were monitored this quarter and exchanges were organized in each village to discuss problems faced in the course of their work. Among the challenges noted were the failure of pastoralists passing through the area to comply with established regulations and the lack of official recognition of committee members at the village level. Proposed solutions included installing identifying signboards in pastoral areas, educating pastoralists on the protection of pastoral sites through radio messages, and ensuring the visibility of committee members locally so that they are able to carry out their work peacefully without receiving threats.

In the course of the quarter, LVCCs continued the education and mobilization of producers on the harvesting and preservation of hay and the collection and treatment of straw with urea and salt (to create enriched feed for livestock). In total, 160 producers (32 women and 128 men) succeeded in treating and storing a significant harvest of hay, which will be critical for animal health during the upcoming lean season.

**Table 1:** Beneficiaries harvesting and preserving hay, by village

Village	Number of Producers Collecting Hay		
	Men	Women	Total
Kania zéno	1	7	8
Gorou	1	0	1

Agiguidi	4	0	4
Takoussa	3	0	3
Tidiba	1	0	1
Maitalakia	2	1	3
Djolé	5	4	9
Toukounouss station	26	8	34
Makani Souleymane	3	0	3
Banguir Bouzayé	2	0	2
Banguir Barébari	4	1	5
Tamagorjeck	24	3	27
Tanfadara	1	0	1
Dinkim	5	0	5
Rounfou	19	0	19
Tanfadara	4	0	4
Louma	4	0	4
Banguir Kourféyawa	3	0	3
Toukounouss Arzika	7	1	8
Talcho	2	0	2
Solowa	2	0	2
Garin Kimba	5	1	6
Kania Tagui	3	1	4
Garin Mangassa	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>160</b>

In regards to animal health activities this quarter, the program supervised the work of 12 auxiliary para-veterinarians (AVPs) with the objective of strengthening data collection and information sharing through a joint mission with the Department of Livestock and the local Private Veterinary Service. To this end, each AVP was given two notebooks, one for technical monitoring and one for expense/income monitoring. The mission identified the following problems: generally, AVPs don't have enough supplies (medicines, etc.) stored; some AVPs don't have a good grasp of the amount of money they are spending and earning; some who carried out fattening activities had not yet resold their fattened animals; and nearly all of the AVPs had made fewer deposits in their accounts with ASUSU (a micro-finance institution) than expected. As a result, several recommendations were made:

- Involve all stakeholders in the organization of the disbursement of the second tranche of support funds to the AVPs;
- Periodically review the accounts of the AVPs held with ASUSU;
- AVPs should resell fattened animals in a timely fashion in order to replenish their stocks of veterinary products;
- AVPs should avoid investing these funds in activities other than animal health;
- Better ensure that the AVPs are closely monitored by the local Private Veterinary Service in particular; and

- Support good coordination among all parties in order to ensure the collection and transmission of quality data.

Two meetings on animal health were held this quarter with consulting stakeholders. The main points discussed were: the preparations undertaken by the local Private Veterinary Service to equip new AVPs with vaccination materials (forceps, syringes, etc.); joint supervision of AVPs in the field; and the organization of the national livestock vaccination campaign. The Private Veterinary Service announced the organization of a network in regards to the vaccination campaign, and requested the assistance of the program in training or re-training around 50 AVPs to participate. MADARA is reviewing the needs and assessing where potential collaboration with other programs in the region can be organized.

## SECTOR 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

The principal activities undertaken this quarter in Sector 2 focused on: monitoring the activities of the women's dairy processing groups; technical supervision of the construction and rehabilitation of five mini dairy collection and processing centers (financed by the Vitol Foundation); monitoring the animal feed businesses managed by the dairy production cooperatives as they purchase animal feed to restock their stores; the disbursement of a second tranche of funds to micro-entrepreneurs; and guidance and assistance for micro-entrepreneurs and an evaluation of their performance.

