

Quarterly Report  
April – May 2016

# Madara

## “MILK” in Hausa

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



## 1. Executive Summary

The Madara program, or “milk” in Hausa, has built on the achievements of the OFDA-funded PASTORAL I/II programs (March 2011-September 2013) and the *Wadata Makijaya* (June 2013-June 2014) program with the aim of enhancing food security and strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households in the Filingué Department, Tillabéri region of Niger. The program has helped to meet the early recovery needs and rebuild the livelihoods of 32,000 beneficiaries (4,600 households) over the course of 25 months.

During this reporting period (April – May 2016), most program activities were wound down, particularly in the last month, as Madara prepared for close-out. Rather than initiate new activities, program staff focused on final capacity building of beneficiaries and actions to ensure the sustainability of program interventions. One exception was Cash for Work (CFW), which continued intensively until the penultimate week of the program. Highlights from this reporting period include:

- ✓ Providing monitoring and technical support for 15 auxiliary para-veterinarians trained by the project;
- ✓ Completion of 49 days of CFW by 1,300 beneficiaries;
- ✓ Disbursement and monitoring of a final round of 19 grants to microenterprises;
- ✓ Training of 29 new micro-entrepreneurs and re-training of 145 old micro-entrepreneurs;
- ✓ Monitoring and technical support for micro-entrepreneurs;
- ✓ Monitoring of the provisioning/functioning of animal feed banks;
- ✓ Formal hand-over of dairy collection and processing centers to dairy processing groups;
- ✓ Training for dairy processing groups on the use and maintenance of equipment in dairy processing centers;
- ✓ Retraining for dairy processing groups on business management, sales, and negotiation;
- ✓ Village-level cooking demonstrations followed by awareness-raising sessions on Essential Family Practices (EFPs);
- ✓ Refresher training of Local Health and Nutrition Coordinators (CLSNs) and training of midwives on the Essential Family Practices (EFPs);
- ✓ Home visits of CLSNs to monitor household progress on the EFPs;
- ✓ Distribution monitoring study of CFW beneficiaries;
- ✓ Lessons learned workshops for stakeholders in the Agriculture and Food Security and Economic Recovery and Market Systems sectors;
- ✓ Data collection for a final evaluation of the program by a team of external evaluators.

## 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	12,194 (1,742**)	0	32,662 (4,666*)	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**

Agricultural and food security activities for the reporting period focused exclusively on regular program monitoring and the rehabilitation of degraded pasture land through Cash for Work activities. During the reporting period, 1,300 beneficiaries from vulnerable households completed 49 days of CFW labor (out of a total of 54 days—the first five days were completed at the end of March). In total, beneficiaries rehabilitated 377.64 hectares of land in April and May.

<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)	4,571 (653 households)

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

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	9,261	26,998**
Number of people (disaggregated by sex) benefiting from livestock activities	Male	Yes	3,500	2,240*	5,026**
	Female	Yes	3,500	2,331*	3,150**

\* Calculated by multiplying the total number of households reached (653) 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 that is female (51%) and male (49%) and dividing the total accordingly.

\*\*Figures are likely much higher than reported, as it is not possible for auxiliary para-veterinarians (AVPs) to assess whether visits are to households that have not previously been reached by the program under this sector.

Animal health activities included monitoring of 15 auxiliary para-veterinarians (AVPs) by the Departmental Directorate of Livestock (DDE) and the manager of the local private veterinary service (SVPP). The AVPs continued to carry out their work in a professional manner, benefitting households throughout the program's target area. In total, program-supported AVPs treated animals from 653 households during the reporting period. Table 1 provides a summary of the animals treated by species.

**Table 1:** AVP Interventions by Animal

Animal	# Cases Treated
Cows	2,157
Sheep	2,541
Goats	3,103
Camels	71
Horses	12
Poultry	1,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,261</b>

### **Cash for Work**

Madara continued Cash for Work activities begun in March during the final two months of the program, supporting 1,300 vulnerable households in meeting their basic needs during a period of food insecurity and before planting began for the new agricultural season. Cash for Work activities contributed to the rehabilitation of more than 400 hectares of degraded pastoral land over the course of the last three months of the program (see Table 2 below), with each of the 65 work groups carefully noting attendance and achievements with materials provided by Madara. Land rehabilitation has been one essential component in improving the availability of fodder for livestock

in Madara’s zone of intervention, as it permits the regrowth of natural grasses that nourish animals throughout the year.

