

EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

Report 10 / 2020
Country Evaluation Brief



NIGER

Evaluation Portrait

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Niger – Evaluation Portrait

1 Evaluations published in 2019

1.1 Final Evaluation of the Project “Scaling up Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) in Niger”

Evaluation	<i>Evaluation finale du projet: « Régionalisation de l'Adaptation à Base Communautaire au Niger (ABC-Maradi) »</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	Chantal (Sasha) Mentz, Dr. Adamou Alidou, Elhaj Ousseini Bakabé
Commissioned by	UNDP; Conseil National de l'environnement pour un développement durable fonds pour l'environnement mondial
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2015-2018
Keywords	Climate change, food security, environment
Abstract	This project was implemented in the framework of the National Action Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change of the government of Niger. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of administrative and technical services in their support to communes (local authorities) and promoting the resilience of agricultural and pastoral communities to climate change in the Maradi region. The project reached nearly 5000 people from local institutions, farmers, heads of households, pastoral communities (more than the initially targeted). Gender equality was also taken into account in the selection of the beneficiaries. With an initially planned budget of 19.4 million USD, the actual funding mobilised was 13.6 million USD. The evaluation underlined a good level of cooperation between institutional partners and the contribution of trainings to the beneficiaries' understanding of climate change and its effects. It found that the project resulted in a change in behaviour regarding agricultural practices and environmental management, and a real assimilation on the part of the beneficiaries. The evaluation report highlighted positive impacts regarding food security, generated by the activities of improved seeds dissemination, gardening and livestock reconstitution (goats). However, the evaluation noted the absence of analysis regarding the environmental impacts the project could have in time. Pressure on pasture in particular could trigger negative environmental impacts, in a region already affected by the drought. It recommended to look into the potential impacts of livestock in future projects related to the regionalisation and adaptation to climate change.
Cross-cutting issues	Climate and environment
Link to evaluation	https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/7171

1.2 Support to Jobs for Youth in Niger: A Retrospective Evaluation of Jobs Projects 2007-2018

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Support to Jobs for Youth in Niger: A Retrospective Evaluation of Jobs Projects 2007-2018</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	World Bank
Commissioned by	World Bank
Type of evaluation	Thematic
Project period	2007-2018
Keywords	Jobs, youth
Abstract	The purpose of this study was to review the effectiveness of projects that supported jobs for youth in Niger over the years 2007-2018. This report selected and reviewed the design and performance of 50 jobs projects that supported individuals or communities. Out of this, only 15 specifically targeted youth (from 15 to 35 years old), although the rest did not necessarily exclude them. Macro-level policies were not covered. Findings and challenges included: • On the level of investment and the number of beneficiaries reached, the review found that while jobs projects reached an estimated 11 million beneficiaries over the past ten years, only one in every thirteen young labour market entrants received individual assistance due to population growth. • There was no clear assessment of the impact of jobs programmes. Of the nearly 180,000 Nigeriens, mostly youth, that received jobs support through training, project monitoring is inconclusive as to whether this support helped improve job outcomes. • On whether jobs programmes have targeted the primary constraints to jobs for young Nigeriens and have been designed in accordance with international evidence, the report found that: • The large investment in rural development was well targeted but there may be more opportunities to include youth than were seized. • Technical training as a mainstay of youth jobs support needs additional scrutiny, and capital-based support could better target constraints. • While in the past job creation focused on temporary work opportunities, newer projects focused increasingly on permanent jobs and on supporting youth. Besides identifying the need for projects to assess much more carefully whether they have succeeded in making a lasting change in jobs outcomes, the report recommended a better institutional coordination mechanism be implemented, and institutional job matching services be delivered to a broader spectrum of the labour force, and not only to more educated groups.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, youth
Link to evaluation	http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/600691555043231598/Support-to-Jobs-for-Youth-in-Niger-A-Retrospective-Evaluation-of-Jobs-Projects-2007-2018

1.3 Livelihoods in Niger. Impact evaluation of the "Community based integrated water resource management" project

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Livelihoods in Niger. Impact evaluation of the "Community based integrated water resource management" project</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	Oxfam
Commissioned by	Oxfam
Type of evaluation	Impact, project
Project period	2013-2015
Keywords	Water, resource management, agriculture, livelihoods, food security
Abstract	The project's overall objective was to increase agricultural production and income through integrated water resource management for up to 1,200 households in the villages of Bani Bangou and Soumatt, situated north of Niamey in the Mali border region. It targeted women farmers in particular. With support from the programme, the beneficiaries were expected to increase their agricultural output, produce higher-value goods and reach more markets for their produce. These interventions were in response to livelihood problems experienced by farmers in the two targeted villages, derived from their low capacity in producing crops and the very low levels of rainfall in the area. The impact evaluation used a neighbouring community that had not been supported by the project as a counterfactual to compare households that had been supported by the project with households that had not. Households in these villages were randomly selected and interviews were conducted. In total, 300 project participants and 404 non-participants were interviewed. At the analysis stage, multivariate regression was used to make estimates of the project's impact. The results' analysis showed that: • Project participants had a 22% higher overall household income compared with the matched comparison group; this difference was statistically significant. • The project had a positive effect on food security, with project households producing more vegetables and spending more on food compared with the comparison households. • There was no evidence to suggest that the project had a significant effect on household wealth; shortcomings in the data collected did not allow to draw conclusions on impact of the project on sales and revenue among the beneficiary households. • Of the households who sold any produce, almost all reported selling some of it to local markets or middlemen and not to any associations or cooperatives. • On average, farmers in the project areas adopted more improved agricultural practices/technologies compared with non-project areas. The review found, on the one hand, the improved production and dietary of beneficiary households as a result of the intervention, which provided lessons for replication of similar interventions. On the other hand, it also stressed the need to link the improved production with local market sales to improve households' income.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.issueclab.org/resource/livelihoods-in-niger-impact-evaluation-of-the-community-based-integrated-water-management-project.html

