

Final Report to Jersey Overseas Aid Commission Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund

Agency:	Tearfund
Implementing Partner:	Jeunesse En Mission Entraide et Développement (JEMED)
Relief Project Title:	Project Amidnine Resilience Building Crisis Relief programme
Project Location:	Abalak Department, Tahoua Region, Republic of Niger
Total Budget:	£ 29,966
Amount Requested:	£ 27,242
Date of Submission:	6 February 2014
Date finished:	June 30, 2014

Background

Niger is extremely poor, ranked 186 in the UN HDI, with 59.6% of its 17.16 million people living below the national poverty line¹. Successive droughts and subsequent crises are destroying livelihoods and reducing people's ability to recover from each previous drought², creating chronic vulnerability. The Abalak Department has had such droughts and crises in 2005, 2008/9, 2010 and 2012. This year (2014) another crisis arrived in the Department, which is in the heart of the pastoral zone of Niger. Rainfall in 2013 was well below the 300 mm average, and also below 2012, with deficits of 241.3 mm reported.³

Needs assessment

This drought has resulted in a cereal deficit of 71% and a pasture deficit of 67% in the Department. Urgent intervention was needed to enable vulnerable pastoral households to maintain food security and purchasing power in the hunger gap. The intervention provided relief as well as an increase in the communities' resilience to this and future droughts and crises.

Project Summary

This programme was to contribute to maintaining food security, purchasing power and preserving household assets in 300 beneficiary households (2,900 individuals) at ten locations during the crisis. The goals were all attained. Data was gained from baseline and follow up surveys of 180 households, as well as from reports from the government's environmental extension service.

Programme Implementation

We were notified in late February that Tearfund in London had received funds, and we began activities in March as planned. We were able to obtain grain at February prices, making a significant cost savings that made up for overruns.

Beneficiaries: The programme served 300 households at ten locations but only 2,400 individuals as average household size is dropping (8 as opposed to 9) as people are returning to Libya and the gold fields in the north of Niger. We used a household economy approach to select beneficiaries in each community. Management committees were set up at the two sites which were new to JEMED and had none. Funds arrived a bit later than anticipated resulted in our having to do some additional baseline and organisation work over again, increasing personnel and fuel costs.

Cash for work: Initially we had planned on making bunds like we have in previous years. However the government decided that bunds were no longer acceptable and they now only allow half-moon catchments.

¹ World Bank (2013) <http://data.worldbank.org/country/niger>, January 6, 2014.

² P. Gubbels (2012) – 'Ending the Everyday Emergency'

³ Région de Tahoua, Département D'Abalak, CSR/PGCA/Abalak, Evaluation De La Campagne Agro-Sylvo-Pastorale et Hydraulique 2013-2014, 15 Décembre 2013

This is much more labour intensive, but produced a total of 16.875 Ha of treated land per site. Of the 30 households 3 marked out the half-moons and the other 27 dug them, 30 per household and 810 per site. A total of 8,100 half-moon catchments were constructed with 168.75 ha treated. The government environmental service trained and monitored the work, ensuring technical quality. Certain sites were also inspected by the Préfet, mayor and traditional chiefs. All activities were completed by the end of April. Each household was paid 20,000 CFA (₣25). Because of the extra work necessitated by the half-moon catchments, we had to make additional visits, increasing fuel and personnel costs.

Reduced price sales: Each household had the opportunity to purchase 100 kg of millet for 15,000 CFA (₣20). All did. We received 450,000 CFA (₣575) from each site with a signed receipt. These funds were deposited in the bank account JEMED uses to manage the sites' grain bank. This is a service we provide to the sites. After the harvest in November, the funds are released to the sites management committee.

Programme Impacts

The goals of the programme were to maintain food security in beneficiary households during the crisis, conserve household purchasing power and assets, improve long-term livelihood sustainability through pasture regeneration and improve long term food security through re-enforcing or creating grain banks at each site. All of these goals were met.

Impact on food security: The programme maintained food security in pastoral households from March until July. At our pre-hunger gap baseline survey, the average consumption of grain in beneficiary households was 0.82 kg/person/day, well above the national minimum standard of 0.65 kg/person/day. At the time of our last survey over one month after the programme ended, and halfway through the hunger gap, consumption was **at 0.72** kg/person/day. This is a reduction from pre-hunger gap levels (which we expected to see during a crisis), but still significantly above the standard. The reduction in household size has also improved food security.

Impact on purchasing power and household assets:

Animals

Average animals (in TLU⁴) baseline survey: 4.27 TLU/household

Average animals (In TLU) final assessment (May /June) 3.56 TLU.

The loss is less than one TLU (0.71 TLU). The number of animals the beneficiaries report the programme as saving is 0.25 TLU, equivalent to 5 goats or three and a half sheep (125,000 CFA) (₣160). This means the programme reduced animal losses by 25%.

Cash

Cash savings to beneficiaries due to low cereal prices was 10,000 CFA. This indicates improved purchasing power.

Average cash savings reported by beneficiaries due to reduced transport and travel costs as grain was sold on site: 12,450 CFA. This also indicates improved purchasing power.

Total average cash savings per household: 22,450 CFA (₣27). This savings represents 38% of the average households' monthly income of 58,954 CFA (₣75) at the baseline survey.

Total

Total savings including the cash value of saved TLUs (125,000) = 147,450 CFA (₣188), or about 20% of the average households annual income. This was conserved by household as a direct result of the programs intervention.

In addition the programme increased monthly income by 20,000 CFA in May (78,954 CFA) (₣100) a 33% increase. Both purchasing power and household assets were greatly conserved as a result of the programme.

⁴ A TLU is a Tropical Livestock Unit, which is equivalent to 250 pounds of live weight. This generally equals one cow, fifteen sheep or twenty goats.

Impact on the environment and long term livelihood sustainability:

A total of 8,100 half-moon catchments were constructed with 168.75 ha treated. This land was total barren prior to the intervention. It will begin producing pasture after the rainy season, providing more pasture for local herds and improving the local communities' ability to maintain their animals.

Impact on long term food security:

We received 450,000 CFA per site. We estimate that this will purchase 100 kg. of millet per household (30), which will be put in the sites grain bank. This will provide an increase in food security of one month during the hunger gap period, at no cost to JOAC.

Financial Report

Sterling report				Allocated to Jersey £
Budget Line	Budget £	Expenses £	Remaining £	
Cash For Work	7,916	7,967	-51	7,967
Cereal and transport	11,748	9,856	1,892	9,856
Personnel costs	5,093	5,816	-723	5,816
Transport and Running	2,038	3,343	-1,305	3,169
Monitoring and evaluation	447	434	13	434
Operating Costs (TF)	2,764	2,589	174	
Total Budget	30,006	30,006	0	£27,242

The remaining costs are being covered by Tearfund.

Comments on the financial report:

We had significant cost savings on grain because we were able to purchase before prices rose in March. However this underspend was compensated for by an overspend in personnel and transport (fuel) costs. This was necessary because we had to revisit sites in March as explained above.

Tearfund
August 2014