<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)	3,854 (512 households*)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	14,126 individuals (2018 households)				
<b>Subsector 2.1 Livelihoods Restoration</b>					
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**	689#	836
	Female	Yes	1,575**	718#	718
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	N/A	Yes	90%	74%	74%
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$7,500	\$0	\$8,335

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***	1,612 <sup>#</sup>	1,612
	Female	Yes	1,400***	1,678 <sup>#</sup>	1,678
Number of new MSEs started	N/A	Yes	400	1	155
Percentage of people, by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion	Male	Yes	90%	98%	NA
	Female	Yes	90%	99.1%	NA
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$124,000	\$44,002 <sup>2</sup>	\$107,755 <sup>3</sup>
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	1237
	Female	Yes	450	0	554
Average total USD amount per person earned through CFW activities	N/A	Yes	\$134	0	\$ 75
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.	N/A	Yes	\$201,000	\$0	\$112,843

\*To avoid double counting, this was calculated by taking the number of households benefiting from new livelihoods development (471) and adding the number of households benefiting from livelihoods restoration who were part of an existing group or cooperative (26) or who were already existing AVPs who had been retrained and re-equipped (15).

\*\*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.

<sup>#</sup>Calculated by multiplying the total number of households reached by average household size (7) and then estimating the percentage of men and women reached by taking the proportion of the total population in the area, which is 51% female and 49% male, and dividing the total accordingly.

### Subsector 2.1: Livelihoods Restoration

<sup>2</sup> This is the amount of the second disbursement.

<sup>3</sup> Including the amount of the first disbursement, which was approximately \$63,753

In partnership with the Departmental Directorate of Rural Engineering, the program carried out technical monitoring of the construction and rehabilitation of five mini dairy collection and processing centers (construction financed by the Vitol foundation). Each center is made up of three rooms (a processing room, a storage room, and a store), a bathroom, and a sheet metal shed. All will be equipped with a solar-powered electrical system and cold chain equipment. As a form of in-kind contribution, beneficiaries secured the land for the centers and built walls and gates for each. Work on the centers is expected to be finished no later than the end of January 2016, in the course of the next quarter.



*Construction and rehabilitation work on the mini dairy collection and processing centers*

**Table 2:** Mini dairy collection and processing centers, by village

Village	Number in Construction	Number being Rehabilitated	Total
Toukounous Station	1	1	2
Makani Souleymane	1	0	1
Tamagorgeck	1	0	1
Garin Kimba	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

This quarter, the program monitored activities of the seven women's dairy processing groups in the villages of Toukounous Station, Makani Souleymane, Tamagorgeck and Garin Kimba. Monitoring revealed that milk supply in all four villages is sufficient for the amount of cheese the women's groups can currently process, and the total quantity of cheese produced is always sold (see text box below). A study by a local consulting firm to identify specific market opportunities for cheese commercialization kicked off in December, and findings will inform a marketing strategy for the women's groups as well as solidify commercial contracts with suppliers. In the course of the next quarter, the program will work to support the establishment of milk collectors who will be connected to dairy cooperatives and dairy processing groups to ensure a regular supply of milk in all seasons.

### Subsector 2.2: New Livelihoods Development

The program strengthened the capacity of a total of five dairy cooperatives and seven dairy processing groups in

#### **Rising Incomes for a Dairy Group in Makani Souleymane**

Before the support of Madara, the dairy processing group in the village of Makani Souleymane earned an average of only 2,500 (≈\$4) per week from their cheese-making activities, as much of the cheese was of poor quality and given away or lost due to traditional methods of fabrication. Now, with the new standard cheese-making kit and training provided by Madara, the group has received more orders and is earning around 10,000 FCFA (≈\$17)/ week.

the development of their action plans over a period of at least three months. The goal of this support was to help beneficiaries plan their business activities and to estimate the resources needed to implement them. Overall, given the time of year, the primary activity planned across the groups was the provision of livestock feed to mitigate issues with milk production during the dry season. In addition to animal feed, two cooperatives (Toukounous Station and Tamagorgeck) planned to equip themselves with machinery for grinding millet stalks (for the creation of animal feed), while Tchiole planned to establish a shop to sell basic food items. The development of action plans was followed by business plans for additional activities (most importantly millet grinding machinery and food shops). It should be noted that the implementation of action plans has already begun with existing orders for millet grinding machinery and the purchase of livestock feed.



