



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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Rég. : AFR/USAID/13

Niamey, le 15 May 1985

ACTION: D/DRU

INFO: DIR
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Mogadishu
Djaména
Zambie
Lusaka
Zimbabwe
Bloomington
Harare

Dear Mr. Benedict,

DUE DATE: 5-22-85

SUBJECT: Grant N° DRU 2/85 (AFRICARE - TANOUT EMERGENCY FOOD-FOR-WORK FEEDING/INTERMEDIATE SUPPORT).

Please find enclosed five (5) copies of the Narrative Quarterly Report for the above Grant. This report covers the period 28 January through 30 April 1985.

Sincerely,

Dorothy P. Garrison
Dorothy P. GARRISON
Resident Representative
Africare/Niger.
AFRICARE
DIRECTION
70534 - Tel. 72-37-35

ACTION RECORD
Copies to AFDA, CENT, AFR/SWA
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Date 7/5/85
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PROGRESS REPORT PROJECT URGENGE OF TANOUT

28 JANUARY - 30 APRIL, 1985

Responding to an appeal from the Government of Niger, Africare with the help of \$12,500 from the U.S. Ambassador's Emergency fund, embarked upon an effort to assist several hundred displaced families. From November, 1984 to February 1985, five (5) cement-lined wells were constructed around the Tarka mare and ten (10) pit latrines were constructed near the displaced persons camps, just outside of Tanout.

By the time the first well at Tarka was completed, it had been determined that previous wells, which had been lined with metal drums, were not durable when the depth exceeded 6 meters. Therefore, we were able to switch to cement-lined wells before more time, energy and money had been wasted. As the water situation in the Tanout District had reached crisis level, Government Agents and OFEDES had determined that the water table around several mares was high enough that wells could be dug and lined with metal drums, thus giving a fast and inexpensive way to get water for household use and off-season gardening. This system works where the wells are shallow, which has not been the case in general, in the Tanout District. Thus, many of the displaced persons, again became displaced, moving farther south mainly into Matameye, Mirriah, Goure and the commune of Zinder.

Hoping to prevent widespread disease transmitted through fecal matter infiltrating the water used for drinking, Africare included a sanitation component in its initial efforts. After meetings in the Department, it was agreed that a thorough sensibilization program would be necessary to get the displaced persons to use partially-enclosed latrines. Due to logistical and management constraints, the latrines were placed near the camps outside of Tanout, not far from the medical center, rather than around the mares. Thus, the animators and health personnel were able to provide sensibilization training to the inhabitants and discuss good sanitary practices.

.../...

The second phase of the Tanout Emergency Project began 28 January 1985, with funds from USAID. Families were being relocated around a string of lakes in the Tarka Canton, situated approximately 183 miles northwest of Tanout, called EGHADETTANE. There were five lakes, each carrying the prenom of AGHADE.

In the past, the Tarka valley represented the paradise of cattlebreeders despite its distance and isolation from major routes. There was year-round water in the lakes as well as foliage for grazing. Africare's first concern, in the area, was for food and water. CARE, International would take care of shelter and health needs. Therefore, Africare requested and was authorized to participate in a food-for-work project in the Eghadettan area. That is, the residents would receive 6.6 kilograms per worker, per day (distributed on a monthly basis) in exchange for agriculture activities, well digging and unskilled labor during construction of a warehouse at each site (5).

Before the month of February, 1985 had ended, one of the Mares (Elakam) had gone completely dry. A trench was dug, connecting Elakam with Mare Eloukou (one-half mile distance) to provide continuous water to the residents of Elakam. Meanwhile, well digging activities began around Elakam.

The first delivery of sorghum began the 8th of February. Due to transportation problems, delivery of the programmed 52 tons was not completed before the end of the month. The truck and driver were on loan to us from UNICEF. We were only required to pay fuel, oil, per diem for the driver and loading and unloading fees (1,000 CFA per ton for loading or for unloading). Given the isolation and extremely difficult terrain, the maximum which can be delivered every two days is 8 tons (one day to load the truck and make the trip from Belbedji to Eghadettane; one day to unload and return to Belbedji. If the grain had to be taken from the OPVN in Tanout, then we must add another day). If the truck breaks down, as did the UNICEF 10-ton Mercedes truck, it takes a few days before a competent mechanic from Zinder is able to make the repairs.

