



## **Supporting Small-Scale Farmers in Guéra Region, Chad**

### **2015 Final Report**



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## ***I. INTRODUCTION and PROJECT SUMMARY***

The Guéra region of Chad faces cyclical food crises affecting development efforts and contributing to the continued impoverishment of rural populations who are regularly confronted with pronounced deficits in agricultural production and access to drinking water due to irregular rainfall. As of 2009, there has been upwards of 191,220 inhabitants in the region (RGPH 2009) whose primary source of livelihoods is agriculture, livestock farming and gathering. The poor, consisting mainly of smallholder farmers cultivate a maximum of one to two hectares using family labour, and have fewer than two cattle, four sheep or goats and a few chickens. They represent 80% of the population in a situation of severe insecurity in the Guéra region.

The target beneficiaries of this project are made up of smallholder farmers organised in Cantonal Development Committees (herein after referred to as CDCs), identified due to their potential to play a key role in the development of the region. In the initial phases of the project it was established that not only would beneficiaries need to be supplied with the tools and equipment needed to promote and diversify their crops, but their capacities would also need to be strengthened to enable them to play an important role in their development and for the efforts to have a sustainable and lasting impact. Moreover, the absence or low operational capability of local mechanisms for joint management of natural resources are heightening tensions and constitute a barrier to agro-pastoral production. The action was therefore designed to support the development of production systems to increase agropastoral production, strengthening of local natural resource management mechanisms, crop diversification and income generation.

The project focuses on strengthening the food security of smallholder farmers in the Guéra Region and aims to improve food security by strengthening sustainable agropastoral production strategies of local producers and land management. Approximately 16,352 small agropastoral farmers are involved in the project with 40% of these being women from four local women's groups of the four targeted cantons of Dadjo 1, Dangleat, Kenga and Gomi.

This report presents the activities carried out during the full 12 months of the project in accordance with the initial action plan.

## ***II. PLANNED ACTIVITIES***

The planned activities were as follows:

- Installation of two water supply ponds and two micro dams that will allow cattle to have better access to water and farmers to develop these waters for agricultural purposes.
- The purchase of tools and seed inputs for the establishment of a vegetable garden with 8 motor-pumps to help producers be more productive and promote a higher quality of irrigation.
- The marking out of two transhumance corridors to promote the reduction of tensions between communities and farmers and to ensure livestock movement.
- Establishment of village nurseries to provide a sustainable source of fruit tree seedlings for consumption and reforestation of deforested village areas.
- Training of 400 beneficiaries, mainly farmers, 40% women during workshops on management of vegetable gardens and production and marketing of their produce.
- Training of local actors in governance and conflict prevention.

### ***III. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES***

The activities carried out during the project following the different results are as follows:

1. Creation of 1 large sized water supply pond
2. Development of 2 micro dams
3. Development of 2 vegetable gardens
4. Elaboration and signing of 1 social contract
5. Provision of tools, seed inputs and 11 motor-pumps
6. Creation of 1 transhumance corridor
7. Installation of 2 cantonal-level nursery gardens
8. Training of CDC members in local governance.

### ***IV. SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION***

#### **1. Creation of a water supply pond**

An artificial pond measuring 60m x 40m x 2m was built in the village of Nickel (Canton Dadjo1) in collaboration with state-run technical services and members of the local management committee. The creation of two water supply ponds was originally planned, however, following consultations with beneficiaries, it was deemed preferable to have one large pond rather than two smaller ones in an area slightly further away from the crop fields.

The pond has retained a lot of water and allows the cattle to drink and surrounding communities to also make use of it for other household needs. This work also helped to relieve the pressures and concentration of livestock in grazing areas, other water points and fields, thus reducing not only the cost of roaming animals for livestock and limiting conflicts between farmers and ranchers.



The success of the pond in Nickel has had a considerable impact at two levels:

- ➔ In terms of watering animals, an average of 1,200 cattle come to drink at the pond daily, thus improving the conditions of access to water for pastoralists and their herds;
- ➔ During the harvest quarter, the pond has helped relieve the pressure / concentration of livestock in the field areas where water points are located; thus reducing the likelihood of animals wandering in the fields and fuelling conflict between farmers and herders.

## **2. Development of 2 micro-dams**

In the rainy season, there is a considerable loss of rainwater due to runoff. In order to capture this valuable water, utilise it for agricultural purposes and recharge groundwater, two micro-dams were completed, one in Tchalo Zoudou in Dangléat township and the other in Maligue, in the township of Kenga. Built with durable materials, the micro-dams resisted the speed of the water and caught significant amounts of water, thereby meeting the needs and expectations of the targeted population.

The micro-dam in Tchalo Zoudou in Dangléat township, requested by the population with the aim of supplying the groundwater, increased water available for crop production and availability of water in groundwater wells downstream.



The other micro-dam, built in Maligue, in the township of Kenga, was constructed with the aim of capturing runoff and providing water for seasonal agricultural activities. This dam has retained a very significant quantity of water, leading ACORD to state that this project has been a great success and has had a large impact on local-level natural resource management. Through this dam, the villagers say they can now recover at least two hectares of land that had previously been abandoned during the off-season. In turn, this allows for the vegetable gardening activities to continue during the off-season and increase the year-round supply of seeds and vegetables.



