



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NCBA CLUSA
The National Cooperative Business Association • CLUSA International

Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel

Enhanced Resilience

REPUBLIC OF NIGER and BURKINA FASO

REGIS-ER

Quarterly Report

1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2014

August 2014

Cooperative Agreement No. 625-A-14-00001

Bvd Mali Béro, 73 Rue Issa Béri

B.P. 12 909 NIAMEY

Tel.: (227) 20 35 16 48

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and abbreviations	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
Sustainable Livelihoods Component (SL)	1
Governance and Natural Resource Management Component (GNRM)	1
Health/Nutrition and WASH (SN)	2
INTRODUCTION	3
Major Activities	3
Points of Convergence	3
What are We Learning?	3
Potential Low Hanging Fruit: Seed Multiplication	3
<u>Crisis in the Sahel</u> Report by the OASIS Initiative/Berkeley	4
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS COMPONENT (SLC)	5
General considerations	5
Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets	5
IR 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities	6
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	6
IR 1.2. Intensified production and marketing	6
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	6
<i>Activities carried out in Burkina Faso</i>	8
IR 1.3. Improved access to financial services	9
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	9
GOVERNANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT (GNRMC) ..	10
General considerations	10
Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets	10
IR 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management	10
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	10
IR 2.2. Strengthened management of disaster risks	11
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	11
<i>Activities carried out in Burkina Faso</i>	11
IR 2.3. Strengthened conflict management	11
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	11
<i>Activities carried out in Burkina Faso</i>	11
IR 2.4. Strengthened capacity of government and its coordination with the regions	11
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	11
HEALTH/NUTRITION COMPONENT (SNC)	12
General considerations	12

USAID | REGIS-ER Rapport Trimestriel avr-juin 2014: Table des matières - suite

Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets	12
<i>Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso</i>	12
IR 3.1. Improved access to potable water	12
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	12
IR 3.2. Improved health and nutrition practices.....	13
<i>Activities carried out in Niger</i>	13
Activities carried out in Niger	14
<i>Activities carried out in Burkina Faso</i>	14
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES	15
Coordination and Management.....	15
<i>Activities specific to Burkina Faso</i>	15
Small Grants Fund	16
<i>Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso</i>	16
Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Analysis (MERA)	16
<i>Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso</i>	16
Training - Communications - Group Organization	17
<i>Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso</i>	17
Gender	17
Environment.....	17
REGIS-ER HIGHLIGHT EVENT: “OPERATION HABBANAYÉ”	19
APPENDIX: Performance Monitoring Table for REGIS-ER.....	20

Acronyms and abbreviations

English	French	Meaning
	GoN, GoBF	Government of Niger, Government of Burkina Faso
	ONATEL	<i>Office National de Télécommunication</i>
3N	3N	Initiative of GoN: <i>Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens</i>
A2N	A2N	Africa 2000 Network
AREN	AREN	<i>Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Élevage au Niger</i>
BDL	BDL	Bio-Reclamation of Degraded Lands (<i>Récupération biologique des terres dégradées</i>)
CCA	ACC	Climate Change Adaptation (<i>Adaptation au Changement Climatique</i>)
CF	AC	Conservation Farming/ Agriculture de Conservation
CLTS	ATPC	<i>Assainissement total piloté par la communauté</i> (Community-Led Total Sanitation)
DRM	GRC	Disaster and Risk Management (<i>Gestion des Risques des Catastrophes</i>)
ER	ER	Enhanced Resilience (<i>Résilience Renforcée</i>)
FFP	FFP	Food For Peace
FMNR	RNA	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (<i>Régénération Naturelle Assistée</i>)
FtF	FtF	Feed the future
GENOVICO	GENOVICO	Non-Violent Conflict Resolution (<i>Gestion Non-Violente des Conflits</i>)
GNRM, H/GNRM	GGRN, R/GGRN	Head of/Governance and Natural Resource Management component, REGIS-ER (<i>Responsable/Gouvernance and Gestion des Ressources Naturelles</i>)
HN, H/HN	SN, R/SN	Head of/ Health/Nutrition and WASH component, REGIS-ER (<i>Responsable/ Composante Santé/Nutrition and WASH</i>)
ICT	TIC	Information and communications technology (<i>Technologies d'Information and de Communication</i>)
IR	IR	Intermediate Result (<i>Intermediate result</i>)
MFI	IMF	Micro-finance Institution (<i>Institution de Micro-Finance</i>)
NCBA CLUSA	NCBA CLUSA	National Cooperative Business Association/Cooperative League of USA
NRM	GRN	Natural Resource Management (<i>Gestion des Ressources Naturelles</i>)
ONAHA	ONAHA	<i>Office National des Aménagements Hydro-Agricoles</i>
PMP	PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan (<i>Plan-tableau pour suivre la performance</i>)
PO	OP	Producers' Organization (<i>Organisation des producteurs</i>)
POAS	POAS	Land use plan (<i>Plan d'occupation and d'affectation des sols</i>)
PTA	PTA	Annual Workplan (<i>Plan de travail annuel</i>)
REGIS-ER	REGIS-ER	Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Enhanced Resilience
RFP	DAO	Published request for bids (<i>Dossier d'Appels d'Offres</i>)
RISE	RISE	Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced
SAREL	SAREL	Sahel Research and Learning (<i>Programme Recherche and Compréhension</i>)
SBCC	CCSC	Social behavior change communication (<i>Communication pour le changement social de comportement</i>)
SFR	SFR	<i>Services Fonciers and Ruraux</i>
SHELADIA	SHELADIA	Irrigation/ M&E company based in USA-REGIS-ER partner (<i>Cabinet spécialisant en irrigation and suivi/évaluation basé aux E-U; partenaire du REGIS-ER</i>)
SIGESCO	SIGESCO	Garden planning software (<i>Logiciel d'Initiation à la gestion and la planification maraîchère</i>)
SLC, H/SLC	BEE, R/BEE	Head of Sustainable Livelihoods component (<i>Responsable/composante Bien-Être Économique</i>)
SP/CPSA	SP/CPSA	<i>Secrétariat Permanent de la Coordination des Politiques Sectorielles Agricoles</i>
TDR	TDR	Terms of reference (<i>Termes de Référence</i>)
URC	URC	University Research Corporation
USAID	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	GUS	United States Government (<i>Gouvernement des États Unis</i>)
WASA	EAA	Water and Sanitation Africa (<i>Eau and Assainissement Afrique</i>)
WASH	EHA	Water Sanitation and Hygiene (<i>Eau Hygiène Assainissement</i>)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this quarter, REGIS-ER team setups were completed in the regions as well as at headquarters in both Niger and Burkina Faso. The headquarters were equipped with communications tools, including a dedicated internet line in Niger and mobile telephone group accounts for both capitals. The telephone group account for the remainder of Burkina sites is in the process of being set up.