*Development of action plans by dairy groups and cooperatives*

An evaluation of the performance of micro-entrepreneurs was conducted from October 2-4, 2015 by the program's M&E unit with support from external enumerators. Of the 154 microenterprises initially supported, 132 qualified for the second round of funding support. Microenterprises were evaluated on the basis of their profitability, the motivation of the micro-entrepreneurs themselves, and their application of concepts learned regarding the management of income-generating activities. During this assessment period, one additional microenterprise (Cooperative Daddo of Toukounous Station, for an animal feed business) submitted a business plan and was approved for funding during the second disbursement. The money received in the second round of funding will enable microenterprises to expand the scale of their businesses. In total, 22 microenterprises were disqualified from the second round of funding for the following reasons: a significantly below average score in the evaluation (15 cases); the death of the micro-entrepreneur (three cases); and the migration of the micro-entrepreneur (four cases).

Following the announcement of the results of the evaluation, the program organized a second training in business management (several workshops) intended for 265 people (135 individuals and 130 members of groups and cooperatives). Trainings were conducted by three agents of the micro-finance institution ASUSU with the assistance of Mercy Corps field agents. Trainings were also used to review the findings of the evaluation and to educate micro-entrepreneurs on the effective use of funds, as well as to inform them of the amount that would be given in the second round of funding.



*Training of micro-entrepreneurs in business management*

An important aspect for the microenterprises’ financial management is the possession and control of their bank account books. Currently, each of the 148 microenterprises is in possession of their bankbooks, which includes 13 group accounts for the collective microenterprises and 135 individual accounts for micro-entrepreneurs. Seven books have not been distributed due to the death or migration of the account holder. A total of **26,532,610 FCFA** (approximately USD \$44,970) was approved across the microenterprises and has been deposited into the accounts of micro-entrepreneurs. The majority of micro-entrepreneurs have already withdrawn funds. In December 2015, ASUSU’s cash point in Filingué recorded the visits of micro-entrepreneurs from 10 villages and had disbursed a total of **7,739,235 FCFA**.



*Distribution of bank books to micro-entrepreneurs*

**Table 3:** Status of the Second Disbursement of Small Grants to Micro-Entrepreneurs

Date	Village	# of ME	Amount Disbursed
15/12/2015	T. Arzika	10	2,220,200
15/12/2015	Tarkassa	14	815,975
16/12/2015	Agiguidi	15	1,093,050
16/12/2015	Maitalakia	4	336,200
16/12/2015	Takoussa	12	1,025,700
17/12/2015	Talcho	12	768,500
21/12/2015	Banguir Kourfayawa	6	408,350

21/12/2015	Makani	1	12,500
22/12/2015	T. Station	10	561,710
23/12/2015	Louma	17	497,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>7,739,235</b>

Regarding animal feed businesses, this quarter the program approved the business plan for an additional microenterprise, the Coopérative Daddo of Toukounous Station, bringing the number of animal feed businesses supported by the program to six. With an eye towards increasing the storage quality and capacity of feed businesses, cooperatives used their own funds to construct bigger storehouses and requested the assistance of the program in acquiring limited materials (doors, windows, and sheet metal for roofs) to finalize them. The program also monitored the animal feed businesses and the status of withdrawals to inject resources into their business, as noted in the below table.

**Table 4:** Status of Withdrawals for the Supply of Animal Feed

Name of the Coopérative	Village	First tranche amount (CFA)	Second tranche amount (CFA)	Amount withdrawn (CFA)	Comments
Beidari	Tchiolé	960,000	1,040,000	1,300,000	For supply of animal feed and basic food items for the shop
Niima	Tamagorgec	3,010,000	0	2,675,000	For supply of animal feed and an advance for the order of machinery to grind millet stalks
Daddo	Toukounous Station	0	3,000,000	2,120,000	For supply of animal feed and an advance for the order of machinery to grind millet stalks
Ladabi	Makani Souleymane	3,050,000	0	2,000,000	For supply of animal feed
Weltaré	Garin Kimba	4,740,000	0	0	Cooperative has not yet withdrawn funds for its supply of animal feed
Niya N'da Kokari	Dinkim	2,354,000	0	600,000	For supply of animal feed
	<b>Total</b>			<b>8,695,000</b>	

### Subsector 2.3: Temporary Employment

No activities were undertaken for this subsector during the quarter.

