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**Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel -
Enhanced Resilience**

REPUBLIC of NIGER and BURKINA FASO

REGIS-ER

Quarterly Report

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Acronyms and abbreviations

English	French	Meaning
3N	3N	Initiative of the Niger government: Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens
A2N	A2N	Africa 2000 Network
CF	AC	Agriculture de Conservation / Conservation Farming
CCA	ACC	Adaptation au Changement Climatique (<i>Climate Change Adaptation</i>)
CBSP	APS	<i>Agent prestataire de service</i> (Community-based solution provider)
AREN	AREN	Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Elevage au Niger
CLTS	ATPC	Community-Led Total Sanitation (<i>Assainissement total piloté par la communauté</i>)
BDL	BDL	Bio-Reclamation of Degraded Lands (<i>Récupération biologique des terres dégradées</i>)
SLC, H/SLC	BEE, R/BEE	<i>Responsable/Composante Bien-Être Économique</i> (Head / Sustainable Livelihoods component)
SBCC	CCSC	Social and behavior change communication (<i>Communication pour le changement social de comportement</i>)
ECOWAS	CEDEAO	Economic Community Of West African States (<i>Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest</i>)
CoFoB, CoFoCom	CoFoB, CoFoCom	<i>Commission Foncière de Base, Commission Foncière de la Commune</i> (Village and Commune Tenure Commissions)
DAO	DAO	<i>Dossier d'Appels d'Offres</i>
WASH	EHA	Water Sanitation and Hygiene (<i>Eau Hygiène Assainissement</i>)
ER	ER	Enhanced Resiliency (<i>Résilience rehaussée</i>)
FFP	FFP	Food For Peace
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 (<i>Responsable/Gouvernance et Gestion des Ressources Naturelles</i>), REGIS-ER
DRM	GRC	Disaster and Risk Management (<i>Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes</i>)
NRM	GRN	Natural Resource Management (<i>Gestion des Ressources Naturelles</i>)
USG	GUS	United States Government (<i>Gouvernement des Etats Unis</i>)
MFI	IMF	Micro-finance Institution (<i>Institut de Micro-Finance</i>)
IR	IR	Intermediate Result (<i>Résultat Intermédiaire</i>)
NCBA CLUSA	NCBA CLUSA	National Cooperative Business Association/Cooperative League of USA
ONAHA	ONAHA	<i>Office National des Aménagements Hydro-Agricoles</i>
PCOAS	PCOAS	Commune-based land use plan (<i>Plan communal d'occupation et d'affectation des sols</i>)
PO	OP	Producers' Organization (<i>Organisation des producteurs</i>)
PMP	PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan (<i>Plan-tableau pour suivre la performance</i>)
PTA	PTA	<i>Plan de travail annuel</i> (Annual Workplan)
REGIS	REGIS	Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel
REGIS-ER	REGIS-ER	Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Enhanced Resilience
RISE	RISE	<i>Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced</i>
FMNR	RNA	<i>Régénération Naturelle Assistée</i> (Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration)
SAREL	SAREL	<i>Programme Recherche et Compréhension</i> (Sahel Research and Learning) - Projet lié au REGIS
SFR	SFR	<i>Services Fonciers et Ruraux</i> (Rural and land tenure service)
SHELADIA	SHELADIA	Irrigation/ M&E company based in USA-REGIS-ER partner (<i>Cabinet spécialisant en irrigation et suivi/évaluation basé aux E-U- partenaire REGIS-ER</i>)
SIGESCO	SIGESCO	System for planning annual garden plots (<i>Initiation à la gestion et la planification maraîchère</i>)
HN, H/HN	SN, R/SN	Head of/ Health/Nutrition and WASH component , REGIS-ER (<i>Responsable/ Composante Santé/Nutrition et WASH</i>)
TDR	TDR	Terms of Reference (<i>Termes de Référence</i>)
ICT	TIC	Information and communication technology (<i>Technologies d'Information et de Communication</i>)
URC	URC	University Research Corporation (main contractor for Health and Nutrition Component)
USAID	USAID	United States Agency for International Development (<i>Agence des Etats Unis pour le Développement International</i>)
ViM	ViM	<i>Victoire sur la Malnutrition</i> (ONG)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is for the first quarter of the second fiscal year of implementation of USAID | REGIS-ER. Regional teams were involved in intermediary activities: training the 70 facilitators in multiple disciplines, diagnostics of wells, formulating bid requests for well drilling and latrine construction, planning for irrigation systems, getting ready for the next habbanayé operation, and more. All of these activities are in preparation for a robust second quarter in terms of results for all components.

While results in terms of percentages achieved remain low, this does not reflect the tremendous effort that was expended in all regions during the quarter. The preparatory phase of strategizing, training, and establishing a clear vision for all components has been completed, especially for the Health and Nutrition Component that is now fully operational in all regions.

In the next quarter, REGIS-ER indicators will be reviewed and potentially modified.

Highlights

- ▶ The first general assembly for REGIS-ER/Niger was held in December, 2014, to consolidate accomplishments, discuss lessons learned from the first year and recognize our challenges for Year 2.
- ▶ Project staff was bolstered by the addition of two natural resource mapping specialists and the recruitment of a replacement to head the Livelihoods component.
- ▶ Climate change information and adaptation is being integrated into all field activities.
- ▶ With assistance from REGIS-ER, almost 50 ha of land has been deeded to women for gardening and food production.
- ▶ The process of setting up Mother-to-Mother groups was initiated, which will lead to widespread adoption of best practices in terms of health, nutrition, and hygiene especially for women and infants.
- ▶ An RFP to set up a comprehensive database was developed.
- ▶ A strategy for household poultry was formulated and shared with regions.
- ▶ The regional office that was headquartered in Bogandé, Eastern Region of Burkina Faso, was moved to Fada N'gourma, for better access to communications and work at field sites.
- ▶ Sizeable grant applications are under consideration for rehabilitation and construction of wells, latrines, habbanayé, and complete packages including irrigation, seeds, and fertilizer for women's gardens.

Points of convergence

- ▶ A joint mission to monitor the quality of health educator work was carried out by Livelihoods and Health-Nutrition specialists in Tillabéri South. The presence of pregnant and lactating women were used as criteria to prioritize locations for Mother-to-Mother groups.
- ▶ Burkina and Niger Governance teams worked together to identify cattle corridors linking the two countries.
- ▶ A meeting was held with NGO SongES in Niger to deepen our understanding of Husband Schools (Écoles des Maris), how they are implemented, the tools needed, and a potential partnership between REGIS and SongES.
- ▶ Vulnerable households that should benefit from grants to build latrines were identified by FFP partners in CLTS villages of Gayéri, Barsalogo, and Bouroum.
- ▶ A training research exercise was carried out between REGIS-ER, SAWKI, and NGO Lahia for Digital Green in Maradi.
- ▶ REGIS ER continues to work with SAWKI to explore opportunities of collaboration in Maradi and Zinder on SAFE SPACE.
- ▶ REGIS administration based in Ouagadougou participated in a workshop on rural women's enterprise incubators sponsored by ECOWAS on 18 and 19 December. REGIS was identified as a partner in the design and implementation of a pilot incubator project.

Lessons learned

The participatory approach through involvement of the technical services and local authorities is fundamental to making long-term change and maintaining a solid relationship with partners.

INTRODUCTION

The RISE initiative (Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced) is a strategy of the United States government that aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in the Sahel. The strategy is executed in part by USAID | REGIS-ER.

USAID defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. The overall objective of USAID | REGIS-ER is to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable populations in marginal agriculture and pastoral zones in Niger and Burkina Faso. In the broader context, USAID investments in resilience seek to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability through nutrition-led agriculture and livestock rearing, better health and hygiene, stronger governance and natural resource management, and awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation to them.

