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Visant l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie en Afrique rurale en développant les ressources hydrauliques, la production agricole et les services de santé.

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Réf. : _____

15 February 5

Niamey, le _____ 198

Mr. Peter BENEDICT
Director, USAID/Niger
Niamey, Niger

Dear Mr. Benedict,

Subject: Grant N° DRU 2/84 (AFRICARE)

Please find enclosed five copies of a narrative report describing the use and impact of the funds which were provided under the above Grant.

We thank you, Jesse Snyder, Ambassador Casey and your staff, on behalf of the displaced persons in the Tarka Canton of the Tanout District of Zinder, for making their life more bearable during these distressful times. We have made several trips to the area over the past few months and cannot begin to tell you the warmth which the inhabitants exhibited as their expression of saying "thank you America for coming to our aid in time of great need."

As a result of this initiative, we were requested, along with CARE International to take full responsibility for another group of approximately 700 families located around mares further northwest of the sites addressed in this report.

Since these mares are also located in the Tarka Canton, we began some small activities among the people resettled there. Before we began these activities, there was great movements among the displaced persons still seeking solace. Since then, the population has more or less stabilized and there is talk of future construction of permanent dwellings, thus eventually becoming a prosperous village.

We have been told by officials in the District that other International Agencies are now expressing interests in developing that area, but their offers have been refused because we were there first,

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even when it meant crossing the harsh terrains with no established roads and sleeping among the residents in the bristling cold.

Again, thanks for giving us the opportunity to show the American spirit of helping where and when help is needed.

Sincerely,
Dorothy
Dorothy M. G...
Resident Rep. Niger
AMERICARE/Niger
71534 - 12/27/95

SUMMARY

Upon request from Government Officials for Emergency Assistance in the Tanout Arrondissement of the Zinder Department in Niger, AFRICARE Incorporated and CARE International agreed to cooperate efforts to help meet the increasing demands. A proposal was submitted seeking funds to supplement emergency health, food, shelter, water and sanitary services.

On November 2, 1984, a grant of \$12,500 (\$5.691.250 FCFA) was granted to AFRICARE from the U.S. Ambassador Emergency Fund to provide "emergency water and sanitation support and transportation of relief material to aid in the distressed population of the Tanout Region of the Zinder Department".

It was originally proposed to construct four hand dug wells using metal drums as liners and four pit latrines. Also requested were funds to provide agricultural inputs and supervision. However, given the limited time and money available, it was agreed that under the program, five tunnel wells would be provided as an emergency source of clean potable water and that at least three pit latrines would be constructed.

After 3 months of emergency efforts, the program can be viewed as successfully concluded, though it represents only the beginning of the process for the healthful survival and revitalization of the more than 7,000 people relocated to the area. Both the wells and the latrines were constructed. The morale of the population seems elevated, as prospects for food production and living standards improve.

Five wells have been constructed around the Mare de Tarka, four of them twenty-six meters deep and one fifteen meters deep. Cement lining was used, as well as the moule en tunnel, for it was found that the metal drums were only functional if the wells were no deeper than 6 meters. The first well is located near the new magazine serving the Tarka mares. Four others are located about one kilometer away, separated by approximately thirty to fifty meters. All of these wells are in close proximity to the regugees' huts, thus assuring them ready access to potable water. In addition, these wells serve as a source of water to

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irrigate the crops, without having to rely solely on rain which might or might not come. Already, some villagers have fabricated a means of drawing water from the wells, using inner tubes from old tires.

Two latrine houses have been built, each with five squatting plates. They are constructed from a combination of mud bricks and cement. It was decided to locate them near the refugees in the town of Tanout, instead of within Tarka itself. It was felt that it would be unlikely that the refugees, mostly Nomads and semi-Nomads, will use the latrines without proper sensibilization. Tanout was better equipped to provide the needed education and motivation because it houses a medical center. Thus, the staff of the center were given the responsibility for sanitation education. The town itself is presently the home for approximately 4,450 migrants, a number roughly equal to the normal population. Therefore, the village facilities, including health and sanitation, are being greatly overburdened. The latrines have been placed near to the refugees' encampment and their garden sites where they will be apt to use them during the course of the day. They are also close to the medical center.

