

**P.L. 480 Title II**

**COOPERATING SPONSOR RESULTS REPORT**

**Niger Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP)**

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS)  
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE)  
& Helen Keller International (HKI)**

**FY 2008 Results Report**

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## **List of Acronyms**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| CARE         | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc.               |
| CFW          | Cash for work  |
| CCB          | Consortium Coordination Body   |
| CRS          | Catholic Relief Services   |
| CS           | Cooperating Sponsor  |
| COSAN        | Community health committee   |
| CVD          | Village Development Committee  |
| DIP          | Detailed Implementation Plan   |
| EPP          | Emergency Preparedness Plan  |
| EVPC         | Equipe villageoise de promotion de la croissance                     |
| FEWS/NET     | Famine Early Warning System Network                                  |
| FFP/WA       | Food for Peace / West Africa   |
| FFW          | Food for Work  |
| FFT          | Food for training  |
| GON          | Government of Niger  |
| HDI          | Human Development Index  |
| HH           | Household  |
| HIV/AIDS     | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome     |
| HKI          | Helen Keller International   |
| IMCI         | Integrated management child illness                                  |
| LOA          | Length of Activity   |
| M&E          | Monitoring and Evaluation  |
| MARP         | Méthode Accéléré de Recherche Participative                          |
| MoU          | Memorandum of Understanding  |
| MYAP         | Multi-Year Assistance Program  |
| NICRA        | Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement                              |
| NGO          | Non-governmental Organization  |
| NRM          | Natural Resource Management  |
| N/TA         | Nutrition Technical Assistant  |
| PITT         | Performance Indicator tracking Table                                 |
| PSCAC        | Promotion de la Surveillance de la Croissance à Assise Communautaire |
| RRA          | Rapid Rural Appraisal  |
| RTA/M and FS | Regional Technical Advisor/Monetization and Food Security            |
| SAP          | Système d'Alerte Précoce   |
| SFBW         | Soy-Fortified Bulgur Wheat   |
| SCAP-RU      | Early warning system and response                                    |
| WARO         | West Africa Regional Office  |
| WFP          | World Food Program   |

## NARRATIVE

### 1. Annual Results

Niger is a sahelian country where chronic vulnerability due to food insecurity is a recurrent problem for rural households, resulting from insufficient physical and economic access to food as well as the incapacity to correctly utilize available food resources. Due to this vulnerability, Niger was classified as a priority country for the USAID Title II program. The consortium of international NGOs of which Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the lead, consists of the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE) and Helen Keller International (HKI). The consortium was awarded a five year USAID/FFP Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP) (FY 2007-2011) in 2006. The overall goal of the CRS' MYAP is to reduce food insecurity of rural Nigerien households in vulnerable communities in the regions of Dosso, Tahoua and Zinder by 2011. The three strategic objectives defined to achieve this goal are:

- *SO1 Protect and enhance livelihoods by improving conditions for increased agricultural production and improved agro-enterprise for 78,589 producers (direct beneficiaries; including 39,155 women), as well as members of 85% of target area households.*
- *SO2 Protect and enhance human capacities by improving household health and nutritional status for 51,988 children under five years old and 57,080 women of reproductive age in all target area HHs; as well as reinforce the capacities of 593 health agents.*
- *SO3 Protect and enhance communities' resiliency by improving their abilities to identify and respond to crises and shocks for 25,230 men and 16,820 women, comprising 75% of HHs.*

In FY08, the MYAP consortium coordinated the distribution of 1,980 MTs of bulgur that was initially planned for FFW activities in FY07. During the first quarter of FY08, the MYAP consortium received approval from the GoN for the distribution of soy fortified bulgur wheat to flood victims, disabled persons, persons hospitalized and individuals from selected certain support institutions. This food distribution occurred throughout all eight regions of Niger and totaled 1,980 MTs, assisting 431,623 beneficiaries total (31,210 flood victims, 18,110 disabled persons and 382,303 hospitalized persons and individuals from certain social support institutions).

In January of 2008, the MYAP consortium submitted and was subsequently approved for a MYAP amendment that refocused key program elements, notably replacing FFW with CFW to meet certain program objectives after the GoN's ban of FFW. Final approval for the MYAP was granted by FFP in June of 2008. Additionally, the amended program seeks to utilize distribution commodities to facilitate training and literacy activities.