**Table 2:** Land area rehabilitated by village, March – May 2016

Villages	# of Beneficiaries	Area rehabilitated (Ha)
Kania Zeno	183	59.3
Kania Tagui	159	45.04
Louma	551	186.9
Banguir Bouzayé	26	7.3
Banguir Baré Bari	26	6.7
Banguir Kourfayawa	32	7.9
Tarkassa	118	26.2
Toukounous Station	97	30.04
Toukounous Arzika	74	24.4
Ouro Barthi	34	12.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>406.38</b>

In addition to regular monitoring by Madara field agents, the program’s CFW activities were observed by a number of other stakeholders during this reporting period. The office of the Departmental Directorate of the Environment carried out monitoring of all CFW sites during April and May. The Directorate reported general satisfaction with the quality and quantity of the work carried out, while also noting that, in some cases, demi-lunes had not been properly “scarred” (to ensure durability) and that some beneficiaries were completing less than the prescribed three demi-lunes per day.<sup>2</sup> Madara field agents subsequently took necessary steps to meet with beneficiaries and address any problems relating to construction techniques.

In addition, the Filingué sub-regional Committee for the Management of Food Crises (which includes the prefect and the heads of various departmental directorates, including those of Environment, Planning, Agriculture, and Livestock) also spent a day in Louma in April observing the work carried out there and interacting with a number of the 551 beneficiaries and the village chief. Among the topics discussed were the quality and quantity of the demi-lunes to be constructed, the future valorization of sites through the planting of local herbaceous species, and land tenure questions for rehabilitated sites. Following their visit, the Committee made the following recommendations to Mercy Corps:

- Organize a mission in collaboration with the COFODEP (department-level land tenure committee) to address land tenure issues around rehabilitated sites;

<sup>2</sup> In some worksites this was permitted due to the hardness of the soil.

- Increase the involvement of government technical services in the design of any CFW interventions;
- Make first aid/pharmacy kits available at each CFW site; and
- Ensure that all beneficiaries use issued gloves and masks.

The Committee also participated in the payment of beneficiaries in Tarkassa, learning how Mercy Corps organized each disbursement and the tools it employed to carry it out. More information on Cash for Work is included in the next section of the report.

## SECTOR 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

The primary activities undertaken under Sector 2 this quarter include:

- Disbursement and monitoring of a final round of 19 grants to microenterprises;
- Training of 29 new micro-entrepreneurs and re-training of 145 micro-entrepreneurs already supported under the program;
- Monitoring and technical support for micro-entrepreneurs;
- Monitoring of the provisioning/functioning of animal feed banks;
- Formal hand-over of dairy collection and processing centers to dairy processing groups;
- Training for dairy processing groups on the use and maintenance of equipment in dairy processing centers;
- Retraining for dairy processing groups on business management, sales, and negotiation;
- Completion of 49 days of CFW by 1,300 beneficiaries.

<b>SECTOR #2</b>		<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>			
Economic Recovery and Market Systems					
Geographic Area (s)		Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger			
Beneficiaries Targeted		21,000 individuals (3,000 households)			
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)		12,194 (1,742 households*)			
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)		22,750 individuals (3,250 households)			
<b>Subsector 2.1 Livelihoods Restoration</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people (disaggregated by sex) assisted through livelihoods restoration activities	Male	No	1,575	154**	878
	Female	Yes	1,575	252**	718
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	N/A	Yes	90%	NA	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	1,681**	1889
	Female	Yes	1,400	1,749**	2071
Number of new MSEs started	N/A	Yes	400	7	180
Percentage of people (disaggregated by sex) continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion	Male	Yes	90%	75%***	NA
	Female	Yes	90%	83%***	NA
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$124,000	\$5,333 <sup>3</sup>	\$122,224 <sup>4</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	592	2,095
	Female	Yes	450	708	1,262
Average total USD amount per person earned through CFW activities	N/A	Yes	\$134	\$111.11	\$120 <sup>5</sup>
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.	N/A	Yes	\$201,000	\$144,444.44	\$271,876.78

\*To avoid double counting, this was calculated by taking the number of households benefiting from new livelihoods development (490) and adding the number of households benefiting from livelihoods restoration who were part of an existing group or cooperative (5) or who were already existing AEs who had been retrained and re-equipped (15), plus the number of households new to the program benefitting from Cash for Work (1,232).