.../...

Other major constraints, besides transportation, were management and technical assistance. The Sous-Prefet of Tanout and the Chief of the Tarka Canton, made trips to the area at least every ten days. The Africare Resident Representative to Niger, made trips at least once per month. These trips were necessary to keep up the morale of the displaced persons while definitive help was being organized. This accounts for one of the reasons why no more than five families left the Eghadettane camps, whereas, the ACDI camps were completely deserted after 3 months.

To alleviate the management and technical assistance burden, Africare hired a Project Coordinator and an Agricultural Specialist. Until the Coordinator arrived in Niger, a Consultant was engaged to give full attention to the day-to-day needs and details of the project. The Project Coordinator arrived in March and took up residence in Tanout in April. Housing and office space is being provided by the Sous-Prefet and the Project is leasing a 4-wheel drive vehicle for him. The Agriculture Specialist, a graduate of Kollo, took up residence in March. He is living at Mare Bikaro and covers the approximately 18 miles, between the mares, daily with a dirt motorcycle purchased by the Project. A secretary has been hired to work in the Tanout office and an Administrative Assistant (local hire), performs the daily administrative tasks in the Niamey office.

PROGRESS TO DATE

A. On April 11, 1985, a meeting was held in the office of the Sous-Prefet of Tanout. In addition to the Sous-Prefet, the Africare Project Coordinator and Agriculture Specialist, those in attendance were: the Adjoint Sous-Prefet and the Regional Directors of Agriculture, OFEDES, Public Works, Elevage, Forest and Water, and Medical Center. The purpose of the meeting was to establish work priorities for the Mares Eghadettan. These were established, in descending order of importance, as follows:

1. The transport of food;
2. The transport of all required construction materials, agriculture tools and supplies to avoid more transport problems during the rainy season;

.../...

3. Construction of the warehouses which will be used for storing one or two months' supply of the donated grains, as well as for storing the produce after harvest;
4. Construction of the cement-lined wells;
5. To add a small elevation component to give the residents a source of protein, also a source of milk for the children.
6. To insure the viability of the garden projects.

Following the meeting, a two-day study trip was made to Eghadettan, by the above participants, to enable each Service Director to make definitive work plans for the various components.

B. Progress to Date on Work Priorities (above)

1. All of the areas have received their allotted sorghum through April, with the exception of 4 tons destined for Eloukou. Rafig has received its May allotment, while the others have received only half of their May delivery (the CARE truck was in the process of making the deliveries when it developed problems from a rusting fuel tank and had to go to Zinder for repairs). We don't know when the truck will be able to continue. Meanwhile, the Sous-Prefet is trying to make arrangements to have a military truck on stand-by. Also delivered, during the month of April, were 10 tons of vegetable oil which was contributed to Africare by SIMS/Niger. Also, thanks to the "viande séchée" project, funded by UNDP and Africare's request to participate for 3 months, we had begun to include 3.9 tons of dried meat in the deliveries.
2. Stocks of agricultural tools have been located both in Tanout and in Zinder, but purchases have not yet been made. They will be purchased and transported to Eghadettan by the third week in May.

.../...

3. The refugees at four sites have been making bricks for the past several weeks, so, there are enough bricks to finish the warehouses. Four masons were hired from Belbedji. Working in teams of two, along with laborer's from among the displaced persons, two of the five warehouses have been built (except for roof, windows, door frames and doors). The remaining warehouses should be completed by mid May. Roofs, doors and windows can be quickly installed once the material arrives on sites.