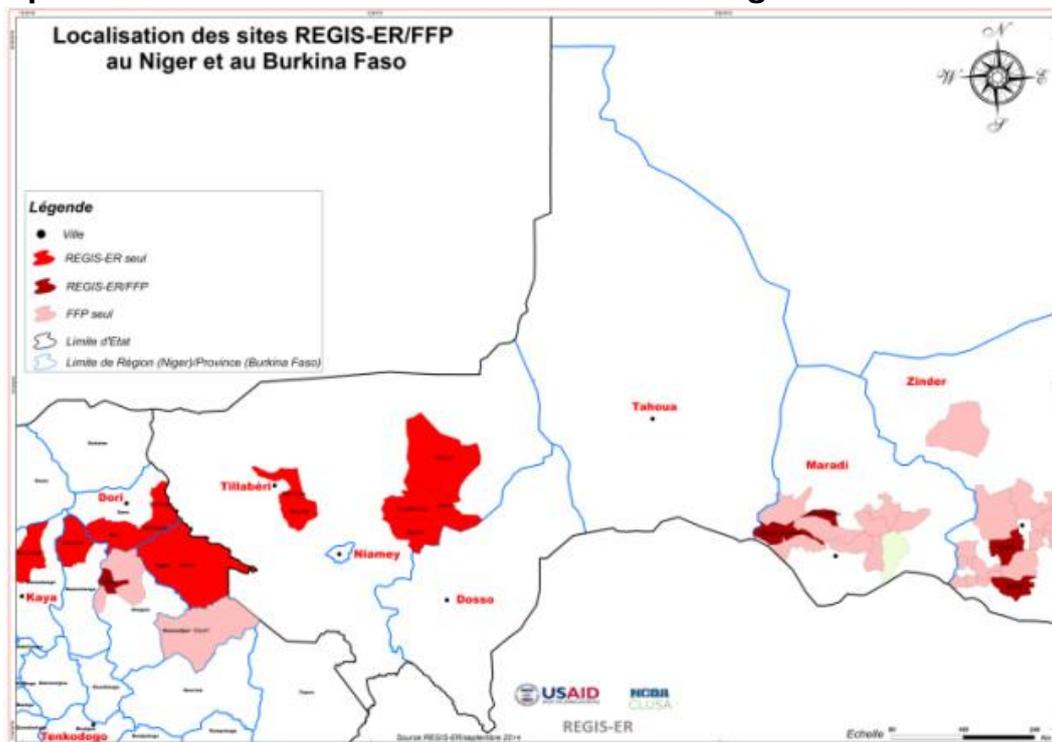
Activities undertaken to enhance resilience correspond to REGIS-ER's three main objectives (and their intermediate results), which are also the names of the three principal components:

- Sustainable livelihoods (diversifying economic opportunities, intensified agricultural and animal production and marketing, access to financial services)
- Strengthened governance (regional capacity building and advocacy, resilience planning, natural resource management through legally recognized land use plans, disaster and conflict risk management)
- Improved health and nutrition (improving access to potable water, capacity development of community health workers, behavior change communications for key health and nutrition actions, training for nutritious local food consumption and gardening, latrine and well construction)

A crisis-based modification of activities will engage if the Project mode temporarily changes to one of providing humanitarian assistance due to unforeseen events, thus disrupting other Project objectives as little as possible.

Cross-cutting activities that are integrated into the three components are the grant fund, prioritizing women for all activities, taking gender into account, training, communications, monitoring and evaluation, climate change adaptation, and mitigating environmental impacts

Map of REGIS-ER and FFP intervention zones in Niger and BF communes



1. Sustainable Livelihoods Component (SLC)

General considerations

The objective of the Sustainable Livelihoods Component, known simply as “Livelihoods,” is to provide a way for producers at all levels to achieve resilience and food security in spite of repeated shocks that result from climate change, degradation of soil quality, and demographics. The component addresses two of the food security pillars: availability of food through improved and intensified production, and access to better services, products, and information. The capacity of herders and agricultural producers is being built using proven successful technologies (such as protecting natural regeneration in fields, making and storing fodder to fatten animals, and building water capturing structures, among others) that serve to intensify and diversify production, which will lead to better nutrition, increased revenues, and a potential for increasing household assets. At the same time, the Project is facilitating access to financial services (savings and loans) and training in business literacy.

This quarter corresponds to the time for evaluating rainy season agricultural production. It is also the time when horticultural season begins and gardening needs are determined. Other activities such as animal fattening and aviculture were initiated. The timing of, and preparing households for, the habbanayé ruminant program were improved based on the experiences of Tillabéri last year. A revised strategy for savings and loans based on Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) has been developed and will be implemented throughout the regions.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

Note: Exchange rate used - \$US 1 = 500 FCFA

Intermediate Result 1.1: Diversified economic opportunities								
Indicator	QUARTER OF 2014-2015				2013-2015 Performance			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
1.1.1. Increase in income from off-farm economic opportunities (\$US)	4,489				4,489	16,498	1,500,000	1.4%
of which, for women	3,583				3,583	4,706		
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributed to REGIS-ER implementation (FTE)	292				292	350	480	133.8%
of which, for women	237				237	310		
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local/ migrant off-season labor	2,122				2,122	39	10,000	21.6%
women	1,148				1,148	38		
Intermediate Result 1.2: Intensified production and marketing								
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	5,984				5,984	9,034	40,000	37.6%
practiced by women	5,485				5,485	8,507		
1.2.2. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices	185				185	948	20,000	5.7%
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	5,052				5,052	6,199	100,000	11.2%
women	3,655				3,655	5,483		
1.2.4. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and CBOs receiving USG assistance through REGIS-ER	132				132	215	1,200	28.9%
women	81				81	215		

Intermediate Result 1.2: Intensified production and marketing - continued								
Indicator	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. target FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
1.2.5. Number of food security private enterprises, producer organizations, water user assoc'ns, women's groups, trade and business assoc'ns, and community-based organizations who have applied improved technologies or management practices	116				116	176	600	48.7%
operated by women	74				74	150		
1.2.6. Number of firms (excluding farms) or CBOs engaged in agricultural and food security-related manufacturing and services now operating more profitably (at or above cost)	0				0	6	120	5.0%
1.2.7. Number of vulnerable households benefitting directly from USG interventions through REGIS-ER	11,601				11,601	13,208	100,000	24.8%
female head of household	4				4			
1.2.8. Value of incremental sales (collected at farm-level) attributed to program implementation (MILLET, SORGHUM, MAIZE, COWPEA, RICE) - \$US	13,162				13,162	5,565	TBD	
Intermediate Result 1.3: Improved access to financial services								
1.3.1. Value of agricultural / rural loans (\$US) loans to women	48,096 32,190				48,096 32,190	97,737 56,661	1,250,000	11.7%
1.3.2. Number (%) of beneficiary households with access to formal or community-based financial services	269 (__%)				269 (__%)	956 (__%)	TBD	Note: SAREL to survey
1.3.3. Number of active informal savings and loan groups strengthened	20				20	0	400	5%
operated by women	16				16			
1.3.4. Value of savings accumulated by the project beneficiaries (\$US)	6,482				6,482	0	1,250,000	0.5%
1.3.5. Number of MSMEs including farmers receiving USG assistance to access loans through REGIS-ER	68				68	10	250	31.2%
operated by women								

IR 1.1. Diversified economic opportunities

Niger

Activities that support community-based solution providers (CBSP) are varied and cover different themes, as presented in the following table.