### **3. Development of Vegetable Gardens**

In order to diversify and boost production of crops and increase income generating activities in the off-season, vegetable gardens and wells were developed and local-level vegetable garden management committees were trained to ensure adequate and fair site management.

Two plots were developed after a study of fragmentation and a social contract (see activity 4) to ensure the management of community areas and prevent social conflicts. The gardens were developed in Mambegna in Canton Dadjo I, measuring 4ha with six (6) wells dug, and in Pheldé in Canton Gogmi, measuring 2ha with three (3) wells dug.

Once the vegetable garden plots were in place and the wells dug, they were then divided-up and distributed to beneficiaries. For better occupation of the planned areas and better profitability for the gardening, ACORD has had to proceed with the parcelling of the land at an individual/family level. Each producer was entitled to an average of 250 m<sup>2</sup> which they must fully make use of. This approach has allowed producers to occupy the areas covered by the sites and get additional revenue (average of 55,000 FCFA during this season) in contrast to previous years where they operated very small areas that do not allow them to receive substantial income. These larger plots allowed for greater yields and improved the view of vegetable gardens as a viable source of livelihoods and supplement to families' yearly food supply.



#### **Training Management Committees:**

Training vegetable garden management committees was an integral strategy that contributed to the success of the activity itself and the sustainability of the project well beyond the current season. Sessions ranged from covering the demarcation of the perimeter zones to be managed and overseen

by the committees and training on market garden production techniques. The training session organised in Mongo for perimeter management committees was intended to help enable them to understand and play their full role. This training session also aimed at empowering the vegetable garden management committees in the management of facilities of community interest, the organisation of producers in the various sites and decision-making processes. The aims were to:

- Empower management committees of the various vegetable gardens to better manage the wells and community working equipment
- Strengthen the capacity of management committees to ensure good asset and site management, and ensure proper monitoring of activities on-site

A total of 44 people (including 14 women) from the supported vegetable gardens have been trained on these issues and will help enable the different garden management committees to fully play their role in upcoming seasons.

#### **4. Support the development of social contracts**

The signing of social contracts was negotiated and facilitated among key players in the communities to encourage social dialogue. Social contracts encourage community-level disputes to be resolved in a sustainable and inclusive manner. A protocol on handover and management of village lands for the benefit of women for exploitation through vegetable gardening activities was developed and adopted. Two other protocols for the implementation and management of the water-supply pond (see activity 1) and transhumance corridor (see activity 6) were also developed and adopted.



The social contracts were developed, adopted and signed in an inclusive manner following a dialogue in the presence of all stakeholders namely: sedentary farmers and nomadic herders, resident communities and all potential uses of these spaces through several meetings of discussion and negotiation.

#### **5. Provision of tools, seed inputs and motor-pumps**

To take full advantage of the garden areas developed and to diversify production to increase food security, seed inputs and motor-pumps were made available to 2,500 smallholder farmers in two of the developed areas. The kits provided were composed of the following items:

- Onion: 140 kg;

- Tomato: 15 kg;
- Lettuce: 50 kg;
- Okra: 100 kg;
- Cucumber: 50kg;
- Local chili: 70 kg;
- Cabbage: 20 kg;
- Aubergine: 20 kg;
- Carrot: 20 kg;
- Turnip: 75 kg;
- Watermelon: 30 kg ;
- Motor-pumps: 11



#### **6. Creation of a transhumance corridor**

A transhumance corridor was established in Djaya Kourmi to bring the two conflicting communities of farmers and herders together for peaceful cohabitation. It allowed for the crossing of rural areas by farmers which in the past, was often a source of conflict between the two communities. The transhumance corridor of Djaya Kourmi helped bring the two communities closer together and thanks to this activity, a collaborative and dynamic approach to conflict management has been established between both groups.

In order to capitalise on this collaborative dynamic and reinforce this joint management of natural resources, ACORD has planned for the second transhumance corridor to be in Dombiro. This second site is 15 meters long and 100 meters wide. The corridor is situated 5km to the northeast of Dombiro village. Throughout the length of the corridor there are no nearby villages, but halfway up the corridor, there are traditional pastoral wells. The creation and demarcation of this second transhumance corridor is currently underway.

#### **7. Installation of 2 cantonal-level nursery gardens**

The nursery gardens and reforestation activities are in line with the urgent actions prioritised by the cantonal communities to promote the regeneration of species in denuded and degraded areas with species that can generate extra income.



In accordance with the project planning, two central nurseries were installed: a nursery in Banda in the canton Dadjo I and a second nursery in Tchelmé Kenga. These nursery gardens produce seedlings for reforestation of deforested areas or village production areas for fruit trees. For installation and maintenance of nursery gardens, 30 villagers were trained on mastering technical production, planting, care and maintenance of the plants with the support of an external specialised expertise in this field. The following species of trees were proposed by the technician were adopted by the nursery management groups and planted for reforestation:

- Acacia Senegal, Neem, Prosopis juliflora, Acacia nilotica, Jujube, Mango, Guava and Lemon

These species have the potential to be used for income generation as well as can serve as shade in public places. The sites selected for the nurseries, seeds and tools / work materials are enclosed and protected by mesh fences.