\*\*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 that is female (51%) and male (49%) and dividing the total accordingly.

\*\*\*The program did not collect new data for this indicator during the reporting period.

<sup>3</sup> \$4860 in grants were covered by a complementary grant from the Vitol Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> This figure has increased over the last report in an amount greater than that disbursed during April-May 2016 because some previous grants were reclassified from the Vitol Foundation to OFDA.

<sup>5</sup> Figure is the total only for this round of Cash for Work and does not include earnings from earlier in the program.



*Members of dairy processing groups gather outside of the new center in Toukounous Station*

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

On April 27, the program organized a formal ceremony to hand over the newly constructed dairy collection and processing centers to dairy processing groups. The ceremony took place in the village of Toukounous Station, where one newly constructed and one rehabilitated center are located. It was attended by local administrative authorities (including the mayor and prefect), traditional leaders (village chiefs), and national-level representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, NGOs, the private sector, and implementing partners. The event was covered by local media, and a program on the ceremony was broadcast on national television the following weekend.

During that same week, each dairy processing group received a one-day training from Consultation Plus, the supplier of the equipment for each processing center, in the use and maintenance of this equipment (which included a freezer, solar panels, and electrical conversion equipment). The six officers of each group participated, along with a young man selected by each group to be trained in the cleaning of solar panels, a task that must be undertaken at least monthly. The training focused on freezer use and settings, and key mistakes to avoid. All of this information was captured both in a booklet shared with groups and also was recorded on a memory card that can be played by groups with radios that they were given as part of their participation in the training. Consultation Plus also intends to follow up with groups after they have some experience in the use of the equipment.

### **Refresher Training for Dairy Processing Groups by Sara Consult**

Following the recommendation of the cheese market study finalized in the first quarter of 2016, Madara engaged Sara Consult to carry out refresher training for dairy processing groups on several subjects, including sales techniques, negotiation, and business management. The results of the study were also shared with the groups. Five members of each group participated in the training, which had the following objectives:

- Groups understand the importance of practicing sound management and bookkeeping in the success of their businesses
- Groups have flexible practical management tools highly tailored to their businesses
- Groups are engaged to apply teachings and recommendations to improve the management of their businesses
- Participants know the key steps of a sale
- Participants learn and practice the basic techniques of negotiation
- Participants learn how to choose a winning negotiation tactic;
- Participants practice different variants of difficult negotiation
- Participants develop coping skills to master challenges and the decision-making process

The training is expected to improve the long-term capacity of the groups and the sustainability of their enterprises as program support phases out.

### Subsector 2.2: New Livelihoods Development

Over the course of the quarter, 19 newly-supported micro-enterprises received grants for their businesses. The grants totaled **5,963,240 FCFA** (approximately \$10,200). These 19 new micro-enterprises were selected from among 64 applications made by Livestock Value Chain Coordinators (LVCCs) and Local Health and Nutrition Coordinators (CLSN). Among the 19, 12 are individuals and seven are groups, comprising a total of 56 beneficiaries (29 women, and 27 men). A summary of the grants can be found in Table 3 below.

**Table 3:** Details on New Micro-enterprises

Village	Type	Activity	Grant Amount (FCFA) Requested
Agiguidi	Group	Sale of animal feed	829,000
Agiguidi	Individual	Sale of salt and <i>natron</i>	93,250
Agiguidi	Individual	Cheese	78,000
Banguir Kourfayawa	Individual	Sale of foodstuffs	114,040
Banguir Baré Bari	Group	Sale of animal feed	605,000
Banguir Bouzayé	Individual	Making and sale of salt blocks	150,000
Maitalakia	Group	Grain milling	1,050,000
Tarkassa	Group	Sale of misc. goods	377,000
Tarkassa	Individual	Sale of foodstuffs	53,250
Tarkassa	Individual	Sale of animal feed	145,000
Toukounous Arzika	Individual	Sale of foodstuffs	125,000
Takoussa	Individual	Sale of <i>pagne</i>	150,000
Takoussa	Individual	Thrift store	150,000
Tidiba	Individual	Sale of animal feed	150,000
Louma	Individual	Sale of women's clothing and jewelry	69,700
Rounfou	Individual	Sale of animal feed	95,000
Tanfadara	Group	Sale of rice	527,500
Rounfou	Group	Store selling foodstuffs	468,000
Tanfadara	Group	Sale of cereals (millet, sorghum, and corn)	733,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,963,240</b>