Type of CBSP	Maradi	Tillabéri North	Tillabéri South	Zinder
Improved seed growers			Identification of and contracting with two growers for three pest-resistant, high-yield manioc varieties. Tarbanassa and Aggou sites are currently producing buds.	
Graft and plant nursery producers	2 nurserymen received kits and bricks were made to build shades. Posts are being set for the construction.		19,500 baobab plants were delivered to five REGIS-ER nursery managers	Production contracts for 20,000 fruit trees were signed with two nursery managers. Each received a grant for construction materials, fruit tree seeds, and plastic pots. About 3,000 fruit trees have already germinated.
Auxiliaries for livestock and animal health		20 identified	10 auxiliaries have been identified to strengthen the volunteer private veterinary service (SVVP) network	10 female poultry vaccinators have been identified

Type of CBSP	Maradi	Tillabéri North	Tillabéri South	Zinder
Private vets		1 identified and introduced to Kokari		
Pharmacies and vet supply depots	Two applications for depots are being submitted.			
Animal feed				"Wayé Kai" group in Kaba is composed of 20 women who are making urea blocks as a revenue-generating activity. They have come to the Livestock Service in Bandé, who has given the green light for selling blocks in the livestock market.
Village animators			Activities of the 6 CBSP led to the identification and development of 42 operational sites for planting certified seed, fertilizer, and urea, with project advice on land division and transplanting.	Two village animators identified.
Ruminant and cattle fattening enterprises	8 applications have been put together and sent in; 3 have been financed for a total of 4.1 million FCFA for 78 women. 27 other groups were identified; applications are being collated.	20 applications for 34.7 million FCFA are being considered for financing (including 2 for warehouse receipts and 1 for small commerce)		1,488,400 FCFA in benefits were saved by 95 beneficiaries after fattened animal sales, for an average profit of 15,665 FCFA per beneficiary; this is a major contribution to household revenues. In addition, 28 groups have gone into animal fattening promotion activities.

Burkina Faso

During the quarter, the only livestock activity was to list herders and groups who are interested in fattening activities.

Type of CBSP	Fada N'gourma	Kaya
Ruminant and cattle fattening enterprises	Identification of 227 individuals and 15 groups; estimated credit required: 273.7 million FCFA	Identification of 95 individuals and 14 groups; estimated credit required: 118.6 million FCFA

IR 1.2. Intensified production and marketing

Conservation Farming (CF)

Niger

This was a period for evaluating CF performance and organizing guided visits to CF demonstration sites. These are the results for Niger sites:

Region	Crop	Increase in production using CF compared to traditional farming
Tillabéri North	Millet	37%
Zinder	Millet	56%
	Cowpea	103%

Visits to farmers' fields and information given by our agents lets us plan for CF producers in the coming season. Listing continues, but up to now, 51 farmers in Zinder and 55 in Maradi have been identified.

Burkina Faso

Partial results concerning CF yields have been calculated, with a range of values depending on technologies used. Because of the small number of samples and high variability of the rainfall, a generalized percentage of increase was not calculated.

Region	Crop	Range of yields using CF (kg/ha)	Range of yields using traditional farming (kg/ha)
Kaya	Millet	Zaï: 1048 to 2382 Ripper: 433 to 1790	576 to 1453
	Sorghum	Zaï: 789 to 1813 Ripper: 1184 to 2107	409 to 853
Fada	Millet	Zaï: 872 Ripper: 880	718
	Sorghum	Zaï: 1159 Ripper: 1192	946
Dori	Millet	Zaï: 403 to 808 Ripper: 304 and 916	303 to 492
	Sorghum	Zaï: 0 Ripper: 662 and 942	0 to 116

A general observation is that CF yields are clearly superior to those obtained with traditional farming, even with pockets of drought experienced during the rainy season. In a few cases where CF results were poor, the reasons include insufficiently deep furrows produced by the ripper leading to inadequate retention of fertilizer and water.

Guided visits and four evaluation meetings were arranged (two each in Kaya and Dori). The photo below shows the meeting in Nagraogo Mossi (Barsalogo commune/Kaya Province) attended by 48 producers and technical service agents, including 13 women.



Photos of commented visits in the villages of Gori (Bogandé), Fougou (Dori), Barsalogo (Kaya)

After these demonstrations and evaluation visits, producers better appreciated CF using the ripper. 811 producers have already expressed interest in repeating the technique in Mani commune, Eastern Region.

Introduction and distribution of improved seed

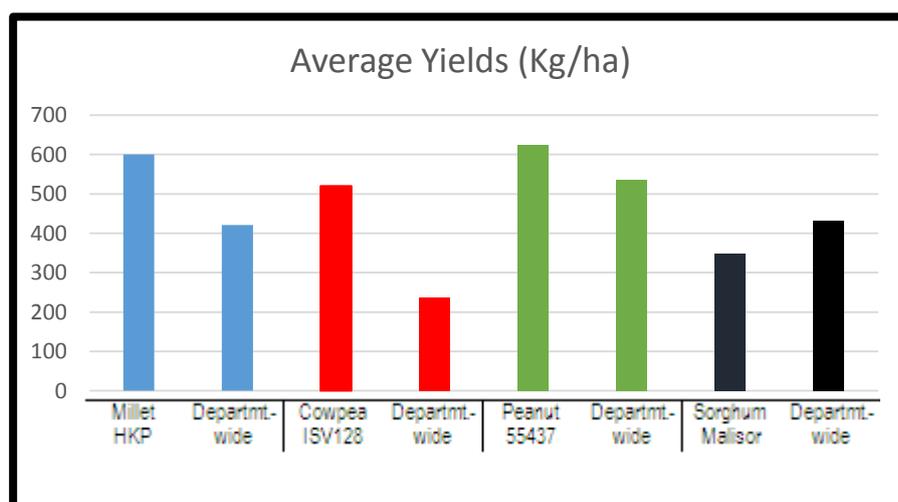
Niger

Improved millet variety HKP, sorghum variety Malisor, cowpea variety ISV128, and peanut 55437 were introduced in Niger farming regions. Provisional results show a very good performance. The graph shows a comparison between yields from the improved seed versus Department-wide yields in Tillabéri.

Note that this performance is due not only to the seed types, but also to the soil fertility and climate conditions.

Thus, improved seed varieties should be introduced at the same time as CF and in fertile soils so that they achieve their full potential.

This recommendation will be taken into consideration in the next plan made for the 2015 growing season.



In compliance with grant agreements signed by producers, 10% of seed is in the process of being collected to be passed on to other farmers.

Burkina Faso

The variation between yields from improved seed goes between 8 and 56%. In extreme climate conditions like those we saw in Burkina this year, improved seed crops produced around 200 kg/ha in places where local varieties produced nothing. In addition to their suitability to climate conditions in REGIS intervention zones, the varieties that were selected this year (sorghum: Kapelga; millet: IKMV 82-01; cowpea: Nafi; peanut: TE3) were appreciated both for seed quality and for cooking and taste characteristics.

The required 10% of production is being collected to be given back to the Project for redistribution.

BDL

Niger

Tillabéri North: 22.6 ha were farmed by 788 women who produced 5410 kg of okra, 5566 kg of senna, and 7770 kg of hibiscus.

Maradi: 13.3 ha were farmed by 414 women who produced 4430 kg of okra, 5904 kg of senna, and 9341 kg of hibiscus.

Zinder: 24 ha farmed by 864 women produced 7015 kg of okra, 4367 kg of senna, and 6482 kg of hibiscus.

Irrigation

Note that the Project is still waiting for clearance on the IEE amendment, which is holding up progress on Oasis Gardens and other key irrigation activities.

Niger - Three oasis garden sites in Maradi and two in Zinder were acquired for five garden groups who now have their title deeds. An irrigation system will be put in place in February 2015.

Maradi:

N°	Irrigation system	Type of extraction	Village	Area (ha)	Number of women	GPS
1	Oasis Garden (Hose irrigation)	Immersible pump	Zabourey	0.95	45	N: 13°38.1380' E: 006°56.389'
2	Oasis Garden (California system)	Immersible pump	Fadin Baya	1.5	50	N: 13°38.862' E: 006°39.957'
3	Oasis Garden (Basins)	Immersible pump	El kolta	0.80	40	N: 13°39.207' E: 006°53.465'

Zinder:

N°	Irrigation system	Type of extraction	Village	Area (ha)	Number of women	GPS
1	Oasis Garden (Basins)	Volanta pump	Kakitama	1.5	50	N: 13°08.778' E: 009°02.619'
2	Oasis Garden (California system)	Immersible pump	Koudouma	1.5	50	N: 13°27.717' E: 008°47.269'

In Tillabéri North, to prepare for building capacity of gardeners in the vicinity of the river, a feasibility study was carried out to quantify all irrigable land and the crops with the best market value in Sakoirra and Kourthèye Communes.

