



Niger

Resilience

2013/14

## Improving livelihoods through integrated water resource management

The project was carried out by Oxfam together with Karkara, a Nigerien non-governmental organisation, between 2008 and 2013 in several communities of the commune of Banibangou in western Niger. The project aimed to improve the management of surface and sub-soil water resources, to increase and diversify crop production in the communities, and to support livestock production through better management of pasture land and water resources. The Effectiveness Review evaluated the impact among the population of the two communities where the project had been implemented through its whole duration, Banibangou town and Soumatt.



Map of Niger, with the project area (the commune of Banibangou) circled.

Project date: May 2008 - March 2013

Evaluation: March 2014

Publication: March 2015

# Evaluation Method

The review sought to evaluate the project's impact among the general population in the two communities. A 'quasi-experimental' evaluation design was used whereby data from interviews with residents of the project communities and with residents of communities where the project had not been implemented were analysed using propensity-score matching and multivariate regression.

See the document 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' for more information on evaluation design. Full details about the specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

## Results

Project outcome	Evidence of positive impact	Commentary
Access to and use of information on water management	YES	A significantly higher proportion of residents in the project communities said that they had used information from the local water committee in taking a decision to reduce water consumption.
Access to improved water sources	YES	Large proportions in the project communities have access to improved sources of water for household consumption, for livestock, and for agriculture.
Engagement in kitchen gardening	YES	A larger proportion of households in the project communities are engaged in kitchen gardening, and using a much larger area of land than those in the comparison communities.
Increased sales of agricultural products	YES	Households in the project communities sold products worth more than twice as much, on average, as those in the comparison communities during the 12 months prior to the survey.
Livestock ownership	NO	No indication of any effect of the project on livestock ownership, sales or milk production.
Improved food security	Not clear	Some evidence that fewer food security problems were experienced in project communities, although the average value of food consumption was higher in the comparison communities.
Indicators of resilience	YES	There is evidence of an impact from the project on several of the specific indicators of resilience. However, the impact on the overall index of resilience is small.

Results apply across all households residing in Banibangou town and Soumatt. In some respects, the comparison made in this Effectiveness Review, between project communities and comparison communities is not ideal. It appears that there were differences between the two sets of communities (which either existed at baseline or have arisen since) that are unrelated to the activities of the project under review. This complicates the process of drawing conclusions from the comparison between them. Nevertheless, some results have been identified that correspond to key expected impacts of the project for which the effects of the project's work is clear.

## Going forward

As a result of this Effectiveness Review, Oxfam in Niger Programme and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) staff will review current project monitoring systems. Impact indicators for resilience projects will also be analysed, with mandatory and optional indicators that could be used for such projects in the future also being determined. To accompany this, tools for data collection for each defined indicator, will be developed and/or reviewed. It is also intended that future projects will more rigorously define understanding on these indicators and more clearly articulate areas such as frequency of data collection, and how it will be collected and treated, in order to improve project performance and monitoring. Voluntary households in future project implementation areas will also be monitored for at one year against resilience indicators most appropriate and relevant to the project.

Photo credit: Fatoumata Diabate