Both the wells and the latrines seem to have served to provide encouragement and incentive to the migrants. The situation has somewhat stabilized with less movement (in or out) of families. The gardens should shortly be ready for harvesting, helping to lessen the incidence of malnutrition and improve the mental well-being of the population.

ACTIVITIES

A trip was made in early December to see what changes, if any, had been made since the original request, also to discuss the limitations and special conditions for use of the special emergency funds granted to AFRICARE. Meetings were held with the Prefet of Zinder, the Sous-Prefet of Tanout and the person responsible for the Sanitation and Potable Water Section of ENICAS.

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It was AFRICARE's belief that since ENICAS was particularly training future sanitary agents and welcomed the opportunity for practical training, it was natural for the School, which is located in Zinder, to be involved in the design, sensibilization and construction of potable water and sanitation systems for the displaced groups of families. Designs, based upon experience from other villages' potable water and sanitation systems, were developed and presented by the Chief of the Sanitation Section of ENICAS. However, due to the extremely short duration of the support (3 months° and the emergency nature of the needs, the Sous-Prefet of Tanout thought it better to build upon what was already in progress in other areas within the Arrondissement. Therefore, ENICAS was not involved during this period.

It was through experience with work being done around other mares that it was discovered that the metal drums, used for lining the wells, were not durable when the depth surpassed a certain level. It was also discovered that, in most cases, the level of the water table had been greatly underestimated. That is, where it had been determined, by the officials responsible for hydraulics, that one need only dig approximately 10 to 14 meters, the migrants had dug more than 20 meters without the water flowing forth. It was, therefore, necessary to bring in the OFEDES drilling team to reach the required depth. In the meantime, one of the mares had completely dried up and the migrants from that area were again displaced.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AFRICARE received a grant of \$12,500 (to be 5.691.250 FCFA) which was deposited in BIAO Account N° 36 400 116/K on 29 November 1984. Of this amount, 5.082.500 FCFA was deposited in the Tanout Sous-Prefecture Account N° 0201016 269/70 with the BDRN in Zinder. This amount was based upon the Sous-Prefet's estimate of immediate needs to begin sensibilization of the migrants to the sanitary use of latrines, the construction of demonstration latrines and the construction of wells, where the mares were likely to be the first to run dry.

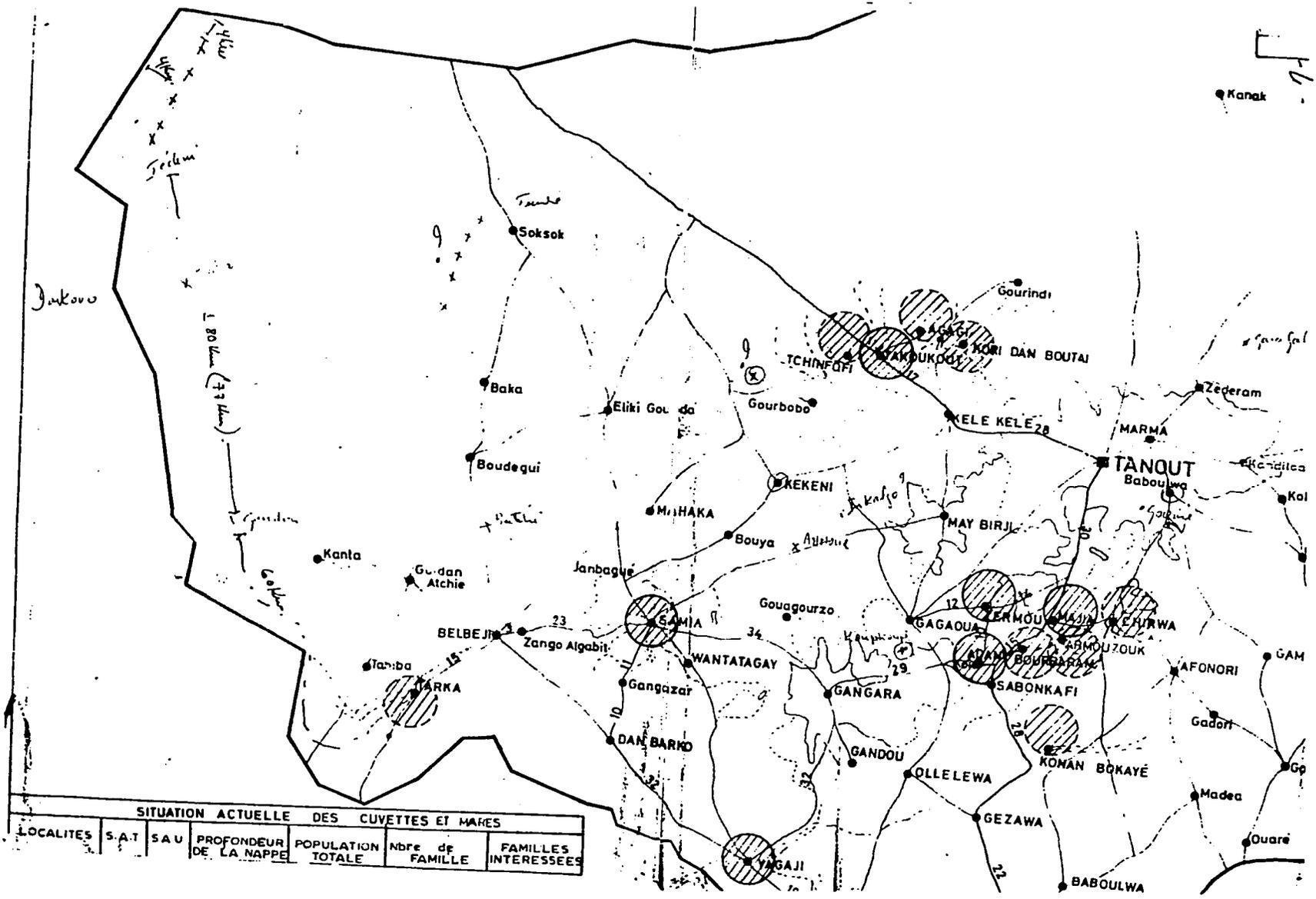
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It was agreed that all "Bons de Command", "Devis, and receipts would be turned over to AFRICARE for subrmission of a final report. Future funds were to be deposited in the account only after the initial deposits had been properly accounted for and verified. No further requests were made and we have receipts totalling 3.839.930 FCFA. We have been informed, by the Sous-Prefet of the Tanout Arrondissement, that they will be forwarding other invoices which had not been received nor paid, but that the services were already in progress.

We must mention that though the funds were to cover the construction of latrines, wells and transportation of materials, there are receipts covering one shipment of grain and the purchase of blankets. These should be allowable costs because during our visit to the sites in early December, temperatures reached 36°F during the nights with brutal sand storms during the day. Many of the camp residents had nothing more to protect them from the harsh elements than tree branches and a few pieces of cloth. We were also told by the residents which was verified by the Sous-Prefet, that no food had reached some of the camps for almost two months. This was during the time of great movement of people plus the non-availability of adequate transportation for the food distribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We suggest that teams of well diggers be trained for each of the mares where the migrants have been placed. This will not only provide better management, but will also transfer skills to groups of persons that could be a means of future employment.
2. Some method should be devised for covering the wells when not in use, given the unusual harsh sand storms which could collect in the bottom of the wells, thus again creating a water shortage.
3. There should be a moratorium on the construction of more latrines until a strong sensibilization program has succeeded at the local levels.



SITUATION ACTUELLE DES CUVETTES ET MARES

LOCALITES	S.A.T	SAU	PROFONDEUR DE LA NAPPE	POPULATION TOTALE	Nbre de FAMILLE	FAMILLES INTERESSEES
TARKA						
SAMIA						
TCHINFOFI						
AKOUKOU						
KORI DAN BOUTAI						
GAGAOUA						
ZERMOU						
MAJIA						
KURWA						
ADAM BOUREBARA						
SABONKAFI						
YGAJI						