Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

NIGER

Enhancing the resilience of chronically vulnerable populations in Niger

Project Number	200583
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	6,854,519
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	4,342,995
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	1,818,304

Financial Closure Date	n.a.
Project End Date	31 Dec 2016
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2014
Project Approval Date	05 Nov 2013

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD						
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	3,198,452					
Cash-based Transfer and Related Costs	268,967,296					
Direct Support Costs	97,056,333					
Food and Related Costs	567,246,074					
Indirect Support Costs	65,552,771					
Total Approved Budget	1,002,020,926					

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	535,948
Planned Commodities in 2015	183,791
Actual Commodities in 2015	47,417



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Country Overview

Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Niger, a landlocked, low-income and food-deficit country, ranks last of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index. The population of 19.1 million is predominantly rural; nominal per capita gross domestic product stands at USD 427, and 50.3 percent live on less than USD 1.90 per day. The population growth rate is 4 percent, with 50.4 percent under 15 years. Lack of infrastructure, limited coverage of basic social services, lack of safe water and sanitation, restricted production capacity, limited access to markets, gender disparities and the urban/ rural gap hinder development. Farming supports 80 percent of the population, but crop production is limited by poor rainfall, drought, crop diseases and land degradation.

School enrolment has risen since 2008, however, only 49.6 percent of children finish primary school. Three quarters of the population - and 85 percent of women - cannot read. It is estimated that 2.5 million people in Niger are in a state of chronic food insecurity. Millions more fall into a state of transitory food insecurity during seasonal periods of constrained access to food, reflecting the limited resilience of poor households. There have been 10 food crises since 1967, four of them in the last 15 years. Prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6-59 months is consistently above the World Health Organization (WHO) "serious" threshold of 10 percent. According to the June 2014 national nutritional survey, Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART), it was found that GAM rates among children under 5 had increased from 13.3 in 2013 to 14.8 percent in 2014. This was above the "serious" threshold of 10 percent, and equivalent to levels during the 2012 crisis year. Since 2007, the proportion of chronically malnourished children aged 6-59 months has remained above the 40 percent "critical" threshold.

Food insecurity and malnutrition remains one of the major development challenges in Niger and great efforts were implemented to measure the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). All the objectives were not achieved by 2015, although improvements were noted in school enrolments, infant mortality rates, HIV/AIDs rates and access to improved water sources. Challenges within the reduction of poverty, gender disparities within schools and maternal health and mortality goals, continue. In 2014, Niger was recognized and received an award by FAO for having met the MDG 1 target of reducing hunger within the country. An alignment to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda was carried out in 2015, showing WFP's contribution to the SDG 2 "Zero Hunger".

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP supported the government in implementing a multi-sectorial, integrated community-based approach to building resilience, aiming to reduce the impact of seasonal stresses and prevent a peak in acute malnutrition and mortality via its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). Concerning the WFP programme, on the human resilience pillar, WFP offers an integrated response combining nutrition prevention and treatment activities, school feeding and associated programmes (such as school vegetable gardens and local milling and processing initiatives), local purchase to small producers and food assistance for asset (through food and cash modalities). The planning and prioritization relies on a participatory process and a three-pronged approach (national, subnational and community levels) amongst others relying on the seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) and Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP). Seasonality is at the heart of the strategy, with different packages adapted to the season (unconditional assistance, combined with a nutritional component and awareness raising sessions on essential family practices, Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening and referral protocols during the lean season) versus a focus on asset creation in the pre-and post-harvest period.

WFP amongst other actors focus on strengthening the resilience system through planning, information management, vulnerability analysis and alarm systems and coordination. Among key capacity building efforts at the central level, the support to the government's "Dispositif national de prevention et de gestion des catastrophes et des crises alimentaires" (DNPGCCA), guides all humanitarian interventions in the country as well as supporting the development of the national capacity for local purchase of small producers. At the subnational and community level, the substantial support provided by WFP on participatory analysis and planning need to be continuously highlighted.

The Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP 200777) provided assistance to refugees and displaced populations (returnees and IDPs) as well as host communities affected by the violence in northern Nigeria. WFP provided Targeted Food Assistance (TFA) and Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) to children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

The Regional EMOP 200438 supported Malian refugees and returnees in camps and hosting sites in areas of Niger which were already chronically food insecure. WFP provided Targeted Food Assistance (TFA), through food and voucher modalities and Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) to children 6-23 months.

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) special operation provided safe, efficient, and effective air transport services to UN agencies, NGOs and donors. This enabled the implementation and oversight of humanitarian activities in areas affected by insecurity and poor road infrastructure.

WFP implemented its programme under the government's leadership. The operation is in line with the government's Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES 2012-2015) and embraces the government's policies and priorities for education, nutrition and gender. WFP and other UN agencies strived to support the "Nigeriens Nourrissent les Nigeriens" (3N) Initiative, which is a national multi-sectorial coordination platform to promote long-term food and nutrition security. It is aligned with the Global Alliance for Resilience.

Special attention is put on strengthening UN Coordination beyond the alignment within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2014-2018 and the United Nations Strategic Response Plan. WFP played an important role setting up joint projects with Rome Based Agencies (RBA), UN Women, UNICEF, and the implementation of the United Nations initiatives including Nourishing Bodies, Nourishing Minds, the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement and the Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition (REACH).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	475,237	474,617	949,854
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	253,579	195,932	449,511
Number of adults	260,343	252,310	512,653
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	989,159	922,859	1,912,018
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	923,094	855,669	1,778,763
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	1,215,689	1,634,747	2,850,436

Distribution (mt)										
Project Type Cereals Oil Pulses Mix Other Total										
Single Country PRRO	26,042	2,258	5,148	13,840	129	47,417				
Regional EMOP	16,379	872	3,723	2,435	69	23,478				
	Di	stribution (mt)								
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total				
Total food distributed in 2015	42,421	3,130	8,871	16,275	197	70,895				
Total food distributed in 2014 37,512 2,792 7,795 15,383 187 63,669										
Total food distributed in 2013	48,931	2,916	8,144	18,614	206	78,811				

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

The overall objective of the PRRO is to enhance the resilience of communities in fragile ecosystems by contributing to: (Strategic Objective 1)- by reducing the impact of seasonal stresses and preventing a peak in acute malnutrition and mortality, focusing on children under 2 as part of a safety net for households; (Strategic Objective 3)- by increasing access to assets and food through land regeneration, water harvesting and local purchases; and (Strategic Objective 4)- by supporting integrated safety nets: treating acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and implementing community-based interventions to prevent malnutrition and improve access to education. The joint government and WFP multi-sectorial and integrated programming is geographically targeted and aims at supporting the same vulnerable beneficiaries through a flexible combination of conditional and unconditional food assistance year-round.

WFP's relevance and added value is bridging the gap between humanitarian and development assistance through this combination and the adoption of sequenced assistance to protect achievements during the most difficult period over the year and build resilience over time. Critical building blocks are now in place to create a path for change in Niger and building resilience has become a major focus of the global, regional and country level discussions.