Refresher training for micro-entrepreneurs in Tarkassa village

On April 7 and 8, Madara held its standard, two-day training for new micro-enterprises<sup>6</sup> on business management. The training was led by ASUSU field agents at Madara’s office in Filingué and included a total of 29 participants—12 individuals and 17 members of groups. The program also carried out one-day refresher trainings for 145 micro-entrepreneurs this reporting period. A summary of participants is included in Table 4 below. Refresher training was undertaken as part of Madara’s capacity strengthening and sustainability plan, to reinforce the long-term ability of supported micro-entrepreneurs to successfully manage their businesses following program close-out. The program had anticipated the participation of 161 individuals, however there were 16 absences (three people died since enrolling, and 13 migrated out of the

area).

**Table 4 :** Summary of Participation in Business Management Refresher Training

Date	Training Center	Villages Covered	# of Participants	Total
April 11	Filingué	Villages AE	8	17
		Makani Souleymane	9	
	Tamagorgek	Tamagorgek	9	18
		Dinkim	3	
		Garin Kimba	6	
April 12	Takoussa	Takoussa	12	26
		Agiguidi	13	
		Gorou	1	
	Toukounous Arzika	Toukounous A	9	14
		Maitalakia	5	
April 13	Talcho	Talcho	9	9
	Tarkassa	Tarkassa	14	21
		Banguir .K	7	
April 14	Toukounous Station	Toukounous Station	22	25
		Tchiole	3	
	Louma	Louma	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>

<sup>6</sup> Eighteen of the 19 participated—the final micro-enterprise did not receive its grant until May.

### **Commercialization of animal feed operations by dairy cooperatives**

In April, the program monitored the sales and functioning of three of the six animal feed operations run by dairy cooperatives. In Toukounous Station and Makani Souleymane, the cooperatives continued to fare well, making regular sales and new purchases of stock. However, in Dinkim, the cooperative was still selling bags from its first order. Its original purchase was made at a price above the current market value of the product, and the program encouraged the cooperative to sell its remaining bags at the market price, accepting the loss, in order to avoid the loss of viability of the product and to move forward with a second order that will bring profit. The members of the cooperative agreed to this idea with a plan to sell their remaining stock as soon as possible.

**Table 5:** Purchases and sales of animal feed by dairy cooperatives

Village/Cooperative	Products	Total Purchases to Date (Sacks)	Total Sales to Date (Sacks)	Unit Price (FCFA)	Total Sales	Sacks Remaining
Makani S/Ladabi	Meal	360	150	8,000	1,200,000	210
Toukounous S/Daddo	Meal	114	32	8,500	272,000	82
	Oilcake	80	33	8,500	280,500	47
Dinkim/Niyadakokari	Meal	40	12	11,000	132,000	28
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>614</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>1,884,500</b>	<b>367</b>

Madara also supported cooperatives during this reporting period through sensitization sessions on accountability. This was intended as a sustainability measure that will enhance the transparent management of the cooperatives and help to ensure their long-term functioning as the program closes down. The sensitization sessions focused on four primary themes:

- Information sharing and the flow of information at all levels
- The importance of the participation of all members in activities and decision-making
- Transparent administrative and financial management that is open and accessible for all members
- The right of all members to lodge complaints, ask questions, or provide feedback on all aspects of the functioning of the cooperative

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

Cash for Work activities for 1,300 vulnerable households continued in April and May. The objective of CFW was first to allow beneficiaries to earn much-needed cash to meet basic household needs, and to rehabilitate pastoral spaces through the recovery of 400 hectares of degraded land. CFW began the last week of March and continued until the last full week of May, a total of nine weeks and 54 days, 49 of which were carried out during this reporting period. Beneficiaries received the government-standard 1,300 XOF/day (approximately US\$2.20) for their labour, ultimately earning more than 70,000 XOF (\$120) for their households. As a result, the programme paid out a total of **91,260,000 XOF** (\$156,000) directly to beneficiaries (708 women and 592 men). Post-distribution monitoring carried out by Mercy Corps indicated that beneficiaries spent 95% of income from CFW on food, and 5% was spent on paying off debts, enabling households to avoid selling assets.