In Tillabéri South, drilling wells and boreholes at the five oasis garden sites continues.

Burkina Faso

A diagnosis of garden sites was conducted to prioritize those to be supported by REGIS-ER. 12 sites in Kaya, 3 in Dori, and 9 in Bogandé were selected (with a very high potential in Manni Commune).

Grant applications are being assembled to sponsor (1) the improvement in water quality and quantity; (2) better water pumping systems; (3) adapted irrigation systems; (4) organizational strengthening; and (5) strengthening technical and marketing skills.

Tree nurseries

Niger

Fruit tree nurseries were the focus for this quarter. 11 managers were trained and equipped to produce 110,000 papaya, citrus, mango, pomme du Sahel, baobab, and others, with a goal of 10,000 plants per manager.

- **Maradi and Tillabéri North:** 2 nursery managers in each region are building plant bed shades, and production is in progress.
- **Zinder:** 2 nursery managers received a grant for construction materials and seed with plastic pots for 5,000 plants. Construction is in progress.
- **Tillabéri South:** 19,500 baobab were sent to the five nursery managers. The seedlings will be sent to motivated producers in target villages to be planted in household gardens.

Garden crops

Niger

- **Tillabéri South:** Five community-based solution providers (CBSP) were trained in gardening techniques and how to function as an association so that producers could have nearby assistance. Thanks to the supply of improved okra, lettuce, cabbage, green pepper, hot pepper, moringa, and carrot seeds and garden production equipment led to placing 54.8 hectares of garden land under better management.
- **Zinder:** 798 individual garden sites were identified in Bandé and Droum Communes. The producers are being organized into groups. 158 men and 55 women oasis gardeners are among the beneficiaries in Kakitamma and Koudouma villages who are being trained in improved gardening techniques from nursery activities to transplanting in the field. They have also been given improved seeds. After decentralization of the training, 189 gardeners were reached. Transplanting is taking place at the established nurseries.
- **Tillabéri North:** An assessment of the status of gardens was done before training of producers began. 24 garden sites were diagnosed on 40.75 hectares cultivated by 836 producers in Sakoirra and Kourthey. A 5-hectare parcel was obtained for community members of Mara in Kourthey. 51 delegates, including 36 women, were trained and given vegetable garden seeds; these people in turn trained 357 others in garden techniques, for a total of 408 trainees including 317 women. In all, 327 households belonging to the 20 producer organizations (OP) directly benefited from REGIS-ER interventions.
- **Maradi:** As three oasis gardens were set up in Zabourey, El Kolta, and Fadin Baya, 128 producers from Guidan Roundji Commune were trained in composting techniques, including 116 women who will be working in oasis gardens.

Promotion of Moringa PKM1 and Baobab

Zone	Moringa PKM1	Baobab
Tillabéri North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 390 people including 325 women trained in moringa production 	
Tillabéri South		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19,500 baobab seedlings produced for households
Maradi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 392 new household moringa gardens set up (a total of 11.8 ha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 51 plant beds established, each with 4.5 square meters
Zinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19 kg of improved moringa seed made available to gardeners ▪ 474 producers trained in making zaï and incorporating fertilizer for direct moringa seeding 	

Habbanayé

Niger

Most activity occurred in Tillabéri South:

- Deworming all habbanayé animals in Tillabéri South
- Updates on animals:
 - 69 births (35 males and 34 females)
 - 48 deaths (20 males and 28 females)
 - As of December 31, there are 621 head alive, out of 600 delivered.

Monitoring has shown that almost all females are in advanced pregnancy, and that the mortality rate has fallen significantly compared to the beginning.

On the organizational side, six habbanayé groups have been formalized and contributions of 100 FCFA per person are collected from members weekly for loan activities.



A happy beneficiary in Iguéfan with 4 kids, 3 female goats, and one male goat is assisted by her family (initial stock: 4 animals)

In Maradi and Zinder, the habbanayé system has been initiated. The Maradi team took lessons from Tillabéri South; the beneficiary criteria were revised, and in 10 selected villages, validation of the list is in progress. In Zinder, the process is evolving in a participatory way as per the lessons from Balléyara, with an accent on involvement by the technical services.

Burkina Faso

Three informational meetings were held in the villages of Margou (Mani), Mardzanga (Gayéri), and Sidogo (Barsalogo). They helped in the definition of local criteria for vulnerability, which leads to choosing beneficiaries for habbanayé. These meetings were held as general assemblies in the villages and included resource persons such as village development committee members, religious and traditional leaders, producer organizations, women's groups, and others. In Margou and Mardzanga villages, 32 beneficiaries have already been selected by the villagers using the criteria.

Animal fattening

Niger

81 people were trained in making mineral licks with urea or densified ingredients, fodder production, and treating hay with urea. 15 women producers and 6 facilitators from Tillabéri South were among the trainees. The women plan to use their skills for generating revenue.

Burkina Faso

The following figures were produced after monitoring the production of dolich and fodder cowpea:

Dolich:

Zone	Hay collected	Average yield
Kaya	3.21 tonnes	0.34 T/ha
Dori	1.56 tonnes	0.16 T/ha
Bogandé	8.86 tonnes	7.67 T/ha

The dolich didn't reach the seed-producing stage, and yields were lower than expected. This was due to seeds being delivered late in the planting season, the long growing cycle required, insect attacks, and variable rainfall.

Fodder cowpea:

Zone	Seed obtained	Average yield of seed	Hay collected	Average yield of hay
Kaya	98.5 kg	0.16 T/ha	226 kg	0.31 T/ha
Dori	64.5 kg	0.04 T/ha		
Bogandé	322 kg	0.21 T/ha	1,190 kg	0.79 T/ha

This crop also suffered from pest attacks.

Fodder production planning

After the season, producers declared their intentions to grow fodder crops.

Kaya: 173 producers including 55 women declared they would plant 207 hectares with 3,188 kg of seed:
sorghum - 1330 kg cowpea - 1148 kg maize - 540 kg dolich - 170 kg

A similar evaluation will be carried out in other intervention regions.

Identification of animal fattening candidates (individuals and groups)

Zone	Number of people	Number of women	Credit required (FCFA)
Kaya	95	28	59,938,600
Dori	40		81,600,000
Bogandé	227 in 15 groups	37 women's groups	273,690,450

Training and equipment of producers in haying techniques and conservation of natural fodder

Training in Bouroum Commune involved 30 producers from eight villages, of whom 9 are women. These techniques were presented:

- Haying and fodder-making with sickles and rakes
- Species most favored by animals
- Air-drying harvested fodder
- Storage on appropriate structures
- Handling the sickle and the portable hay press

Other livestock-related activities

Niger

- 11 livestock auxiliary agents and 16 women were trained in animal health monitoring in Tillabéri South. Pass-down training was given to 50 producers, of which 8 are men (note that the major emphasis is on women).
- 80 women poultry vaccinators were identified, of whom 60 are in Maradi (Sabon Machi and Dogon Farou will lodge veterinary medical depots); 10 are in Tillabéri North and 10 in Zinder.
- 4 grazing corridors were mapped in Tillabéri North, Kourthèye Commune, one of which is international between Niger and Burkina Faso.



Making mineral licks in Tillabéri South; adding urea to hay in Tillabéri South (Photos by Moïzou)

Burkina Faso

Workshop to finalize REGIS-ER's approach in poultry farming held in Dori with the participation of livestock specialists from all the Burkina regions and technical services from both Niger and Burkina. The initial strategy that was proposed was amended and an action plan drawn up.