The current operation is characterized by strong leadership and engagement of the government, including a renewed political commitment, which prioritizes long-term food security and nutrition. These efforts are supported by donors, international and national NGOs and key strategic and operational partnerships with United Nations Rome Based Agencies and UNICEF.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Geographical targeting process for the PRRO was based on the Integrated Context Analysis taking into account chronic food insecurity levels, including the risk of significant cereal and pasture deficits and limited access to food, global acute malnutrition rates (GAM) (either above 15 percent, considered 'critical', or between 10 and 14 percent, considered 'serious'), combined with the mapping of access to basic services such as health, water, sanitation and education. In conjunction with WFP's Household Targeting approach, additional criteria were used such as the Household Economic Approach (HEA), targeting households for the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and unconditional transfers during the lean season. Decisions for cash or food transfer modalities were taken based on grain availability on local markets; commodity trading circuits; markets functionality within commune areas (Structure - Conduct - Performance) among others. These analyses use official data from government's market monitoring system (systeme d'information sur les marches SIMA). Seasonal Livelihoods Programming (SLP) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) were the main operational coordination and community planning tools that had been carried out to lay the foundations for joint identification and implementation of activities. All of the above were prerequisites for PRRO programming and the delivery of the integrated response package.

Nevertheless, critical funding shortfalls, late arrivals of commodities in the country and earmarking of some funds for specific activities obliged WFP to adjust the operational geographical coverage, the number of beneficiaries to be assisted, the feeding days and the food basket composition by activity. In 2014, only 70 communes out of the 119 planned could be targeted, with an average of 30 percent of planned beneficiaries across the food and cash transfer supported activities and 50 percent of those planned for school meals.

The same level of resourcing was projected for 2015 therefore the geographical targeting followed several prioritization criteria. Focus on joint projects under the 'Commune de Convergence' approach in addition to programmes in conjunction with other partners (Rome Based Agencies and USAID) optimised the use of resources in reaching the critical mass. Additionally, areas where the integration of activities of WFP programmes were already being implemented as well as the quality of projects were further prioritized within specific communes.

Hence in 2015, WFP further prioritized its activities to 36 communes focusing on an integrated approach and increasing its response to 9 additional communes during its annual lean season approach. WFP prioritized year-round targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) treatment for moderate acute malnutrition. Plumpy Sup was replaced by Super Cereal Plus in some areas after the lean season, to ensure a good stock management and no losses; however, adherence to the national protocol was maintained. During the post-harvest season from January to May and December 2015, WFP assisted severely food-insecure households under Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through conditional food and cash transfers. The monthly household food ration consisted of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil. The monthly household cash transfer amount was XOF 32,500 (USD 67).

These amounts covered 25 days of physical work, collection of organic manure, compost making and applications as well as participation in technical trainings and awareness raising sessions; and were based on government-established rates adjusted for seasonal price variations.

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Cash transfers were implemented through microfinance institutions and NGOs. Unconditional transfers without participation in FFA activities were only given to labour-constrained households (households without an adult member able to carry out the work, for example a household headed by a female who had small children to look after or by an elderly person).

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food assistance during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants. During the lean season from June to September, WFP provided targeted food assistance through unconditional food and cash transfers for severely food-insecure households coupled with specialized nutritious foods for vulnerable groups to prevent acute malnutrition and mortality. Food assistance was also provided to 130,431 out-of-camp displaced populations as well as vulnerable host communities in the Diffa region. The monthly household food and cash entitlements were the same as for FFA. Children aged 6-23 months in households targeted by the targeted food assistance programme received a ration of Super Cereal Plus. In addition, pregnant and lactating women beneficiaries of targeted food assistance received a wareness raising sessions held at distribution points,

covering Infant Young Children Practices and other essential hygiene and sanitation practices with the support of UNICEF. Moreover, all mothers and children were screened using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and those found acutely malnourished were referred to the nearest health facility to receive treatment. The targeted supplementary feeding allowed WFP to support government health services to provide moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment following the National Nutrition Protocol. However, WFP faced significant challenges with the timely supply of commodities to all 1,168 health centres/posts, due to the constraints mentioned earlier such as funding shortfalls, late arrivals of commodities and earmarking. This led to delayed or incomplete ration distributions at the beginning of the year.

Acutely malnourished children aged 6 to 59 months received a daily ration of Plumpy'Sup or Super Cereal Plus. Undernourished pregnant and lactating women were provided with a daily ration of Super Cereal and oil. Planning figures for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were based on prevalence of underweight among women of reproductive age using Body Mass Index (BMI) as no other national data was available, whereas the actual targeting in health centres was done by screening PLW using MUAC. Caretakers of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted to in-patient therapeutic feeding centres supported by UNICEF received a ration of cereals, pulses, oil and Super Cereal. WFP provided meals to school children in 1,250 primary schools throughout the country, 45 percent of which were nomadic. Each morning, children were provided with a porridge made of Super Cereal with sugar and oil. At lunchtime, a hot meal of cereal, pulses, oil and salt was provided, and nomadic children received an identical hot meal in the evening. Due to insufficient resources, WFP was obliged to provide only one and a half months' rations instead of three months during the January to June trimester. Furthermore, scaling-up to more schools was not possible and the planned takehome rations to girls enrolled in the last two years of primary education were not implemented in 2015. During monitoring visits, it was noted that children's attendance rate started to drop, especially in nomadic schools. In Diffa, schools were greatly affected by the insecurity and numerous schools remain closed in areas around Lake Chad and on the border with Nigeria.

Beneficiary Category		Planned			Actual		% A	ctual v. Pla	inned
Beneficiary Calegory	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	611,651	983,394	1,595,045	226,924	218,197	445,121	37.1%	22.2%	27.9%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	727,209	679,364	1,406,573	236,380	174,557	410,937	32.5%	25.7%	29.2%
Number of children below 5 years of age	684,411	656,966	1,341,377	482,214	480,032	962,246	70.5%	73.1%	71.7%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	2,023,271	2,319,724	4,342,995	945,518	872,786	1,818,304	46.7%	37.6%	41.9%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	1,546,572	1,832,361	3,378,933	898,241	829,145	1,727,386	58.1%	45.3%	51.1%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