**Table 6:** Cash for Work 2016, Final Summary

Village	Total population	Degree of cereal deficit (percentage shortfall during previous harvest season, based on usual harvest)	# of beneficiaries	# of days of work	Daily wage	Amount paid (XOF)
Banguir Bouzaye	300	70%	26	54	1,300	1,825,200
Banguir Kourfayawa	344	70%	32	54	1,300	2,246,400
Banguir Bare Bari	302	70%	26	54	1,300	1,825,200
Tarkassa	1,351	70%	118	54	1,300	8,283,600
Louma	6,355	70%	551	54	1,300	38,680,200
Kagna Koira Tegui	1,808	70%	159	54	1,300	11,161,800
Kagna Koira Zeno	2,112	65%	183	54	1,300	12,846,600
Toukounous Station	1,111	55%	97	54	1,300	6,809,400
Toukounous Arzika	855	55%	74	54	1,300	5,194,800
Ouro Barte	393	55%	34	54	1,300	2,386,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,931</b>		<b>1,300</b>			<b>91,260,000</b>

### SECTOR 3: Nutrition

Activities during the reporting period focused on monitoring and sustainability, ensuring the continuation of the program's efforts following its closing. The primary activities undertaken under Sector 3 this period included:

- Village-level cooking demonstrations followed by awareness-raising sessions on Essential Family Practices (EFPs)
- Refresher training of Local Health and Nutrition Coordinators (CLSNs) and training of midwives on the Essential Family Practices (EFPs)
- Home visits of CLSNs to monitor household progress on the EFPs

<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)	3,394
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	8,011 (1,879 households)

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 through <6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	N/A	Yes	700	NA**	NA**
Number and percentage of children 6 through <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%)	NA**	NA**
Number of people receiving behavior change interventions, disaggregated by sex and age (0-11 months, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, 60+ years)	Age	Female	Male		
	0-11 months	450	450	141**	846
	1-4 years	2,100	2,100	651***	4,352
	5-14 years	5,000	4,000	1393***	7,336
	15-49 years	3,200	2,600	899***	4,968
	50-60 years	340	250	92***	93
60+ years	310	200	79***	81	

\*To avoid double-counting, calculated by taking the number of individuals at the best-attended cooking demonstration (517), 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, and multiplying by the average household size, then adding the numbers of CLSNs and midwives trained (139).

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

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

### **Cooking Demonstrations**

Madara organized 20 cooking demonstrations this quarter in order to provide pregnant and lactating mothers with ideas for the complementary feeding of young children, aged 6-24 months. Four demonstrations focused on the fifth recipe presented by the program (vegetable purée enriched with liver), with all 16 target villages receiving demonstrations on the sixth and final recipe (rice porridge enriched with cow's milk).



Cooking Demonstration in Dinkim

Ultimately, the program carried out 96 demonstrations, six in each of the 16 target villages. During this reporting period, a total of 127 and 504 individuals, respectively, participated in the demonstrations and also took part in subsequent discussions on the EFPs. All participants were either pregnant or lactating women, or elderly members of the community, who frequently care for young children. A breakdown of participation is given in Table 7.

**Table 7:** Participation in Cooking Demonstrations, by Village and Participant Type

Village	Participation			
	Pregnant	Lactating	Elderly	Total
<b>Fifth Recipe</b>				
Tanfadara	2	32	3	37
Tamagorjeck	6	15	4	25
Tchiolé	3	25	0	28
Rounfou	4	31	2	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Sixth Recipe</b>				
Gorou	5	35	7	47
Agiguïdi	3	21	5	29
Maitalakia	5	26	7	38
Solowa	2	18	4	24
Garin Mangassa	2	13	2	17
Tarkassa	6	33	7	46
Dinkim	3	23	3	29
Tamagorjeck	3	15	5	23
Takoussa	5	29	6	40
Banguir Bouzayé	3	21	3	27
Banguir Barébari	2	17	8	27
Banguir Kourfayawa	3	21	7	31
Tanfadara	4	28	6	38
Rounfou	2	21	4	27
Tchiolé	3	20	9	32
Makani	5	17	7	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>504</b>