IR 1.3. Improved Access to Financial Services

Niger

REGIS-ER aims to mobilize savings within partner organizations and to strengthen their skills in submitting credit applications. This quarter, a total of 41,747,640 FCFA in credit was obtained for 640 women and 112 men in formal and informal savings groups, mainly for animal fattening, small-scale commerce, and market gardens. Six communes in REGIS' four intervention regions benefited: Bandé, Droum, Filingué, Sakouira, Kourtèye, and Guidan Roundji. Local microfinance institutions KOKARI, TAANADI, YARDA, and ASUSU acted on the requests.

In terms of savings mobilization, Tillabéri South is starting up with 63 formal and informal groups contacted. Their cumulative savings amount to 4,577,775 FCFA, or \$US 9,155. Most of this includes contributions from members and from tontines, village-based savings groups, that help people help each other on an informal basis.

Support for organizations

With the objective of strengthening governance and increasing economic viability of producer organizations (OP), the activities in the following table were undertaken in the past quarter in Zinder, Tillabéri North, and Tillabéri South.

Site	Training content	Number and types of people trained	Number of groups involved
Tillabéri North	Group functionality: structure and function, simple administration	10 facilitators 15 members of women's groups	5 OP - Oasis Gardens: 3 (Siboli) 2 (Marah)
Tillabéri South	Group functionality: structure and function, simple administration	5 CBSP 20 members of women's groups 5 vet auxiliaries	1 group CBSP 5 Oasis Garden (Tinkafa, Soukoutou, Sourgo Koirra, Iguéfane, Marakou2) 1 group of vet auxiliaries
Tillabéri South	Initiation for CBSP	5 CBSP 3 facilitators	3 market garden group (Fada léma - Lagaré village, Tchawat from Téguef, Bonkaney from M'Bamakaina)
Tillabéri South	Structuring new OP	(1506 members)	30 OP habbanayé
Tillabéri South	Group functionality	(91 members)	19 OP habbanayé
Zinder	CBSP approach and planning	9 facilitators 6 regional specialists	3 OP
Zinder (Bandé)	Group functionality		6 OP new gardener groups 2 OP existing

2. Governance and Natural Resource Management Component

General Considerations

REGIS-ER is working with local authorities at the commune and village levels in a process that includes civil society organizations, environmental groups, producer organizations, and the private sector to address governance and management of natural resources as part of the fourth pillar of food security.

To build capacity for decentralized decision-making, planning, and natural resource management and monitoring, Governance component is helping populations to write localized natural resource and conflict management plans containing maps of current and desired land uses within communes and villages. Where possible, commune-wide plans are made; in Burkina Faso, following temporary dissolution of existing mayorships in November 2014, village-based plans will be made to address resource and conflict management.

A local convention has been developed for the first time in Tondikandia Commune, Tillabéri Region/Niger. It is a planning tool that can be used to prevent conflict and that fits in with existing administrative planning systems in regions and provinces or departments.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

Indicator	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
2A. Number of community-level plans implemented with NRM, conflict management, or DRM components	7				7	0	50	14.0%
2B. Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to impacts of climate variability /change	620				620	317	1,500	62.5%

Indicator	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
Intermediate Result 2.1: Strengthened natural resource management								
2.1.1. Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues	Method of accounting being set up					0	180	0.0%
2.1.2. Number of community residents/groups participating in NRM meetings	0					84 / 13	660	12.7%
women						7		
2.1.3. Number of hectares under improved NRM practices (local conventions)	0					222,500	250,000	89.0%
Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened disaster risk management								
2.2.1. Number of people trained in disaster preparedness as a result of USG assistance	0 (initiation of Red Cross partnership)				0	0	300	0.0%
women	0				0	0		
2.2.2. Number of communities with disaster early warning and response (EWR) systems working effectively	Revision of indicator in progress						30	
Intermediate Result 2.3: Strengthened Conflict Management								
2.3.1. Number of conflict prevention systems, conflict assessments, or response mechanisms supported by USG assistance	8 (within the local convention)				8	0	100	12.5%
2.3.2. Number of disputes mediated to the satisfaction of all parties to the conflict	0				0	0	20	0.0%
Intermediate Result 2.4: Strengthened government and regional capacity and coordination								
2.4.1. Number of community development plans implemented after joint planning meetings held between local and sub-national units	0				0	0	15	0.0%
GAP (Gender)								
4.D. Number of hectares of farmland registered in the name of women	24.3				24.3	45.0	TBD	

IR 2.1. Strengthened natural resource management

Local conventions

Niger

Training was given to regional teams in Maradi and Zinder on local conventions and PCOAS. Of the 26 people trained, 6 were REGIS staff.

The first local convention is for Tondikandia Commune; it was finalized and validated, and is to be adopted by the Commune Council in January 2015.

Plateau land management and erosion work has begun in Tondikandia. 36.2 hectares of degraded lands were treated with rock bunds. 278 producers were sensitized on climate change, of which 111 committed to restoring plateau surfaces and treating ravines that are threatening their villages.

Natural resource mapping is underway for Guidan Roudji Commune by the REGIS ER mapper; USGS is working on the map for Droum.

Burkina Faso

Training in the process of writing the local convention for Barsalogho Commune was given to the regional team in Kaya. The technical services of Barsalogho and the Centre-Nord Regional Directorate of Research and Planning. 30 people were trained.

Two partners were contacted to advance the work of the local convention: MARP network, for diagnostics on the resources; and resource persons for producing maps. USGS and the REGIS-ER mapping component are working jointly on maps for Gayeri, Seytanga and Barsalogo.



Group work on diagnostics and writing rules: training of the regional team in Kaya with partners

FMNR/ RNA

In collaboration with local partners from the communes, government administrators, and decentralized technical services, informational and training workshops on climate change and farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR, or RNA in French) were held in eight communes covering 105 villages.

One objective of the workshops was to scale up FMNR for more widespread adaptation to climate change. Lead farmers, CVD, local elected officials, and commissions (environment, agriculture, and livestock) attended: in all, 188 producers, including 29 women and 24 government agents.



Classroom information on FMNR in Gayéri Commune; demonstrations on FMNR in Foutouri Commune, Burkina

IR 2.2. Strengthened disaster risk management

Niger

The strategy for supporting Niger Red Cross activities was completed this quarter, and an action plan was drawn up. An assessment of all the communes where REGIS works in Niger was done; it found that out of the 10 communes, five have a Red Cross structure to work with: Maradi has 1, Zinder has 2, and Tillabéri South has 2.

On the question of how functional these structures are, the ones that exist have moderate functionality.

Burkina Faso

A draft protocol for collaboration and a strategic framework were proposed to Red Cross Burkina Faso. These will assure that joint activities will be carried out in the coming years.

IR 2.3. Strengthened Conflict Management

Niger

In addition to finalizing and validating the local convention in Tondikandia, action plans were drawn up with GENOVICO and the Permanent Secretariat of the Rural Code. Terms of reference were proposed for setting up,

training, and furnishing 40 CoFoB structures and for training members of 40 commissions in charge of reconciliation in 40 villages in zones susceptible to conflict. Field activity will begin at the end of January 2015.

In terms of land tenure, these steps were taken:

- All the principal cattle corridors have been mapped for Tondikandia.
- An assessment of the status of tenure commissions in Niger is in progress. The only region that is complete is Zinder.
- Good progress was made in procuring legal documents for women: almost 50 hectares have been secured so far.

Region	Area secured (ha)
Maradi	16.8
Tillabéri North	20.1
Tillabéri South	9.5
Zinder	3.0
Total	49.4

Burkina Faso

The main activities are informational exchanges on tenure strategies with commune authorities in the three pilot communes: Gayéri, Barsalogo, and Seytenga.