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Beneficiary Category		Planned			Actual		% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Children receiving take-home rations		35,504	35,504		0	0		0.0%	0.0%
Participants in Food For Assets	110,798	113,489	224,287	17,025	9,168	26,193	15.4%	8.1%	11.7%
Caretakers - Therapeutic Feeding		75,238	75,238		26,745	26,745		35.5%	35.5%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of moderate acute malnutrition)		146,338	146,338		29,754	29,754		20.3%	20.3%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	1,248,132	1,278,450	2,526,582	249,061	252,324	501,385	20.0%	19.7%	19.8%
Children receiving school meals	218,358	189,940	408,298	109,449	92,262	201,711	50.1%	48.6%	49.4%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	101,415	104,424	205,839	99,435	105,675	205,110	98.0%	101.2%	99.6%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	97,354	99,719	197,073	27,735	28,408	56,143	28.5%	28.5%	28.5%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	230,488	235,542	466,030	214,702	237,562	452,264	93.2%	100.9%	97.0%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in targeted supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate acute malnutrition)		271,726	271,726		494,711	494,711		182.1%	182.1%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	682,235	698,807	1,381,042	118,895	121,784	240,679	17.4%	17.4%	17.4%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	11,123	1,789	16.1%
Bulgur Wheat	0	2,695	-
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	26,547	11,115	41.9%
lodised Salt	346	129	37.2%
Lentils	0	1,088	-
Maize	23,815	435	1.8%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	5,563	2,726	49.0%
Rice	77,399	7,145	9.2%
Sorghum/millet	17,861	15,766	88.3%
Split Peas	13,153	2,272	17.3%
Vegetable Oil	7,984	2,258	28.3%
Total for 2015	183,791	47,417	25.8%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	171,611	54,729	31.9%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	75,459,854	13,896,457	18.4%
Total for 2015	75,459,854	13,896,456.7	18.4%

'Story Worth Telling'

WFP's integrated activities targeting the same beneficiaries in the same geographical area to have a significant impact is illustrated within its resilience programme. Yadda Salifou, a widow with four orphans, had difficulty feeding her children and herself. Often Yadda walked for hours looking for wild leaves that she boiled to feed her children. Through the household economy assessment targeting approach, Yadda was selected to participate in the recovery and development of degraded lands. She received training on agricultural techniques (land development, crop protection, fertilisation techniques etc.) and received cash distribution from WFP. The land recovered and the money received allowed her to increase her agricultural production and build up savings.

"With the new techniques I learned, my production increased five-fold on the same land I was cultivating before," she said. Yadda is part of a small farmers' organization and her surplus following the harvest was bought at a competitive price by WFP to supply the canteen of a school attended by one of her sons. With revenues gained from WFP purchases, she started a business selling crops including cowpeas and groundnuts. She was able to buy goats that reproduced so that she could sell them, strengthening her business. "I'm happy. When I look back and seen where I came from, I can only be joyful. Everything I've learned, I have to show it to other women so they can also benefit from it."

Through its activities WFP not only built community resilience, but also empowered women for social and economic development.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Gender- related issues were captured and analysed at every stage of the project cycle. PRRO activities were implemented taking into account WFP's existing commitments on gender and protection issues outlined in WFP Gender Policies. For conditional distributions under the Food Assistance for Assets programme (Cash and Food modality), households were targeted by the HEA approach based on vulnerability. Abled bodies participated in asset creation activities and those unable to work (pregnant women and the elderly) received unconditional transfers. WFP strove to ensure that household TFA cash entitlements were issued exclusively in women's names unless the household did not have an adult female member. Giving women cash entitlements tended to elevate women's decision-making role. Unconditional cash distributions during the four month lean season (June to September) was distributed to mainly women (more than 90 percent) for their households. As a result among cash beneficiaries women contributed in a major way to decisions within households. Additionally, awareness sessions continued throughout 2015 to highlight the importance of women's involvement in decisions on the use of cash received by WFP.

WFP's policy is to ensure that activities progress toward full impartiality, promote equal opportunities for men and women with different needs and abilities through direct and measurable actions to combat inequality and discrimination.

In the context of Niger, women's productivity and community tasks often hinder their ability to participate in the conditional activities. Hard physical work on land rehabilitation projects was carried out by men and women participated in proportion to their physical capacities and capabilities. Women were greatly involved in asset creation activities on regenerated land with the ability to benefit from seed distributions by partners, such as FAO, for land development. The village committees ensured that criteria for very poor households took into account women's access and needs as well as women's status and social position in making decisions at household and community level. PDM results on gender and protection indicators highlighted that over 90 percent of cash recipients were women during the lean season period. Decisions on how the cash assistance would be used were carried out by women, even within male-headed households. Cash was spent on the basic food needs of the household (80 percent of cash used for food) and no gender-based violence was reported during cash transfers, even within polygamous households where only one wife received the cash assistance. Both men and women experienced an increase in their social status. Gardening activities were generally carried out by women allowing them to sell part of the production to earn money and to cover basic needs. FFA interventions strengthened the implementation of women groups, contributed strongly to protect their livelihoods and allowed for other income generating activities (small livestock, trade etc.). During lean season activities, awareness sessions were held for both women and men at the distribution sites with the help of partners trained by UNICEF, and a media campaign was organized through community radios to broadcast messages on key family practices. Communities were involved by means of public programmes and debates on key family practices. WFP strongly encouraged female candidates during recruitment and sensitized food aid monitors regarding gender issues in monitoring.

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Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	20		32	15
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	40		27	17
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	40		39	68
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Compilation checklist Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Compilation checklist Niger, WFP survey.	50		40	43
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Compilation checklist Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Compilation checklist Niger, WFP survey.	60		72	75

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Protection and accountability concerns were incorporated in the design and implementation of all interventions. Questions on security and programme knowledge asked during the PDM did not encounter any sensitivity issues and were answered freely. All distribution activities were preceded by a targeting exercise. WFP ensured that cooperating partners were well aware of how to undertake this preparatory programme phase by explaining in a detailed operational plan how targeting should be done, including safety measures and informing beneficiaries about the activity, as well as organizing trainings for cooperating partner staff.

Transparency was a key success factor of this component. WFP ensured that local authorities and populations were informed well in advance about the targeting criteria; these were explained to them during a meeting which included the entire community. Once the beneficiaries had been selected, the beneficiary lists were reconfirmed in front of all community members and the different committees to avoid errors and misunderstandings. Beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries who felt the process was not fair or had further questions were referred to the local complaints committee comprised of well-respected and elected community representatives (women and men). These committees were set up with the support of WFP and partners and were active at the village level for the entire duration of the programme. Committee members were also present during distributions. These committees required continuous support by WFP and cooperating partners to ensure their active engagement in overseeing and ensuring a transparent process.

Although PDM and distribution monitoring (DM) results showed that in 83 percent of sites in which complaints committees were present, only 32 percent of the targeted population knew how to file a complaint, and slightly more than 50 percent of the assisted people were informed about the project. WFP continued its support and supervision throughout 2015 and worked on improving communication as well as complaint mechanisms.

Different types of complaint mechanisms such as setting up toll free numbers for the target population to call for assistance with their complaints, improved knowledge about the programme will continue in 2016. PDM data revealed that beneficiaries were well informed about the programme and did not experience any safety issues. Food Basket Monitoring (FBM), which was carried out by WFP staff during distributions, also ensured transparency. Ration amounts were weighed to ensure that the ration was respected and commodities were checked for quality. For any deviation WFP agreed on corrective action with partners and communities. WFP had a standard checklist in place to guarantee beneficiaries' safety before and during distributions. Radio campaigns and word-of-mouth information at village level were used to inform beneficiaries of the exact time and place of the distribution. Distribution sites were set up within less than one hour's walking distance for beneficiaries to encourage women to come and pick up the cash or food and for them to bring their children for screening. WFP also started requesting partners to pre-package all food items, this significantly reduced waiting time at the respective sites. WFP also recommended partners to ensure sufficient shade at the distributions sites, together with drinking water and shelter in case of rain. The quality and organization of the distribution sites were checked and remedied if necessary during DM activities. WFP partners checked with local authorities and communities on the security situation prior to cash distributions. On the day of the cash distribution, a member of the security forces was always present. Thanks to good coordination with local authorities and communities on the security situation prior to cash distributions there were no incidents.

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Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	90		56	96
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	90		99	99
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	90		51	96
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger, WFP survey.	90		99	99

Outputs

The PRRO supported asset creation, including the excavation of community water ponds, development of water springs, land regeneration followed by the planting of trees, cereals and plants for forage in order to restore the productive capacity of degraded areas and enable income generation activities, for example by using harvested water and increased biomass. Technical assistance and seeds have been provided through partnership with FAO, IFAD, government technical ministries and NGO partners. Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) participants (both food and cash transfer modalities) worked during pre- and post-harvest months to regenerate land, while seeds and technical assistance were provided during the planting period. In 2015 the focus of activities was placed on soil protection and on increasing productivity through the Water and Soil Conservation (CES) and the Defence and Restoration of Soils (DRS) to increase the income of very poor households. These responses to land degradation allowed for a better use of rain water for crops and raising the water tables. The actions have been identified and implemented within the community based participatory planning (CBPP). In sites where CBPP activities did not take place, a rapid participatory approach guided the choice of activities. Participants successfully planted and maintained the assets created during the year. The implementation of large watershed programmes combined with heavy works, through the treatment of the entire landscape, took place successfully in two locations raising the water tables and allowing water to be collected and used for community gardening.

The FFA activities were implemented in 136 sites within 39 selected communes planned in the PRRO. Land developments activities on 9,078 ha were carried out with the provision of improved seeds (millet and cowpea) by FAO and IFAD. Additionally, new cultivation practices and measures have been introduced to protect and improve the soils. These measures have resulted in significant improvements in crop yields. For example, the productivity and production of the main cereal commodity (millet) in WFP intervention sites has increased significantly: from 0 tons to 0.2-0.4tons/ha on high degraded lands, and from 0.15 to 0.5-0.8tons/ha on medium degraded land. In addition several ponds were built and rehabilitated increasing the potential for fishing and gardening activities. The planting of locally adapted trees high in nutritious value, took place on 2,000 ha of land. To ensure the safety of these investments, community protection measures have been put into place and continue to be operational. Pastoral sites were enhanced through the planting of forage species on 4,406 ha of land and livestock owners benefited from establishment of 74 water ponds providing permanent water source for livestock. FFA was operated at a lower scale than planned in the project and thus some of the FFA outputs were not fully achieved.

However, studies undertaken by the national Chamber of Agriculture Network (RECA) and LASDEL (laboratory of research and studies on social dynamics and local development) focusing on qualitative approaches on the changes on resilience, showed net improvements in terms of crop productivity of and the quality of agricultural assets created. These included water harvesting and soil conservation techniques like soil bunds and half-moons. The studies also recommended that follow-up of activities and compliance with technical norms as well as the quality of projects be strengthened. Giving beneficiaries cash enabled them to have a means of choice in how to benefit from their entitlement. Food and cash transfer modalities were chosen based on the solid market assessment strategy that WFP put in place and aligned in coordination with the government market monitoring system (SIMA). The findings showed that markets in the areas targeted for cash operations were integrated, competitive and capable of responding to the increase

demand. According to PDM data, during implementation of cash transfer activities, for TFA activities about 93 percent of women collected the cash entitlements. For the FFA cash-based activities, only 34 percent of the entitlements were collected by female participants. This was due to the fact that over 60 percent of the FFA participants were men as traditionally men represent the household and take the lead in physical work, agricultural activities, which are the focus of FFA projects.

TSF for children aged 6 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and malnourished PLW was implemented in the totality of the planned 1,168 health centres (1,134 CRENAM and 34 CRENI) across the country. Following the outbreak of attacks in the Diffa region in February, 11 health centres were closed affecting TSF activities. At the end of the year, two remained closed. Several challenges affected the TSF programme including overwhelming numbers of women and children seeking treatment, lack of staff due to insecurity and the untimely supply of commodities. WFP was unable to support the scaling-up of the school meals programme to the planned number of schools due to limited resources. As a consequence, the rehabilitation of school infrastructure, including the construction of adequate sanitary facilities, was lower than planned, as it was only done in the schools where school meals were distributed. Schools in the Diffa region were also affected by the insecurity and 13 schools closed following February attacks. By the end of 2015, an initiative by the government to relocate these schools in the region will take place in 23 designated sites for 166 schools, out of which two have a school meals programme.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned	
SO 1: GFD					
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	1,805	323	17.9%	
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	178,665	32,067	17.9%	
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	37,428,088	6,403,621	17.1%	
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	2,187	2,221	101.6%	
Number of days rations were provided	day	120	120	100.0%	
SO 1: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition					
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	787	787	100.0%	
Number of bi-weekly or monthly distributions of individual food rations	distribution	4	4	100.0%	
SO 1: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition					
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	1,175	1,175	100.0%	
SO 3: Capacity Development: Strengthening National Capacities					
Number of food security monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support	report	2	2	100.0%	
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (nutrition)	national programme	1	1	100.0%	
Number of technical support activities provided on food security monitoring and food assistance	activity	8	8	100.0%	
SO 3: FFA					
C&V: Number of men collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	74,013	15,587	21.1%	
C&V: Number of women collecting cash or vouchers	Individual	38,130	8,030	21.1%	
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	38,031,766	7,492,836	19.7%	
Hectares (ha) of degraded hillsides and marginal areas rehabilitated with physical and biological soil and water conservation measures, planted with trees and protected (e.g. closure, etc)	На	23,500	9,406	40.0%	

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Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned	
Hectares (ha) of land cleared	На	23,750	9,078	38.2%	
Number of assisted communities with improved physical infrastructures to mitigate the impact of shocks, in place as a result of project assistance	community	1,246	1,224	98.2%	
Number of excavated community water ponds for domestic uses constructed (3000-15,000 cbmt)	water pond	90	86	95.6%	
Number of water springs developed	water spring	90	86	95.6%	
SO 4: Nutrition: Treatment of Acute Malnutrition					
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	800	800	100.0%	
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	1,175	1,175	100.0%	
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	kcal/person/day	1,627	1,627	100.0%	
Number of bi-weekly or monthly distributions of individual food rations	distribution	12	12	100.0%	
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	1,399	1,168	83.5%	
SO 4: School Feeding					
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	180	122	67.8%	
Number of months THRs were distributed	month	2	0	0.0%	
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	1,970	1,250	63.5%	
School Infrastructures: Number of kitchens or food storage rooms rehabilitated or constructed	kitchen/food storage room	244	158	64.8%	
School Infrastructures: Number of latrines rehabilitated or constructed	latrine	162	85	52.5%	
School Infrastructures: Number of WFP-assisted schools with adequate hand washing stations	school	346	144	41.6%	
School Infrastructures: Number of WFP-assisted schools with adequate sanitary facilities	school	1,249	618	49.5%	

Outcomes

Together with the government, WFP conducted a baseline survey in 30 communities selected out of the 70 where the programme was implemented. A mid-line survey was carried out in September 2015 in order to measure the effect on the targeted beneficiaries since the start of the PRRO project according to the M&E strategy. Additionally a set of PDM, DM and FBM exercises were conducted across TFA (Strategic Objective 1) and FFA (Strategic Objective 3) activities all year long, which collected relevant operational information and helped to monitor key baseline indicators. In addition to traditional surveys, WFP also signed a contract with LASDEL, an independent research institute carrying out socio-anthropological studies. WFP Niger is interested in alternative methods of collecting and analysing data that complement conventional approaches allowing improved documentation of changes and the progress achieved during the project period by incorporating sociological analysis. All outcome targets were planned based on a multi-year approach; they should be reached by the end of the project in December 2016.

Moreover it is important to note that the 2015 vulnerability assessment in December on food insecurity, estimated that nearly 2.6 million people in Niger would be severely or moderately food insecure in 2015. In this context, results reported for the baseline and mid-line considered both TFA and FFA, food and cash households. The mid-line survey findings have shown encouraging degree of improvement against the initial benchmark of the food security situation for both TFA and FFA households; passing the target for food consumption, while the dietary diversity score had reduced since December 2014 and during the lean season.

The progress on the monitored indicators (Strategic Objectives 1), also showed that during the lean season, nutritional activities were covered as planned in the original project plan. WFP measured the coverage of BSFP during the lean season, which was above the target of 76 percentage. The BSFP participation rate was also acceptable, with each eligible child receiving a ration during at least three of the four distributions. Apart from the long-term oriented baseline and midline surveys, WFP also conducted two PDM rounds in July and September 2015 to better measure the short-term effect of TFA during the lean season. The exercises were abridged and focused on WFP beneficiaries in order to expedite data collection and analysis for operational use, yet findings helped monitor the key indicators of the baseline and mid-line during the lean season. Due to the TFA performed during the lean season, improvements were detected in beneficiaries' food consumption and dietary diversity. Although households employed some negative coping strategies, great improvements were noted especially within female headed households remaining well above the threshold defined in the project document. Cash assistance during 2015 accounted for over 50 percent of the activities having a positive effect on several indicators. Coverage and participation indicators also improved since 2014. Greater emphasis was made following the first round in order to lower exclusions rates in the following assessments. Mid-line results on indicators (Strategic Objectives 3), showed a reduction in the use of negative coping strategies for households. For instance, households did not engage heavily in their habitual migration in search of work, selling productive assets, accumulating debt and taking children out of school, which limits human capital development and contributes to reducing community and poor households' long-term resilience to shocks. The number of productive assets created or rehabilitated by WFP has increased in relation to the situation at the baseline, although there is a slight decrease compared to the number of functional assets. Two major reasons may explain the slight decrease.

Firstly, learning from past experiences, WFP focused its interventions to some communes due to financial constraints. Analysis within villages that received continuous WFP assistance since the beginning of the project noted an increase in productive assets and in production. Additional improvements are recorded in dietary diversity, as households that once used water in the preparation of porridge are now able to use milk commodities as a result of asset creation activities and cash distributions.

Monitoring missions after the execution of FFA projects continue to show that lands which had previously been barren were now green with vegetation, depth of water tables had improved and forage shrubs planted by pastoralists through FFA activities meant that pastoralists did not have to travel such long distances to find fodder for their animals. PDM data on the use of cash distributed to beneficiaries showed that 85 percent was spent on the purchase of food (especially cereals and pulses), 3 percent was shared, 5 percent was used to repay debts and the rest was used for other purposes. Access to land for regeneration activities was equal for both men and women impacting positively on women involved in the programme who equally participated in decisions as men.

Nutrition statistics (Strategic Objective 4) from cooperating partners showed an improvement in default, non-response, recovery and mortality rates, which were all in line with SPHERE indicators. A Semi-Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage survey (SQUEAC) was carried out in three communes of the Maradi region, and indicated low coverage for MAM and SAM. The main reason for this result is the lack of community sensitization in malnutrition signs or the treatment program by the mothers or the poor quality of services at the health centre level. These issues are addressed through WFP programmes through the promotion of sensitization sessions in addition to a workshop planned for March in Maradi to identify a community-based action plan with all stakeholders to improve the coverage of treatment activities. WFP midline results showed a slight increase in prevalence of GAM compared to the December 2014 survey for WFP-assisted beneficiaries, from 9 percent to 10.8 percent in September 2015. Preliminary results of the August 2015 national survey (ENISED) showed that overall prevalence of GAM among children 6-59 months was 15,0 percent at national level, with 4 regions above the critical threshold of 15 percent. WFP and partners continue to closely monitor the situation. Based on these results an in view of admission data, the Nutrition Cluster in the country estimated that some 1.75 million children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) will be at risk of malnutrition in 2016.

WFP monitoring of WFP-assisted schools showed an increase in boys' and girls' enrolment. A slight decrease in the retention rates for both boys and girls was noted. These indicators could be attributed to the fact that THR for girls were not distributed and WFP provided assistance for fewer months than planned during the school year. At the same time, it was noticed that the integration of activities within communities had a positive effect on girls' enrolment. This will be monitored in more detail during 2016.

Until the analysis on measuring resilience can lead to concrete conclusions, WFP Niger carried out an exercise on performance "progression" in September 2015. The objective was to follow the pattern of growth within households and understand if the multi-year assistance provided by WFP can create gradual and sustainable progression out of poverty. The initial trends show that almost half of households have progressed out of poverty. Some of these households no longer consider themselves as 'very poor', a situation they found themselves in when they were first targeted to be part of

the programme. These trends were also confirmed by key informants.

	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Outcome		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
CSI: Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, Secondary data.	80	53	63.6	88.11
CSI: Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Base value: Mar-2014, Basline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	80	55.5	68	78.9
CSI: Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	80	56.2	69.2	76.5
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Mar-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, Target > 4.5, WFP survey.	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.51
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, Target > 4.46, WFP survey.	4.46	4.46	4.3	5.34
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger , Target > 4.51, Programme monitoring. Niger , Target > 4.51, Programme	4.51	4.51	4.6	5.57

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	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Outcome		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.7	33.7	33.2	10.8
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	8.1	40.6	37.6	7.4
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.3	31.6	31.9	11.8
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage) Base value: Mar-2015, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, PDM Niger BSF, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger BSF, WFP survey.	70	0	76	84.3
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions Base value: Mar-2014, PDM Niger BSF, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Sep-2014, PDM Niger BSF, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Sep-2015, PDM Niger BSF, WFP survey. Niger BSF, WFP survey.	66	0	92	98.4
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet t	heir own food a	nd nutritio	n needs	
CAS: Community Asset Score (average) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	4.7	2.6	4.2	2.8
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, Target : < 28, WFP survey.	28	28	30	4.8
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index Base value: Mar-2014, Bseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, Target : < 27.1, WFP survey.	27.1	27.1	25.1	10.9
Strategy Index Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger , Target : < 26, WFP survey.	26	26	23.7	12.6
CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index Base value: Mar-2014, Baselijne Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Midline Niger, WFP survey. Niger, WFP survey.	100	53	63.6	87.9
CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey, Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	100	55.5	68	79.1
CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	100	56.2	69.2	76.7
Diet Diversity Score Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline				
Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.51
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	4.46	4.46	4.3	5.27
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	4.51	4.51	4.6	5.58
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.2	31.3	25.7	30.8
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	5.7	28.7	27.3	31.3
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.4	32.1	25.3	30.6
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.7	33.7	33.2	10.6

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	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Outcome		project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Mar-2014, Bseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	8.1	40.6	37.6	7.6
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6.3	31.6	31.9	11.5
Food purchased from aggregation systems in which smallholders are participating, as % of regional, national and local purchases				
Base value: Mar-2014, Wings, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Wings, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Wings, Programme monitoring.	10	7	0	6.1
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-		-		
country Base value: Mar-2014, Wings, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Wings, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Wings, Programme monitoring.	45	35	48	34
Proportion of beneficiary household expenditures devoted to food (%)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger; Target < 67, WFP survey.	67	56.9	69.2	63.5
Reduced no. of months of food gap				
Base value: Mar-2014, Baseline Niger, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline Niger, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	6	9.5	7.7	7
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger		010		
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Minister of Education, Secondary data.	6	1.73	3.7	4.8
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted pre- schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Minister of Education, Secondary data.	6	2.41	4.9	5.4
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted pre- schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Minister of Education, Secondary data.	6	0.95	2.3	4.7
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring.	4.9	7.35	3.1	3.71
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring.	0.1	0.29	0.03	0.03
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring.	1.3	8.23	0.8	0.96
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating parteners's statistics, Programme monitoring.	87.1	79.54	91.8	95.29
Prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 (weight-for-height as %)				
Base value: Mar-2014, Smart survey (30 communes), WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Midline, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Midline Niger, WFP survey.	12	13.3	9	10.8
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, S3M Zinder, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Squeac Maradi, WFP survey.	70		14	24.9
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Minister of Education, Secondary data.	98.9	98.9	98.4	96.1
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Minister of Education,				

	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Outcome		(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Base value: Dec-2012, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-0204, Minister of Education, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Minister of Education, Secondary data.	85	98	98.4	96.5

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP Niger programmes stress the importance on strengthening resilience systems focused on national ownership and leadership, capacity development, the definition of sustainable solutions and a transfer/hand over strategy. Within this framework, WFP Niger is engaged in a progressive hand over of key tools and competences with regard to data and information management. Food security assessments, post-distribution monitoring, and baseline surveys were adopted by the National Institute of Statistics (INS). Over the years, WFP trained INS staff, thus strengthening their capacity to analyse food security data. WFP provided financial and technical support to carry out food security assessments, post-distribution monitoring and baseline surveys.

The INS carried out two baseline surveys and one mid-line survey. Additionally, WFP signed a contract with the LASDEL (laboratory of research and studies on social dynamics and local development), an independent research institute carrying out socio-anthropological studies to compare the progress made since the baseline. WFP support to the "Dispositif" (DNPGCCA) and the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) on food security analysis covered a wide range of topics including joint food security assessments, geographic and socio-economic targeting, regional market assessments, a food security monitoring system, risk analysis, emergency preparedness, market analysis, and interaction with some regional food security initiatives (such as: Cadre Harmonise/Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC, HEA).

WFP continued to provide technical and financial support to; the early warning system (SAP) leading the needs assessments within emergency situations for crisis appeal and planning; market monitoring (SIMA); and the food crisis and disaster management unit (CCA) for coordination mechanisms as well as for monitoring and evaluation. The SAP and SIMA implemented several innovative analysis approaches such as using mobile technology to collect food security data and market prices. WFP Niger tested the GRASP tool (Geo-referenced Real-time Acquisition of Statistics Platform) for data collection using mobile devices through a VAM pilot project that was tested. The equipment was given the CC-SAP team for food security monitoring during lean season within sentinel sites and also to SIMA for markets monitoring in selected critical livelihoods areas. Through the use of these new tools, the Dispositif will enhance its data collection systems and widen its coverage to facilitate data analysis. The new tool is promising as it is cost-efficient and faster in gathering, processing and dissemination of data. WFP provided technical support trainings to national staff and additional resources to cover the cost of data collection especially during lean season to facilitate quick and timely decision making.

WFP is also a member on the steering committee of the "Dispositif" (Cadres d'echanges / Comite elargis/restreints de concertation CEC/CRC). As the lead agency for food security and vulnerability analysis, WFP played a key role by providing technical advice for decision-making. Over the years, WFP demonstrated its ability to support the CCA in coordinating the government's response to food insecurity ("plan de soutien"). The regional and sub-regional committees of the "Dispositif" were fully involved in WFP's implementing partner selection process.

WFP supported coordination, planning and capacity building initiatives "Nigeriens nourrissent les Nigeriens (3N)" platform on strategic and longer-term policies to address food security and nutrition via the implementation of the REACH and SUN initiatives. WFP also facilitated the integration of the SLP and CBPP tools into the 3N initiative. WFP worked jointly with UNICEF and FAO to provide a package of human and logistical resources to support coordination, planning and monitoring and evaluation capabilities of the 3N both at central and regional level. WFP also started to provide technical support on safety nets and social protection strategic platforms through the promotion of an integrated school feeding programme focusing on local agriculture as an engine for development. The unit aims to strengthen institutional capacities and promote ownership and collaborations within the 3N initiative. A SABER workshop is planned for the second quarter of 2016 with the objective, to understand the advantages and the process of linking education with social protection, safety nets and nutrition programmes. The recent food security and nutrition policy includes a school feeding dimension among the strategic actions required for the development, resilience and prosperity of Niger.

WFP continued to support the Ministry of Education in its advocacy to include school feeding as a pillar of continental strategy for Education and for the mobilization of national resources for its implementation. This strategy was brought to the agenda of the summit of heads of states of the African Union in January 2016.

WFP played a key role on strengthening Government's capacity to implement local procurement by supporting the development of a national strategy focusing on small farmers contributing to the rebuilding of the national security stock and supply school canteens. The aim of this activity was to improve food security, sustainable agriculture development and Home-Grown School Feeding by strengthening the organizational capacity of small farmer associations. Beyond this, though the increased scale of its local procurement operation, WFP contributed to building capacities of an increasing number of small producers, the farmers' organizations and unions, organize the marketing of agricultural and pastoral products and promote good practices with regard to local purchases. This was done with the support of the South-South and triangular cooperation with Brazil.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

The resources received did not allow for the full implementation of all activities as planned, yet the PRRO benefitted from strong donor interest and support. Resource shortfalls in 2014 resulted in a 70 percent reduction of the planned caseload leading to interventions in only 70 very poor and vulnerable communes. In 2015, WFP further prioritized the number of targeted communes to concentrate its resources and interventions ensuring better integration of activities with a higher impact towards community resilience. The flexibility of donor support was enhanced through allocations of multilateral contributions, as well as the effective utilization of the WFP internal advance financing mechanism, which permitted the timely purchasing and delivering of food. Strong collaboration with the United Nations agencies, particularly UNICEF, FAO and IFAD contributed to an effective and coordinated response and additional resources for projects activities.

	Resourced	Shipped/Purchased	
Donor	In-Kind	Cash	in 2015 (mt)
Canada		821	171
European Commission		5,307	4,531
France		1,097	626
Japan		2,971	2,558
MULTILATERAL		11,922	6,330
Netherlands		72	68
Switzerland		691	691
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		150	50
USA	29,440	2,253	16,837
Total:	29,440	25,285	31,861

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

WFP purchases aim to stimulate the local economy and support local farmers. In 2015 food purchases from local farmers enabled WFP to reduce lead times required to obtain food through international procurement. Due to the lack of resources in 2015, WFP purchased a total of 1,776mt from Nigerien small farmer associations, of which a large amount was used in emergency assistance in areas facing insecurity. Through WFP's internal Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), WFP Niger is able to continue purchasing commodities from small holder farmers to reach its planned tonnage of 4,000mt. These will be procured in early 2016. WFP continued to enhance capacity development initiatives in the country. WFP carried out several trainings (for government staff, service providers and internal staff) particularly focused on assuring and maintaining the quality the food being handled. In 2015, trainings were particularly focused on the handling and storage of specialised nutritional food.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	592	0	0	364
Bulgur Wheat	0	0	1,443	
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	7,334	6,491
lodised Salt	143	0	0	
Lentils	0	0	1,249	
Maize				208
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	114	0	0	1,386
Rice	714	0	3,325	
Sorghum/Millet	1,315	0	0	12,422
Split Peas	0	0	801	24
Vegetable Oil	0	0	598	895
Sum:	2,878	0	14,748	21,790

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Internationally and regionally procured commodities arrived in landlocked Niger through the ports of Cotonou, Benin; Lome, Togo and exceptionally through Tema, Ghana. Transport from port is exclusively handled by commercial transporters. Dispatch to final distribution points is handled by either the cooperating partners or commercial transporters. WFP maintains one truck per region to serve particularly challenging destinations or when the tonnages are too low to be commercially interesting. Warehouse managers, storekeepers and tally clerks are supplied by the government and replaced on a yearly basis, creating a constant challenge. WFP has responded by designing a training program and frequently following up with new appointees in order to assure that operations run smoothly without incident. WFP uses the same approach on capacity building and capability development concerning internal staff, government counterparts, cooperating partners, transporters and fumigators. During 2015 each category received at least one training session.

Post-Delivery Losses

WFP was able to avoid any significant losses in 2015 for storage and handling. Particular improvements were noted with regard to losses in nutritional products and in particularly super cereal compared with 2014. WFP remained committed to reduce commodity losses as much as possible. In this regard WFP conducted trainings in food quality and handling with a particular focus in nutritional food items. Work with partners continues on the ground to improve storage conditions once food commodities have left WFP warehouses. In 2016, should resources allow WFP hopes to construct temperature controlled warehouses to further improve storage conditions for nutritional food items.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

The integrated resilience building response required strong partnerships to ensure the complementarity and multi-sectoral contributions of engaging actors. WFP Niger developed resource, knowledge, advocacy, policy and governance partnerships with different actors. WFP worked governments with particular skills and competencies to provide human, financial and technical resources. Beyond strong partnerships with its traditional donors, WFP Niger focused on developing south-south and triangular cooperation with Brazil among others; concerning local purchases with small producers within WFP as well as supporting Government institutions.

The development of knowledge oriented partnerships were a key step in strengthening WFP's capacity on information, evaluation and analysis. Within this framework, WFP entered partnerships with research institutions to improve the technical qualities (Agriculture Faculty at Niamey University to strengthen technical capacities of partners and RECA to conduct study evaluations on projects sites and identify gaps, challenges and best practices) and promote analysis in new areas such as sociology and anthropology (LASDEL to lead socio-anthropological analysis of the impact of WFP's work). Internship programmes for new graduates to reinforce the technical follow-up of FFA activities in collaboration with RECA in order to improve the quality of FFA activities were also part of this partnership. This year was marked by a strengthened engagement on knowledge management with the set-up of a knowledge management unit, with active participation on existing platforms including SAREL (Sahel Resilience Learning) project. This will be consolidated in 2016.

In 2015, a strong focus was put on policy and governance partnerships in collaboration with other UN agencies to develop hunger and nutrition policies and strategies. Special attention was given to partnerships with UN Rome Based Agencies (RBA) and UNICEF. The development and protection of agro-pastoral areas and the development of production were an important priority for WFP, FAO and IFAD, with a clear division of labour between the three agencies. WFP activities are focused on land rehabilitation with quality seeds and technical assistance provided by FAO or IFAD in order to assure the sustainable use of the productive assets created. IFAD's supports such as the creation and training of management committees, construction of small dams for small scale irrigation, installation of seed selling stands etc., contribute to the sustainable use of the productive assets created. RBA are members of government lead Multi-sectorial Strategic Steering Committees (CMPS) promoting multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on agriculture and food security. RBA also work on women's empowerment focusing on their capacity in building resilience through a pilot project in close collaboration with UN Women. Agencies also worked together on the support to analysis and joint participatory planning (namely SLP and CBPP) at community, commune and regional level with the decentralized government. WFP and FAO co-led the food security cluster.

WFP also played a catalytic role in coordinating the lean season response, bringing together all humanitarian actors participating in lean season interventions, including Alliance NGOs. In 2015, WFP along with the Alliance NGOs carried out the first combined PDM assessment during the lean season period. A coordination matrix was established and managed by the WFP team to define how different players would intervene within the same targeted village and ensure a balanced division of resources over the different affected zones. Over the course of the lean season, WFP organized regular meetings where challenges were shared and discussed including the PDM results and analysis of the overall intervention. This enabled WFP and partners to provide timely assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries during the lean season period.

A closing evaluation workshop compiled lessons learned and best practices to build on for the 2016 response.