Fiscal year 2008 was a year of increased operational performance in the field, however not at 100%, due to low funding levels. The break in the resource pipeline from FY07 and delays during the amendment approval process affected the timing of implementation of program activities. Some activities scheduled for dry season were postponed indefinitely; some activities took place during the early rainy season and just afterwards.

*CRS Niger Multi Year Assistance Program FY08 Results Report*

Using the resources available, however, field teams carried out the implementation of key activities, which allowed the MYAP to produce significant results in agriculture and NRM, Health / Nutrition and emergency response. The data below shows some of the significant progress made in the field during the year:

Significant Accomplishments in FY08:

| <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Total (#'s, \$, MTs)</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Number of community organizations set up / trained (CVD, COSAN, SCAP-RU, EVPC) | 803                         |
| Number members of community organizations trained                              | 3,266                       |
| Number of garden wells constructed   | 53                          |
| Number of trees planted  | 98,397                      |
| Number of hectares recuperated   | 2,477                       |
| Number of local experts trained in agriculture/NRM                             | 704                         |
| Number of integrated health centers constructed                                | 4                           |
| Number Animals distributed for livestock reconstitution « Habbanae »           | 832                         |
| Number of Segments of rural roads rehabilitated                                | 5                           |
| Total distributed during CFW activities  | \$ 62,248                   |
| Total amount of distributed commodities  | 1,980 MTs                   |

Fiscal year 2008 was an opportunity for the CRS MYAP team to compensate for delays that occurred during the initial year of the program, particularly in the area of protection and recovery of degraded lands. However, as noted earlier, the implementation of activities in the field was delayed due to the time it took to amend and approve the program (January to June 2008). During this period, the CRS MYAP faced the following difficulties:

FY07 carryover resources were exhausted towards the end of the 2nd quarter of FY08. However, it was during this period that FFP agreed to give the CRS MYAP the amount of \$1,650,675 in 202(e) which allowed the team to implement key activities. With the bridge funding resources at their disposal, field-based teams implemented important activities in agriculture, environment, health and nutrition during the dry season as well as just prior to and after the rainy season. After receiving approval from FFP during the issues letter concerning utilization of CFW for certain activities, CFW activities were launched in the field, however as the agricultural season had already begun, field work became a priority for the population. Thus, of the predicted 3,500 hectares of land to be recovered, only 2,477 hectares were recovered in FY08. Of the 2,477 hectares of land recovered, 2,265 were done individually without CFW funding and the remaining 212 hectares were completed with CFW funding. To compensate for this, field-based teams budgeted for the recovery of 8,300 hectares of land in the form of CFW for FY09.

Despite the difficulties encountered during the implementation process, the CRS MYAP has achieved significant results in specific areas such as the construction of garden wells, the planting of seedlings, distribution of livestock (Habbanae), construction of community health centers and community capacity-building through the training and establishment of local institutions. The establishment of local institutions is an important achievement for the MYAP because these structures represent sustainable management of program investments made in the field.

### 1.1 Authentication of Performance Indicators with Partners and Communities

In June 2008, the CCB (Consortium Coordination Body) organized a monitoring and evaluation workshop in Doutchi to validate and reformulate the MYAP performance indicators. All key monitoring and evaluation members took part in the workshop from each MYAP district sub-office (Doutchi, Konni & Zinder). District teams were also joined by monitoring and evaluation agents from the implementing partners (ISCV and CADEV). After validation at the workshop, the teams tested the indicators with field based activities and field animators, working with local communities to gather data based on the validated indicators.

### 1.2 Validation of the Information Sharing Mechanisms

The MYAP coordination meeting held in Konni in April 2008 was an opportunity to discuss and validate the informational needs of the program, the reporting system and the mechanisms of information sharing. To meet the informational needs of donors, the meeting defined the informational linkages between the regional offices and the CCB. The meeting was attended by teams from 3 MYAP districts and representatives of partner NGOs (CADEV, ISCV). The training of participatory village of monitoring and evaluation teams will be an opportunity for genuine involvement of communities in information sharing.

### 1.3 Study of Environmental and Social Impact

The CRS MYAP consortium submitted the original IEE with the MYAP amendment, as most program activities that require an environmental impact assessment remained unchanged. However, after a request from FFP, the CRS MYAP recently conducted an IEE (10/2008) and submitted it to FFP.