IR 2.4. Strengthened Government and Regional Capacity and Coordination

Niger

Capacity building was done for departmental and decentralized technical services as 36 agents were trained in local convention writing and FMNR.

Burkina Faso

The regional team in Kaya participated in municipal council meetings in Bouroum and Nagbingou during which REGIS-ER's 2014-15 PTA was presented. The Project staff attended the provincial partner meeting (CCP) in Sanmetenga Province, which gave REGIS-ER greater visibility to others working in the Province.

To improve synergy with institutional partners, the Kaya team organized meetings with these partners:

- Regional Agriculture-Water Resources-Sanitation Directorate
- Regional Social Action Directorate
- Regional Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
- Regional Animal and Fisheries Resources Directorate
- Regional Health Directorate
- District Health Department
- Mayor's Office of Barsalogo
- ATAD NGO
- FFP partners from Programme Faso and ViM

3. Health and Nutrition Component

General considerations

The Health and Nutrition Component of REGIS-ER (HNW) is undertaking a range of innovative actions to improve public knowledge about, and bring solutions to crucial problems related to, health, nutrition, and sanitation -- particularly among the most vulnerable populations.

Activities are integrated with nutrition-led agriculture and behavioral change among men and women according to their attitudes and habits in regard to HNW.

To address questions related to the third pillar of food security -- rational utilization of food -- the program promotes dietary diversity, access to new biofortified foods, better access to health and nutrition services, and access to better sources of water and sanitation.

The Health and Nutrition strategy focuses on social behavior change communications (SBCC or CCSC) and improving the quality of services. Target populations are children under 5 years old, breastfeeding and pregnant women, and vulnerable women and girls. The Component works with local partner Eau et Assainissement Afrique (EAA) to install potable water systems and to address hygiene issues like improved latrines and hand washing. Women's groups such as Mother-to-Mother are being set up in the context of moringa gardens and BDL sites, which are to become training centers for nutrition and SBCC.

The Project is supporting the acquisition of small ruminants as a source of animal protein, as well as the diversification of agricultural crops, especially as regards women.

Summary table of progress towards indicator targets

Note that gaps in the numbering sequence of indicators signify places where impact or outcome indicators are being calculated by SAREL using data collected from household surveys.

Indicator	QUARTER 2014-2015				Performance 2013-2015			
	1	2	3	4	Cumul FY2 2014-15	Cumul FY1	Cum. TARGET FY 1+2	% Target FY 1+2
Intermediate result 3.1: Better access to potable water								
3.1.1. Number and Percentage of households using an improved drinking water source	0				0	0	TBD	0.0%
3.1.3. Number and Percentage of households using an improved sanitation facility	0				0	0	TBD	0.0%
Intermediate result 3.2: Improved health and nutrition practices								
3.2.2. Number of children under 5 reached by USG-supported nutrition programs during reporting year	0				0	0	150,000	0.0%
3.2.4. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs	120				120	109	60,000	0.4%
<i>women</i>	36				36	74		
3.2.5. Number of trained CHWs, CHVs and CBOs without stock-outs of essential medicines/products during the last 30 days before the date of the visit	0				0	0	TBD	0.0%
3.2.7. Annual couple-years of protection (CYP)	to be financed							

IR 3.1. Increased Access to Potable Water

Diagnostics of water sources to be rehabilitated

Niger

Diagnostics were carried out on 94 nonfunctioning water sources in all the regions to pinpoint how they can be repaired. So far, a request for bids was published to solicit firms that can perform the work on 13 water points in Tillabéri South.

As a prelude to this repair work, water management committees are being set up or renewed to assure that ownership is taken for the structures. In Maradi, two CGPE (water point management committees) and 10 COGEHA (Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management Committees) were set up.

Partnership with World Vision: During the quarter, and in collaboration with Livelihoods Component, a protocol for collaborating with World Vision was written up for drilling wells in Project intervention zones.

Burkina Faso

During participatory diagnostics in the villages, people expressed their need for rehabilitation of nonfunctioning wells and for new wells. After analyzing the requests, a list of priority villages was drawn up for the most urgent cases. A strategy for rehabilitating hand-pumped wells (PMH) was designed, including a form to collect data. Village meetings made it possible to fill in 158 forms with information on the age of the wells, functioning status of the pumps, and data related to how villagers live day to day. The summary of information from these forms shows that 70 wells are older than 10 years and that 80 PMH have been broken for at least one year.

After the diagnostics, contracts were drawn up with local repair persons for the pumps; bids for the bulk of the repairs are being solicited for the next quarter.



Well drillers; repair workers in action to measure volumes during rehabilitation

IR 3.2. Improved Health and Nutrition Practices

Communication for social and behavior change (SBCC)

Niger

With a view toward setting up community groups, the Project identified local agents working in health and nutrition. 596 relays, 34 committee members of the health centers (COGES), and 27 health committees (COSAN) were recorded in REGIS intervention villages. At the same time, 41 Care Groups and 10 Husband Schools (Écoles des Maris or EdM) set up by other partners were found to be functioning in Zinder; they can become models for our Project.

Burkina Faso

During the quarter, two training modules in SBCC and community mobilization were designed for regional specialists and field agents, leading to the establishment of Mother-to-Mother support groups (MtM) and a definition of the approach and tools to be used for SBCC.

Each region made its integrated communications plan to implement the SBCC strategy with MtM support groups at the center of activity.

In order to get communities to join, assist, and take ownership of the MtM approach, intervillage meetings were held to mobilize people around each Health and Social Promotion Center (CSPS). The meetings lasted one day, and with facilitation by field agents, communities reviewed their current hygiene, health, and nutrition practices, and then compared them to recommended practices and solutions. The MtM approach was presented as a solution to adopting desired health, nutrition, and hygiene practices.

Among the factors that can contribute to MtM group success in the villages, the agreement, support, and presence of the husbands were cited most frequently by participants.



Health Center	Number of villages concerned	Number of participants
Gotougou	4	40
Sampelga	7	70
Seytenga	13	83
Sidibebe	7	71
Soffekel	6	58
Bani	10	60
TOTAL	47	382

The intervillage meetings took place in zones where no FFP partner is implementing interpersonal communications activities. The FFP partner platform is similar to MtM, but it is called “neighborhood group”. In Bouroum, Nagbingou, and Barsalogo, 68 neighborhood groups working with ViM were selected for REGIS interventions in gardening and poultry.

Interpersonal communications will be part of MtM groups as the best health, nutrition, and hygiene practices are adopted. 12 advisory posters on these practices were selected out of the image set used by Burkina Faso’s Health Ministry, and 18 out of Niger’s. The posters were then improved to match REGIS’s communications objectives.

Burkina is harmonizing its set of images with Niger’s so that the same number of posters and themes appears in each and the SBCC strategy is rolled out in the same way in both countries. Burkina Faso tools have been tested during field agent training and will be finalized, printed, and made available to community health workers and MtM leaders in the coming quarter.

In order to widen coverage to more target populations, SPRING Project is assisting REGIS with producing and broadcasting radio spots and mini-series.

As the Health component evolves in an environment with many actors, the need for greater coordination with other partners is growing. Thus a synergy workshop to plan, complement, and homogenize approaches to radio communications was held with FFP, UNICEF, Alive & Thrive, and the Health Ministry (Nutrition and Health Promotion Directorates) in Ouagadougou. One result of the workshop is that SPRING has an activity matrix that will help it refine its intervention strategy.

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS/ATPC)

CLTS is part of REGIS’s approach to promoting latrine use and sanitation in the villages where it works. However, CLTS is an integrated approach to behavior change. In order to better work with communities who have started the process, training sessions are being set up for all field agents to improve their understanding for implementing the approach. These training sessions were attended by water and sanitation focal persons in the communes, and by government services in hydraulics and health.