1.4 Niger: 2019 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Review Under the Extended Credit Facility

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Niger: 2019 Article IV Consultation, Fourth Review Under the Extended Credit Facility</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	IMF
Commissioned by	IMF
Type of evaluation	Country
Project period	2011-2018
Keywords	Economic development, macroeconomic stability, private sector, public finance
Abstract	In June 2019, the Executive Board of the IMF completed the fourth review of Niger's economic and financial programme supported under the Extended Credit Facility framework, enabling further disbursements under the arrangement. The three-year arrangement was approved in January 2017 in support of the authorities' national plan for economic development. It aimed to enhance macroeconomic stability and foster high and equitable growth, boost incomes and create jobs, while strengthening the foundations for sustainable development. While the consultation focused on ways to jump-start Niger's still embryonic local formal private sector and how to best foster good governance, improving public finances, mobilizing revenues, and improving spending quality also remained high on the agenda. The IMF analysis on economic developments and financial programme performance was positive overall, although it stressed that Niger faces daunting development challenges: • GDP growth picked up to 6.5 percent in 2018, and should average above 7 percent over the next five years thanks to reforms, substantial donor support, several large-scale projects, and a one-time boost from the projected commencement of crude oil exports in 2022. • Fiscal policy remains on consolidation course to keep public debt in check. The external deficit is large, reflecting Niger's pressing development and security needs and donor support. It is set to widen further during the construction phase of major import-intensive projects but will decline sharply once they come on stream. • Programme implementation was broadly satisfactory. The strengthening of public finances and compliance with the West African Economic and Monetary Union's fiscal convergence criterion in 2020 advanced, further entrenching macroeconomic stability and the sustainability of public debt. • Except for the clearing of domestic payment arrears, all quantitative targets were met. The structural reform agenda is advancing reasonably well, and the authorities remain committed to its implementation. However, implementation of revenue enhancing reforms should be reinforced and performance plans for revenue administrations should be formalized. • The formal local private sector needs strengthening to ensure sustainably higher living standards and to provide jobs for Niger's rapidly growing labour force. Results could be undermined by implementation challenges and deteriorating security conditions. On the upside, the confluence of reforms, scaled-up donor support, and the start of several large-scale projects could set off a strong virtuous cycle.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, sustainability, environment

Link to evaluation	https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/07/22/Niger-2019-Article-IV-Consultation-Fourth-Review-Under-the-Extended-Credit-Facility-and-48514
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1.5 Impact Evaluation of the Niger Participatory & Responsive Governance Project: Final Report

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Impact Evaluation of the Niger Participatory & Responsive Governance Project: Final Report</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	AidDATA
Commissioned by	USAID
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	5 years duration (2014-2018 ?)
Keywords	Governance
Abstract	USAID's Participatory and Responsive Governance Project (PRG) aimed at strengthening the collective responsiveness of the Nigerien government to its citizens' priority public needs, and thus influence the governance process in Niger. The project worked through three channels: (1) political party campaigns; (2) collective engagement and coordination of multiple stakeholders; and (3) capacity building of local think-tanks, media, NGOs, etc. The report provided the preliminary results of the short-term impact evaluation. It focused on the second major component of the PRG: the holding of multi-stakeholder dialogues to bring together community leaders, municipal and regional councillors, private sector, professionals and citizens to confer upon, design and initiate Service Improvement Action Plans (SIAPs) as a tool for citizens and government to improve public service provision (with a focus on health and education). Multi-stakeholder dialogues are common in Niger and have been an important pillar of Nigerien democracy; more than 70% of survey respondents agreed, during the baseline study, that community dialogue among local leaders and citizens was an important vehicle for strengthening government responsiveness to citizens' priorities. The expectation was indeed that these dialogues and joint plans would catalyse development and government responsiveness both in terms of process and outcomes, while increasing citizen awareness about their rights to access public services and the channels through which they can communicate with and hold accountable the government. However, the evaluation concluded that none of these effects was verified and no evidence was found that the multi-stakeholder dialogues improved governance in Niger. The dialogues did not strengthen elite coordination, nor did they serve as a focal point for more intensive and cooperative elite interactions to tackle important development challenges. On the contrary, a decrease in elite coordination was observed in the targeted communes. The diversity of stakeholders involved in the dialogues did not result in increased representativeness of the development process. Similarly, citizens' perceptions of the legitimacy, responsiveness and democratic processes of the Nigerien government (at the local or national level) did not improve, nor did the dialogues catalyse citizen participation or engagement. Some of the potential reasons pointed out by the evaluation for this lack of impact include: • Prevalence of other dialogues held concurrently; • Shifts in elite cooperation requiring more time to develop, in which case, over time the dialogues and continued presence of the monitoring group could still induce more substantial changes; or • Citizen monitoring groups are not sufficient to change the behaviour of commune leaders when they have no enforcement mechanism to

	ensure the action plan is implemented and are chronically underfunded by the central government. The indefinite postponement of local elections since 2016, does not generate incentives for responsiveness to citizens' demands.
Cross-cutting issues	N/A
Link to evaluation	http://docs.aiddata.org/ad4/pdfs/NigerEvaluation_FinalReport_Final.pdf

1.6 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programme II 2016-2019

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programme II 2016-2019</i>
Published (year)	2019
Author/Agency	CARE
Commissioned by	CARE
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	2016-2019
Keywords	Women empowerment, SGBV
Abstract	The evaluation assessed the GEWEP II programme in six countries, including Niger. GEWEP II continued the efforts of phase I (2014-2015) and the Women Empowerment Program (2009-2013). The programme's ultimate vision is the full realisation of women's socio-economic and political rights. The impact groups were women aged 15-64 in poor households and girls aged 6-14 from all households in the intervention area. The target group were men, as the programme focused on their attitudes towards women empowerment. The evaluation assessed the evolution and main achievements (services, products, and changes or effects) in women's economic, social and political conditions, using the 2014 baseline as a point of comparison. Quantitative and qualitative surveys were employed to collect data from the participants, as well as documentations and interviews with relevant stakeholders. According to the evaluation report, the programme contributed to: - improving, to some degree, organisational, programmatic and institutional development capacities of the implementing partners (score evolution from 3.03 to 3.38) between 2014 and 2017; - changing women's attitudes towards gender-based violence over the same period (from a score of 2.6 in 2014 to 3.79 in 2018); - some change in how women are perceived by men: more than 90% of men support the fact that (i) women are able to own cash savings and decide how to use them, and that (ii) women are able to inherit and possess properties or assets; - women empowerment: on average, 91% of women participate in decision-making within their community structures; 12% of women decide on the use of their assets alone, the majority of these being female heads of households (divorced, widowed); - some improvement in livelihoods: 8% of households affected by a crisis were able to cope with expenses without having to sell basic household resources. Women remain, however, disadvantaged in educational terms: 32% of women have the ability to read and write; for men, the rate is 51%. The evaluation recommended focusing on the improvement of women's human capital, the provision of structured support for networks and municipal federation, and reflecting on entrepreneurship to meet women's needs.
Cross-cutting issues	Women's rights, gender equality

Link to evaluation	https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-programme-ii-2016-2019/
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2 Evaluations published in 2018

2.1 Project “Strengthening the right of children and young people to education and protection from violence and exploitation to promote stability and peace in the Diffa region”