#### **8. Strengthen the capacity of CDC members in local governance.**

To complement the other activities conducted under this project, it was considered appropriate to reinforce CDC capacity in local governance in matters of transparency, participation, accountability, fairness, democracy and gender mainstreaming. A training session was therefore provided to enable the CDC officials and their agencies to understand the concept of governance and integrate this into their community life. The following pedagogical preparations were held to facilitate the sessions:

- Advertise the training session;
- Develop a lesson plan;
- Develop appropriate content for training in connection with the theme;
- Develop a budget.

This training session took place in order to empower CDC representatives and their agencies to incorporate the principles of good governance in the functioning of their organisation. The objectives of this training session were as follows:

**Overall objective:** Strengthen the capacity of officials of the Cantonal Development Committee framework so that they take ownership of the concept of good local governance.

#### **Specific objectives**

- Provide responsible Cantonal Development Committee frameworks with tools and capabilities needed to master the concept of governance and enforce it in their communities.
- Helping responsible Cantonal Development Committee frameworks to understand the concepts

related to good governance namely: transparency; participation; accountability; fairness; democracy; gender mainstreaming and to enforce these in their communities in daily life.

The approach for greater ownership of the training sessions focuses on active participation through the exchange of experiences, games, questions and answers. After sharing and capitalization of experiences, the technical aspects the least understood are then explained in plenary by the moderator to ensure full ownership of the issues and thus sustainability.

The moderator led the participants to explain what they understood by the concept of governance and its implications. The different responses have helped shape a common understanding of each concept.

After the definitions of concepts, participants were asked to share their experiences in the operation of their basic structures and in particular in connection with the integration of aspects of local governance. Thus some participants recounted their experiences in their practice of governance.

Once the experience of participants is shared, the moderator elaborated on the concept of governance in all its forms and applications. To do this, special emphasis was placed on the concepts of:

- Transparency
- Participation
- Accountability
- Equity
- Democracy
- Gender mainstreaming

A total of 150 people including 34 women from CDCs, village cluster committees, local leaders, specialized management committees were trained. After the training, the participants said that this training will help them to work better by integrating the principles learned from local governance.

## *V. CONCLUSION*

All activities have been successfully delivered contributing to improved food security in the region. Some adjustments were made to ensure maximum impact, complementarity with ongoing initiative in the region and ensure we delivered on budget. All infrastructure-related activities were conducted by external local businesses (local labour) for their efficiency and durability.

Activities such as the establishment and strengthening of local monitoring committees, in the management of conflicts to some extent was ongoing through another project being implemented in the area, therefore the focus for this project was on strengthening the capacity of CDC members in local governance to improve the functioning of local organisations.

The activities implemented throughout this project have had a global reach of 17,050 households, of which 51% women in connection with the issue of food security in the four cantons of the Guéra region. The key results can be summarised as follows:

- The development of gardening contributed economically and socially to the improvement of living conditions of the beneficiaries, enhancing their purchasing power. This contributed to the improvement of their living conditions with regards to food and non-food items.

- The resolution of tensions between communities of farmers and herders through the establishment of the artificial pond helped to settle the question of livestock water supply in a remote crop-heavy area.
- The establishment of the transhumance corridor has also greatly contributed to resolving tensions arising from roaming animals encroaching on fields of crops.

Overall the project has:

- Strengthened the resilience of rural communities through the important support to producers through the establishment of production factors;
- Strengthened food security in isolated and poor communities;
- Seen a reduction of marginalisation of rural women with regards to access to agricultural inputs.

## ***VI. FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT***

As demonstrated in the financial report below, all funds were fully exhausted during the reporting period.

<b>Activities funded by JOAC</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b><u>Improving food security</u></b>		
Creation of 2 water supply ponds	£10,163	£11,363
Creation of 2 micro-dams	£17,786	£18,636
Improved seed kits (onions, gumbo, garlic, turnip, salad)	£7,622	£11,471
1 tool kit (shovels, spades, crowbars, watering cans, sprayers...).	£2,858	£3,441
8 motor-pumps	£3,049	£4,206
Marking out 2 transhumance corridors	£25,408	£22,220
Nursery garden and reforestation activities	£4,446	£4,586
<b><u>Local communities and authorities capacity building</u></b>		
Elaboration of 1 social contract	£4,573	£4,545
Set up of local monitoring committee	£381	£397
Capacity building in local governance	£1,715	£1,894
Capacity building in conflict prevention	£3,621	£3,788
<b><u>Small scale producers training</u></b>		
Training in management of vegetable garden	£762	£489
Trainings in vegetable garden production	£1,906	£1,722
Training in vegetable garden products sales	£3,684	£956
Training in micro-project management	£2,287	£0
<b><u>Project management costs</u></b>		
Salaries	£2,160	£2,422
Travel cost	£485	£34
Monitoring and Evaluation	£5,501	£6,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>£98,408</b>	<b>£98,411</b>