### SECTOR 3: Nutrition

Nutrition sector activities this quarter focused on: cooking demonstrations at the village level; monitoring of awareness raising activities on the five essential family practices (EFP); establishment of women's listening clubs in villages and providing them with radios and messages on the EFP; broadcasting of radio messages on the EFP; video projections on exclusive breastfeeding, hygiene, and cooking menus for the complementary feeding of young children; and provision of *pagnes* with health and nutrition messages to increase the visibility and further encourage the Local Health and Nutrition Committees in their community role.

<b>SECTOR #3</b> 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)	3,318 (474 households*)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	7,154 (1, 022 households)				
Subsector: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavior Change					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number and percentage of infants 0-<6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	N/A	Yes	700	1,282 (58%**)	NA
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	142#	846
	1-4 years	2,100	2,100	664#	4,352
	5-14 years	5,000	4,000	1422#	7,336
	15-49 years	3,200	2,600	916#	4,968
	50-60 years	340	250	93#	93
60+ years	310	200	81#	81	

\*To avoid double counting, calculated by taking the number of individuals at the best attended cooking demonstration (526) and reducing by 10% to reflect the probability that individuals from the same household (sister wives or mothers and daughters) were present at the same demonstration.

\*\*From Madara's internal mid-term evaluation.

\*\*\*Will be measured during the final evaluation.

#Calculated by dividing up proportionally the total number of individuals reached by the age distribution of the area of intervention.

Over the course of the quarter, the program organized 32 cooking demonstrations in 16 villages. A total of 1,173 beneficiaries (24 men and 1149 women) participated in demonstrations of three recipes—peanut paste and milk-enriched porridge, oil-enriched sweet potato and squash purée, and oil-enriched cowpea purée. Cooking demonstration sessions were always coupled with awareness-raising sessions on the five Essential Family Practices. In the course of these demonstrations, women as well as men testified that the messages were having an effect, and as confirmation of this, the directors of local health centers observed behavior changes in personal hygiene, food hygiene, dress hygiene, exclusive breastfeeding, and visits to health centers. The evidence offered by the directors of the four health centers in the program's intervention zone confirmed that women were more frequently practicing exclusive breastfeeding and the rate of attendance at health centers had

increased. For example, in Sabon Gari between March and October 2015, attendance increased by 1,725 visits compared to the same period in 2014. The inclusion of men in awareness-raising sessions on EFP also bore fruit, as in the story of one man from Takoussa village who succeeded in convincing his wife to practice exclusive breastfeeding.



*Cooking Demonstration in Dinkim village*

**Table 5:** Participants, according to type of recipe, in cooking demonstrations, by village

Village	Men	Women	Total
<b>First recipe</b>			
Tchiolé	0	37	37
Rounfo	1	41	42
Tanfada	0	26	26
Makani	0	44	44
Garin Mangassa	0	23	23
Solowa	0	31	31
Tamago	0	35	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Second Recipe</b>			
Banguir Kourfayawa	0	34	34
Banguir Bouzayé	1	39	40
Banguir Barébari	0	28	28
Tarkassa	1	30	31
Garin Magassa	0	27	27
Solowa	0	25	25
Takoussa	0	42	42
Maitalakia	0	37	37
Agiguidi	0	35	35
Dinkim	2	47	49

Makani Souleymane	0	33	33
Tamagorjeck	0	21	21
Rounfou	0	32	32
Tchiolé	3	21	24
Tanfadara	0	27	27
Gorou	0	41	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Third Recipe</b>			
Banguir Bouzayé	1	31	32
Banguir Barébari	0	51	51
Banguir Kourfayawa	0	28	28
Makani Souleymane	0	40	40
Maitakia	0	54	54
Tarkassa	3	70	73
Takoussa	2	47	49
Tchiolé	7	21	28
Gorou	3	51	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>409</b>
<b>Final Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>1173</b>

Over the course of the awareness raising sessions and in discussions with the Local Health and Nutrition Committees, a principal challenge continues to be access to diverse foods for improved nutrition, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding women. The main issues that women brought up with regards to starting gardening activities include access to sufficient water resources, seeds, tools and knowledge of techniques. MADARA is working with communities to try and find local solutions, but Mercy Corps has also taken note of this issue for our future interventions.

