



Resilience Plus: Improving Rural Food Security & Livelihoods



QUICK FACTS

Over 3 million people are affected by the food security and nutrition crisis in Niger. To date, Resilience Plus has enabled more than 71,000 people in the Tahoua region to meet short-term food security needs and establish long-term resiliency in their communities by:

- Providing immediate access to cash
- Improving crop yields and incomes
- Conserving land and water resources

Since 1975 LWR has worked extensively in the Dosso and Tahoua regions of Niger. Collaborating with local farmers' associations, financial institutions and decentralized state services, LWR facilitates increased agricultural yields, connects farmers with credit and improves rural livelihoods. The Niger portfolio has included funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the FAO and OFDA.

In 2012 more than 90,560 individuals benefitted from LWR livelihood interventions in Niger through improved food security, increased agricultural harvests and incomes or access to credit. In addition, all of the self-organized farmers' associations, with whom LWR partners, have acquired enhanced organizational capacity – a critical achievement in promoting sustainable positive change.

RESULTS

- 71,590 people (55% women and girls) earned more than \$130,000 through **Cash-for-Work (CFW)** activities. This work helped families meet short-term **food security** needs while working on community **land and water conservation** projects, recovering 408 hectares of land with 175,042 conservation structures.
- Smallholder producers are gaining skills and accessing resources to enable them to better cope with **shocks**. 813 vulnerable farmers received rations of certified millet seed. 48 women were trained on post-harvest handling and storage. 20 storage warehouses were built.
- 200 women are leveraging training in animal husbandry and business to strengthen their **entrepreneurial strategy** of fattening animals. Net profits have averaged \$55 per animal sold.

EARLY RESPONSE & FUTURE RESILIENCE

- The **Resilience Plus** project is a regional intensive, **multifaceted** approach to meeting immediate cash needs and building long-term resilience in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.
- **CFW** activities support participants with resources to access food and protect their productive assets during crises.
- Access to **credit, trainings** on improved production, processing and marketing, organizational capacity and **entrepreneurial opportunities for women** are empowering beneficiaries to increase yields and profits. LWR's **Tripartite Rural Financing Model** is connecting beneficiaries with a local bank to provide financing for warehousing and sale of surplus production.
- **Land and water conservation**, including tree planting and riverbank protection, will reduce production costs, improve yields and **protect the environment** for future generations of smallholder farmers.

PROJECT TITLE: Resilience Plus: A Gender Sensitive Response to the Food Crisis in the Sahel

PROJECT PERIOD: April 2012 – March 2014

FUNDING: \$339,608