
Gender Assessment

FP176: Hydro-agricultural development with smart agriculture practices resilient to climate change in Niger

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Gender Assessment

Introduction

This assessment aims to provide information and data on the gender situation in the design and implementation of the "Hydro-Agricultural Development Project with Climate Resilient Smart Agriculture Practices" in Niger.

The project is structured around 3 components: i) Sustainable development and rehabilitation of perimeters vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, ii) Support for the sustainable increase of agricultural productivity and farmers' income in irrigated areas on developed and rehabilitated perimeters, and iii) Support for the sustainable development of developed and rehabilitated perimeters

The gender assessment analyzes gender inequalities in several areas and identifies opportunities that could be seized through project activities to close the gaps that exist within beneficiary communities. The information and data collected for this analysis is limited to the national and regional level. It will be supplemented with commune- and site-specific information and data prior to project implementation. They will serve as a basis for the development and implementation of a Gender Action Plan that aims more specifically to:

- Improve the participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups in decision-making and project implementation at all levels;
- Improve the accessibility of women, youth and disadvantaged groups to the learning and training opportunities offered by the project;
- Promote information and communication to integrate gender throughout the process;
- Promote gender awareness among project team members and other local actors.

1. Gender mainstreaming in Niger national institutional framework

1.1. *National initiatives*

In Niger, at the national level, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Child Protection (MPFPE) is the body responsible for coordinating actions for the promotion of women and gender equality. It includes a Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender which ensures, from an operational point of view, the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of interventions in the areas of the promotion of women and gender. The Ministry also has decentralized services that ensure the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of actions at the local level.

At regional level, there are decentralized communities and municipalities which are directly involved in the implementation of PNG through their Development Plans. So, they work in close collaboration with the services of the Ministry in charge of Gender in order to ensure that gender is taken into account in all interventions.

In 2018, the Government of Niger has adopted a National Gender Policy (PNG), the overall objective of which is to contribute to the creation of an able environment to the achievement of equity and equality of opportunity and opportunity. This PNG has four strategic axes:

- Improvement of the socio-cultural environment in relation to demography, peace and security for more equity between men and women;
- Strengthening of the institutional and legal framework favorable to the effective application of the rights of women and girls, to the fight against gender-based violence and to the equitable participation of men and women in the management of power;
- Economic empowerment and inclusive growth in relation to sustainable management of the environment, disaster risk management, migration and humanitarian emergencies;
- Strengthening of institutional mechanisms and organizational frameworks for coordination, monitoring-evaluation and partnership.

In addition to this ministry, there are other institutional mechanisms contributing to the achievement of the same objective, notably: i) the Directorate for the Enrolment of Girls, which is the body responsible for implementing the government's policy on the enrolment of girls; ii) the Gender Advisors to the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Ombudsman, who are responsible for providing technical advice on the inclusion of gender in the country's development policies and programs; iii) the National Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Equality (ONPG), which is responsible for the promotion of gender equality in the country's development policies and programs, (iii) the National Observatory for Gender Promotion (ONPG), created in 2015 and attached to the Prime Minister's office in 2017, is the monitoring mechanism for the promotion of gender equity and equality. The Observatory encourages institutions to pay particular attention to gender statistics and to integrate them into reports and assessments, iv) gender cells and focal points within sectoral ministries. The gender units were set up by ministerial order within the sectoral ministries under the aegis of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Child Protection. The role of the cells is to monitor the systematic inclusion of gender in the development policies, programs and projects of their ministry. Other institutions such as the Network of Nigerien Parliamentarians on Gender Issues, the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which support advocacy for the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of gender, civil society organizations and development partners, are also part of the system.

1.2. Policy and legal framework to reduce Gender Inequalities

At policy level, there is a Gender National Policy (2008), along with a decadal plan (2009- 2018) for the implementation of this policy. Moreover, some sectoral policies also include the promotion of gender equality throughout their actions. At a legislative level, the Constitution provides equal rights regardless of gender and prohibits sex-based discrimination. Niger has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW- in 1999 and has signed the Optional Protocol on violence against women (2004). The quota law, enacted since 2000 and which enter into force in 2002, define a minimal threshold for the participation to the management of public affairs. The law 2004-50, the commercial code and the civil code include also provisions that should contribute to more gender equality.

Addressing some of the governance challenges in the public and private sector may bring particular benefits to women. Efforts to improve the enabling business environment are likely to be particularly important for women, who tend to have less access to the money, time, literacy and social networks needed to overcome complex and financially costly/time-consuming regulations. Proxy representation funded by development partners could be considered. Efforts to enable the informal sector will also benefit women who are even more likely than men to operate informally. If they are done in a gender-sensitive manner, efforts to improve tenure security can also be especially beneficial for women by improving their access to collateral and incentives to make productivity-enhancing investments in land.

There are additional barriers for women trying to conduct business. For instance, the Civil Code, provides for the male as the head of the household with 'marital authority' over his wife and explicitly limits her legal capacity in marriage, including with respect to exercising a profession and opening a bank account. Even though the Commercial Code allows women to have independent.

2. Overview of Gender inequalities in Niger

2.1. Gender analysis in demography level

As of July 2018, Niger's population was estimated at 21,4 million inhabitants; it is expected to reach 34.5 million in 2030 and more than triple in 2050 to 69 million. Women account for more than half of the population (52.4%), and this share has actually increased in the last seven years according to data from the National Statistical Institute. They accounted for just over half (50.3%) of the total population

in 2012. Women's fertility rate is one of the highest in Africa, 7.6 children per woman and can reach 9 in regions such as Maradi and Zinder. The high fertility trends, combined with a rapid decline in child mortality, contribute significantly to the very high rate of population growth of 3.9 percent. Some cultural aspects drive a preference for children. Some of these are linked to religious interpretations, income risks in the face of poverty, and gender discrimination. Without improvements in these general conditions (risk, human capital, access to health services for both men and women) and without an active (media) engagement to discuss and challenge established norms, population growth is likely to remain high. This high fertility rate is likely to have negative impacts on the time than women can devote to improve their well-being (better education, health and nutritional status, employment and income generation) at the expense of time devoted to child care.

The gender distribution of the population in the country's 8 regions is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Population distribution in the 8 regions of Niger

| Regions | Total population | Men | Women | % of women | Growth rate % |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Agadez | 487 620 | 251 257 | 236 363 | 48,47 | 3,6 |
| Diffa | 593 821 | 304 246 | 289 575 | 48,76 | 4,7 |
| Doso | 2 037 713 | 1 005 641 | 1 032 072 | 50,65 | 2,7 |
| Maradi | 3 402 094 | 1 673 783 | 1 728 311 | 50,80 | 3,7 |
| Tillabery | 2 722 482 | 1 346 295 | 1 376 187 | 50,55 | 3,2 |
| Zinder | 3 539 764 | 1 765 496 | 1 774 268 | 50,12 | 4,7 |
| Niamey | 1 026 848 | 511 166 | 515 682 | 50,22 | 2,9 |
| Total | 17 138 707 | 8 518 818 | 8 619 889 | 50,29 | 3,9 |

Source: General population and housing census 2012, state and structure of the population of Niger in 2012

The sexual distribution of the population in the municipalities benefiting from the project is presented in the following table 2.

Table 2: Sexual distribution of the population in the municipalities benefiting from the project

| Regions | Departments | Municipalities | Population | | | % of women |
|---------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------|---------|------------|
| | | | Men | Women | Total | |
| Maradi | Madarounfa | Gabi | 40 557 | 42 656 | 83 213 | 51,26 |
| | | Sarkin Yamma | 17 692 | 18 865 | 36 557 | 51,60 |
| | | Djirataoua | 42 342 | 43 634 | 85 976 | 50,75 |
| | Dakoro | Korohane | 6 232 | 6 345 | 12 577 | 50,45 |
| | Guidan Rourdji | Guidan Sori | 45 681 | 48 090 | 93 771 | 51,28 |
| | | Guidan Rourdji | 47 449 | 48 342 | 95 791 | 50,47 |
| Tahoua | Abalak | Tabalak | 134 005 | 122 296 | 256 301 | 47,72 |
| | | Keita | 32 848 | 34 456 | 67 304 | 51,19 |
| | Bouza | Karofane | 38 967 | 38 829 | 77 796 | 49,91 |
| Agadez | Ingall | Ingall | 27 173 | 24 730 | 51 903 | 47,65 |
| | Arlit | Dannet | 8 024 | 6 940 | 14 964 | 46,38 |
| | Bilma | Dabaga | 12 022 | 11 947 | 23 969 | 49,84 |

| Regions | Departments | Municipalities | Population | | | % of women |
|---------|------------------|----------------|------------|--------|---------|------------|
| | | | Men | Women | Total | |
| | Tchirozérine | Tchirozérine | 32 746 | 30 757 | 63 503 | 48,43 |
| Zinder | Kantché | Dan Barto | 20 272 | 20 628 | 40 900 | 50,44 |
| | | Doungou | 19 046 | 19 985 | 39 031 | 51,20 |
| | Magaria | Magaria | 64 431 | 66 276 | 130 707 | 50,71 |
| | | Wacha | 46 642 | 46 850 | 93 492 | 50,11 |
| | Mirriah | Gouna | 32 793 | 30 805 | 63 598 | 48,44 |
| | Damagaram Takaya | Guidimouni | 34 369 | 35 218 | 69 587 | 50,61 |
| Diffa | Diffa | Diffa | 29 410 | 27 027 | 56 437 | 47,89 |
| | | Chetimari | 32 982 | 32 467 | 65 449 | 49,61 |
| | Mainé Soroa | Mainé Soroa | 40 570 | 38 165 | 78 735 | 48,47 |

Source: RGPH, 2012 *Development and Poverty*

Niger was ranked 189 out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI), with a value of 0.354. During the period 1990-2017, Niger's HDI value has gone from 0.210 to 0.354, corresponding to an increase of 68.5 percent. Based on the sex-disaggregated HDI, a Gender Development Index (GDI) is calculated as the ratio of the female to the male HDI to measure gender inequalities on three basic dimensions of human development: health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). In 2017, the female HDI was 0.317 in Niger while the value for male was 0.391, leading therefore to a GDI value of 0.812

Furthermore, a Gender Inequality Index (GII), is calculated to reflect gender-based inequalities in three dimensions related to reproductive health (measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates), empowerment (measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment in secondary and higher education by each gender) and economic activity (measured by the labor market participation rate for women and men). Niger is ranked 154 out of 189 countries according to UN Annual report, with a GII value of 0.649. The maternal mortality rate is 520 per 100,000 live births in 2015 and the adolescent birth rate is 192.0 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19. Niger has 29 seats held by women out of 171, representing 16.9 percent. However, the number of women parliamentarians has increased compared to 1999 and 2004 with respective rates of 1.2 percent and 12.4 percent. Regarding representativeness in Government, the share of women is only 18% which is far from the target of 25 percent. For local communities, there are 588 local elected officials who are women out of a total of 3752, corresponding to a participation rate of 16% which is much lower in Zinder, Tahoua and Maradi. Furthermore, 4.3 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 8.9 percent of their male counterparts. The participation of women in the labor market exhibits higher level of gender inequalities with 67.5 percent, compared to male participation of 90.7 percent.

As for the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), Niger ranks 153rd out of 159 with a SIGI value of 0.4415 which is very high. This OECD Development Centre's Index is a cross-country measure of discrimination against women in social institutions (formal and informal laws, social norms, and practices) across 180 countries. It is worth mentioning that Niger is among a list of 13 Sub-Saharan African countries with a high level of gender discrimination based on the SIGI. The table 3 below summarizes the above-mentioned rates.

Table 3: Index on gender and human development

| Index | Value/ ranking | Key dimensions of gender inequalities |
|---|---|--|
| Human Development Index (HDI) | 0.394 in 2019 189th out of 189 countries | |
| Gender Development Index (GDI) | 0.354 in 2018 Niger is in Group 5 corresponding to countries with low equality in HDI achievements between women and men | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health • education • command over economic resources |
| Gender Inequality Index (GII) | 0.649 in 2020 154th out of 189 countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reproductive health • empowerment • economic activity |
| Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) | 0.4415 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discrimination in the family • restricted physical integrity • restricted access to productive • financial resources and restricted civil liberties |

Gender inequalities contribute to poverty which disproportionately affects women, girls and children. Given the low ranking of Niger in most of the human development indicators, it is one of the poorest countries in the World with a poverty rate of 44.1 percent. Poverty is more important in rural than urban areas, and regions like Maradi, Dosso and Zinder are the most affected ones. This is also reflected with the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for which Niger had a value of 0.605 in 2012; and about 89.3 percent of the population is considered as poor according to the MPI. Disparities exist between urban and rural areas regarding MPI: rural areas (0.669) which is more than two times higher compared to urban areas (0.276). Regions with highest MPI are Maradi (0.664), Tahoua (0.646), Zinder (0.641) and Dosso (0.620). High poverty level in rural areas and its effects on people's vulnerability gives evidence on the need to create enabling environment for financing climate resilient agriculture.

2.2. Specific gender issues according to the relevant sectors in the project

Societal norms and expectations limit the full economic potential of women, and by implication of society. Women make up more than 70% percent of the Niger 's workforce in the agricultural sector. This sector is critical for economic growth in the poorest country which relies heavily on women. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with female ownership is very limited. When they own businesses, they have unmet financial needs and face various barriers to access to assets and financing. Access to credit can open up economic opportunities for rural Nigerien women, and bank accounts can be a gateway to the use of additional financial services. However, women entrepreneurs and employers face significantly greater challenges than men in gaining access to financial services. Access to microfinance in Africa remains among the lowest with a penetration rate of less than one percent. Key barriers to accessing to financing are gender based social, cultural and legal. To transform the agricultural sector under a changing climate, the Government of Niger needs to close the Gender Gap in agriculture.

2.2.1. Employment

About 34 percent of women are out of the labor force as opposed to 10 percent for men. On average active women are employed for fewer hours compared to men (28 for women and 43 for men) while receiving lower earnings. In terms of gross national income, it is estimated at US\$ 481 per year for

women, while for men it is more than two times higher with a value of US\$ 1292 PPA. Women who are paid are only 16 percent in the private sector and 17% in the public sector; and women led companies is very low (5.14 percent). The unemployment rate is estimated at 8.9 percent, with 9.2 percent for men against 8.1 percent for women. Thus, women still lack behind in terms employment and income generation.

In Niger, more than half of the population is under 15 years old (51,9%), two Nigeriens out of three are less than 25 years old (66%) and 33% of Nigeriens are between 15 and 35 years old. Youth unemployment is a major problem in Niger, both in urban areas (19.4%) and rural areas (15.1%). In rural areas, youth unemployment is explained on the one hand by the lack of productive jobs and on the other to the effects of food crises, leading therefore to migration towards cities. Underemployment is also an issue in rural areas of Niger. About 34.6% suffer from underemployment, with a rate more than two times higher in rural areas (84.6%) because of the seasonality of activities. By 2050, Niger dependency ratio will exceed the average for Sub Saharan Africa and other regions (Latin America and Asia) by 25 and 32 percent respectively; and the population age between 15-24 will reach 20 percent, a situation described as the “bulge of youth”

2.2.2. Agriculture

Gender inequalities also reflect in agricultural productivity. Backiny-Yetna¹ and McGee (2015) found that plots managed by women in Niger produce 19 percent less per hectare than plots managed by men. The main determinants contributing to gender productivity gap in Niger are (a) farm labor, with women facing significant challenges in accessing, using, and supervising male farm labor; (b) the quantity and quality of fertilizer use, with men using more inorganic fertilizer per hectare than women; and (c) land ownership and characteristics, with men owning more land and enjoying higher returns to ownership than women. The relatively lower women participation in leadership outside the household, as measured by group membership and public speaking, is also considered as a key element that affects their agricultural productivity. The low agricultural productivity of women compared to men is likely to have impact in their resilience. A study on analysis and measurement of resilience in Niger found that female-headed households are less resilient than male-headed households. Female-headed households made up 16% of the households in Niger according to data from the Demographic and Health Survey in 2012. Furthermore, more than one out of three women (36.2 percent) owns at least one land plot compared to more than half for men (55.3 percent). Due to gender inequality regarding access to productive resources, such as land, and financing, female headed households have been found to be poorer and more vulnerable to food and nutrition security.

2.2.3. Land access

Whether it is rainfed or irrigated agriculture, access to land through inheritance is the dominant mode and is generally reserved for men (36% of women own land in 2012). But access to land ownership is possible for both men and women by purchase for a fee. Women are working on AHAs as plot owners. The rate of women as plot owner is few. Many of women are generally working as employees. The new national approach on AHAs is that women and men have the same right and the equal access to land becoming plots owners.

With the new AHAs, and in this project, land will be voluntarily handed over to ONAHA by landowners in a negotiated process. All of this land will then be registered in the name of ONAHA and subdivided into 0.125 ha plots. The plot units will be allocated either to a farmer (male, female, young) or to a household and its members (headed by a man or a woman). Plot allocations will be made on the basis of a farming contract between ONAHA and each beneficiary (man, woman, youth). Women living in polygamous unions may, if they wish, be allocated plots under their own names. The rule to access

¹ Prosperé Backiny-Yetna and Kevin McGee (2015). Gender Differentials and Agricultural Productivity in Niger. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 7199

the Hydro agriculture areas' plots under ONAHA management is the access equality between men and women.

To improve the achievement of project results, sensitization, information and capacity building sessions are planned during the beginning of the project implementation, for men and women. This will facilitate their understanding of project actions. Also, a gender expert will be involved in this process. Finally, it is important to note that the redistribution of plots follows an administrative procedure based on the commitment of the Republic of Niger for equality between men and women. This practice is aligned to axis 3 of the National Gender Policy (Economic empowerment and inclusive growth linked to sustainable management of the environment, climate change, management risks and disasters, migration, and humanitarian emergencies). This method of distribution is not influenced by traditional practices and promotes equal access to land.

Also, the traditional system of land management is not favorable to individual property rights. In the new form of redistribution of the project, land belongs to the state through ONAHA. For individuals, it concerns only the right of use or the right of exploitation on the allocated perimeter based on a contract signed between ONAHA and each beneficiary. So, this form of access does not meet with resistance from the traditional owners or from men. This form promotes more women's access to land.

In any case, the formulation and the approval of an Environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) is planned for each subproject before the beginning of the field works. This ESIA will contain grievance redress mechanisms which will be made accessible and operational to both women and men at the local, municipal, regional, national and international level. The Terms of reference (ToR) for the subprojects ESIA formulation is available at page 130 of the Annex 6: Environmental and social management Framework. The grievance redress mechanisms contained proposed in the ToR is at the page 132.

2.2.4. Education

In rural areas, the literacy rate of women aged 15 years old and higher is very low, particularly in rural areas where it was 11 percent in 2014¹⁰. Long standing traditions attach less value to the education of girls than of boys demonstrated by a high propensity of illiterate women compared to men, with respective percentages of 75.5 and 67.8. The gender gaps in literacy rates illustrate inequalities in enrolment and completion of education, with discrepancies between boys and girls. The primary Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was 77.8 percent in 2017, with 83.3 percent for boys and 72.1 percent for girls. This rate for girls has increased over the last four years, from 64.8 percent in 2013 to 72.1 percent in 2017. The completion rate at primary school also confirms the discrepancies between boys and girls regarding their educational status, with 83.3 percent for boys and 72.1 percent for girls while it is 80.3 percent at national level. These gaps are higher in rural areas compared to urban areas, and particularly for regions such as Zinder and Tahoua. This is compounded by the custom of marrying girls young (particularly in situations of financial distress and preferably to well-to-do (hence older) men from a different climatic zone); prohibiting women from inheriting upon the death of their husband.

2.3. Gender-Based Violence

Psychological/emotional abuse, rape, sexual assault, physical assault, forced marriage, and denial of resources, opportunities or services are common in Niger. Women are victims of numerous forms of violence, especially physical (29%), sexual (20%), early or forced marriage (14%), and lack of access to one's own resources (22%).

According to the "Study on the scope and determinants of gender-based violence in Niger,"² the prevalence rate of all types of violence, regardless of gender, is 53%. The national prevalence of GBV is 28.4%. Behind this rate, which is an average, are the rates for children and women, which are much higher. In fact, 63% of children in Niger suffer from at least one of the types of violence mentioned

² Djibo Saley et al, Magnitude and Determinants of Gender-Based Violence in Niger, UNFPA, 2015.

above. The prevalence rate among the female population is 60%³. Women are therefore more likely to be victims of gender-based violence in Niger. Other studies reveal that the vast majority of perpetrators are men (93.4%); they are often married men over 25 years of age, without any level of education, related to the victims by marriage in 72% of cases, or are part of the family circle or community. The majority of victims are married women under 25 years of age, with no education and no source of income. Young girls are not spared either.

According to the UNHCR, "during the month of December 2019, in the Diffa zone, 36 cases of gender-based violence were reported and documented. We note 06 cases of rape, including 3 on minors aged 17, 15 and 14 years. Also, 3 cases of physical violence and 6 cases of psychological violence were documented. Similarly, 18 cases of denial of resources and 3 cases of forced marriages were recorded, 2 of which involved minors aged 15 and 16⁴. It should be noted that female genital mutilation remains a marginal practice in Niger (2%). Young girls in Tillabéry are the most exposed to this phenomenon (12%). This practice could be reduced because most men and women consider it to be of no benefit⁵.

2.4. Common gender beliefs, perceptions and stereotypes

At the customary level, in general, there are social norms that formally or informally regulate the respective roles of women and men. Findings from a World Bank study in this area (World Bank, 2014) reveal that social norm function as rules and can be gender and context specific. These social norms are core cultural values of a group or society and shape everyday conduct in private and public life. These norms are rarely challenged to avoid disrespecting the group. In effect, social norms define the roles assigned to men and women and to which they are expected to conform. For example, in some regions and traditions, rural women are obliged not to plant millet or peanuts. In other cases, these norms have the effect of limiting women's access to agricultural resources by stating that it is socially unacceptable for women to inherit land or engage in agricultural activities.

The few women who attempt to access land in defiance of convention usually pay the price. They are strongly criticized for breaking customs and even accused of being a disgrace to their families. According to the normative role, men are the breadwinners, the decision makers. As for women, they depend on them and must be under the protection of men.

In customary law, property rights and rules of intergenerational transmission are still governed by gender and enshrine the pre-eminence of men. These realities provide insight into gender inequalities attributed to social and customary norms, even though some norms are often unfairly applied or lack a genuine traditional basis.

In terms of beliefs, the two main religions are Islam and Christianity, the first concerns 98% of the population and the second about 1%. Beyond spiritual beliefs, religions are practices that condition existence, lifestyles, behaviors, family and societal relationships, especially those between fathers and children or between spouses. In this configuration, customs, cultures and traditions are intertwined with certain rules of life dictated by religions.

3. Vulnerability to climate change

Analysis of vulnerability to food insecurity by gender of household head in rural areas shows that people living in female-headed households are the most vulnerable to food insecurity related to the adverse effects of climate change. Female-headed households are more food insecure than male-headed households. There are 8.7% of female-headed households versus 2.7% of male-headed

³ National strategy for the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in Niger (2017-2021), Ministry of Women's Promotion and Child Protection, 2017.

⁴ UNHCR, "Situation of sexual and gender-based violence - Diffa, Niger," 2019.

⁵ Beijing Plus 20 Review Report for Niger, June 2014, Ministry of Population, Women's Promotion and Child Protection

households that are severely food insecure and 17.5% versus 9.7% that are moderately food insecure. The proportion of food secure households is 41.7% for female-headed households versus 58.8% for male-headed households.

In addition, there are gender inequalities that could be exacerbated by climate change impacts in the project watershed. These inequalities include unequal access to irrigation water, credit, and income levels. Men are more adaptable to climate change than women. Because men and women do not have equal access to water resources, these inequalities could be exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change, particularly in the event of prolonged water shortages.

4. Information and communication

Gender inequalities in the agricultural sector are not only limited to access to land, but also to the personnel who are supposed to conduct policies, transmit the message and supervise the agricultural population; this has consequences on the appropriation of information and the level of adherence of women in a context where direct exchanges between men and women are often subject to social pressures.

A communication strategy, aimed at both women and men beneficiaries, will be implemented at the local level. This process aims to improve their understanding of the adverse effects of climate change and to make them aware of opportunities for their practical participation in the development and implementation of appropriate technical and technological innovations to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. In order to better manage the gender and conflict sensitivity dimension, existing traditional mechanisms will be strengthened with the participation of formal and/or informal community structures, traditional communicators, through the support and guidance of local authorities.

5. Issues related to women's participation in the project

The many disparities that exist between men and women, particularly in the areas of education, vulnerability to climate change, income, access to resources (especially water and land), decision-making, etc., represent constraints that can limit the full participation of women in project activities. Women may, in fact, be discriminated against not only in the distribution of developed plots but also in other services and facilities offered by the project (training, capacity building, access to inputs, etc.). The following table presents the measures to be implemented during project implementation to facilitate and encourage women's participation in the various project activities.

| Women's Vulnerabilities | Risks to the project | Mitigation measures |
|---|---|--|
| Low level of education/ illiteracy | Low level of understanding of the awareness-raising messages, which can lead to a low level of ownership of the project on an individual or collective level Low level of openness to technological innovations brought by the project | Use local languages in awareness campaigns for project beneficiaries |
| Poverty/Low Income | Difficulties for women to pay land fees to ONAHA and to pay the maintenance costs of the waterworks serving their plots Difficulty or impossibility of using hired labor for weeding or watering the fields | Prioritize women's agricultural credit applications |
| Difficulties in accessing land | Exclusion from the project of women who do not own land | The project will be carried out within a secure land framework where all the land to be developed will be registered in the name of ONAHA, which will sign an operating contract with each beneficiary (man, woman, landowner) |

| Women's Vulnerabilities | Risks to the project | Mitigation measures |
|---|---|--|
| | | <p>or not) giving rise to the payment of an annual royalty. This process of securing land is described in the Annex 29.</p> <p>To prevent gender-based violence and provide remedial actions – particularly when it comes to land allocation there many mechanism in place before the grievance mechanism take place. Before any intervention of gender expert to apply the GAP, Please see, Item 3.4.2. PAGE 11, Operations for AHA's operators land security; Item 3.4.3 Page 11 to 12 Land tenure conflict management on AHAs: Litigation and dispute resolution of the Annex 29: Land securing methodology for AHA-AIC development and it replication. ONAHA's Land Management Unit is responsible for new AHA's land tenure security. Thus, they: (i) legally protect the rights of the producers exploiting the plots; (ii) periodically renew the documents of these contracts (contract of occupation); (iii) monitor and inform management about land claims and disputes on the perimeter; (iv) mediate between ONAHA and representative entities or between farmers strictly on land level; (v) mobilize in case of need for legal advice to document all disputes on the perimeters throughout the country. (Please see item 2. 4 page 6 and 7 of the Annex 29: Land securing methodology for AHA-AIC development and it replication).</p> |
| Absence/low involvement in decision-making processes | It is common in rural areas for women to speak little and/or to agree with the views and decisions of men | To allow or even encourage women to speak up and express their divergent or concordant points of view during the various meetings related to the project. |
| Weight of local cultural traditions | <p>Discrimination against women in the distribution of developed plots It is very likely, given local cultural traditions, that men are served before women, leaving only the plots far from the pumping stations to women, which could lead to frustration</p> | <p>Proceed with the distribution of the plots when taking into account the gender of the beneficiaries.</p> <p>Under the present project, all the land concerned will be registered in the name of ONAHA and then subdivided into 0.125 ha plots. The plot units will be allocated either to a farmer (male, female, young) or to a household and its members (headed by a man or a woman). Plot allocations will be made on the basis of a farming contract between ONAHA and each beneficiary (man, woman, youth). Women living in polygamous unions may, if they wish, be allocated plots under their own names.</p> <p>In the polygamous unions, each woman with her children ill be consider as household.</p> |
| | Difficulty in breaking down social barriers that maintain gender inequalities (customs, traditions, religions) | Traditions evolve and change over time, adapting as best they can to social and environmental changes. The relaxation of social barriers embedded in mentalities will be achieved through a process of dialogue that brings together, at the regional or local level, |

| Women's Vulnerabilities | Risks to the project | Mitigation measures |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | <p>traditional and religious authorities, women's rights organizations and opinion leaders to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of current practices on social and economic development at the collective and individual levels. The discussions should lead to the elimination of practices that are incompatible with the scarcity of available resources and the legitimate aspiration of women to improve their living conditions.</p> <p>This dialogue will be initiated within the framework of this project through awareness-raising activities for traditional and religious authorities on gender issues.</p> |