Evaluation	<i>Projet « Renforcement du droit des enfants et des jeunes à l'éducation et à la protection contre la violence et l'exploitation pour favoriser la stabilité et la paix dans la région de Diffa »</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Marie-Claude Rioux, Nabindou Traolé
Commissioned by	UNICEF
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2015-2017
Keywords	Children's rights, education, protection from violence, preventing extremism
Abstract	This 6.2 million EUR project was funded by the European Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and was implemented by UNICEF under the supervision of the Niger High Authority for Peacebuilding (HACP). The objective of this project was to protect children and young people, promote access to quality education and develop their capacities in order to favour their integration into the socio-economic fabric. Trade and migration movements across the border with Northern Nigeria are common and have been a lifeline for many communities in the area. Attacks from Boko Haram in recent years have raised concerns over the risks of radicalisation. The project aimed at preventing the risks of indoctrination, and recruitment of children and young people by extremist armed forces and groups such as Boko Haram. The following four outcomes were expected: • Out of school children have an increased access to quality informal education services in an environment enabling learning. • Young boys and girls have a better access to vocational training with a view to improving their socioeconomical integration. • Children and young victims risking violence benefit from prevention services, early intervention and support. • Children and young people, in particular girls, have an increased access to information in order to better know their rights. The evaluation report underlined the positive impact of the project which established a good basis that enabled continuity of support for capacity building activities, despite the security context. The project was aligned with national priorities and policies in the field of education, thus supporting Government efforts to align education provided in madrasas and informal schools with the basic Niger education curricula. For future interventions, the evaluation report highlighted the need to plan responsibilities and competencies transfer so that national staff could take over the implementation of the project. It also recommended to consolidate monitoring and evaluation processes as well as coordination mechanisms, as this type of short-term implementation projects require a precise timeline and rigorous task allocation among the stakeholders.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, children's rights
Link to evaluation	https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103561.html

2.2 Completion and Learning Review (CLR) of Niger, FY13-FY16

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Completion and Learning Review (CLR) of Niger, FY13-FY16</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Independent Evaluation Group (IEG)
Commissioned by	Independent Evaluation Group (IEG)
Type of evaluation	Country
Project period	2013-2016
Keywords	Promoting resilient growth, reducing vulnerability, mainstreaming gender and strengthening governance and capacity for service delivery`
Abstract	IEG's review of Niger's Completion Report of the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) covers the period 2013-2016, and the Performance and Learning Review of the CPS. The CPS was organized around two main pillars and a third cross-sectional pillar: (1) promoting resilient growth; (2) reducing vulnerability; and (3) governance and gender mainstreaming. The IEG evaluation team rated the achievement of the CPS objectives as moderately satisfactory and World Bank's performance as good. Results with regards to promoting resilient growth (focus area 1 of the CPS) were rated as moderately unsatisfactory: The business environment improved and there was an increase in productivity for selected agricultural crops. Yet, there was limited progress in fiscal consolidation and access to finance, as well as in transparency of budget outcomes. Reducing vulnerability (area 2) was considered satisfactory: The number of poor and food insecure people covered by safety nets increased; primary education completion rates improved; more people in urban areas gained access to water and sanitation services; more agricultural and silvo-pastoral areas adopted sustainable land management practices and local communities incorporated climate resilience in their local development plans. Challenges were greater when it came to mainstreaming gender and strengthening governance and capacity for service delivery (area 3), rated as unsatisfactory. Budget execution and efficiency, transparency of sector budget allocations as well as in the mining and oil sector need to be further improved, according to the report. The review identified three main lessons: • Be more selective in the institutional reforms. This selection should be underpinned by a better understanding of priorities in light of Niger's institutional capacity and high-risk environment. • Need for flexibility of the Bank in order to ensure continued and effective programme implementation. • The Bank should keep working with other development partners, local communities and established NGOs to mobilize resources, deepen knowledge of local circumstances and facilitate implementation.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, governance, anti-corruption
Link to evaluation	http://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/sites/default/files/Data/reports/clrr-nigerfy1316.pdf

2.3 Summative Performance Evaluation of Food for Peace Title II Projects LAHIA, PASAM-TAI, and Sawki in Niger

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Summative Performance Evaluation of Food for Peace Title II Projects LAHIA, PASAM-TAI, and Sawki in Niger</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	ME&A
Commissioned by	USAID
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	2012-2017
Keywords	Food and nutrition security, livelihoods, agriculture, health
Abstract	The objectives of the evaluation were (1) to measure the performance and development outcomes of the PASAM-TAI (Programme d'Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire des Ménages), LAHIA (Livelihoods, Agriculture, and Health Interventions in Action), and Sawki projects; (2) to provide an evidence base for effects of food assistance projects' on development; and (3) to provide recommendations to USAID's Office of Food for Peace for future project design in order to achieve food and nutrition security and strengthen the resilience capacities of households and communities in the Sahel region. The programme targeted vulnerable households in the regions of Maradi and Zinder. The report found that each of the programme's several overarching goals and outcomes across most of the associated technical sectors was met, except for indicators on poverty, WASH and prevalence of underweight women. The approaches to project management, M&E systems, as well as communication and collaboration by each of the three projects and with the Government of Niger was deemed effective in general. Key challenges to implementation approaches related mainly to personnel management and staff turnover; the evaluation noted also issues of effective communication and coordination of technical staff across technical sectors. Sustainability, particularly with regards to hygiene, sanitation, agriculture and livelihood practices, was considered positive, as beneficiaries seemed to continue the good practices introduced by the interventions. The evaluation noted unintended positive effects, namely: increases in the social capital of the beneficiaries; adoption by non-project villages of practices promoted by the interventions; and crop productivity beyond expectations. Negative unanticipated consequences included mainly the low uptake of latrine building activities and challenges in general with regards to water infrastructures; lower effectiveness on value chain development and market linkages; and perceived inequities regarding livelihoods/ income-generating activities and dislike of food for work activities. The report recommended that future interventions focus on fewer and more targeted interventions, enlarge its coverage of direct beneficiaries per activity, organise more periodic project training and capacity building activities.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00SV58.pdf

2.4 Evaluation of the “Child Protection” Component of the Niger-UNICEF Cooperation Programme (2014-2018)

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Evaluation de la Composante « Protection de l'Enfant » du Programme de Coopération Niger – UNICEF (2014-2018)</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Dr Oleh Kam, M. Hamidou Guero, M. Harouna Hamidou
Commissioned by	UNICEF
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	2014-2018
Keywords	Child protection, Social protection, education
Abstract	The Child Protection component was part of the cooperation programme between the Government of Niger and UNICEF. Its objective was to contribute to the reduction of child violence, exploitation and to collect and systematize knowledge on the implementation and results of the Programme in order to support the development of the new Cooperation Programme 2019-2021 between UNICEF and the government. The evaluation found that the project successfully targeted the most vulnerable people for the implementation of the activities. While selecting the beneficiaries among the different communities, it gave specific attention to ethnic diversity, sub-groups and minorities. The programme, fully aligned with the national priorities, achieved or contributed to the following results: • The elaboration, adoption and implementation of policies and reforms on child protection strengthened the links with other social sectors components such as health and education. Moreover, synergies were developed with other projects of the United Nations. • The capacities of judges working in High Courts on juvenile issues were reinforced. The trainings reached a broad range of stakeholders who improved their knowledge on recently adopted policies and laws related to social services for child protection and justice for children. • Improvements at the level of civil state services were also noted. Records of birth declaration, for instance, are important to prevent statelessness, exercise civic and political rights (e.g. to vote, access basic social services). • Child protection committees, ruled by the mayor or his deputy, were set up in 48 districts country wide. The activities raised awareness on harmful practices such as early marriages, violence, female genital mutilation. • Children arrested under charges of belonging to an armed group benefited from psychological support and socio-educative activities in prison.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, child protection, human rights
Link to evaluation	https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103687.html

2.5 Formative Evaluation of the Strategy for the Use of Mobile Clinics in Emergency Situations in the region of Diffa

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Evaluation formative de la Stratégie de l'Utilisation des cliniques mobiles en Situation d'Urgence dans la région de Diffa</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Albert Tshuila Lubanga
Commissioned by	UNICEF
Type of evaluation	programme
Project period	2015-2017
Keywords	Health, health systems development/management, Primary Health Care, ACSD, mobile clinics, Internally displaced persons
Abstract	The rationale for the mobile clinic approach in the Diffa region was linked to the alarming security situation and ensuing humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad region. It was estimated that about 20% of the Diffa population were displaced as a result. Mobile clinics were intended as a response to the increasing sanitary needs and pressure on healthcare system, already unable to cope with the population needs before the crisis. On the overall performance of the mobile clinics, the evaluation found that the mobile clinics approach was a relevant strategy to address the needs of displaced and refugees. These populations had de facto been excluded from the health system due to insecurity, distances and low capacity of the local health centres. However, the report also stressed the efficiency of the strategy had not been proven yet, and that the approach had not guaranteed a better efficiency in the use of the existing resources. The report noted several shortcomings in the mobile clinic strategy. Aspects that needed to be addressed in order to improve the clinics efficiency included: • The low level of coordination and governance of the approach, with no leadership at the regional level. • Insufficient financial resources and proper planning. • Lack of transparency was reported on the management of the funds and in the recruitment process of the staff working in the mobile clinics. There was no formal recruitment process. • Lack of continuity and sustainability of the service, as the national health system does not have the capacity or resources to maintain it. • Lack of tracking on the staff on the program of mobile clinics. Data collection need to be performed by staff while being in the field. While the data collected did not enable to draw conclusions on whether access to healthcare and sanitary coverage had improved as a result of the mobile clinics, improvement was nonetheless noted namely with regard to immunisation, reproduction and nutrition.
Cross-cutting issues	Human rights, access to basic health care
Link to evaluation	https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103562.html

2.6 Sahel Resilience Learning (SAREL). Final Performance Evaluation

Evaluation	<i>Sahel Resilience Learning (SAREL). Final Performance Evaluation</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Management Systems International, A Tetra Tech Company
Commissioned by	USAID
Type of evaluation	Thematic (regional, performance)
Project period	2014-2019
Keywords	Resilience
Abstract	The goal of SAREL was to strengthen the capacity of the target group, key stakeholders implementing resilience-strengthening activities in the region, to engage in adaptive, evidence-based learning to promote best practices for resilience in the region. SAREL provided monitoring, evaluation, collaboration and learning support to the USAID Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced initiative. The evaluation found that SAREL lacked the appropriate resources to achieve the intended objectives, the scope was too generic, and the project was understaffed. There was no strong evidence to link SAREL to resilience innovations due to a lack of monitoring, validation and analysis of best practice adoption by the key stakeholders supported by SAREL. On the positive side, SAREL did enable the implementing partners to learn more about each other's effective approaches and practices. In terms of the sustainability of its activities and given the broad scope of SAREL, no single partner appeared capable of taking over operations of the platform. Without external financial support, none of the government offices would be able to take on even a more limited version of SAREL. The evaluation suggested that SAREL should continue playing its key role as a collaborating, learning and adapting mechanism, but recommended narrowing down the number of activities in the light of staff capacity, as well as improving the design and implementation of activities. It recommended developing a sustainability plan for the collaborating, learning and adapting measures from project outset, including identification of partners (government agencies or regional institutions like the Centre d'Etudes Economiques et Sociales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) and a capacity building plan to enable the selected partners to carry on these activities post-project.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T71H.pdf

2.7 Ex post evaluation - Niger. NIGETIP IV/FICOD

Evaluation	Ex post evaluation - Niger. NIGETIP IV/FICOD
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	KfW
Commissioned by	KfW
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	N/A
Keywords	Finance, small social and economic infrastructure, soil protection, local administration, municipal development plans
Abstract	The NIGETIP (Agence Nigérienne de travaux d'Intérêt public pour l'Emploi) IV project aimed at financing the building and expansion of simple infrastructure facilities and soil protection measures. The objective was to support the municipal administrations and user groups in the regions of Tillabéri, Tahoua and Agadez. The FICOD (Fonds d'Investissement des Collectivités Décentralisées) I-III projects included small economic and social infrastructure projects, as well as various manual and mechanical soil protection and hydraulic engineering measures in Tahoua. All implemented measures were identified using a participative approach and successively included in the emerging municipal development plans. The projects targeted the population in the supported locations within the focus on regions, rural population and women. The evaluation found that the project activities were relevant to address the fundamental problem of poverty but did not achieve the intended results in terms of promotional measures (such as increased expertise among local authorities). The infrastructure was still operating, although its quality was often below the requirements. Higher sustainability risks were related to the maintenance of the promoted measures due to the costs involved and the limited financial means of most municipalities, dependent on State budget transfers. The roots of these risks were, however, beyond the projects' sphere of influence. Although the project promoted infrastructure provided prerequisites for a real improvement in the living conditions, there was no strong and quantifiable evidence of clear results. Impacts through the municipalities were limited by the lack of promotion of decentralisation at the national level. However, the municipal administrations were aware of the financed projects and created budget items for their maintenance. Nonetheless, positive socio-economic impacts were achieved and income in rural areas was generated by creating temporary employment during construction and due to the partial expansion of farming options as a result of some infrastructure improvements.
Cross-cutting issues	Climate and environment, gender, local governance
Link to evaluation	https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Evaluierung/Ergebnisse-und-Publikationen/PDF-Dokumente-L-P_EN/Niger_NIGETIP_FICOD_2018_E.pdf