4. Because all of the Mares were completely dry by the end of March, an all-out effort was made to get water to the areas while waiting for OFEDES to determine where the cement-lined wells will be built. The refugees have already dug a number of wells, as follows:

- Eloukou (4 wells of which 2 are already dry), with average depth of 23 meters;
- Bikaro (40 wells, 35 of which are dry), also average depth of 23 meters;
- Ciminti (100 wells, none dry), average depth of 15 meters;
- Rafig (35 wells none dry), average depth of 10 meters.

The wells that are to be reinforced with concrete however, will be newly dug wells. The Director of OFEDES in Tanout did an experiment to see how easy it would be to reinforce those already dug. He found it to be too difficult, mainly due to the enormous weights that would have to be handled. Moreover, we believe that the water being tapped at Eloukou and Bikaro is from the "perched" water table and therefore, is not a reliable source of water, whereas, the wells at Ciminti and Rafig are tapping water from a reliable source. To reach a deeper and thus more reliable water table, he estimates having to dig through rock layers down to as much as 35 meters. He is in the process of preparing an estimate of how much this would cost, to see how it will fit into the budget. At Ciminti, he proposes digging and reinforcing 15 wells; at Rafig, 10 wells; Eloukou, 10 wells; and Bikaro, 15

wells. Four teams of one well-digger and one assistant well-digger have already been formed and are awaiting delivery of the materials to the sites to begin work. The Director of CFEDES, at Tanout, estimates it will take 4 - 5 months to complete the well-digging project.

5. Not much activity has taken place to request the addition of a small elevage component to the project. The elevage Agent has been surveying the sites to determine possible locations where there will be access to water and to determine the need for animal food.

5. Thanks to the seeds sent by Africare/Washington aboard Vice President Bush's transport plane, the following types and amounts of seeds have been delivered to Eghade and are stored at Rikaro:

210	pounds of okra
120	pounds of tomato
120	pounds of carrots
60	pounds of celery
250	pounds of corn

The Africare Agriculture Specialist, for the project, is living on site and is preparing, with the help of the District Agriculture Agent, a "Plan of Action". Currently, the only site where extensive gardening is taking place is Ciminti, where the large number of shallow wells makes this possible. Under cultivation at this time are: Tomatoes, tobacco, potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, red pepper, corn and peas. These same vegetables are being grown at the other sites, but on a more limited basis now that the ponds are dry.

SPECIAL NEEDS

At long meetings held at each site on May 1 - 2, the following needs were outlined by the residents: (1) plastic sheeting be given according to the number of wives in each family as each wife has her own hut; (2) powdered milk and/or milk animals; (3) help so they can produce their own food, both technical help and

"in-kind" help: seeds (in addition to the seeds already being given to them, they would like onion seeds, lettuce, potato, cabbage, bean), insecticides, fertilizers (the need for insecticides is especially obvious at Ciminti where much of the garden produce is being attacked by some sort of leaf worm); (4) clothing; (5) cement to reinforce existing wells in addition to those to be dug and reinforced by the project (about 10 families, per site).

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

There is some animosity toward the "newcomers" (those who arrived after the project began, therefore, are not included in the official count). It was stated that they, the original residents, are willing to share the food with the newcomers (approx. 50 families), as the Sous-Prefet has instructed, but, as they have not been assigned parcels of land, they do not work for the food as the original residents are required to do. They were told that the newcomers should be required to work on the well-digging, warehouse and other project activities if they are to be given food. The Agriculture Agent, living on site, will supervise this.

At Rafig, where two "Chiefs" or "responsables" were chosen. Ahenni and Kalem, there has been much conflict recently over who has control over the food stock and other materials. This conflict has included the threat of physical violence and the forced distribution (forced by Ahenni and his followers) by Kalem of both the April and May allotment of sorghum. At a strong meeting, it was decided to remove both Kalem and Ahenni from positions of power, appoint a temporary "responsible" until the Chief of the Canton arrives, and ask the Chief to investigate and resolve the problem of responsibility. The possibility of a halt to the donation of sorghum, unless they could solve their problems, was also mentioned.