### 1.4 KAP Survey (Knowledge, Aptitude and Practice)

KAP surveys were originally planned to be conducted later this fiscal year. These surveys are intended to determine program indicator monitoring levels and also complement data for the IPTT table. However, given that the CRS MYAP will soon have its mid-term review (Q2 of FY09), the consortium team concluded that the KAP assessment planned for the end of the FY08 would be redundant with the mid-term review. The mid-term evaluation will be preceded by a quantitative survey which will report on the levels of all indicators of the program (effects and impacts). Following the quantitative study, the IPTT table will be updated and sent to FFP for assessment. The IPTT table is included in this report to show the changes made to the nature of indicators and targets as determined in the MYAP amendment. Indicator target levels will then be assessed at the next mid-term review.

### 1.5 Training of MYAP Staff

In the interest of strengthening the capacity of MYAP staff, trainings on a variety of themes were conducted throughout the fiscal year as is indicated in the table below:

| Period | Training Theme                                    | Participants   |
|--------|---|--|
| May    | Training of the trainers on early warning systems | 4 agents from Doutchi,                                   |
|        | Training in CES/DRS techniques                    | 8 agents from Doutchi and 7 agents from Zinder           |
|        | Workshop SARAR/PHAST (water sanitation)           | 1 MYAP agent from Zinder                                 |
|        | Training on the STDs/HIV/AIDS                     | 15 field agents from the districts of Doutchi and Tanout |
|        | Accountability training                           | 6 agents from CARE                                       |
|        | Training in writing human interest stories        | 6 MYAP agents from (Doutchi, Konni and Tanout)           |
| June   | Training on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS                | 1 agent from CARE  |
|        | Training on nutrition mainstreaming               | 1 agent from CARE  |

### 1.6 Strategic Objective #1: *Protect and enhance livelihoods, improve conditions for increased agricultural production and improved agro-enterprise.*

Agricultural activities and management of natural resources represent key aspects of the program because it is through these components that structural investments to improve production and add value to production are achieved.

The table below indicates significant achievements in terms of production: planting trees, rehabilitation of rural roadways, construction of garden wells, training of local experts, recuperation of degraded land, as well as the distribution of animals for livestock programs. The commencement of the soil recuperation methods with CFW activities coincided with the installation of wells. For fiscal year 2009, the program will target recuperation of lands during the dry season.

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Summary of Accomplishments SO1: Agriculture/NRM

| Description   | District       | Planned FY08 | Reached FY8 | Total Reached |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Intermediate Result 1.1:</b> Households and communities have adopted agricultural processing and value added practices promoted by the project                   |                |              |             |               |
| Rural roadway action plan validated   | Konni/Illela   | 1            | 1           | 1             |
| Segments of rural road way rehabilitated  | Konni/Illela   | 10           | 5           | 5             |
| <b>Intermediate Result 1.2 :</b> Households and communities have adopted natural resource management and agro pastoral production practices promoted by the project |                |              |             |               |
| Local experts trained in agriculture/ NRM (gardening, soil restoration, tree growing, use of improved seed varieties)   | Doutchi/Loga   | 180          | 238         | 704           |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah | 180          | 229         |               |
|   | Konni/Illela   | 18           | 237         |               |
| Assistant veterinarians trained   | Konni/Illela   | -            | 3           | 3             |
| Members of livestock management committees trained « Habbanae »   | Konni/Illela   | -            | 58          | 58            |
| Study on the improvement of low lying areas (valleys)   | Konni/Illela   | -            | 2           | 2             |
| Recovery of degraded lands (ha)   | Doutchi/Loga   | 1000         | 94          | 2,477         |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah | 1000         | 118         |               |
|   | Konni/Illela   | 1500         | 2,265       |               |
| Villages supported with equipment and tree plantations.   | Doutchi/Loga   | -            | 21          | 52            |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah | -            | 31          |               |
| Trees produced and planted  | Doutchi/Loga   | -            | 66,906      | 98,397        |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah | -            | 31,491      |               |
| Distribution of animals for livestock recovery programs « Habbanae »  | Konni/Illela   | 800          | 832         | 832           |
| Construction of garden wells  | Tanout/Mirriah | 35           | 18          | 53            |
|   | Doutchi/Loga   | 45           | 35          |               |
| <b>Intermediate Result 1.3 :</b> Local Producers have demonstrably enhanced their administrative, managerial, leadership and accountability skills                  |                |              |             |               |
| Village Management Committees set up (CVD)  | Doutchi/Loga   | 70           | 70          | 140           |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah | 70           | 70          |               |
| Members of CVD trained  | Tanout/Mirriah | 630          | 490         | 490           |