Distribution of participants in CLTS training in Burkina Faso and Niger

Category of participant	Number	Observation
Commune focal points in WASH	25	
Technical partners	15	DRS and DREAH
Facilitators from REGIS-ER	69	
Total	109	

Niger

24 villages have launched the CLTS process after the initial training. 295 latrines are already being built; 41 are complete and being used by households. This has contributed to a reduction in the open-air fecal charge. **[Note: information on these latrines is to be collected for reporting in the next quarterly report.]**

After the startup of CLTS, information and sensitization meetings were held so that CLTS monitoring committee members could communicate good hygiene and health practices. This brought about awareness of the need for behavior change such as adopting good hygiene practices during health-oriented meetings organized in CLTS villages. These activities as led by monitoring committees are proof of strong motivation to end open-air defecation and poor hygiene practices on the part of the population.

Training in latrine construction techniques was initiated in Zinder so that household heads and masons could master the equipment and financing needed to build family latrines.

Burkina Faso

Training led to initiation of the CLTS process in five villages where it was held.



Hands-on training in CLTS startup villages

Identification of vulnerable households for family latrine grants: As part of REGIS's complementary and synergistic relationship with FFP partners, village assemblies were organized in 26 villages where CLTS was initiated by ViM and FASO Projects. The most vulnerable households were identified to receive grants to build family latrines. The applications of 260 households are under consideration.

Celebration of World Hand Washing and Sanitation Day

Niger

The Project participated in and contributed to World Hand Washing Day in coordination with the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, contributing 10 hand washing stations and 10 cases of soap.

Burkina Faso

World Hand Washing and Sanitation Day was celebrated in Barsalogo, Manni, and Seytenga under the patronage of the High Commissioners of the respective communes. Such commemorative days are a chance for the Project and commune and provincial authorities to inform people about the importance of washing hands with soap, especially at a time when the Ebola virus is such a big threat.

Demonstrations on how to wash hands with soap were carried out; plays were presented, and radio messages were broadcast in local languages. REGIS-ER donated 15 hand washing stations to schools, CSPS, and mayor's offices in its communes.

As part of the commemoration days, 22 tippy-taps were set up in households of prominent people, health centers, schools, and public places to promote the system and facilitate the adoption of the practice of handwashing with soap. After the demonstrations were given, 41 households committed to setting up tippy-taps in their concessions.

Training facilitators in WASH technologies

REGIS field agents received training in WASH in order to better assist communities in the adoption of best hygiene and sanitation practices in Niger and Burkina Faso. The training addressed monitoring water quality, different ways to make water potable, the importance of and technique for washing hands with soap, how to make a tippy-tap model hand washing station, and the use and maintenance of latrines. In all, 59 field agents were trained along with three health agents and 10 commune focal points.



Training of health agents and field facilitators in REGIS's Health-Nutrition-WASH package

Niger

Training of trainers in the health-nutrition-WASH package was carried out for regional specialists, nutrition focal persons at the regional directorates, and sanitation districts during sessions facilitated for the Public Health Ministry. The 18 participants included 7 focal points.

Burkina Faso

In partnership with UNICEF and the Directorate of Nutrition under the Health Ministry, each Project intervention region now has a pool of trainers familiar with the Health-Nutrition-WASH package, which begins with infant and young child feeding (ANJE).

The trainers carried out training in synergy with regional Project specialists, reaching 145 health agents of whom 47 are women.

Pilot phase for Digital Green as it produces video messages

Digital Green is an organization based in India that has developed a training and sensitization approach using video projections in community settings. In a collaborative effort between SPRING, REGIS-ER, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children, the technique is being tested in Maradi Region. Several meetings have been held between the actors involved in this pilot phase as they refine the strategy and prepare documentation needed for implementation. Draft contracts and agreements have been drawn up and will be signed as activities begin in early 2015.

4. Crosscutting activities

Coordination and Management

- Analyzing bids, awarding contracts, and procurement for garden seeds
- Analyzing bids, awarding contracts for wells and boreholes in Tillabéri South
- Soliciting bids, selection of a contractor, and procurement of Samsung telephones for field agents to collect data and for the M&E head
- Midterm evaluations of REGIS-ER agents and partners for the first limited duration contract of 6 months
- Hiring of 5 service providers to assist with 60 moringa and vegetable gardens in Tillabéri South
- Visit to 3 Burkina regions and Ouaga by the Administrative and Financial Director to work with accounting assistants on inventory, verification of correct record-keeping, purchases, and internal controls
- Recruitment and installation of 10 facilitators to replace those at the end of their contracts and those who quit
- Recruitment of one IT technician for the REGIS-ER central office to install a network and take over maintenance of computer equipment for Burkina and Niger
- Acquisition of two new vehicles for Tillabéri South and North
- Procurement and distribution of (and short training in) GPS and document protectors in Niger and Burkina
- Purchase of peripheral materials to complete functionality requirements for new wells and boreholes
- Administrative and logistical organization and execution of the first General Assembly for REGIS-ER in Niger, December 15-17, 2014
- Handover of the first wells built by the Project in Tillabéri South
- Meeting with USAID and the Assistant Regional Director of USAID/Dakar (S. Dobbenstein), 2 December 2014; and quarterly meeting with USAID and partners in Burkina, 13 November 2014
- Secondary offices and guesthouses set up in areas isolated from regional bases: Barsalogo (Kaya); Manni and Gayéri (Fada), and Sebba (Dori)
- Relocation of Burkina's Eastern Region regional office from Bogandé to Fada N'gourma, to increase functionality of the team

Small grants fund

Collection of cost share data

To facilitate collection of data on cost share inputs, the original forms were redesigned to fit the context of field activities and local situations. The forms were distributed to the field, and follow-ons will ensue.

During this quarter, a total of 78,969,928 FCFA or \$US 157,950 was accounted for by activities in Tillabéri North, Maradi, and Zinder.

The goal for the quarter (prorated for the 2014-15 fiscal year) was to obtain the equivalent of \$US 192,090. The documented portion of cost share data corresponds to 82% of the goal; **however, no forms were turned in for Tillabéri South and the three regions of Burkina, so the actual percentage will be higher.** All forms will be collected and integrated in the coming quarter.

The importance of drinking water in the communities and the level of grant money available for drilling wells led REGIS to re-adjust the grant budget to accommodate more wells. The following table uses U.S. dollars.

Component	Original budget	Revised budget	Change	Niger	Burkina
Livelihoods	3,700,000	4,500,000	+800,000	3,000,000	1,500,000
Governance	4,975,000	1,250,000	-3,725,000	833,333	416,667
Health-Nutrition	1,325,000	4,250,000	+2,925,000	2,833,333	1,416,667
TOTAL	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	6,666,667	3,333,333

Local NGO partners: As for previous quarters, we continued our support and supervision of eight NGO partners through a revision of financial reports, verification and approval of advances, and monitoring the grant agreements with them.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Analysis

A Monitoring and Evaluation workshop was held in Niamey on November 23-25, 2014, with the regional M&E assistants, component heads, and central M&E team. The indicators were reviewed and adapted to changes made in the M&E plan of May, 2014, by USAID. Data collection forms were also examined at that time and updated, then sent to component heads and regional M&E specialists.

In November 2014, an M&E specialist was hired for Tillabéri South to replace the one who left in September.

The Component held a workshop for December 2 to 5 to train regional M&E specialists and facilitators from Tillabéri North and South in applications used to collect data on telephones. Some of the field agents are now able to fill in CommCare platform-based forms using field data punched into smartphones they received. The process of downloading the data and verifying it at the central office and in the regions is being implemented.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Component of REGIS-ER and that of SAREL, Dimagi, and Sheladia held a series of meetings to synergize over the implementation of a database that will be managed by the Project, and to begin designing survey tools for baseline data for REGIS-ER indicators.

Training and Communication

A communications specialist has been hired to replace one who left in December. He will begin service in February 2015.