2.8 Impacts of the World Food Programme's interventions to treat malnutrition in Niger

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Impacts of the World Food Programme's interventions to treat malnutrition in Niger</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)
Commissioned by	DFID, WFP
Type of evaluation	Country, impact
Project period	2014-2016
Keywords	Malnutrition
Abstract	This is the final report of an impact evaluation on the relationship between the provision of WFP assistance and the incidence of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in Niger. The country has suffered four acute food crises since 2000. One in three children is underweight; chronic malnutrition affects 42 per cent of children aged 6–59 months. Widespread poverty, reliance on rain-fed agriculture, deteriorating natural resource endowments, unstable and corrupt political structures, low education levels, gender biases in intra-household decision-making and some of the world's highest fertility rates are all contributing factor to the situation of malnutrition in Niger. The report focused on understanding the impacts of WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) – a multifaceted grouping of nutrition interventions – on the prevalence of malnutrition. The scope of PRRO was to reduce malnutrition through three main types of activities: (i) targeted food assistance and blanket supplementary feeding; (ii) targeted supplementary feeding provided to children already suffering from MAM; (iii) activities designed to increase poor households' access to food and assets (land rehabilitation, water harvesting and local purchases). On the impact of food for assets measures and synergies resulting from joint provision of food for assets with other forms of assistance, the results indicated that no evidence was found regarding the positive impacts from treatment and/or prevention programming only. In fact, the evaluation found a negative impact from the provision of treatment and/or prevention programmes in the absence of food for assets measures. The reason behind this appeared to be the households' response to this type of assistance. The evaluation suggests two reasons for this finding: either that other coping strategies are more effective than receiving this form of food aid; or that receiving this assistance alters intra-household decisions on nutrition. On the other hand, it found evidence that certain modalities of WFP assistance significantly improved the malnutrition situation in Niger. Particularly, the combination of agriculturally sensitive and more standard assistance provided by WFP turned out to have the strongest positive impact on child malnutrition in Niger (children are 15 to 20% less likely to experience moderate acute malnutrition). It provides evidence that agriculturally sensitive assistance may strengthen the long-term food-producing capacity of households. These very positive results suggest that the combination of Food for Assets plus treatment and/or prevention assistance should be considered as an anti-MAM strategy in Niger and be provided to as many households as possible, as it proved more effective than specific MAM prevention interventions in the Niger context. In order to advance knowledge on MAM strategies and responses, the evaluation also suggested direct testing of how households respond to programming and how this can be mitigated in order to achieve better programming outcomes in future. To do so, collection of subsequent waves

	of panel survey data from the sample used in this analysis was recommended.
Cross-cutting issues	N/A
Link to evaluation	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ba4fb8e40f0b6070d1614e2/ie80-wfp-malnutrition-niger.pdf

2.9 Strømme Foundation's Speed School Program in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Strømme Foundation's Speed School Program in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Fafo
Commissioned by	Strømme Foundation
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	2014-2018
Keywords	Education, gender
Abstract	The evaluation assessed the Speed School programme, which was designed by West African education experts in partnership with Strømme Foundation in 2004. It was a nine-month intervention that provided access to education for out-of-school children aged 8-12 and enabled them to enrol in a local school to complete their primary education. The main purpose of the evaluation was to document the long-term impact of the Speed School program and to assess the return on investment that the programme offered with the aim of improving programme efficiency and effectiveness (value for money). The methods employed by the evaluation were desk research, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and a sample survey with graduates (244) and households (692). The key findings showed that: • The programme provided access to education and enrolled 61,900 out-of-school children in its Speed School centres in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The programme achieved a 90% efficiency rate in terms of the number of students who then became eligible to transfer to formal primary schools. • 48% of enrolled children were female which was complemented by the employment of female instructors. Among students who graduated from the Speed Schools, 69% of girls were enrolled in formal primary schools in Niger at the time of the evaluation. • Among those students who were reintegrated into the formal primary school in 2015, 33% of children were enrolled in school in Niger at the time of the evaluation compared to 56% in Burkina Faso and 71% in Mali. The low figure in Niger appeared to be related to older children dropping out of school, the previous drop out history, and gender-associated challenges. • The recruitment and selection of Speed School instructors were conducted in a manner that did not affect the formal primary schools negatively and it contributed to the capacity development of the education sector in West Africa. • The active mobilisation of local communities was the key factor for the success and cost efficiency of the Speed School program. The recommendations encouraged the Strømme Foundation to revisit its decision-making and implementation processes in the selection of programme intervention areas and to better implement mechanisms and processes that ensure adherence to the set criteria for recruitment of out-of-school children in intervention communities. Special attention should

	also be put on dropping out factors and other weak aspects of the education system in order to engage in the overall improvement of the education sector in the area. The usage of improved data collection methods such as the adoption of well-developed digital technologies was also recommended.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.fafo.no/index.php/zoo-publikasjoner/fafo-rapporter/item/stromme-foundation-s-speed-school-program-in-burkina-faso-mali-and-niger

2.10 Final evaluation of the RESPECT project. Reducing the Suffering of People Affected by the Cross-Border Conflict in the Diffa Region

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Evaluation finale du projet RESPECT. Réduire la souffrance des personnes affectées par le conflit transfrontalier dans la région de Diffa</i>
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Aboubacar Souley
Commissioned by	CARE, USAID
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2017-2018
Keywords	Humanitarian aid, agriculture, food security, economic recovery, market
Abstract	The project implemented by CARE International in Niger and funded by the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) through USAID, was an emergency response to support displaced persons and vulnerable host families affected by conflict (Boko Haram) and the effects of the food crisis in the region of Diffa. The aim was to meet urgent needs (food and nutrition) through the creation of temporary jobs (cash for work), and to strengthen the livelihoods and economic recovery of displaced populations and host communities through a micro-finance component and support to agriculture/gardening activities and market system. The evaluation noted several shortcomings and identified lessons for the implementing partner, given the challenges faced. These related specifically to the lack of minimal organisational and operational capacity of the local implementing partner in Diffa to implement the action as planned, and to internal capacities (staff rotation, lack of adequate technical skills, weak M&E system). While mainstreaming gender was also part of the project plan, it lacked a strategy and guidance to effectively apply a gender perspective other than disaggregating results' values. Notwithstanding the challenges, the evaluation found that the project activities improved the cash availability, the agricultural productivity and food security of the targeted populations (availability of food extended for an additional 3 to 4 months/year). It contributed to the resilience of the targeted communes and its nearly 6000 beneficiaries (higher than planned) among IDPs and host communities: it injected some investment (nearly 200,000 USD), created almost 1200 temporary jobs and helped generate a local market in these communes; improved land production through environmentally sustainable techniques and provided trainings to 230 beneficiaries that should help them rebuild their livelihoods. Aside from implementation issues, the report's main recommendation to the implementing partner was to transit from an emergency/humanitarian approach into recovery and longer-term development strategies, empowering and genuinely involving communities and individuals (including in project design). It claimed that the persistence of an emergency approach and succession of humanitarian projects only perpetuates the status quo, blocking change and generating perverse effects: "Today, depending on the projects and their location, populations move around and households duplicate each other, with 2 to 3 locations depending on the NGOs and aid distribution sites." (p.34)

Cross-cutting issues	Gender, environment
Link to evaluation	https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/evaluation-finale-du-projet-respect/