**Retraining of CLSNs and Midwives**

As part of Madara's push during its final months for the sustainability of its activities, the program carried out refresher training for 139 of its CLSNs and midwives (107 CLSNs and 32 midwives) on the five EFPs. In advance of the training, the terms of reference and schedule were reviewed and approved by the Departmental Directorate of Health. A total of four trainings were held by government health agents, each lasting three days. In addition to offering the occasion to refresh participants' knowledge, the training also allowed CLSNs and midwives to discuss challenges and issues faced in the field. For example, training participants discussed the disjuncture between pre and post-natal consultation rates, which are relatively high, with those of attended births, which are very low. Participants suggested that this was due to the unwelcoming manner of agents in health centers, as well as the feeling that agents imposed unfair costs on patients. CLSNs also pressed the government health agents to include them in their activities at the village level, as a way of making

the CLSNs more useful to the government health service. Finally, CLSNs were very amenable to the idea of including midwives in their awareness-raising sessions focused on promoting the importance of having qualified personnel at consultations and during labor.

## **4. Monitoring & Evaluation**

### **Distribution Monitoring**

In early May, Madara's M&E Officer and field agents carried out a Distribution Monitoring inquiry among 241 households participating in Cash for Work. The objective of this inquiry was three-fold: 1. To evaluate the quality of the work done; 2. To assess the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the activity; and 3. To determine how beneficiaries were using the cash earned through the activity. Data collection was carried out among ten villages over the course of three days. Key findings from the inquiry include the following:

- 99% of CFW participants were targeted by the program, while 1% were working in the place of a targeted household
- 100% of payments were made to participants in a timely fashion, and three-quarters waited less than two hours to receive their money
- Only 18% of beneficiaries asserted that payments covered their household's needs for an entire week, with the average period of coverage being four days
- 42% of beneficiaries reported sharing some portion of their earnings with other members of the community
- 95% of wages were spent on food, and 5% of wages were spent on paying off loans
- Inconsistency was observed in both the quantity and quality of work carried out, with the number of demi-lunes constructed per person each day varying from 1-3 depending on the site, with some demi-lunes being improperly constructed on non-communal land, and some being of poor quality.

### **Lessons Learned Workshops**

Madara planned three lessons learned workshops during the reporting period, one for each of the program's sectors (unfortunately, the nutrition workshop was cancelled and could not be rescheduled due to early rains and the necessity for beneficiaries to begin planting their fields). The purpose of the workshops was to share knowledge gained in the course of implementation through discussion and reflection with stakeholders, to document key lessons learned to avoid the "evaporation of experience," and to ultimately improve the implementation of future Mercy Corps programs. Mercy Corps staff facilitated discussions with beneficiaries and stakeholders such as the government technical services, traditional leaders, the private local veterinary service, and others. The group assessed each activity individually, identifying strengths, weaknesses, challenges and recommendations. In the end, the workshops resulted in a list of factors critical to program success, current risks, lessons learned, and recommendations for the future. Key lessons learned included the following:

- The importance of a deep understanding of the context of the zone of intervention
- The necessity of fully involving program staff in targeting beneficiaries
- The need to ensure that the results and recommendations of the baseline survey are taken into account in program implementation

- The utility of establishing community structures that can facilitate implementation and enhance local ownership and the sustainability of activities

The full results of the lessons learned workshops are available in French.

### **Final Evaluation**

In May, an external team carried out collection and initial analysis of data for a final evaluation of the program. Two consultants from Germany who are members of the Drylands Research and Resilience (DRYRES) network led the evaluation and carried out all qualitative data collection, including individual interviews, focus group interviews, and observation. Two local consultants from EPICENTRE Consulting provided qualitative research support and translation and also carried out a quantitative survey of 240 households using the same questionnaire employed for the baseline. All data collection took place the week of May 15-21 in concert with the Madara Assistant Program Manager, Madara M&E Officer, and MC Niger national M&E Officer. The researchers presented initial qualitative findings with relevant staff in a half-day workshop before their departure. Evaluation findings will be shared in the final program report.

## **5. Coordination**

Over the course of the reporting period, 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.