List of training and workshops attended by the training coordinator:

Livelihoods	Governance-NRM	Health-Nutrition	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Savings and loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RNA (Damana, Tillabéri South) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SBCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of TDR for training as shown below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gardening; review of training session plan; training village animators in group functioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation and participation in training for local convention and PCOAS - Kaya, Burkina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparations for World Hand Washing Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analysis of data from 60 sites under Arziki project, in collaboration with Livelihoods specialists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group functionality 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review TDR for CLTS training ATPC Niger and Burkina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange on climate change with CARE, SAREL, USAID AGHYMET and REGIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making mineral licks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MtM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review TDR for hiring actors for general assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making and storing fodder 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WASH Technologies 	

Terms of Reference reviewed for training and workshops in Niger and Burkina Faso

- Training in local conventions (Maradi and Zinder)
- Training in techniques for producing, harvesting, conserving fodder
- Making mineral licks (Tillabéri North)
- Initiation of habbanayé and first training (Maradi)
- Organizational analysis (Maradi)
- Organization for World Hand Washing Day and Sanitation (Dori, Kaya, Bogandé)
- Training of facilitators, health agents, WASH focal points in technologies for WASH, SBCC, community mobilization (Dori, Kaya, Bogandé)
- Training in FMNR (RNA) grouped by 2 communes (Bouroum and Nagbingou Center-North region and Kaya)
- Training in local conventions (Guidan Roudji and Droum)
- Training in techniques for making mineral licks and treating fodder (Maradi)
- Training in fodder conservation and making mineral licks (Zinder)
- Training in WASH, SBCC, using props for communications, and community mobilization (Zinder, Maradi, Tillabéri North and Tillabéri South)
- Initiation into CLTS (Sabon Machi, Maradi)
- Orientation for new Facilitators
- Preparations for General Assembly in December: room and logistics preparations (3 days)
- Proposal of a format for training TDRs
- Production and distribution of business cards for REGIS staff
- Participation and review of monthly planning for components (focus on training)
- Preparation for and participation in the M&E workshop in Niamey, 25-28 November
- Participation in monthly planning meetings for activities by component
- Participation in the workshop for training in Dimagi phone applications, December 3-5 (Niamey)
- TDR and dates for training of component specialists
- Participation in SAREL training on facilitation

Environment**Livelihoods**

Item in the EMMP	Actions taken
PESTICIDES/FERTILIZERS - Documents, videos, or radio messages produced on integrated pest management, soil fertility, handling of agricultural produce, conservation agriculture, other topics related to those mentioned on this form	PER and SUAP to be elaborated using existing manuals and materials.
DEMONSTRATION SITES - Random site visits should be made to verify whether beneficiaries are using restricted pesticides.	Random visits to be arranged for the coming agricultural season
IMPROVED SEED - The component declares in simple form that procedures required by USAID to procure seed have been followed (new varieties are researched on plots of less than 4 hectares; plant materials are quarantined before distribution; technical sheet with potential impacts on local varieties is developed)	N/A, as seeds will be ordered in coming quarter
IRRIGATION Screening form for new sites filled in to identify potential impacts of the system on the environment, with mitigation activities described	Feasibility study completed for Niger River; results forthcoming, but no site larger than 20 ha. Forms showing rate of water flow completed for wells rehabilitated in December 2014. Arsenic testing in the plan. IEE amendment concerning irrigation has been completed and awaits approval.
LIVESTOCK - animal feed List of the number of animals delivered and the quantity of food required to feed them calculated and accounted for; feeding plan for when the delivered feed runs out; hectares under contract for improving pasture quality	Training in fattening is ongoing and includes emphasis on animal feed, fodder, and mineral lick production. Yields of hay and fodder are quantified on demo sites but not linked to animals delivered.
LIVESTOCK - water Evidence that animal and human water sources have been separated; documentation of new conflicts developing over newly managed water sources; for multi-use systems, analysis of water quality and observation of poor practices	N/A - bids being solicited for multi-use wells as potable water activity
Livestock - habbanayé Proof that the breed introduced can adapt to the intervention zone; justification for the selection of this breed; proof of its performance in the local setting	The next habbanayé operation will be in Maradi. Lessons learned from 2014 event led beneficiaries to build their goat sheds early and prepare for vaccinations before delivery of goats, before rainy season.

Health-Nutrition

Item in the EMMP	Actions taken
WELLS AND BOREHOLES - Water quality plan Water quality assurance plan in place for each site; copy sent to environment specialist in Niamey	The component is ready to do what is necessary once wells and boreholes are in place.
WELLS AND BOREHOLES - documentation and monitoring List of new wells by site and type, GPS coordinates archived by the component and a copy sent to environmental specialist in Niamey for verifications and spot checks One visit per quarter to a randomly selected site to verify good maintenance and utilization (visual inspection sheet in EMMP)	Coordinates have been taken for initial sites. Mapping not yet done.
WELLS, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, BOREHOLES, OTHER WATER SOURCES Evidence of committees set up to maintain and ensure management of new sites	Management committees are currently being set up.
LATRINES Form filled in to assure good siting (not in a water course; at least 30 m away from any water point) - annex in EMMP	In CLTS, it is not a given that families will all avoid water sources within 30 meters. However, the training material advises correctly about locating the latrines. For grants, improved latrines should follow the locational guide given to the grants manager to assure correct siting.

Gender

Vulnerable women are prioritized in several Project activities: BDL, oasis gardens, habbanayé, CES/DRS work, and many activities in the field of health and nutrition. Men are also targeted for Health and Nutrition activities including child nutrition; husband schools function in parallel with the Mother-to-Mother groups.

Results achieved in the indicator target analysis show great success in integrating women in Project activities. Livelihoods Component shines in this domain, as illustrated by the percentages of beneficiaries who are women and the percentage of benefits that go to women:

Indicator	Cumul FY1	Quarter 1 FY2	Total FY 1+2	% in terms of women
1.1.1. Increase in income from off-farm economic opportunities (\$US)	16,498	4,489	20,987	39% of the increase
of which for women	4,706	3,583	8,289	
1.1.2. Number of jobs attributed to implementation	350	292	642	85% of the jobs
of which for women	310	237	547	
1.1.3. Number of people trained in skills relevant for local and migrant off-season labor	39	2,122	2,161	55% of the participants
women	38	1,148	1,186	
1.2.1. Number of farmers or others who have applied improved technologies or management practices	9,034	5,984	15,018	92% of the producers
women	8,507	5,485	13,992	
1.2.3. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	6,199	5,052	11,251	81% of the participants
women	5,483	3,655	9,138	
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	215	132	347	85% of the organizations
operated by women	215	81	296	
1.3.1. Value of agricultural and rural loans (\$US)	97,737	48,096	145,833	61% of the value in \$US
of which went to women	56,661	32,190	88,851	

5. Challenges and proposed solutions

- ▶ As Project activities become more numerous, the methodology for reporting from the regions to be synthesized into project-wide reports by component can be improved. Proposals will be made and handed down from the central offices to improve the system.
- ▶ With a high number of training events carried out in the regions and requirements for facilitators to leave the villages, facilitators have less time to monitor fieldwork. The number of training events will be managed to match available time and the level of priority.
- ▶ Due to logistical difficulties caused by late or modified terms of reference for training event approval, a new requirement was issued to turn in terms of reference at least one month in advance, and only for training activities contained in the monthly planning for the region.
- ▶ A lack of communications between regional and central office specialists, and even with the heads of components, must be addressed by respecting decisions from joint meetings; by more frequent field visits by component heads and assistant staff to the field; and by managing the flow of information (especially data) from field activities.
- ▶ Steps in the process of approving terms of reference for training events and purchasing goods and services have been reviewed and refined.
- ▶ The irrigation amendment to the Initial Environmental Examination for REGIS-ER has not yet been approved by USAID. As a result, Oasis gardens that require new irrigation systems have been put on hold until clearance is obtained.