Now that regional staff have been sent to their respective sites, field activities have begun in earnest in both countries. Centralized training of trainers for REGIS-ER's approach was carried out last quarter, and the training of field technicians followed this quarter. Field interventions continue as meetings with local authorities and partners continue in the communes. The initial diagnostics in selected villages is ongoing.

An informational and hands-on workshop on REGIS-ER's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan was organized in Niamey from May 19 to 23. The Regional coordinators and regional M&E specialists, Sheladia and Dimagi consultants, and SAREL representatives attended. It was an occasion to harmonize the actors' understanding of the M&E plan and the tools (forms) that will be used to collect data to report on progress of REGIS-ER. The content of the workshop was communicated at the field level through workshops and training.

A series of workshops on individual Project component strategies was initiated in May and will end in July. Although broad strategies did exist within the components, understanding and consistency of terms and approaches have been enhanced and harmonized by the workshops, leading to better coordination among REGIS-ER actors.

Component activities are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Sustainable Livelihoods Component (SL)

In the context of promoting employment in the rural sector, 383 people (including 305 women) from Tillabéri-South built stone water-capturing structures following Project training.

In terms of adaptation to climate change, REGIS-ER gave training in conservation farming for rainfed crops in Niger for 47 producers; and in Burkina Faso for 20 producers.

The Project also trained 15 producers in seed multiplication, setting up 15 demonstration sites for improved varieties on 27 hectares in Niger.

In Burkina Faso, each of the 20 producers who were trained installed three demonstration sites for three farming techniques: manually-practiced conservation farming using compost and mineral fertilizer; plowing the soil with a ripper and using compost and mineral fertilizer; and traditional farming methods.

In all, 94 "simplified BDL" sites were set up in Niger for 906 women belonging to producer groups. The women also received Project support in the form of improved seed: Konni okra, Sadoré senna, and Sadoré hibiscus, as well as small equipment.

The area placed under improved technologies covers 264 hectares in 4 work zones in Niger.

Six irrigation sites were donated in Tillabéri-South. The status still needs to be legalized by securing a deed.

In the livestock domain, a ceremony was organized June 25 in Tillabéri-South (Balléyara) as part of a habbanayé operation. 150 vulnerable women received 3 female goats and 1 male goat with a food supply consisting of cotton seed and wheat bran.

In the context of agricultural and rural credit, three women's groups from Tillabéri-South received credit in the amount of 7,700,000 FCFA for animal fattening. In Zinder, four women's groups from two of REGIS-ER's communes obtained 4,750,000 FCFA in credit for sheep fattening activities.

The Project is working with ASUSU micro-finance institute (MFI) to provide credit and build capacity for producer organizations and community-based solution providers (CBSP or APS). A memorandum of understanding is being prepared.

Governance and Natural Resource Management Component (GNRM)

Governance Component trained 11 members (including one woman) of the first steering committee, and 47 members (including six women) of the sub-zone committees that are involved in drawing up a Land Use Plan

(POAS) as part of a local convention for Tondikandia commune in Tillabéri-South in Niger. The POAS will cover over 222,000 ha. Fourteen types of community-based organizations are involved in the associated fora.

As part of developing the component's field strategy, a workshop was held on the concepts and approaches used by the five sub-components. The strategy was validated by regional coordinators and governance staff at the workshop.

The four work regions of Niger were found to contain areas wherein people are willing to implement farmer-managed natural regeneration with the Project.

Health/Nutrition and WASH (SN)

The Health Component was able to obtain a map of health and nutrition activities already taking place in two regions of Niger, Maradi and Zinder, thanks to research carried out by other actors.

REGIS-ER carried out an inventory of improved water sources in 130 of the 232 villages in Maradi and Zinder intervention zones.

Regional teams who are carrying out diagnostic studies of our villages also listed the water and sanitation infrastructure status and management situation. Performance evaluation of management committees was carried out for 60 villages in Maradi region and 46 villages in Zinder Region.

22 villages in Maradi and Niger regions expressed willingness to participate in ATPC activities after their need for improved sanitation infrastructure was identified.

An overall strategy for implementing health, nutrition, and WASH activities and SBCC has been proposed and is being validated and harmonized for the two countries. A community diagnostic exercise to identify behavior change targets was conducted in five out of 20 women's gardens in Balléyara (Tillabéri-South), where 19 educators (including 16 women) were trained in infant health and nutrition.

Three workshops (one per region) were organized to inform staff about ATPC in Burkina Faso. They provided a forum for exchanges between the heads of SBCC and WASH and the regional teams, thus providing uniform comprehension of the approach.

INTRODUCTION

The RISE initiative (Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced) is a strategy of the Government of the United States to build resilience in targeted vulnerable populations in the Sahel. The program is financed by USAID and executed by REGIS (Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel); REGIS-ER is the “Enhanced Resilience” project of REGIS, working in Niger and Burkina Faso.

Comment [U1]: Need to correct definition of RISE (e.g., FFP, OFDA, regional activities)

Major Activities

Teams in Niamey and Ouagadougou were set up, along with teams in the regions, and the field in both countries.

All of the regional and field teams were equipped to work after being trained in how to carry out a diagnostic exercise and determine the needs of the village. This enabled the formulation of an operational plan for each village that included the types of activities in the REGIS program that will be most useful for local populations.

Comment [U2]: Provide estimated coverage of village diagnostics/operational plans to date, if possible

Diagnostic exercises covered 221 out of 483 targeted villages (46%) in project intervention areas to date. The remaining 262 villages are forecast for next steps.

In collaboration with Sheladia, DiMagi, and USAID|SAREL, REGIS-ER organized a workshop to train staff in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) related to REGIS indicators, held May 19 to 23. The regional coordinators and regional M&E specialists from the two countries attended. As a result of the workshop, the M&E system was strengthened and potential for reporting was improved.

To facilitate and harmonize the component intervention activities in the two countries, workshops are also being organized to develop and validate component strategies. The first one was held for Governance June 23-24 in Niamey. Two others will be held in the coming quarter for SLC and SNC.

The first habbanayé event was an occasion to present 3 female goats and 1 male goat to 150 vulnerable women along with a supply of food. The event happened on June 25 in Balléyara, Tillabéri-South. Several VIPs attended, including from the Livestock Ministry and local and customary authorities. The Secretary General from 3N Initiative, technical directors, and a representative from the Association for Reactivation of Livestock Rearing in Niger (AREN), the Prefect of Balléyara, and mayors from Tagazar, Imanan and Tondikandia attended to see the beneficiaries receive their donations.

Points of Convergence

In an effort to compliment impact across partner organizations, REGIS ER continues to reach out to FFP, and other partners in Niamey, Ouaga, and especially in the Regions and Communes where activities are being planned (and sometimes implemented) together. In order to foster collaborative planning, FFP partners will be invited to participate in the formulation of the 2015-16FY15 workplan for REGIS ER at the Regional level.

Comment [U3]: Please correct to FY15 2014-2015

The Communications specialist is working closely with the PDEV II team on sharing information on local radio stations, radio programs and existing theater groups that have been trained by PEDEV.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between REGIS ER and Red Cross Niger.

In terms of conflict management, writing and validating a strategy for securing land tenure was done in collaboration with the Permanent Secretary of the Rural Code in Niger. Writing and validating a strategy to prevent conflicts was supported by the GENOVICO organization in Niger.

What are We Learning?

REGIS ER is working with SAREL to target priority questions in each of the components that will be the focus of analysis/adaptive learning. As the relationship between SAREL and REGIS ER evolves, and we move forward to focus on critical questions through a formal learning process, the project will also report on ‘learning’ based on its own experience and continual ‘in house’ analysis and research carried out in Niamey, Ouaga, and the field. Two subjects that were addressed during the quarter and worthy of mention as part of an ongoing learning process are: seed multiplication and The Oasis Initiative report, Crisis in the Sahel.

Potential Low Hanging Fruit: Seed Multiplication

In Niger, it is estimated that only 13% of farmers have access to quality seed of improved varieties. The foundation of sound agriculture practices to increase yields and adapt to climate change is quality seed. REGIS ER

is meeting with private seed companies, researchers and technical services to develop a strategy to assure that quality seed for rainfed and irrigated agriculture will be readily accessible in all the regions of intervention. The strategy will be to train Community-Based Service Providers as seed multipliers and agents of existing seed companies based on a similar model that NCBA CLUSA employs in Senegal. Seed varieties will be diligently researched to offer varieties that will increase yields and respond to climate change criteria.

Crisis in the Sahel Report by the OASIS Initiative/Berkeley

During the quarter, REGIS ER met with a consultant from the Oasis Initiative/Berkeley, a sub contractor under SAREL. In 2012, OASIS organized a conference of 120 experts from around the globe to share perspectives on the situation in the Sahel with regard to climate, demography, agriculture, conflict and gender. The conclusion of this gathering is that the Sahel is headed for a **Perfect Storm** and unless immediate action is taken to address the root causes, the future is extremely bleak. The projections for 2100 are startling: the population of the Sahel will jump to 600 million (from 100 million today) and the temperature will increase 13 degrees F from today's norms.

In the face of these figures, it would appear that no matter how innovative we are, no matter how many success stories we write, or best practices we identify; no matter how much layering and sequencing we do; no matter how much resilience we are able to instill - without addressing population growth and mitigation of climate change in a meaningful way, the strategy of the RISE initiative is limited in scope and vision.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS COMPONENT (SLC)

General considerations

The objective of the SLC is to provide producers at all levels with a way to achieve resilience and food security in the face of repeated climate-related stresses. The component addresses two pillars of food security: availability (through better production) and access (to better products, services, and information). The Project will build capacity of men and women producers and herders in new and improved technologies, which will diversify and intensify production, and subsequently lead to better nutrition, greater revenues, and a potential for increasing personal assets. Financial services and business and literacy training will also be available.

Technologies that will be part of the REGIS-ER package, which revolves around nutrition-led agriculture, include improved access to biologically fortified and tested seed; expansion of conservation farming; technologies adapted to climate change; water harvesting; soil erosion reduction; and agroforestry.

In the SLC, emphasis is on the participation of women in all activities, especially in the process of obtaining legal access to land for food production, a key part of SLC's signature bio-reclamation of degraded lands or BDL.

Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. Sustainable economic well-being							
Intermediate result 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities							
Fiscal year 1: 2013 - 2014	Quarter				Current year		
	1	2	3	4	Cumulative reached	Targeted amount	% of target
Indicator							
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributable to REGIS-ER created	0	383	0	0	383	80	479%
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local and migrant off-season labor	0	383	0	0	383	5,000	8%
Number of women	0	305	0	0	305		
Intermediate result 1.2: Intensified production and marketing							
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	36	1,508	0	1,544	10,000	15%
Number of women	0	7	1,456	0	1,463		
1.2.2. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	0	100.5	163.2	0	263.7	5,000	5%
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	1,153	972	0	2,125	40,000	5%
Number of women	0	1,044	800	0	1,844		
1.2.4. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations receiving USG assistance	0	0	85	0	85	600	14%
1.2.5. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	0	83	0	83	300	28%
1.2.7. Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG interventions	0	1,153	1,005	0	2,158	25,000	9%
Intermediate result 1.3: Improved access to financial services							
1.3.1. Value of agricultural and rural loans (USD)	0	0	24,900	0	24,900	250,000	10%
1.3.2. Percentage of beneficiary households with access to formal or community-based financial services (Number to be recorded by REGIS-ER)	0	0	235	0	235	TBD	
GAP indicators							
4.D. Number of hectares of farmland registered in the name of women	0	0	4.1	0	4.1	[TBD]	

Comment [U4]: Must ensure that # recorded complies with indicator guidance (i.e., >1 month employment, converted to FTE). Please refer to PIRS in approved M&E Plan

Comment [U5]: When will we have targets for these indicators?

IR 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities

Activities carried out in Niger

Jobs in rural areas through building water harvest structures

A total of 383 people (including 305 women) received training in construction of rock wall terraces and diguettes in four villages of Tillabéri-South. They signed contracts with the Project to build anti-erosional and water collection structures to increase the available number of hectares that can be farmed.

IR 1.2. Intensified production and marketing

Activities carried out in Niger

Agriculture: Rainfed agriculture, BDL, fruit tree nurseries, and market gardens

Conservation farming (CF) and seed multiplication

REGIS-ER organized CF training in its four Niger work zones:

Zinder (10 producers on 10.2 ha)	Tillabéri-South (16 producers on 16.8 ha)
Maradi (11 producers on 5.5 ha)	Tillabéri-North (10 producers on 0.5 ha)

The Project also trained 15 producers in seed multiplication and set up 15 demonstration sites with improved varieties for rainfed crops:

Zinder: 4 producers on 4.1 ha	Tillabéri-South: 4 producers on 8.1 ha
Maradi: 4 producers on 8.1 ha	Tillabéri-North: 3 producers on 6.8 ha

Establishment of "simplified BDL sites"¹



Women digging zai at a simplified BDL site in Tillabéri-North

After a training of trainers, women involved with BDL sites were trained in management of the sites. The women obtained improved seeds that included Konni okra, Sadoré senna, and Sadoré hibiscus, as well as some tools.

These are the sites by region:

Zinder: 17 BDL sites on 22.4 ha for 750 women
Maradi: 5 BDL sites on 12.2 ha for 374 women
Tillabéri-South: 58 BDL sites on 90.2 ha for 4,251 women
Tillabéri-North: 14 BDL sites on 30.2 ha for 906 women

Selection of suppliers, delivery of inputs, distribution:

The improved seed for rainfed crops include:

Millet HKP (175 kg)	Groundnut 55-437 (650 kg)
Sorghum Malisor (200 kg)	Pigeon peas (4 kg)
Cowpea ISV 128 (156 kg)	

Food security seed supplied:

Moringa-PKM-1 (1 000 kg)	Konni okra (555 kg)
Dolique (500 kg)	Hibiscus (140 kg)
Baobab (2,000 kg)	Senna (140 kg)

Seed for simplified BDL sites:

Fertilizer delivered included NPK (6.5 tons) and urea (5 tons).
 17 rippers were delivered for conservation farming.

¹ Simplified BDL is a site with no fence or well; but with a deed giving long-term rights to women who install zai and use fertilizer for okra, senna, and hibiscus in the rainy season.

Establishment of fruit tree nurseries

Six male nursery managers were supported with equipment and tools to produce shade structures for seedlings. REGIS-ER provided fruit trees (mango, Sahelian apple, and citrus) as grafting stock. Thus, improved varieties will be available for future grafting.

New area covered by these improved technologies add up to 264 hectares in Niger's intervention zones.

Note that reporting for the purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation is by technology type or management practice type, by whether it is new this year or left from last year, and Country.

Type of technology	Maradi	Zinder	Tillabéri-North	Tillabéri-South
CF demo sites		34 ha (Droum, Bandé)		
Compost		6 sites (1.0 ha)		
Ripper		2 sites (0.3 ha)		
Zai	69 ha (Guidan Roudji, Sabon Machi)	5 sites (1.0 ha)	9.5 ha on 14 sites - existing	
Fertilizer		0.7 ha		
BDL			30.2 ha on 14 sites (Sakoira, Kourthèye)	
Water capture/anti-erosion				130.4 ha
Direct seeding of woody plants				Training given
Direct seeding of <i>Andropogon</i> , <i>Leptadenia</i>				Training given

Irrigation

The irrigation sub-component carried out several activities this quarter:

- Record the tenure situation (purchase or donation) of each site in which an Oasis Garden is planned for women's groups engaged in revenue-generating activities
- Identify the best systems and options for sustainable irrigation at affordable prices: use in-depth analysis of experiences from Arziki and Moringa projects, as well as other experiences and innovations
- Define the REGIS-ER strategy to increase hectares under irrigation systems
- Study irrigation techniques and options for production in Tillabéri-South (shallow water table) and Tillabéri-North (surface waters and springs available)
- Set up a bid solicitation for sites with clear tenure

Identification of demonstration sites for irrigation in Tillabéri-South and Tillabéri-North

In order to make installations long-term, to avoid future conflicts over investments, and in light of the high cost of investment in oasis gardens, the Project decided to install irrigation systems on sites where the appropriate legal papers are in place – either donated or purchased land and the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) is amended to include irrigation activities.

Six sites with donation status were identified in Tillabéri-South. The final legal paperwork is still being obtained.

Demonstration sites for Oasis Gardens in Tillabéri-South (new irrigation technology)

Number of villages	System	Village	Area (ha)	Number of women	Existing wells
1	Oasis Garden (solar pump + basins)	Gao Tawaye	1.5	75	1
2	Oasis Garden (6 wells + pulleys)	Tinkafa	1.5	50	0
3	Oasis Garden (solar pump + watering hoses)	Iguéfane	1.2	54	1
4	Oasis Garden (4 wells + pulleys)	Marakou	1.0	53	0
5	Oasis Garden (4 wells + pulleys)	Soukoutou	1.0	49	0
6	Oasis Garden (4 wells + pulleys)	Sourgo Koira	1.0	55	1
Total			7.2	336	3

Identification of demonstration sites for irrigation in Tillabéri-North

Comment [U6]: and the IEE is amended to include irrigation activities

Formatted: Font: Garamond

Formatted: Font: Garamond

Formatted: Font: Garamond

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS COMPONENT - *continued*

The SLC team identified a 100-ha developed garden site at Dalwey Kado in Kourthèye Commune. There are 40 ha of irrigable land. As it belongs to the state-run ONAHA, a meeting was planned with the Regional Governor to obtain authorization for the Project to make use of the land. A California network of pipes will be installed for beneficiaries as soon as the verbal agreement is made with the Governor.

Women's groups identified in Tillabéri-North

Agricultural sites were identified whereon four oasis gardens can be set up as soon as the status of donated land is legalized. Solar panels and pumps will be installed with basins and watering cans. The distribution of land will be as follows:

- Lossa Kado (Kourthèye Commune) 50 women in one Oasis Garden
- Morou Kalou (Sakoira Commune) 50 women in one Oasis Garden
- Dory Bane (Sakoira Commune) 50 women in one Oasis Garden
- Albarka (Sakoira Commune) 50 women in one Oasis Garden

Livestock

Habbanayé consists of giving a female goat that eventually gives birth to another female; the original beneficiary keeps the new female goat and gives the initial animal to another needy woman who does the same thing. REGIS-ER facilitators identified 300 vulnerable women as the current and future beneficiaries of habbanayé in 18 villages of Tillabéri-South. Project teams validated the applications of the eligible women. Technicians and facilitators were trained using the Project module developed by the livestock specialist.

The habbanayé training was repeated by the trainers for 150 of the selected women. The Project purchased 150 male goats and 450 female goats from Maradi, plus 750 sacks each of wheat bran and cotton seed to feed them.

The Project will be signing animal health services contracts with departmental livestock directors in Balléyara and Filingué. Another contract will be signed with a private vet and his network of auxiliary staff.

Credit awarded for animal fattening: Field teams in Tillabéri-North and Zinder have begun to identify producer groups that are capable of receiving credit for animal fattening operations through MFI Kokari agents. Four POs were selected in Bandé and Droum communes in Zinder and received credit in May.

Animal rearing for selected races (red goats, Balami sheep): Producer groups are being identified as candidates for credit toward purchasing these animals in Zinder.

Animal feed enterprises: In Zinder, field teams are starting to identify POs that can produce animal feed in the region. The activities that will be financed include growing forage (dolich and bourgo) and processing it (grinding it and making densified multi-nutrient licks).

Activities carried out in Burkina Faso

Conservation farming

Training in conservation farming (CF) was provided by a consultant from Senegal. It was held June 2 to 7 in Barsalgho, Kaya Province, and June 9 to 13 in Manni, Bogandé Province. 20 producers were trained, including two women. Two agents from the Agriculture Service and 14 REGIS-ER staff also took part. During the practical part of the training, test sites were established with three parcels subject to different farming techniques:

- Manual CF with compost and mineral fertilizer applied
- Soil ripping with the manual ripper, with compost and mineral fertilizer applied
- Traditional farming techniques

Producers who benefited from the training will be models in their respective communes; they have set up their test parcels according to standards taught in the training, supported by Project technicians in marking plots and using the ripper.

Crops within the demonstration plots include millet and sorghum (cereals), cowpea and groundnut (legumes), and orange-fleshed sweet potato. The plots are being prepared by the farmers; seed is currently being provided.



Distribution of one male goat and 3 female goats to vulnerable women, June 25 (Tillabéri-South)

Forage farming with local dolich from Tahoua

In the context of setting up forage farming plots, information and sensitization of dolich producers was carried out. Interested producers agreed to practice recommended norms in exchange for seed, and agreed to give a portion of the harvest to other producers.

Potential producers are distributed according to the regions in the table below:

Region	Number of producers		Area concerned (ha)
	Men	Women	
Sahel	30		15
Kaya	39	27	15
Bogandé	30		15
Total	99	27	45

The 500 kg of seed obtained by the Project are being distributed to producers. Farming in association with cereal crops is the option preferred by most producers; others plan to plant a monoculture.

Germination tests were carried out on the seed and showed a 90% success rate.

IR 1.3. Improved access to financial services**Activities carried out in Niger****Rural agriculture credit**

Kokari MFI deployed field agents to help producers with loan applications for rural agriculture loans. 38 women's groups have already been mobilized: 3 in Tillabéri-South; 5 in Tillabéri-North; 18 in Zinder; and 12 in Maradi.

In Tillabéri-South, 3 women's groups had successful applications for animal fattening, for a total loan of 7,700,000 FCFA, distributed to 154 women as follows:

Number of women	Site	Group name	Amount
50	Gao Taweye	NIYA	2,500,000
40	Louga Tabla	TONTONI	2,000,000
34	Fandou Mayaki		1,700,000
30	Kochelan Bella		1,500,000

In Zinder Region, four women's groups (2 each in Bandé and Droum) with 95 members (87 households) received 4,750,000 FCFA in credit for sheep fattening as follows:

Commune	Number of women	Households
Bandé	38	30
Droum	57	57

Partnership with MFI ASUSU: The Project has set up a working relationship with ASUSU for credit activities and building capacity of community-based service providers. A memorandum of understanding is being prepared.

GOVERNANCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT (GNRMC)

General considerations

REGIS-ER will create the conditions needed for establishing partnerships with local authorities, civil society organizations, NRM groups, producer organizations (PO), the local private sector, and the media to address governance issues that are also the third pillar of food security. Governance is focused on the commune level when it comes to building capacity in decentralized decision making, planning, management, and monitoring, but vertical relationships are also taken into account. A series of local plans for NRM, management of risks and catastrophes, and conflict resolution will be integrated in local development plans and action plans.

During the quarter, the main activity was the organization of a workshop to validate the GNRM strategy in Niamey, June 23-24. The five sub-components (Local Conventions, Farmer-Assisted Natural Regeneration, Risk Management, Land Tenure, and Conflict Resolution) each presented their approach.

Other activities of the GNRM include the identification of producers who are interested in FMNR in Niger; evaluation of the status of early warning systems; identifying committees in charge of land tenure issues; and collaboration with GENOVICO and Red Cross Burkina Faso.

Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. Governance and Institutions Strengthened							
Intermediate result 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management							
Fiscal year 1: 2013 - 2014	Quarter				Current year		
	1	2	3	4	Cumulative reached	Targeted amount	% of target
2.1.2. Number of community residents participating in NRM fora	0	11	47	0	58	550	10%
Number of women	0	1	6	0	7		

14 types of community groups participated in the NRM fora in Tondikandia, Tillabéri-South.

IR 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management

Activities carried out in Niger

Local Conventions

The main NRM activity was the initiation of the process for elaborating a land use plan (POAS) for a Local Convention in Tondikandia Commune (Tillabéri-South, Niger), which covers over 200,000 hectares. The process is at the stage of setting up steering committees in the subzones and presenting the results of the diagnostic study. The convention itself will be written after the results are presented and committees come together to agree on management rules and maps as part of the local convention.

The groups represented at the forums held for the local convention include:

- Technical Services
- Environmental groups
- Chef de Canton
- Commune officials
- Women
- Herders
- Mayor
- Village chiefs
- Youth
- Farmers
- Religious leaders
- Local elected officials
- Rural Development commission
- Development NGOs

58 members participated, including 11 who are on the steering committee and 47 on the sub-zone committees.

FMNR

In Niger, populations in the four intervention regions have declared that they want to participate in the farmer-managed natural regeneration component: Maradi's communes of Guidan Roumji and Sabon Machi, 5 villages in Tillabéri-North, Tillabéri-South's Tondikandia Commune, and 29 villages in Zinder.

IR 2.2. Strengthened management of disaster risks**Activities carried out in Niger**

In all regions, the process of identifying early warning systems that may be in place is in progress. This will lead to planning for commune-level workshops to update the systems and carrying out organizational diagnostics so that capacity can be built with help from REGIS-ER.

Training modules in Disaster Risk Management are being designed in collaboration with Red Cross.

Activities carried out in Burkina Faso

The Head of Governance Component initiated contact with Red Cross BF to set up a work meeting on contingency planning so that the current status can be understood by REGIS-ER.

IR 2.3. Strengthened conflict management**Activities carried out in Niger**

Three conflict management activities were covered this quarter:

- (1) Elaboration and validation of a tenure-securing strategy in partnership with the Secretary of the Rural Code
- (2) Elaboration and validation of a strategy for prevention and management of conflicts with assistance from GENOVICO
- (3) Identification and listing tenure commissions in communes in preparation for workshop

Activities carried out in Burkina Faso

An evaluation of tenure securing cases in REGIS-ER intervention zones was carried out for Burkina Faso.

In order to develop a strategy for preventing and managing conflicts, a survey of the existence and functionality of Rural Tenure Services (SFR) was carried out in Project intervention zones.

These services are implicated in Law -34/2009/AN on Rural Land Tenure to facilitate and secure investments of all rural actors in Burkina Faso. The rural tenure service is the commune-level technical service in charge of tenure management (including local natural common resources) and securing land tenure.

At the village level, the law provides for a village tenure commission that assures information and sensitization for the populations. It is responsible for local spaces and commonly-used natural resources. It participates in declaration of local tenure rights and works to prevent rural conflicts over tenure rights.

Results from this survey revealed that only two communes in the Project work zones have access to a SFR: Barsalgho and Seytenga.

IR 2.4. Strengthened capacity of government and its coordination with the regions**Activities carried out in Niger**

Capacity building of local government structures will be linked directly to activities of the project such as the POAS and Local Convention component. In Tondikandia, members of the management bodies were selected in preparation of local convention. This includes 11 members of the steering committee (one of which is a woman) and 47 members of sub-zone committees (six women included). Local government officials from the Commune are represented in the steering committee and will benefit from training and ongoing support as needed to assure that they are involved in all steps of the development and implementation of the Local Convention.

HEALTH/NUTRITION COMPONENT (SNC)

General considerations

With the objective of bringing solutions to crucial problems in health, nutrition, potable water, and hygiene -- particularly among the most vulnerable populations -- the Health and Nutrition Component of REGIS-ER will undertake a range of innovative activities to improve public knowledge about health, nutrition, and water-sanitation-hygiene. Activities will be integrated with nutrition-led agriculture, behavior change for men and women according to their attitudes and habits with regard to health, nutrition, and sanitation practices.

To address issues related to the third pillar of food security, the Program will promote rational utilization of food, diversification of diets, access to new fortified foods, better access to health and nutrition services, and improved water and sanitation facilities through a process of strengthening community capacity to manage their own health needs.

The strategy for Social Behavior Change Communications (SBCC) and Quality Improvement of health services (QI) will have a significant impact on health and nutrition of target populations: children less than five years old, lactating and pregnant women, and the most vulnerable women and girls. The component will work with its local partner, Eau et Assainissement pour l'Afrique (EAA), to install potable water systems and to address hygiene questions such as improved latrines and washing hands. Women-based groups such as Mother to Mother (MtM) will be targeted for moringa gardens and BDL activities, which will become training, SBCC, and nutrition activities.

Analysis of Progress Achieved Toward Project Indicator Targets

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3. Improved health and nutrition							
Intermediate result 3.2: Improved health and nutrition practices							
Fiscal year 1: 2013 - 2014	Quarter				Current year		
	1	2	3	4	Cumulative reached	Targeted amount	% of target
3.2.4. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition	0	0	19	0	19	20000	0%
Number of women	0	0	16	0	16		

Comment: The 19 people trained are educators in infant health and nutrition in Tillabéri-South, Niger.

Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso

During the quarter, regional teams began to identify their partners in the work zones in order to get acquainted with the health situation in the villages. This led to a detailed map of health, nutrition, and WASH activities in Niger regions. An inventory of all potable water points in 130 out of 132 villages was also carried out to identify prioritized villages.

The need for implementing the ATPC process was also done, and 22 villages were found to be favorable to the idea in Maradi and Zinder regions.

An overall strategy for implementing health, nutrition, and WASH actions was proposed and is in the process of being adapted for the two countries, along with a SBCC strategy according to the specificities of each country.

IR 3.1. Improved access to potable water

Activities carried out in Niger

Providing access to potable water in all targeted communes is one of the main objectives of the Project. In the startup phase, it was deemed necessary to assess the status of water delivery systems in target villages so as to identify specific needs. Regional teams recorded the status and management methods being used for this infrastructure in 60 villages of Maradi and 46 in Zinder. Local water and sanitation plans have been taken into account so that the highest priorities can be addressed first.

Water management committees were evaluated in nine out of the 46 villages in Zinder. The majority of them are functional.

IR 3.2. Improved health and nutrition practices

Activities carried out in Niger

The SN team elaborated an operational strategy to implement field activities. It is being amended and adjusted as needed to conform to the Burkina strategy.

At the same time, a communications strategy for SBCC was proposed as follows:

- Analysis of documents assembled by SPRING to identify priority behavior problems
- Conducting a communications event on a sample of five out of 20 women's gardens in Balléyara in Tillabéri-South: a participatory community diagnostic was carried out to identify behaviors that are problematic and to propose solutions. The proposals will be used to make an action plan that includes selecting and training educators to carry out sensitization of peers at BDL sites.
- Organization of a workshop to detail the SBCC strategy with assistance from the Nutrition sub-component head from URC and one consultant: six main themes were identified.
 - nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women
 - exclusive breastfeeding for infants aged 0 to 6 months
 - proper introduction of food from 6 months
 - washing hands with soap
 - spacing births as a family planning topic
 - quality improvement of health services



Photos: Conducting a community diagnostic on BDL sites

A total of 19 educators, of whom 16 are women, were trained in Tillabéri-South.



Photos: Training of the 19 educators at the BDL sites

In the regions, teams are continuing to collect information to complement the status evaluations that were carried out in selected villages to map Project intervention zones. The information collected includes activities being carried out by partners in the intervention villages to plan for synergy and collaboration. Health centers are being listed as well, so that they can be integrated into Project activities.

Local and private radio stations are also being assessed for functionality. A partnership will eventually be formalized for future communications activities.

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

Activities carried out in Niger

The CLTS approach to promoting sanitation, which brings together communities to stop open-air defecation, was adopted by the Project. Field crews are identifying villages that are willing to try the approach. In Maradi and Zinder, 22 out of the 130 villages in the zone were recorded as having a favorable view of the idea. Individual meetings were held in the regions and in Niamey to record successes and challenges of the approach.

In Tillabéri-South, the team is still following up on work initiated by Arziki. More than 29 latrines started under Arziki have been completed. Construction of 15 other household latrines was begun during the quarter.

Activities carried out in Burkina Faso

The Project organized three workshops in each of three regions with regional specialists and Health/Nutrition field staff, to develop the strategy for implementation for CLTS and develop an action plan to begin work.

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Coordination and Management

The procurement of motorcycles and vehicles for both countries is in its final stages.

In preparation for the formulation of the 2014-2015 REGIS-ER workplan (PTA), an internal team was set up to assure the organization and timeliness of the process. A document was produced that includes the steps toward writing the plan, an outline, and a calendar for submitting material from the field for all regions in Niger and Burkina Faso.

[Diagnostic exercises are ongoing in Niger and Burkina Faso. To date these activities covered 221 out of 483 targeted villages \(46%\) in project intervention areas. The remaining 262 villages are forecast for next steps. See the details of the diagnostics undertaken in the table below:](#)

Country	Régions /REGIS-ER	Number of targeted villages	Number achieved	Remaining villages
Niger	Maradi	60	60	0
	Tillabéri-North	43	23	20
	Tillabéri-South	60	1	59
	Zinder	70	63	7
	Sub-total (1)	233	147	86
Burkina Faso	Bogandé	80	24	56
	Kaya	70	22	48
	Dori	100	28	72
	Sub-total (2)	250	74	176
Total		483	221	262

Formatted: Centered, Space Before: 12

Formatted: Centered

Formatted Table

Formatted: Centered

Formatted: Centered

Formatted: Centered

Formatted: Centered

Formatted: Centered

Other cross-cutting themes this quarter include:

- Communications were strengthened as a dedicated line was set up in the Niger office and a group telephone contract was set up. In Burkina Faso, a group telephone contract is currently being negotiated.
- To facilitate staff and partner lodging in regions outside Niamey, the head of Administration and Finance visited the regions to negotiate reasonable prices for REGIS-ER with hotels and guesthouses.
- A specialist was recruited for rainfed agriculture to better serve producers.

Activities specific to Burkina Faso

The beginning of field activities in the regions included these highlights:

- Hiring the remaining field staff to carry out fieldwork
- Meeting with FFP and other partners concerning Project implementation (EAA, Mwangaza, A2N)
- Several joint meetings with USAID/Burkina and SAREL to take advantage of an opportunity for a technical workshop to launch REGIS-ER and SAREL in Burkina
- Work meeting with the Permanent Secretary of Coordination of Agriculture Sector Policies (SP/CPSA) to obtain information on the national resilience strategy and coordinate resilience interventions in Burkina
- Contacting potential partners, such as the central structures for the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources, Red Cross/BF, NGOs and various development programs
- Immersion of regional coordinators and field agents in their respective zones through a mission carried out in the field to meet administrative authorities and technical services at the regional, provincial, and commune levels, as well as FFP and other NGOs and programs

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES - *continued*

- Allocation of 10 villages per facilitator according to detailed criteria, after a workshop in the communes attended by local elected officials, technical services, and administrative authorities
- Field missions carried out by the Chief of Party, country Representative, and central team members to the 3 regions to support field teams
- Participatory diagnostics and operational planning starting in May - 60 diagnostics carried out in BF as follows: Sahel Region/Dori: 21; Eastern Region/Bogandé: 17; Central-North Region/Kaya: 22

Small Grants Fund

Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso

The small grants fund was created to support investments in new technologies to share risk and costs with beneficiaries. These actions were taken during the quarter:

- A document on **criteria for selection** of applicants was drawn up. It defines the conditions for accessing the grant fund. It was shared with partners and project staff through training and orientation meetings.
- Data collection forms were designed and distributed to regional teams to facilitate documentation of contributions toward cost sharing by beneficiaries as activities are financed.
- A process was initiated to collaborate with the MFI ASUSU so that the package offered to Project-associated producers could be increased.
- To harmonize financial reporting by staff, personnel from the three partner NGOs of REGIS-ER (Mwangaza action, EAA/BF, and A2N) were trained in filling out the report forms that have been made available to them.

Comment [U7]: Please send final draft grant selection criteria (incorporating USAID comments sent on May 9th)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Analysis (MERA)

Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso

An internal workshop was held April 21-28 for the Monitoring-Evaluation team to resolve questions about each component's interventions in MERA and to find common understanding of the definitions and data collection forms for indicators and targets assigned to REGIS-ER.

Three regional MERA specialists were hired for Maradi, Tillabéri-North (who then dropped out during the workshop), and Zinder to complete the system. Terms of reference for hiring a MERA specialist for Ouagadougou were drawn up.

A workshop to exchange information and do training on the MERA system was held May 19-23 in Niamey. 33 participants, of whom 5 are women, included the seven regional coordinators and their respective MERA specialists, plus representatives from Sheladia (Jan Twarowski), DiMagi (David Ramdeen) and SAREL (Steve Reid, Dan Brumhagen, Amal Redwan, Alisha Graves, Marie-Ange Binagwaho).

An action plan that came out of the workshop included updating the indicator list for REGIS-ER and finalizing data collection forms according to feedback from the participants. The forms have now been made available to the regional offices.

In order to assure good communication between regions and facilitators, and to help them "own" the MERA system tools, the training was repeated in the regions for the benefit of technicians and facilitators.

The MERA team worked with DiMagi to develop and test applications for collecting data in the field on June 3rd. The test was followed by training of 7 trainers, including one woman from Niamey, over two days: June 17-18.

To develop applications and continue training, an action plan was made with DiMagi and the MERA team. The plan is for DiMagi to develop applications for 17 indicators before testing them in August 2014. Acquisition is underway for internet-enabled phones (Samsung Galaxy Win GT-I8552) and accessories (protective cover, solar charger, and SIM cards) that have been selected for the data collection.

A new version of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan that includes the Project Monitoring Plan table of indicators and annual targets was drawn up in May and June, and then forwarded to USAID. This work was accomplished with a lively synergy between Sheladia and REGIS-ER staff.

A typographical outline of fonts and formatting was drawn up to make REGIS-ER reports consistent among all technical staff.

Training - Communications - Group Organization

Activities carried out in Niger and Burkina Faso

Training

Activities carried out this component focused on supporting REGIS-ER in general and assisting components with organizing and holding workshops and exchange, orientation, and training meetings. Following the M&E workshop and the Governance workshop, Regional Coordinators and respective specialists conducted training sessions using the same Power Point presentations from the workshops in Niamey.

Communication

These activities were undertaken by the Communications sub-component:

- Participation in organizing and facilitating the workshop on Governance Component strategy, June 23-24
- Participation in an orientation session on the garden planning tool SIGESCO
- Participation in internal discussions on the outlined strategies of REGIS-ER components
- Meetings with partners IRD and SPRING
- Responsibility for making communications tools for Project visibility: signs, banners, business cards
- Participation in the harmonization of SBCC strategies for Niger and Burkina Faso

Gender

REGIS-ER has a policy and requirement to integrate gender into all aspects of its activities; thus it has recommended to its human resources team to hire qualified women for Communications and for the Social Behavior Change Communications posts, for field positions, and wherever else it is possible.

REGIS-ER gender action plan has produced these results so far:

- In the SL Component, the Project emphasized creating jobs for women as it drew in 305 women for anti-erosion and water collection structure building, thus increasing the surface area of arable land.
- Women's groups were favored in the four work zones of Niger to set up and farm simplified BDL sites. **Zinder:** 750 women; **Maradi:** 374 women; **Tillabéri-South:** 4,251 women; **Tillabéri-North:** 906 women
- In the installation of four Oasis Gardens using irrigation, 50 women in organized groups were targeted for each of four sites. **Tillabéri-North:** Kourthèye Commune, village of Lossa Kado); Sakoirra Commune, villages of Morou Kalou, Dory Bane, Albarka.
- In **Tillabéri-South**, 150 vulnerable women were selected out of 300 applicants in 18 villages for habbanayé goat distribution.
- In the process of drawing up the local convention for Tondikandia, training given to decision-making sub-zone and steering committee members included 7 women out of 58 total participants.
- In Monitoring-Evaluation, the strategy for disaggregating data by gender has been maintained at all levels. Continual reminders are given to staff to incorporate gender aspects in written reports and documents.

Environment

A simplified form to collect information on environmental aspects of Project activities was developed on the basis of REGIS-ER's Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The form has been distributed to regional offices and component heads.

The SL Component is implementing most of the activities that require environmental monitoring. These include:

Pesticides and fertilizers

Production manuals used in training have been examined to assure good communications on the dosing and handling of pesticides. A review of all manuals is in progress to improve and strengthen the environmental aspects of production, with emphasis on mention of pesticides and integrated pest management that can avoid the use of toxic substances. Training sessions on these aspects of production are planned for the protection of producers and community-based solution providers or APS. Training is also planned for the regional coordinators to fill out the information collection forms as part of quarterly reporting.

During the quarter, micro-dosing of fertilizer according to area covered and farming technique was explained to 18 people during the conservation farming training, which is being practiced on 25 ha test sites in Niger and Burkina.