2.11 Project Initiative Peace and Diversity in the Sahel (IPAD) in Niger and Burkina Faso

Evaluation	Projet Initiative Paix et Diversité au Sahel (IPAD) au Niger et au Burkina Faso
Published (year)	2018
Author/Agency	Idrissa Yarou Sama
Commissioned by	CARE
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2015-2017
Keywords	Peacebuilding, women's participation
Abstract	The purpose of this final evaluation was to assess the changes brought about by the Sahel Peace and Diversity Initiative (IPAD) project, a EU funded project of approximately 530,000 Euros. The purpose of the project was to contribute to the implementation of the United-Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, in particular resolutions 1325 and 1820 in eight municipalities in Niger and Burkina Faso (Namaro, Tamou, Say, Liboré and Hamdallaye in the Niger Tillabéry region, and three Communes in the Doriau, Burkina Faso region). The project was structured around three main axes: • Strengthening women and men leaders' capacities so that they can develop new competencies on peace, conflict prevention and non-violent management of conflicts. • The capitalisation and replication at the national and sub regional level of peace experiences and initiatives undertaken at community level. • The strengthening of women leaders' network capacities so that they can better plan and lead advocacy campaigns in the two countries. The evaluation pointed out that due to the nature of the activities, impacts would better be measured in the long-term. Several encouraging results were nonetheless noted, especially in terms of promoting a gender perspective across men and women in the targeted communities, and promoting women participation in the activities, as this was a main aspect of this project. Trainings were delivered to both men and women, and activities implemented at a good pace with operational follow-up at different levels. The programme managed to take into consideration the most important issues raised by the communities: human rights, justice, information, competencies, inclusive participation and peace. Women particularly felt rewarded to participate in the resolution of conflicts. The project activities (sensitisation, trainings, women participation) seemed to have contributed to a decreasing number of complaints registered at the communities' level, which the evaluation linked to a decrease in conjugal and community conflicts. The report made two main recommendations: • Ensure continuity of activities through a second phase of the project in order to consolidate the gains, and have the communities to really benefit from the competencies gained by the leaders during the first phase; • Promote information sharing activities in order to benefit from the lessons learnt.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, capacity building
Link to evaluation	https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/ipad-rapport-final/

3 Evaluations published in 2017

3.1 Project “Gender Sensitive Humanitarian Action and Assistance to Women and Girls affected by Terrorism from Boko Haram to Diffa – Niger”

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Projet « Action Humanitaire Sensible au Genre et Aide aux Femmes et Filles touchées par le Terrorisme de Boko Haram à Diffa – Niger »</i>
Published (year)	2017
Author/Agency	Independent consultant (unknown)
Commissioned by	UN Women
Type of evaluation	project
Project period	2016 - 2017
Keywords	Sexual and gender-based violence, survival services, gender equality, women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming
Abstract	The project was part of a one-year cooperation programme between UN Women and the Government of Japan. The aim was to address the specific needs of women and girls by ensuring protection from gender-based violence and increased access to adequate survival services (medical, psychosocial, economic support), while integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation and planning of the Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan for the country. The project, which had a budget of 1 million USD, targeted 5000 women/girls affected by the conflict generated by Boko Haram among internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees or the host community. The report findings show that project outputs had positive effects both in terms of victims' support and livelihoods, and the reinforcement of humanitarian actors' capacities and improved gender mainstreaming in humanitarian planning documents. Sustainability of the actions and their effects was sought through the sensitisation and involvement of ministerial authorities, decentralised technical services and local authorities in the implementation of the project. The report also identified some shortcomings, related in particular to: (i) implementation delays, partly due also to administrative and institutional slowness in the validation of agreements, training and awareness contents, especially given the limited time frame of the project; (ii) the limited human resources of the project, especially in-situ; (iii) the absence of contextual analysis informing the project design; (iv) the lack of an effective mechanism for intra- and inter-project/agency communication and coordination, including between UN Women and local partners (state and civil society), as well as for complementary with other actors' actions; and (v) a weak project monitoring system. The duration of the project (12 months) was also an issue given the nature of the assistance and behaviour change sought. Moving towards gender equity and achieving greater women's empowerment requires larger-scale actions and sustained long-term investments for refugees, IDPs and host populations. In spite of the challenges, the evaluation considered the project played a pioneering role in advocating for and showcasing the management and prevention of SGBV and the empowerment of women. It recommended continuity of the actions, accompanied with a reinforcement of the human and financial resources, greater investment in livelihoods activities and better coordination.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, GBV
Link to evaluation	http://gate.unwomen.org/Evaluation/Details?EvaluationId=11246

3.2 Evaluation of Niger's Public Finances according to the PEFA 2016 Methodology

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Evaluation des Finances Publiques du Niger selon la Méthodologie PEFA 2016</i>
Published (year)	2017
Author/Agency	AECOM International Development Services
Commissioned by	EU
Type of evaluation	Sector
Project period	2013-2015
Keywords	Financial management
Abstract	The purpose of this evaluation was to measure the performance of Niger's public financial management system between 2013 and 2015 according to the new Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) 2016 framework. The evaluation covered the seven pillars of public financial management (PFM) and measured the impact of PFM on the following three main financial and budgetary objectives: (i) overall budgetary discipline, (ii) strategic allocation of resources and (iii) efficient use of resources. The evaluation was funded by the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund were involved in the implementation of the quality system. The evaluation was conducted in collaboration with the institutions and administrative representatives of the General Direction for Economy and Reforms and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which benefitted from this project. In order to assess the evolution of PFM performance by the Niger state since the PEFA assessment in 2012, a set of indicators were defined. This PEFA exercise noted a global improvement compared to 2012. More specifically, improvements were noted in terms of control and accountability. Legislation was amended and, overall, the information systems became more efficient, with the exception of the procurement system. The more frequent monitoring also made it possible to improve public financial management. Nevertheless, the PFM system is still too weak, and the accumulation of arrears remains a problem. In addition to the need for continued strengthening of the PFM system and paying due attention to debt issues, the report recommended that budgetary and strategic priorities are more closely linked. The credibility of the budget could be enhanced if realistic projections could prevent revenue overestimation.
Cross-cutting issues	Governance, anti-corruption
Link to evaluation	https://pefa.org/node/561

3.3 Civic Education and Support to Peace Initiatives Project in Niger (“Niger Espoir”)

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Projet Éducation Civique et Soutien aux Initiatives de paix au Niger (« Niger Espoir »)</i>
Published (year)	2017
Author/Agency	Idrissa Yarou SAMA
Commissioned by	CARE
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2015-2017
Keywords	Peacebuilding, civic education
Abstract	The Civic Education and Support to Peace Initiatives Project in Niger (‘Niger Espoir’) is the follow-up of the Revalorisation du Vivre Ensemble (REVE) project. Implemented by CARE Niger and SOS Civisme, the project was financed by the EU Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) for an overall amount of EUR 1.6 million, and part of a wider peacebuilding programme headed by Niger’s High Authority for Peacebuilding (HACP). The overall objective of the action was to contribute to peacebuilding and the improvement of social and political stability in Niger in the context of increasing regional insecurity and risks to stability linked to terrorism and radicalisation (e.g. Salafist currents). The project activities sought to: 1) promote intra- and inter-religious dialogue; 2) sensitise and strengthen religious leaders and association, including koranic schools staff on peace and social cohesion; 3) prevent conflicts through the reinforcement of community systems for conflict prevention and resolution, linked to the municipalities; and 4) strengthen capacity of the Directorate of Religious Affairs to play its regulatory role on religious affairs (DAR, Ministry of Interior, Decentralisation, Public Security and Customary and Religious Affairs). The project intervened in areas of the country where Boko Haram had been recruiting locals (Diffa, Maradi, Zinder). Activities focused also at central level (Niamey), targeting the regulating body, the Conseil Supérieur de la Communication (CSC), and Muslim and Christian religious authorities. The set-up of a monitoring center for audio-visual media allowed also to monitor hate speech and implementation of related regulation. The evaluation found that along with other projects targeting religious platforms and leaders, the project set up of intra- and inter-religious dialogue committees in the targeted areas and sensitisation activities effectively contributed to: improving social cohesion through dialogue and collaboration between Muslims and Christians (including Niger high religious authorities); strengthening the role of religious leaders as peace makers; reducing virulent preaching; strengthening population knowledge about other religions; promoting tolerance and human rights (e.g. women’s access to land, integrate peace and social cohesion themes in religious schools); reducing conflicts; and reinforcing the State/DAR’s oversight and coordination on religious matters, which enabled authorities to intervene early in preventing religious tensions or conflict (e.g. violent reactions to Charly Hebdo publication). Prior identification, targeting and involvement of the right stakeholders (at community, regional and national level) and building on previous actions/’acquis’ was key to the results achieved. The project however lacked human and financial resources to provide a closer accompaniment of youth platforms and other structures. The report also indicated that sensitisation activities on the rights of women and issues like early or forced marriage resulted in a decrease of such practices in targeted areas. Despite the strong focus on youth and gender, women and girls’ participation were generally at one quarter that of men and boys, except for activities undertaken separately.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender equality, human rights

Link to evaluation	https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/niger-espoir-rapport-final/
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4 Evaluations published in 2016

4.1 Evaluation of FAO's country programme in Niger

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Évaluation du programme pays de la FAO au Niger</i>
Published (year)	2016
Author/Agency	Genny Bonomi, Anne Bichard, Georgette Konate Traoré, Adamou Mahaman Moustapha, Sambo Bodé
Commissioned by	FAO
Type of evaluation	Country
Project period	2011-2016
Keywords	food security, agriculture, pastoralism, resilience, nutrition
Abstract	Niger is a priority country for FAO, which implemented a number of projects there aimed at: i) eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; ii) eliminating poverty and improving social and economic progress for all; iii) managing and using natural resources in a sustainable way. Producers' organisations, including women, were the main beneficiaries of the programs. The evaluation assessed both the strategic positioning of the organisation, and its contribution to the priority areas of the programming framework for the country: 1. Strengthening of resilience; 2. Increase, diversification and valorisation of productions; and 3. Capacity building of rural sector institutions. With regards to FAO's strategic positioning, the evaluation emphasised the coherence of the projects with national objectives and policy frameworks. The "Communes de convergences" initiated by FAO was one of the initiatives noted, namely because it has resulted in good cooperation between FAO and the rest of the United Nations system. Areas where the Organisation could make some improvements were suggested: a) more integrated approaches to emergencies and development, as FAO could play a key role in this area; b) upgrading the skills of its partners, particularly in the field of gender and nutrition; c) more active mobilisation of resources and better positioning among the various existing options. On FAO contribution to the priority areas, the following strengths and weaknesses were found: • FAO emergency measures (distribution of animals, seeds, breeding equipment) were effective and showed satisfactory results. However, the evaluation recommended to better integrate the various existing multi-partner cluster sets in the management of disasters and food crises, the more so as FAO is also well placed in terms of its work in the field of nutrition. • FAO contributed to better integration of nutrition into related Niger national policies. • The Dimitra Clubs, which brought communities together to exchange views on social issues, were also successful FAO projects that contributed both to positive changes in the communities and to relieving the burden on women. • Capacity issues of FAO's national office limited its ability to capitalise on partnerships and lead on issues like gender, nutrition, pastoralism. The evaluation recommendations focused largely on advocating for strengthening of FAO capacities in country to boost its partnerships and to take the lead on the above-mentioned issues (e.g. through focal points).
Cross-cutting issues	Gender, social protection/rights

Link to evaluation	http://www.fao.org/evaluation/evaluation-digest/evaluations-detail/en/c/883377/
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4.2 Project performance assessment report (PPAR): Niger institutional strengthening and health sector support project and multisector demographic project

Evaluation	<i>Project performance assessment report (PPAR): Niger institutional strengthening and health sector support project and multisector demographic project</i>
Published (year)	2016
Author/Agency	Independent Evaluation Group IEG (World Bank Group)
Commissioned by	Independent Evaluation Group IEG (World Bank Group)
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2006-2013
Keywords	Health, demography
Abstract	This report assessed the performance of two projects: The Institutional Strengthening and Health Sector Support Project (ISHSSP) and the Multi-Sector Demographic Project. The ISHSSP's objective was to support the Niger National Health Development Plan to improve efficiency and quality of care in the health system, and to contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality with a special emphasis on poor and vulnerable groups. The Multi Sector Demographic Project, which aimed at strengthening Niger's capacity to address demographic challenges, targeted both Nigerian governmental officials and the general population, with a specific focus on women. In both cases, the report found that the projects core objectives were only modestly achieved. ISHSSP's outcomes in terms of improved efficiency and quality of care in the health system was rated moderately satisfactory. Project design and monitoring weaknesses (e.g. there were no outcome indicators to measure improvements in the efficiency of the health system) meant that improvements to service delivery efficiency and quality were not systematically tracked. Evidence on health systems efficiency was mixed at best, and there was little evidence on trends in quality of care. In the case of the Multi-Sector Demographic project, the shortcomings were due to the limited capacity of the ministry. Knowledge seems to have increased but attitudes and behaviours regarding population and reproductive health issues changed very little. In order to achieve the capacity-strengthening potential of a sector wide approach, the evaluation highlights the need for clearly laid out capacity-strengthening objectives and viable institutional arrangements, intermediate objectives, a plausible results chain, relevant performance indicators; and proactive M&E. The report also identified elements of a successful sector wide approach, all of which seemed to be partly lacking : (i) quality and relevance of strategies and annual work plans; (ii) country capacity and systems for financial management, procurement, and strategic management; (iii) quality and functionality of partnerships with national and international actors and stakeholders; and (iv) the predictability and flow of funds and the absorptive capacities of implementing agencies.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	http://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/sites/default/files/Data/reports/ppar_niger_0716.pdf

4.3 Final External Evaluation “Project to ensure and restore Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods of Vulnerable Displaced People and Host Communities in the Region of Diffa”