In order to increase the channels of communication aimed at behavioral change, the program established 10 women's listening clubs with a total of 200 female members, bringing the number of such clubs to 36 across the program's 16 villages. Each listening club is given a solar radio equipped with a memory card containing recordings of key messages on EFPs. The idea is that through these clubs, each member will increase her own knowledge and awareness on essential family practices, and subsequently raise the awareness of five other women in their village on these issues and thereby gain a much larger audience. In order to further spread these messages throughout its area of intervention, MADARA resigned a three-month contract with Filingué rural radio to continue to broadcast key messages on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding of young children, nourishment of pregnant and lactating women, sanitation and hygiene, and the use of local health services. A total of 90 key messages were broadcast (45 in Hausa and 45 in Zarma), and a timetable for their broadcasting, which took account of the availability of target groups, has been shared in each of the villages.

In addition, viewings of a video on the EFPs took place in four villages. Video projections were particularly appreciated by the communities and are suitable for large-scale mobilizations of the

population. Discussions on the health and nutrition themes presented in the videos continued through the women's listening clubs, led by the Health and Nutrition Committees.



*Distribution of pagnes to Local Health and Nutrition Committees in Banguir Kourfayawa (left) and a video showing in Sabon Gari*

#### **4. Monitoring & Evaluation**

During the quarter, a workshop to review and discuss the results of the internal mid-term evaluation was organized for all of the program's stakeholders. Local authorities, government technical services, the head of the local Private Veterinary Service, micro-finance institutions, NGO partners and beneficiary representatives came together for this discussion. After reviewing results to date, several recommendations were made by participants to further consolidate the program's achievements:

- Collaboration between mayors and the government technical services for the protection of rehabilitated pastoral spaces (the First Vice Mayor spoke at the workshop to this effect, asking that the technical services submit their needs in this regard so that they could be taken in account in the mayor's annual budget);
- Physical enclosure of rehabilitated pastoral lands or hiring of a guard to protect them;
- Accounting for the literacy levels of beneficiaries in future projects, especially in activities related to entrepreneurship (consider including literacy courses);
- Connect dairy cooperatives and processing groups with the regional chamber of agriculture in order to sustain program achievements in this area;
- Increase the visibility of APVs, with the proposed idea of giving them a kit (with shirts and badges) to make them more visible to communities;
- Ensure that communities take control of local health and nutrition communities to ensure that awareness raising and cooking demonstrations continue; and
- Consider a bartering system of milk for animal feed for animal feed businesses to ensure that pastoralists and agro-pastoralists have access to animal feed and allow the dairy cooperative to increase its access to milk.

#### **5. Coordination**

Over the course of the quarter, MADARA continued to participate in meetings of the food security sub-cluster coordinated by OCHA at the regional level and also in meetings of the health and

nutrition sub-cluster at the departmental level coordinated by the Departmental Directorate of Public Health. In addition, the program organized and participated in several meetings on animal health coordinated by the Department of Livestock with the active participation of the local Private Veterinary Service and other partners.

## **6. Upcoming Activities**

- Continued cooking demonstrations and awareness raising on the EFPs;
- The organization of video viewings in villages on exclusive breastfeeding, general hygiene (including hand washing), and complementary feeding menus;
- The organization and broadcast of radio debates on the importance of the EFPs;
- Monitoring and support of micro-entrepreneurs who have received their second round of funding;
- Monitoring of the stocking of animal feed banks;
- Implementation of recommendations emerging from the commercialization study conducted by Sara Consult;
- Finish construction of the dairy processing centers;
- Equipping of the centers with cold chain systems and other small materials necessary for their functioning;
- Material support for the finalization of animal feed banks; and
- Data collection to measure impact against the program's three objectives.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE