

# Funding Proposal

## Gender Assessment and Action Plan

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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 %
<b>Agadez</b>	487 620	251 257	236 363	48,47	3,6
<b>Diffa</b>	593 821	304 246	289 575	48,76	4,7
<b>Doso</b>	2 037 713	1 005 641	1 032 072	50,65	2,7
<b>Maradi</b>	3 402 094	1 673 783	1 728 311	50,80	3,7
<b>Tillabery</b>	2 722 482	1 346 295	1 376 187	50,55	3,2
<b>Zinder</b>	3 539 764	1 765 496	1 774 268	50,12	4,7
<b>Niamey</b>	1 026 848	511 166	515 682	50,22	2,9
<b>Total</b>	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	
<b>Maradi</b>	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 Roudji	Guidan Sori	45 681	48 090	93 771	51,28
		Guidan Roudji	47 449	48 342	95 791	50,47
<b>Tahoua</b>	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
<b>Agadez</b>	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 153<sup>rd</sup> 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"> <li>• health</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• command over economic resources</li> </ul>
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	0.649 in 2020 154th out of 189 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reproductive health</li> <li>• empowerment</li> <li>• economic activity</li> </ul>
Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)	0.4415	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discrimination in the family</li> <li>• restricted physical integrity</li> <li>• restricted access to productive</li> <li>• financial resources and restricted civil liberties</li> </ul>

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-Yetna<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2014<sup>10</sup>. 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,"<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup> 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%<sup>3</sup>. 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 16<sup>4</sup>. 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 benefit<sup>5</sup>.

## *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

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<b>Women's Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Risks to the project</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
<b>Low level of education/ illiteracy</b>	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
<b>Poverty/Low Income</b>	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
<b>Difficulties in accessing land</b>	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>
<b>Absence/low involvement in decision-making processes</b>	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.
<b>Weight of local cultural traditions</b>	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>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>

# Gender Action Plan

## 6. Summary of Gender Action Plan

### 6.1. *Overview of the Gender Action Plan*

#### 6.1.1. General Objective

Enhance men and women's equal participation in the project through the improvement and diversification of the livelihoods of 121 615 people (including 50% women and girls) in rural communities currently dependent on rain-fed agriculture in 5 regions of Niger

#### 6.1.2. Gender Mainstreaming Results

##### **Component 1. Sustainable Development and Rehabilitation of Areas Vulnerable to the Negative effects of Climate Change and Reducing GHG Emissions**

##### **R1 : The capacities of vulnerable groups including women in terms of gender mainstreaming in the project are strengthened**

- Train women and young producers (farmers) regarding agricultural techniques that are resilient to climate change
- Train women and young people in associative life in order to be elected within the governing structures of these rural and agricultural organizations
- Strengthen the capacities of women and young people in associative and organizational life

##### **R2: The technical and organizational capacities of vulnerable actors including 50% of women are strengthened**

- Build the capacities of actors from the technical support services of the Ministries involved in the gender equality project to meet the differentiated needs of men, women and young people
- Train the producers and young producers benefiting from the project in reading and interpreting agro-meteorological data
- Strengthen the capacities of men and women of local financial institutions to include climate-smart agriculture into their activities
- Train project beneficiaries including women and young people in reading and interpreting temperature and precipitation data
- Strengthen the capacities of rural women and men and young people in the use of Tools for monitoring changes in natural resources

##### **Component 2 : Support of the sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and income of farmers' groups and cooperatives in irrigated areas on developed and rehabilitated areas**

##### **R3: Women and men have equal access to decision-making bodies**

- Make women and young people participants in decision-making relating to project activities
- Choose competent women as members of the teams responsible for the land registration process at each site
- Build women, men and young people's capacity to improve the functionality of their organizations so that they are taken into account in the contracts to be signed with cooperatives and Water Users Associations (AUEi)
- Elect or choose women and men to run the committees responsible for the process

##### **R4 : Women and men have equal access to agricultural and climate-resilient technologies**

- Facilitate the access of women heads of household to land and agricultural technologies



- Facilitate the access of vulnerable groups (women and men) to small agricultural equipment
- Promote an equitable allocation of plots and hydraulic districts taking gender into account
- Bring women to participate in the planning sessions of project activities at the local level for a contribution of women in the planning of activities at the site level
- Promote access for women and men to agricultural inputs as part of the project,
- Contribute to a gender balance within the teams working on the project sites
- Train women and young beneficiaries of the project on the maintenance of the equipment put in place
- Strengthen the mechanisms for agronomic monitoring and the acquisition of agricultural inputs at the level of women

**Component 3: The Development of stakeholders' technical, organizational and financial capacities for the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices**

**R5 : Ensure gender equity in the development of stakeholders' financial capacities for the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices** Train the beneficiaries of the project on the maintenance of the equipment put in place

- Train men and women in the private financial sector to incorporate climate change into their economic and financial calculations
- Make gender budgeting effective within the project

**R6 : A functional relevant and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system for the achievement of indicators and disaggregated data according to the gender of the project is set up**

- carry out a specific additional gender analysis on the 23 project sites
- Associate women and young people with the teams responsible for developing technical sheets and manuals

**R7: The capitalization, good and best gender experiences and practices of the project are disseminated**

- Contribute to the capacity building of women and young beneficiaries of the project to be involved in the support for the implementation of business plans developed at the level of groups and cooperatives, income-generating activities, guarantees and collective sales initiatives
- Ensure that gender is taken into account within the teams responsible for the control and supervision of works, monitoring and evaluation of works
- Ensure that gender is taken into account within the teams responsible for capitalizing on lessons learned
- Ensure a gender balance for knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practices for climate resilient agriculture

## ***6.2. Introduction to the Gender Action Plan Logframe***

the logical framework below summarizes the objectives, the results to be achieved in order to ensure the integration of equality and gender equity in all the components of the project.

For all activities, baseline data on the number of women/men will be more precised at the implementation stage, specifically prior to the project implementation. This specific gender analysis will be carried out in each project intervention site. The aim is to identify women heads of households who are vulnerable because they do not own land and agricultural equipment that is resilient to climate change. In addition, a gender budgeting analysis will be carried out in order to be able to provide training to the appropriate stakeholders. In addition, making women and young people partners who

participate in decision-making relating to project activities requires their participation in activities planning and budget allocation sessions.

Before the starting of activities, during planning sessions with partners at the local level, there will be a definition of vulnerable groups for a common understanding; and especially the choice with which to work.

In training level, due to women's illiteracy rate, local languages will be used during sensitization/awareness campaigns for project beneficiaries. The educated women will explain the technical data and information of the project to those who have never attended school and will also help them fill out all the documents necessary for their participation in the project.

Finally, a gender expert will be recruited and integrated to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and will be responsible for supporting the trainers, collecting, in the municipalities, data disaggregated by sex and age, preparing training and awareness documents on gender mainstreaming. The work will be in accordance with the ministries in charge of gender issues in the implementation of the project.

The budget is stated in Euro.

## 7. Gender Mainstreaming Logframe

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
<b>Project Impact :</b> The resilience of vulnerable farming communities, including 50% of women and girls, to the negative impacts of climate change through i) poverty reduction and strengthening food security through increased agricultural production; and ii) restoring and maintaining soil fertility through innovative and climate-resilient agricultural technology.								
<b>Main Expected Results with Gender Mainstreaming:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o R1: the capacity of vulnerable groups including women in terms of gender mainstreaming in the project is enhanced</li> <li>o R2: the technical and organizational capacity of vulnerable actors including 50% of women are strengthened</li> <li>o R3: Women and men have equal access to decision-making bodies</li> <li>o R4: women and men have equal access to agricultural and climate-resilient technologies</li> <li>o R5 : Gender equity in the development of stakeholders' financial capacities for the climate-resilient agricultural practices promotion is ensured</li> <li>o R6: A functional relevant and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system for the achievement of indicators and disaggregated data according to the gender of the project is set up</li> <li>o R7: The capitalization, good and best gender experiences and practices of the project are disseminated</li> </ul>							
<b>Component 1.</b> Sustainable Development and Rehabilitation of areas Vulnerable to the Negative Impacts of Climate Change and Reducing GHG Emissions	R1: the capacities of vulnerable groups including women in terms of gender mainstreaming in the project are strengthened	1.1. Training of women and young farmers/producers in agricultural techniques resilient to climate change	Rate of trained women in technical services Number of trained women, Number of trained young people Level of yield increase	0	Men : 20-30 % Women : 20-30 %	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR	For the record
		1.2. Training of women and young people in associative life in order to be elected within the governing structures of these rural and agricultural organizations	Rate of trained women Number of women and girls in decision bodies Level of functioning of associations Number of new members in associations	TBD	Men : 50 % Women : 50%	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	5 000
		1.3. Strengthen the capacities of women and young people in associative and organizational life	Number of women and men association as project partners Number and rate of women trained Number of training sessions Number of women with access to land Women's income level	0	Men : 20 Women : 10 Young Girls and Boys : 10	Years 2	Agriculture decentralized services staff, PMU, ONAHA, Gender Expert	5 000
	R2: the technical and organizational capacities of vulnerable actors including 50% of	2.1. Build the capacities of actors from the technical support services of the ministries involved in the gender equality project to meet the different needs of men, women	Number and rate of trained women and men Existence of disaggregated data on specific men and women needs	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, Gender Expert	3 000

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
	women are enhanced and young people							
		2.2. Train the producers/farmers and young producers benefiting from the project in reading and interpreting agro-meteorological data	Types of trainings to men and women Rate of men and women able to interpret agro-meteorological data. Capacity of beneficiaries to interpret agrometeorological data Level of yield increase	0	Men : 50% Women : 30% Young Girls and Boys : 20%	Years 1 and 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services, AGRHYMET, staff of national meteorological service	10 000
		2.3. Strengthen the capacities of men and women of local financial institutions to include climate-smart agriculture into their activities	Percentage of women / men whose capacities are strengthened within local financial institutions	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Year 4	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services, local financial institutions	For the record
		2.4. Train project beneficiaries including women and young people in reading and interpreting temperature and precipitation data	Number of trained women and men Number of training session implemented Types of materials provided for the work	0	Men : 20 Women : 15 Young Girls and Boys : 5	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
		2.5. Strengthen the capacities of rural women and men and young people regarding the use of Tools for monitoring changes in natural resources	Number and rate of trained women and men Number of training session Number of trained women in community level	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Years 1 to 5	BNEE, CNED, ONAHA, DGGR, PMU	For the record
<b>Component 2 :</b> Support of the sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and income of farmers' groups and cooperatives in irrigated areas on developed and rehabilitated areas	R3: Women and men have equal access to decision-making bodies	3.1. Make women and young people participants in decision-making relating to project activities	Rate of women and youth in decision bodies Types of decision-making involving women		Women : 25% Youth : 30%	Years 1 to 2	BNEE, CNED, ONAHA, DGGR, PMU	2 000
		3.2. Choose competent women as members of the teams responsible for the land registration process on each site	Number of women and men involved in land management team on each site Number of women and youth with strong capacity for land registration	0	Men : 3 Women : 2 Household lead by woman : 1	Years 1 and 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
		3.3. Build the capacities of women, men and young people to improve the functionality of their	Number and rate of trained men and women Rate of cooperatives/AUEi	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of	3 000

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
		organizations so that they are taken into account in the contracts to be signed with cooperatives and Water Users associations	with formal contracts Number of women group with formal contracts Number of youth group with formal contracts				Decentralized Agricultural Services	
		3.4. Elect or choose women and men to run the committees responsible for the process	Number of men and women involved in the national process, Number of women trained for this purpose	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Years 1 and 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Agriculture decentralized services	For the record
	R4: women and men have equal access to agricultural land and climate-resilient technologies	4.1. Increase men and women equal access to water	Number of women with access to water Types of news economics opportunities with access to water	0	100% of women in the farmers organizations	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert,	For the record
		4.2. Facilitate the access of women heads of household to land and agricultural technologies	Rate of women with access to land Rate of household lead by women with access to technology, Level of enhancement of productivity		Women : 50% Household lead by women : 50%	Years 1 and 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	2 000
		4.3. Facilitate the access of vulnerable groups (women and men) to small agricultural equipment	Number and rate of vulnerable women Number and rate of women with access to small agriculture equipment Types of materials given to women Number of equipment given to men and women per site	0	Men : 100% Women : 100% Young Girls and Boys : 100% Men : 6 Women : 6 Young Girl and Boys : 6	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
		4.4. Promote a fair allocation of lands and hydraulic districts taking gender into account	Number and rate of women and men with access to land Number and rate of household lead by women with access to land	0	Men : 50% Women : 50% Household lead by woman : 30%	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
		4.5. Bring women to participate in the planning sessions of project activities at the local level for a contribution of women in the	Rate of trained women Number of training planning sessions Number and rate of women	0	Men : 50% Women : 30% Household lead by woman : 20	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized	2 000

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
		planning of activities at the site level	and men involved in activities planning per site				Agricultural Services	
		4.6. Promote access for women and men to agricultural fertilizer as part of the project,	Rate of men and women benefiting Number of women and men with access to agricultural fertilizer method Type of fertilizer given to men and women	TBD	Men : 100% Women : 100%  Young Girls and Boys : 100%	Years 5	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
		4.7. Contribute to a gender balance within the teams working on the project sites	Rate of men and women in the operational teams in the sites ; Number of men and women technicians Types of men and women needs Satisfaction level	TBD	70% men 30% women	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR and Gender Expert	5 000
		4.8. Train women and young beneficiaries of the project on the maintenance of the equipment put in place	Number and rate of women trained on the maintenance of equipment	0	Men : 50% Women : 50 %	Years 2 to 5	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR and Gender Expert	5 000
		4.9. Strengthen the mechanisms for agricultural monitoring and the acquisition of agricultural inputs at the level of women	Number and rate of men and women in agricultural monitoring team Number of monitoring visit per year Rate of land hold by women with this monitoring system Level of yield growth	0	Land managed by men :50% Land managed by women : 30% Land managed by youth : 20%	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Agriculture decentralized services	6 000
<b>Component 3:</b> The Development of stakeholders' technical, organizational and financial capacities development for the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices	R5 Ensure gender equity in the development of stakeholders' financial capacities development for the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices	5.1. Train the beneficiaries of the project on the maintenance of the equipment put in place	Number and rate of beneficiaries with strong maintenance skills Existence of unused equipment during the project	0	Men : 50% Women : 50 % 0% unused equipment	Years 2	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR and Gender Expert	5 000
		5.2. Train men and women in the private financial sector to integrate climate change into their economic and financial calculations	Number and rate of trained women in private sector Number of training sessions in climate integration in economic and financial calculation.	0	Men : 50% Women : 50%	Years 2	Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services, local financial institutions	For the record
		5.3. Make gender budgeting effective within the project	Level of amount for gender action plan enhancement Training of PMU in gender	0	TBD	Years 1	PMU, ONAHA, DGGR and Gender Expert	3 000

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
	R6: A functional relevant and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system for the achievement of indicators and disaggregated data according to the gender of the project is set up		budgeting					
		6.1. Update AHA monitoring and evaluation system; integrate and track the project's gender indicators	Existence of a revised gender logframe	0	New and fully filled gender logframe	Year 1	PMU, ONAHA and Gender Expert	3 000
		6.2. Recruit Gender expert who will give support to the project Executing Unit for Tracking the implementation of the gender action plan and priority needs	Rate of activities implemented with gender mainstreaming	0	100%	Year 1	PMU, ONAHA and Gender Expert	45 735
		6.3. Conduct a global evaluation of the project's gender action plan	Number of productive beneficiaries	0	50% of women	Year 5	PMU, ONAHA and Gender Expert	1 000
		6.4. Carry out a specific additional gender analysis in the 25 project sites to establish the baselines	Existence of a disaggregated data (report) and baselines	0	Logframe fully filled	Year 1	PMU, ONAHA and Gender Expert	45 735
		6.5. Take into account women and young people in the teams responsible for developing technical sheets and manuals	Number and rate of women in teams Gender sensitive sheets Capacity of men and women to integrate gender	0	Men : 50% Women : 30% Girls and Boys : 20%	Year 2	PMU P, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
	R7: The capitalization, good and best gender experiences and practices of the project are disseminated	7.1. Contribute to the capacity building of women and young beneficiaries of the project involved in the implementation of business plans developed at the level of groups and cooperatives, income-generating activities, guarantees and collective sales initiatives	Rate of women with business plan Number of business plans elaborated for women cooperatives Types of IGA Level of income improvement for women and youth	TBD	Men : 50% Women : 30% Girls and Boys : 20% Women group : 1 ; Girls and Boys group : 1 15-20 %	Years 2 and 3	PMU P, ONAHA, DGGR, Gender Expert, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	7 000
		7.2. Ensure that gender is incorporated into the teams responsible for the control and supervision, monitoring and evaluation of works	Number and rate of men and women involved, Number of women involved in control at the sites level Number of trained men and women	0	Men : 10 Women : 10 Men : 20 Women : 10 Young Girls and Boys : 10	Year 1	BNEE, CNED, ONAHA, DGGR, PMU, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services, Gender Expert	For the record
		7.3. Ensure that gender is taken into account within the teams responsible for capitalizing on lessons learned	Number and rate of women involved Number of session on capitalization Number of women trained	0	Men : 50% Women : 30% Young Girls and Boys : 20%	Years 3-5	ONAHA, DGGR, PMU, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record

Project component	Results	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Timeframe	Responsables	Budget
		7.4. Ensure a gender balance for knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practices for climate resilient agriculture	Rate of men and women included in dissemination technical team Number of workshop held Number and rate of women involved	0	Men : 50% Women : 30% Young Girls and Boys : 20%	Years 5	ONAHA, DGGR, PMU, staff of Decentralized Agricultural Services	For the record
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>158 470<sup>6</sup></b>

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<sup>6</sup> This budget is already budgeted.