Evaluation	<i>Final External Evaluation “Project to ensure and restore Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods of Vulnerable Displaced People and Host Communities in the Region of Diffa”</i>
Published (year)	2016
Author/Agency	Dr. Issaka Idrissa Mossi
Commissioned by	USAID
Type of evaluation	Project
Project period	2015-2016 (12 months)
Keywords	Food security, nutrition, refugees, migration
Abstract	The project was carried out in the context of the declared state of emergency in the region of Diffa and was a response to ensuing humanitarian challenges that included food insecurity, malnutrition, limited access to social services and people’s need for protection against security threats. The project targeted 2,800 households for a total of 19,600 people that included very poor people, displaced persons, refugees, host families, repatriated, and residents. Its budget was 1,222,000 USD for a period of 12 months. Given the short duration of the project (12 months), the evaluation had difficulties in reaching a conclusion on the sustainable impact the project had on the beneficiaries. A more in-depth assessment would be needed in this regard, looking at the longer-term (social, economic and environmental) effects of capacities acquired by the beneficiary households and targeted people (in terms of livestock breeding and market gardening knowledge, skills, and practices). However, based on the perceptions of the participants, the evaluators found that the support, advice, and training carried out by the project enabled the direct beneficiaries of the project to acquire indispensable knowledge and techniques on breeding small ruminants, and farming production. This allowed them to improve the breeding of small ruminant and market gardening production, optimising the oases aquifers located in the project intervention area. The project logic and expected results that the actions undertaken were in the process of strengthening the solidarity link between the refugees and the host communes, breaking taboos and improving living conditions, seemed to be confirmed by the shared views of all stakeholders (local, regional and departmental authorities, as well as beneficiaries). As an overall recommendation, the need to take advantage of the momentum generated by the project and produce and consolidate longer term results and impacts would require a long-term intervention cycle (e.g. 3 years).
Cross-cutting issues	Human rights/protection, sustainable environment
Link to evaluation	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MG37.pdf

4.4 Final evaluations of the Niger-Luxembourg Cooperation Programme

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Final evaluations of the Niger-Luxembourg Cooperation Programme</i>
Published (year)	2016
Author/Agency	COWI A/S
Commissioned by	LuxDev
Type of evaluation	Programme
Project period	2008-2015
Keywords	Agriculture, food security, education, poverty reduction, skills training, social integration, social services, public financial management, Dosso
Abstract	The Second Indicative Cooperation Programme Niger-Luxembourg (2008-2012, extended to 2015), with a total financial volume of 70 million EUR, focused in the Dosso region in 3 sectoral areas – Agriculture, Education, Public Expenditure Chain (under the PFM reform program) – and at national level in the support to the National Programme for Vocational and Technical Training for young trainees. LuxDev commissioned four separate programme evaluations, whose joint results are presented here. The Development Support Programme for sustainable agriculture in the Dosso region aimed at strengthening national capacities for food production, supply and resilience to food crises and natural disasters by contributing to sustainable agricultural development in the region. The evaluation found that through improved institutional mechanisms, farmers were granted access to credits (35% women), investment in hydro-agricultural and farmers' capacities development (67% of young girls trained under this action) contributed to farmers' resilience, and 12 districts benefitted from a public-private partnership investment. The support to the National Programme for Vocational and Technical Training for the integration of young trainees aimed at contributing to poverty reduction by improving the level of education and skills training of the population, in numbers, quality and adapted to the needs of the country economy and promoting social integration. The evaluation found that despite progress, the transfer of capacities into the sector Ministry and decentralised services was insufficient to ensure effective leadership, management and regulation of the sub-sector. The Support programme for the Implementation of the ten-year Education Development Programme in the Dosso Region aimed at promoting universal access to quality education as part of the fight against poverty. According to the evaluation, this sectoral programme achieved the best results of the overall bilateral Cooperation Programme. It improved the planning and management capacities of regional and departmental institutions, which also allows for better sectoral donor coordination. It contributed to a 5-6-fold increase in the levels of child enrolment and school attendance in the Dosso region, and a 13% decrease in adult illiteracy. The Support project to the Public Expenditure Chain in the Dosso Region aimed at improving its functioning and contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of public financial management in the country, which is central to the implementation of the country Poverty Reduction strategy. It focused on capacity building of actors in the expenditure chain in the Dosso region. The evaluation noted several weaknesses in the Public Expenditure Chain, notably the internal communication to the Ministry of Finance, between the regional and central level; unequal distribution of human resources within the region; weak capacities among deconcentrated sectoral civil servants, as well as cultural factors. Overall program was rated below average.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://luxdev.lu/files/documents/NIG018_EF_FR.pdf https://luxdev.lu/files/documents/NIG017_NIG817_EF_FR.pdf

	https://luxdev.lu/files/documents/NIG019_EF_FR.pdf https://luxdev.lu/files/documents/NIG020_EF_FR.pdf
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5 Evaluations published in 2014

5.1 Enhanced Information and Communications for Non-violence among Malian Refugees in Niger

<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Enhanced Information and Communications for Non-violence among Malian Refugees in Niger</i>
Published (year)	2014
Author/Agency	Search for Common Ground: Moutari Aboubacar and MAROU Garba Zakari
Commissioned by	Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
Type of evaluation	project
Project period	2013-2014 (12 months)
Keywords	Refugees, peacebuilding, mediation
Abstract	This project was carried out with funding from the U.S Department of State in Niger and was implemented over a period of 12 months in the regions of Niamey, Tahoua and Tillabéry, in five camps set up to shelter Malian refugees. The activities developed by Search for Common Ground aimed at promoting access to credible information and at building the capacity of leaders in conflict resolution in refugees camps. A total of 16,000 beneficiaries were involved in the project, among them refugees, traditional and religious leaders, including young people and women, focal points in charge of the camps' security as well as NGO staff in charge of the camps. 50% of the beneficiaries of the training sessions were women. According to the evaluation the project seemed to be very effective and the expected results achieved, even though only roughly half of the planned activities were carried out. The activities carried out - participative theatre, communitarian activities, sensibilisation and training sessions - contributed to the reduction of violence in camps, according to the stakeholders' views collected by the evaluators through focus groups, individual interviews and a random sample survey in all three refugee camps. Furthermore, the evaluation found that refugees targeted by the project were better informed about the situation of their relatives and friends who stayed in the country. Moreover, the project itself was not a source of conflict between the refugees of the camps and was also in adequation with refugees' culture. The radio was pointed out as a key instrument to promote peace, as well as the leaders' mediation role. The evaluation included two main recommendations: • Continuity of the of the project through a second phase in order to consolidate the progress made so far. • Establishment of a follow up mechanism to track progress and follow up leaders' interventions.
Cross-cutting issues	Gender
Link to evaluation	https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NIG002_Rapport-Evaluation-finale_vf.pdf

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This report is the product of the authors, and responsibility for the accuracy of data included in this report rests with the authors alone. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions presented in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Evaluation Department.

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Migrants from sub-Saharan countries with target Europe and goldminers on a lorry to the goldfields of Djado shortly before leaving Agadez; on these goldfields many migrants will work to finance their further way to southern Libya. January 4, 2016.

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