*1.7 Strategic Objective #2: Protect and enhance human capabilities by improving household health and nutritional status, especially that of children under five and women of childbearing age.*

Important progress was also made in the health and nutrition sectors as indicated by the following table. These results are particularly significant in that they reinforce the capacity of community health organizations. A total of 16,435 individuals benefited from training or sensitizations based hygiene and nutrition themes: *Essential Actions in Nutrition*, behavior change communications, and supervision techniques.

Summary of Accomplishments SO2: Health/Nutrition

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| <b>Description</b>  | <b>District</b> | <b>Planned FY08</b> | <b>Reached FY8</b> | <b>Total Reached</b> |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Intermediate Result 2.1:</b> Households within target population have improved access to primary health care services              |                 |                     |                    |                      |
| Community Health Committees established (COSAN)   | Konni/Illela    | 70                  | 100                | 240                  |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 70                  | 70                 |                      |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah  | 70                  | 70                 |                      |
| Village based development team established (EVPC)   | Doutchi/Loga    | -                   | 9                  | 9                    |
| Number of community health agents identified.   | Konni/Illela    | 700                 | 267                | 267                  |
| Support groups for exclusive breast feeding established (GS2A)  | Konni/Illela    | -                   | 156                | 156                  |
| Village sensitization committee established (CVA)   | Doutchi/Loga    | -                   | 70                 | 70                   |
| Construction of health centers (CSI)  | Konni/Illela    | 3                   | 4                  | 4                    |
| Number of trained COSAN members   | Tanout/Mirriah  | 350                 | 350                | 630                  |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 350                 | 280                |                      |
| Number of trained mid-wives   | Tanout/Mirriah  | 210                 | 140                | 240                  |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 210                 | 100                |                      |
| <b>Intermediate Result 2.2:</b> Health workers use new knowledge and skills to improve implementation of IMCI within target locations |                 |                     |                    |                      |
| Number of health agents trained in quality assurance techniques.  | Konni/Illela    | 60                  | 9                  | 9                    |
| Number of health agents trained in IMCI   | Doutchi/Loga    | 25                  | 36                 | 76                   |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah  | 25                  | 40                 |                      |
| <b>Intermediate Result 2.3:</b> Household health and nutrition practices are improved   |                 |                     |                    |                      |
| Number of learning centers for apprenticeship and nutritional rehabilitation (FARN) established.                                      | Konni/Illela    | 60                  | 34                 | 41                   |
|   | Tanout/Mirriah  | 7                   | 7                  |                      |
| Number of health agents trained in FARN.  | Tanout/Mirriah  | -                   | 22                 | 22                   |
| Number of EVPC members trained in AEN   | Doutchi/Loga    | -                   | 27                 | 27                   |
| Number of participants attending sensitization sessions for behavior change (nutrition, hygiene, breast-feeding)                      | Konni/Illela    | 1,200               | 15,431             | 15,431               |

*1.8 Strategic Objective #3: Protect and enhance communities' resiliency by improving their abilities to identify and respond to crises and shocks*

In addition to the establishment of early warning and emergency response systems, this strategic objective permitted the program to reach a large number of beneficiaries throughout the course of the fiscal year. Through this SO and related consortium mechanisms, 1,980 MTs of Bulgur (SFBW) was distributed to beneficiaries throughout six regions of the country, directly benefiting 431,623 beneficiaries (of whom 31,210 were victims of flooding, 18,110 handicapped individuals, 382,303 hospital patients and specialized support institutions for the vulnerable (Centres de la Mission Catholique, SOS villages d'enfants, etc.). The flooding devastated 5,902 households in the Regions of Dosso, Tahoua and Zinder.

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CFW activities were organized and executed to improve degraded land and to rehabilitate rural roadways, which benefited 1,967 individuals, receiving a total of \$62,248 in cash. The program emphasizes the identification of vulnerable zones with CFW activities in order to meet targets in agriculture and NRM.