Livestock activities: risks for mortality and overgrazing

The EMMP cited the risks associated with introducing non-local animal races into an area. Before the 600 red goats from Maradi were introduced to Tillabéri-South as part of the habbanayé operation, the EMMP mentioned the potential impacts on vegetation cover (overgrazing of the available pasture and forage), and on the local animals (possible transmission of sickness).

There have been nine recorded deaths among the introduced animals, attributed to various causes. A mission to follow up on the health of the introduced animals is happening in July.

While waiting for results from the July mission, these lessons should become part of the process for “next time”:

- (1) Respect the quarantine that is required during the process of delivery, to avoid transmitting sicknesses
- (2) Avoid transporting goats in the rainy season, as goats are susceptible to becoming sick in the rain
- (3) Establish contracts for animal health maintenance **before** the arrival of the animals, not **after**
- (4) Build stables and shelters **before** the arrival of the animals, not **after**

Concerning the risk of overgrazing linked to the newly introduced animals, a relationship between available forage and the actual number of animals has not yet been established for the long-term. However, feed was delivered at the same time as the goats to reduce immediate impacts.

Climate change

Training manuals used by REGIS-ER should carry a message about actions to take related to climate change. The review of manuals is ongoing and should be finished next quarter. Next year, field visits will help to refine messages and how they are passed.

Governance Component carried out these actions relative to CC:

- Sensitization and training in CC concepts as they relate to decision making and for building anti-erosion structures, as part of the NRM plans within local conventions
- Farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) is a sub-activity that fights CC; identification of field sites for implementation is in progress
- Preparing and reducing risks linked to CC is part of the training package linked to needs identified during the ongoing evaluation of commune preparedness

Water quality testing

In conformance with environmental directives of USAID, water quality testing is required at least once per quarter for new water sources provided by the Project. At this time, the Health and Nutrition Component has not yet begun building wells but is in the phase of evaluating needs.

REGIS-ER HIGHLIGHT EVENT: “OPERATION HABBANAYÉ”

Balléyara, Niger - June 2014

The Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel - Enhanced Resilience Project (REGIS-ER), financed by USAID, has initiated a program for the most vulnerable people in its intervention villages so that they can access at least a minimum source of revenues to become more resilient. The ‘habbaneye’ approach is part of the strategy of REGIS-ER’s Sustainable Livelihoods Component.

A census of the most vulnerable women, mostly widows, was conducted in Balléyara Commune in Tillabéri-South Region of Niger. More than 300 such women were identified as having no tangible resources and receiving no substantial assistance from anyone.

The pilot habbanayé operation began with a launching ceremony June 15, 2014 at Baleyera, Niger with the administrative and customary authorities in attendance. Each of the 150 women received a “resilience kit” containing three female red goats and one male goat from Maradi, plus 10 sacks of feed. (Red goats from Maradi can give birth up to two times per year.) Animal health is to be assured through local vet auxiliaries.



Red goats from Maradi

The local practice called “habbanayé” involves raising three female goats until they give birth; three new females are then passed on with the original male to another vulnerable woman who will do the same. The habbanayé operation can theoretically reach thousands of vulnerable women over the course of five years.



Habbanayé ceremony, June 25, 2014, 3N representative Issaka Ountini gives a goat



APPENDIX: Performance Monitoring Table for REGIS-ER

Fiscal Year 2013-2014	Quarter				Current year			Comments
	1	2	3	4	Cumul. value	Target	% target reached	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Sustainable economic well-being (livelihoods)								
Intermediate result 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities								
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributed to implementation of REGIS-ER	0	383	0	0	383	80	479%	Construction of water capture and anti-erosion structures in Tillabéri-South /Niger
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local and migrant off-season labor	0	383	0	0	383	5000	8%	383 people trained to build anti-erosion structures in Tillabéri-South
Number of women	0	305	0	0	305			
Intermediate result 1.2. Intensified production and marketing								
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	36	1508	0	1,544	10,000	15%	Zinder (192 incl. 179 women), Maradi (389 incl. 375 women), Tillabéri-North (912 incl. 902 women) and Tillabéri-North (51 incl. 7 women).
Number of women	0	7	1456	0	1,463			
1.2.2. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	0	100	163	0	264	5,000	5%	263 ha: Zinder (34 ha), Maradi (69 ha), Tillabéri-South (130 ha), Tillabéri-North (30 ha).
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	0	1153	972	0	2,125	40,000	5%	Niger: 2,103. Burkina Faso: 22 people
Number of women	0	1044	800	0	1,844			
1.2.4. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations receiving USG assistance	0	0	85	0	85	600	14%	85 enterprises/organizations: Zinder (8), Maradi (23), Tillabéri-North (54)
1.2.5. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations who have applied improved technologies or management practices	0	0	83	0	83	300	28%	83 enterprises/organizations: Zinder (6), Maradi (23), Tillabéri-North (54)
1.2.7. Number of vulnerable households benefitting directly from USG interventions	0	1153	1005	0	2,158	25,000	9%	
Intermediate result 1.3. Improved access to financial services								
1.3.1. Value of agricultural and rural loans (USD)	0	0	24900	0	24,900	250,000	10%	24,900 USD = 12,450,000 FCFA at \$1=500 FCFA: Zinder (9500 USD = 4,750,000 FCFA), Tillabéri-South (15,400 USD=7,700,000 FCFA)
1.3.2. Percentage of beneficiary households with access to formal or community-based financial services (REGIS-ER collects number only)	0	0	235	0	235	TBD		Number of benefiting households includes: Tillabéri-South (148), Zinder (87)

Comment [U8]: As stated in the email, are unlikely to get near our Year 1 target for many indicators. This should be explained in the annual report. Also, we will need to determine if this will affect our year targets.

INDICATORS AND TARGETS: PROGRESS - continued

Fiscal Year 2013-2014	Quarter				Current year			Comments
Indicator	1	2	3	4	Cumul. value	Target	% target reached	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. Strengthened governance and institutions								
Intermediate result 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management								
2.1.2. Number of community residents participating in NRM fora	0	11	47	0	58	550	10%	14 types of community groups participated in seven fora for the local convention: technical services, women, youth, local elected persons, environment, herders, farmers, rural development commission, chef de canton, mayor, ONG, association, steering committee. For the steering committee, 8 of the groups are represented and include 47 people of whom 6 are women. Six fora were held for the diagnostic exercise
Number of women	0	1	6	0	7			
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Improved health and nutrition status								
Intermediate result 3.2. Better health and nutrition practices								
3.2.4. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition	0	0	19	0	19	20,000	0%	19 educators trained in Tillabéri-South, of whom 16 are women
Number of women	0	0	16	0	16			
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: GAP indicators								
4.D. Number of hectares of farmland registered in the name of women	0	0	4.1	0	4.1	TBD		Zinder: 4.1 ha of land in the name of 4 women's groups for BDL farming