One concern regarding the project is how many of the refugees will stay if and when the rains come in abundance. In talking about this, the following came out: Those who left their land because of the drought, would probably send half of their family back to wherever they came from to plant, cultivate and harvest, while the

other half remain at Eghade to continue to take part in the project. This would be predominantly the Hausas and Feri-Beris. The nomads and semi-nomads (Touregs/Bouzou and Fulani) said that the Eghade region has long been their traditional pasturing area, and that now that they have learned to "farm" (plant the gardens) and learned to like it, they have all the more reason to stay. Furthermore, their herds have been decimated, so they have to stay.

ON GOING WORK AT EGHADÉ

In addition to that already cited above (well-digging, gardening, building of warehouses), the refugees are beginning to prepare their fields in anticipation of the rains.

PROJECT PLAN OF WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

- Transport of well-digging materials in sufficient quantities to begin digging at Eghade by May 10th.
- Purchase and transport of warehouse materials (tin for roof and doors, wood for frames)- by May 15th.
- Purchase and transport of agriculture implements (watering cans, etc.) - by May 15th.
- Completion of delivery of May and June food allotments- by May 30th.

CONCLUSION

The EMERGENCY FOOD-FOR_WORK Project around the Mares Eghade, in the Arrondissement of Tanout, is progressing well. By having close contact and good working relationships with the residents of the mares, as well as with the officials in the District, the Project has remained intact and problems or potential problems have been addressed expeditiously.

One of the most interesting developments from the Project is the fact that nomads and semi-nomads are adjusting to a sedentary life in such a short span of time. Some of the residents have started to make bricks to construct permanent living quarters which will withstand the harsh climate of the area. 50 new families have migrated to the area during the month of April.

Our immediate efforts focus on survival, but within the next few months, we should start looking to intermediate and long term development, such as schooling for the children, getting the residents back on a cash basis, i.e., producing and selling. From our close association with them over the past several months, we know that they do not want to be dependent on the government nor external aid. This is why we have not noticed the idleness, which is common in some villages.

Our concern is that they will become more isolated if immediate help is not forthcoming to save the whole District of Tanout from annihilation. We will have the little Eghadettan corner, but no means of getting there, once the rest of the District has become covered with desert sands and deserted.

In 1977, the Arrondissement of Tanout had 457 villages with a sedentary population of 184,575. In August, 1984, the official count was 126,903 and as of March, 1985, the population

was estimated to be around 90,000 with 56 villages totally deserted. There are several villages where young children have been left in the care of the school master. The families and other relatives have all left searching for food, water, shelter and work. No one knows if or when the families will return.

In the Tarka Canton, the Haoussas and Touregs are the predominant ethnic groups, but, there are also Beri Beris and Peuhls (predominantly Wodoobe/Bororos). Before the aggravation of the socio-economic system brought on by the current drought situation, there were several millionaires living in the area. The movement has been toward the south, to the cities of Niger and neighboring countries. At least 10,000 persons were officially relocated around numerous ponds and temporary lakes, when the villages' water supplies disappeared. Of this number at least 60% have migrated.

Africare has just received a request from the Tanout Village Council, to assist those persons who will be returning to what remains of their village, once the rains come. As mentioned in their request: "The displaced populations do not have the means to satisfy their essential needs for food, water, clothes or health needs. It is this population that is most exposed to exploitation, delinquency, prostitution, abandoning of family and other radical changes in life style." These issues are being addressed in the Eghadettane area.



EXAMINING
HAND PUG WELL
USING METAL DRUM
FOR LINING



EVEN THE
CHILDREN
ARE CULTIVATING



GARDEN WITH
TREE IN
BACKGROUND

MARES EGHADETTANE - TANOUT



MARE IN JANUARY, 1985 (DRY BY MARCH, 1985)



HAND DUG WELL

VEGETABLES ATTACKED BY
LEAF WORMS.



NOTE
DRY
MARE
IN
BACK
GROUND



WHEAT BEING GROWN BY REFUGEES