Summary of Accomplishments SO3: Early Warning Systems and Response to Emergencies

| Description   | District        | Planned FY08 | Reached FY8     | Total Reached |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Intermediate Result 3.1: Target communities have operational emergency early warning systems</b> |                 |              |                 |               |
| SCAP-RU committees established  | Tanout/Mirriah  | 35           | 70              | 188           |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 70           | 70              |               |
|   | Konni/Illela    | 70           | 48 <sup>1</sup> |               |
| Number of individuals trained in SCAP-RU  | Tanout/Mirriah  | 490          | 509             | 1,032         |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 490          | 523             |               |
| Validation workshop for the support plan for communes in early warning systems                      | Konni/Illela    | -            | 9               | 9             |
| <b>Intermediate Result 3.2: Community assets are protected during shocks</b>                        |                 |              |                 |               |
| Distribution of goats to vulnerable women   | Tanout/Mirriah  | -            | 400             | 400           |
| Support for the response plan against meningitis.   | Konni/Illela    | -            | 1               | 1             |
| Number of direct beneficiaries for CFW  | Tanout/Mirriah  | 1575         | 369             | 1,967         |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | 1575         | 848             |               |
|   | Konni/Illela    | -            | 750             |               |
| Total monetary amount distributed to beneficiaries for CFW  | Tanout/Mirriah  | -            | 10,605,000      | \$62,248      |
|   | Doutchi/Loga    | -            | 8,460,000       |               |
|   | Konni/Illela    | -            | 8,324,250       |               |
| <b>Targeted Distribution of Bulgur in 6 Regions of Niger</b>  |                 |              |                 |               |
| Flood victims   | Quantity (MT)   | -            | 1,238           | 1,238         |
|   | # beneficiaries | -            | 31,210          | 31,210        |
| Handicapped individuals   | Quantity (MT)   | -            | 268             | 268           |
|   | # beneficiaries | -            | 18,110          | 18,110        |
|   | Quantity (MT)   | -            | 474             | 474           |
| Hospital patients and members of specialized institutions   | # beneficiaries | -            | 382,303         | 382,303       |

2. Proposed Modifications to the M&E Plan, IPTT, and/or Work plan

The monitoring and evaluation system was updated in the amended MYAP. All the amended tools (M & E Plan, IPTT, and DIP) were shared with FFP in the amended MYAP submission. This also includes literacy, CFW and FFT activities. For the IPTT table, the changes have been taken into account, as well as with additional indicators recommended by FFP. Additionally,

<sup>1</sup> Several villages, for example 2 to 3 meet to elect one SCAP-RU committee for their village

after participation in the workshop organized by FANTA2 in October 2008 in Mali, we made significant adjustments to our IPTT to better conform to standards set by FANTA2, FFP, and the regional USAID missions. Changes made to the IPTT table (See Attachment 6) are:

- ✓ Reformulation of indicators that follow FFP guidelines;
- ✓ Adding FFP indicators that are applicable to our MYAP
- ✓ Taking into account USAID indicators in the SAPQ and IPTT table,
- ✓ Adding strategic objectives and intermediate results in the IPTT table

### 3. Success Stories

The MYAP consortium implements an integrated, participatory development approach that is relative to the aspirations of communities within the intervention zone. Through the participatory approach to problem analysis, the MYAP gives opportunities for beneficiaries to plan activities that address their needs. Therefore, the many success stories collected from beneficiaries by field teams illustrate the interest, commitment and impact of the MYAP program in Niger.

*Madougou lives in a community in Dogon Doutchi that has benefited from the PROSAN program since 2007. His testimony reflects the program's impact on his life through his involvement in agricultural activities.*

Twenty-six year old Madougou, father of six children - of whom the oldest was not yet 10 years old - asked himself in November 2006 how he was going to feed his family, and sister and her two children who had just arrived.

All the children were showing worrisome signs due to their health and nutritional state despite Rabi, the mother, taking them to the village health center.

In the depths of despair, Madougou says "With the arrival of my sister and her two children, I no longer know to what I am devoted. I just sold my wife's last sheep in order to buy medicine and food."

Ninety percent of Madougou's community in Dogon Doutchi, south central Niger, is involved in subsistence agriculture that depends heavily on the annual rains. The past few years have been pretty typical in that not enough rain has fallen in order to grow enough of the staple crop, millet, to feed the family throughout the year.

The Food Security and Nutrition Program (PROSAN), led by Catholic Relief Services, with Cooperative for Assistance and Relief

Everywhere and Helen Keller International is responding to vulnerable communities like Madougou's through the provision of food aid, tools and technical training in order to improve household food security and fight erosion, increasing the productivity of the land. Madougou works at a tree nursery and receives guidance from program field agents.



