Republic of Niger

Impact Evaluation of the Food Security and Development Support Project in the Maradi Region (PASADEM)

Country Context

Population
21.48 million (2018)

Life at Birth
61.5

Population in Agriculture
86%

GDP
$412

Country Context

Programme Financing

Total project cost
$33.83 million

IFAD contribution
$21.99 million

Government financing
$5.55 million

Beneficiary contribution:
$1.16 million

World Food Programme
$4.43 million

Coverage

Targeted groups for food security and development support project:
- Agricultural producers
- Agropastoralists
- Youth/Women
- Rural communes: Managers of local development
- Rural organizations

Maradi is among the most vulnerable regions of Niger

Reached 50,710 Households

288 Villages in districts

Objectives

Improve the living conditions and resilience capacities of rural groups in Maradi

by developing 5 economic development hubs

Focus

Food and nutritional security

Carried out in 2018-2019

Focus on project impacts on:
- Household agricultural productivity
- Food security
- Net assets

Methods

PASADEM Impact Evaluation

Quantitative analysis: quasi-experimental methods:
- difference-in-differences method and propensity score matching.

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Qualitative analysis

560 Micro-stories collected and analysed

From:
- Small producers
- Market traders
- Other stakeholders
Key Findings

**Areas of Strength**

- Sustainability of project results enhanced through social mobilization, strengthening rural action groups, large-scale promotion of sustainable land management, and formation of regional partnerships and bodies.
- Market centres constructed cut transaction costs for traders; increased transparency and dissemination of information on prices; fostered competition in market centres.
- Women's empowerment was advanced, e.g. increasing their participation in managing positions within local organizations from 17.5% to 24.5%.
- Food security and resilience improved in the project area overall: beneficiary households now enjoy adequate household food provisioning for 8.23 months (up from 7.97 months).

**Areas for Improvement**

- Insufficient reinforcement of role of farmer organizations in delivering production and postproduction services.
- Underestimation of costs and time needed to develop infrastructure prevented the economic development hubs from reaching their full potential.
- Difficult access to inputs prevented development of reclaimed land and limited the positive impacts of agricultural productivity.
- Budget reorientation from production to infrastructure negatively affected the project’s long-term impact on agricultural productivity.
- More suitable women-business activities (simple processing, instead of managerial technical skills) should have been chosen.

**Recommendations**

**ONE**

Substantially increase interventions to improve food and nutritional security for poor and vulnerable households, so that “no one is left behind”.

**TWO**

Fully develop at least one economic development hub and related market infrastructure in each project area.

**THREE**

Further strengthen grassroots farmers’ organizations, to provide producers with sustainable quality production and post-production services.