**Madougou watering his tree nursery**

Photo: Jennifer Burns, CRS Niger

Madougou no longer relies solely on his precarious fields for a few months of food but rather is investing himself in tree production that is proving to be profitable. The increased income from the tree nursery is allowing him a certain freedom he never felt before. His children are noticeably healthier thanks to the diversified and nutritious food provided by the program for his participation. “They don’t fall sick as often as they used to” says Madougou. With some gleam in his eyes, he says “I am devoting myself to the tree nursery with the hope of becoming one of the principal local suppliers.”

*Written by: Halirou Adamou*

*Tammou expresses her gratefulness for the health center and community health committee set up by CRS and HKI in the department of Tanout.*

“I know the program because of how it has contributed to improving the health status of women and children in my rural community” says Tammou. Her community now has an operational health clinic.

Tammou has seen a remarkable improvement in the health of her community Maimagaria Bakimaram, located in Department of Tanout. Through the food security and nutrition program (PROSAN) started in 2007 by Catholic Relief Services, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere and Helen Keller International, Tammou’s community now has access to health and nutrition services offered at the local health center.

Since the community health committees and trained nurses were put in place, women’s behavior toward health is changing- as is seen in birthing practices. More and more, women are having babies at the health center. “This was rarely seen before the health staff and clinic were put in place. I hope that their capacities can be

strengthened even more given the community’s interest in good living conditions” says Tammou.

Women in the community are increasingly aware of the benefits of the health clinic, as is evident in more frequent consultations at the health center and improved care for their children. “If the health structures continue to be established, non-assisted births will become an old story.” Even the practice of exclusive

breast feeding - rarely seen before - is happening more and more. “It is becoming a normal practice” says Tammou.



**Community Health Center - Seloum**  
Photo: CRS Staff

Historically, rural communities mostly relied on traditional healers for medical treatment. She explains how this has changed with increased awareness of the health services. “Before, we saw malnutrition in children as an act of the spirits and treated it by going to the traditional healers. Today, we are aware that malnutrition is a result of an unbalanced diet deficient in vitamins. It doesn’t do any good to blame the witches.”

“I tell myself that if other organizations could be inspired by this program, many of my sisters would overcome certain socio-cultural challenges

that often result in the loss of life for both mother and child.” says Tammou.

*Written by: Bizo Zabairou & Sani Yahaya*

#### 4. Lessons Learned

##### 1. Planning CFW Activities

The FFP approval of MYAP amendment came late in the fiscal year to allow the MYAP consortium to begin projects that involved CFW (land reclamation, rehabilitation of rural roads, etc.) Field agents began these activities just prior to and after the rainy season, however timing was an issue and it was difficult to work within this time constraint as the program had to compete with seasonal field work.

Two reasons explain the low participation of the population:

- ✓ Agricultural work is more of a priority for the population during the rainy season
- ✓ Agricultural workers are better paid than CFW participants

The principal lesson to be learned from is that CFW activities are to be normally executed during the dry season which is the period where there is no agricultural work and day labor paid at a lower rate. The MYAP consortium worked within the calendar constraint due to the approval coming late in the calendar year, but has targeted the dry season for this activity in FY09.

##### 2 Management of food distribution

The food distribution plan that was negotiated by CRS with the GoN included those that were hospitalized and leaders of certain institutions as beneficiaries. Based on an agreed upon contract, CRS placed quantities of foodstuffs at the disposition of selected hospitals and institutions that were to assist the sick and others that are taken care of by special institutions (Catholic Mission and SOS Children’s Village) for six months. Contrary to food that is directly distributed to individuals where the direct beneficiaries are automatically known, the hospitals and special institutions should have provided a status report of the beneficiaries as the stock of foodstuffs was consumed. However, despite the agreements between CRS and these institutions, the reporting was not systematic which has added additional costs to MYAP teams who were then charged with monitoring the use of such foodstuffs. The lesson learned is that direct distributions to individuals or households (flood victims for example) are easier to manage in terms of rapid containment of the quantities distributed and beneficiaries rather than the form of distributions where the beneficiary is given the foodstuff later after putting it in place. Fortunately, direct distribution to individuals (FFT, Literacy) is the only form of distribution of food chosen for the amended MYAP.