WFP sustained operational partnerships with all its implementing partners. In 2015 wherever possible, in the targeted communes WFP worked with "only one partner per commune". The same cooperating partner implemented the integrated package of all WFP's activities in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation of the activities.

Finally, WFP was very engaged at different levels on building advocacy partnerships in the area of nutrition within the framework of the SUN (Scaling up Nutrition) movement and REACH (Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger) initiative an important step in terms of positioning. WFP also supported the advocacy work with national authorities to make nutrition a national development priority, for the implementation of efficient nutrition interventions in the areas of prevention and treatment. Within the framework of the UNCT, WFP also engaged in advocacy work on social protection for the formulation of a social protection floor in Niger. In conjunction with FAO, strong support was provided on the promotion of local purchases with small producers and its development within national procedures.

Partnerships	NC	90	Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International	Crescent movement	
Total	22	15	1	7

cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector organizations, International Financial Institutions, Regional development banks)				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	858,843	0	85,843	C
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	80	0	80	Ę
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, WFP survey.	100	0	100	100

Lessons Learned

WFP faced several challenges in the implementation of its resilience programme in Niger and is progressively drawing lessons throughout the implementation cycle to strengthen its programmes.

On convergence, partnership and coordination, the adoption of the "communes de convergence" approach was critical in creating an environment favourable to building partnerships under the government leadership (within the UN but also with other strategic actors). However, the operational integration showed some limitations as it was managed at "communes" level, and not at site/village level. The limited resources did not allow WFP to cover all the needs and sometimes hindered the provision of the integrated package aimed at strengthening households' resilience. The need for a joint planning and programming response at the site level was a key dimension in order to ensure a geographical focus while testing the model and analysing opportunities for a scale up. On the operational side, WFP also had to change operational modalities for contracting implementing partners by progressively moving towards partners able to deliver a multi sectoral package at the site level. Directly linked to this, the extension into new geographical areas in a context of limited resources will be considered with a lot of caution. A strong geo-referenced mapping system in Niger to support this exercise was an added value.

The need to strengthen knowledge management is also crucial as the process needs to be highly adaptive taking into account the specific context. The "learn by doing" approach was adopted in Niger where models were tested, lessons drawn, adjustments made and scale up envisaged. WFP realized the need to strengthen its capacity to document innovative practices and pilots, not only within its own programming, but also support the capacity building and progressive hand over of models to the national counterpart. Finally, the implementation of the resilience portfolio requires a paradigm shift to develop a spirit of innovation. To support WFP organization within this framework, an innovation and knowledge management unit was set up within the country office. WFP implemented various nutrition pilot projects in partnership with the Government, UNICEF, and NGOs from which good practices are planned to be integrated under the PRRO from 2016 onwards (for example the integration of prevention of malnutrition activities through schools meal programmes with a focus on nutrition status of adolescent girls).

In 2015, WFP has been working very closely with the government with the aim of strengthening capacity building, national ownership and leadership dimensions. WFP provided support to key areas linked to information management, planning, monitoring and coordination. However, coordination at the national level needs to be strengthened to ensure effective leadership and ownership over the programmes. Integration between UN and WFP internal coordination structures and national structures need to be reinforced, specifically the 3N on resilience. Better investment in coordination, capacity building and technical assistance within this framework could prove to be a catalyst to creating a clearer link between community development, local development and decentralization.

The WFP resilience strategy for Niger has shown remarkable signs of progress within the limited timeframe of three years, including robust evidence of recovery from shocks.

However, it is increasingly recognized through Studies that building long term resilience takes a longer period, particularly in highly vulnerable and shock prone contexts - and Niger is no exception. In this regard, reliability and conditionality of funding are constraints that have been faced since the start of the PRRO and will influence the next generation of programmatic challenges in a number of areas, including in those that are showing considerable progress and need to continue growing in terms of the intended resilience and food security outcomes. This indicates the need to further pursue the partnership agenda from a much broader and protracted set of converging efforts, supported by a robust evidence-based and knowledge sharing approach. Within this framework, WFP will need to strengthen and refine its Monitoring and Evaluation system to identify new indicators capturing the different dimensions of resilience and the different steps of progression, while ensuring that needs are prioritized with key partners. Targeting remains the centre piece of the strategy as well as the definition of a gradual exit strategy.

Finally, in a country context where social protection is a major concern, there is a need to better capitalize WFP's experience on safety nets. Further engagement by WFP and UN agencies in the formulation of a social protection floor is necessary, in helping the government establish sustainable models to address the needs of the poor based on best practice at the country and regional levels.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource	Inputs from D	onors	Resourced in 2	015 (mt)	Shipped/ Purchased in	
Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	2015 (mt)	
Canada	CAN-C-00507-19	Corn Soya Blend		300	(
Canada	CAN-C-00507-19	Ready To Use Supplementary		464	114	
Canada	CAN-C-00507-19	Sorghum/Millet		57	5	
European Commission	EEC-C-00513-01	Corn Soya Blend		776	(
European Commission	EEC-C-00513-01	Sorghum/Millet		4,531	4,53	
France	FRA-C-00208-09	Corn Soya Blend		214	(
France	FRA-C-00210-04	Corn Soya Blend		158	(
France	FRA-C-00210-04	Vegetable Oil		50	(
France	FRA-C-00219-01	Beans		108	108	
France	FRA-C-00219-01	Sorghum/Millet		518	518	
France	FRA-C-00219-01	Vegetable Oil		18	(
France	FRA-C-00235-06	Vegetable Oil		32	(
Japan	JPN-C-00381-01	Beans		364	364	
Japan	JPN-C-00381-01	Corn Soya Blend		186	(
Japan	JPN-C-00381-01	Ready To Use Supplementary		137	(
Japan	JPN-C-00381-01	Sorghum/Millet		2,193	2,193	
Japan	JPN-C-00381-01	Vegetable Oil		91	(
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans		424	484	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend		5,018	936	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	lodised Salt		75	75	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Maize		208	208	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Ready To Use Supplementary		899	469	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		1,126	714	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Sorghum/Millet		3,444	3,444	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas		24	(
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil		704	(
Netherlands	NET-C-00086-07	Corn Soya Blend		4	(
Netherlands	NET-C-00086-07	lodised Salt		68	68	
Switzerland	SWI-C-00422-01	Sorghum/Millet		691	691	
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01114-01	Sorghum/Millet		50	50	
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01259-01	Sorghum/Millet		100		
USA	USA-C-01019-03	Rice			2,321	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Bulgur Wheat	1,450		1,443	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Corn Soya Blend	7,210		7,169	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Lentils	1,260		1,249	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Rice	1,010		1,004	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Split Peas	800		801	
USA	USA-C-01019-04	Vegetable Oil	600		598	
USA	USA-C-01019-05	Corn Soya Blend	2,610			
USA	USA-C-01019-05	Rice	9,300			
USA	USA-C-01019-05	Split Peas	2,200			
USA	USA-C-01019-05	Vegetable Oil	1,050			
USA	USA-C-01120-02	Sorghum/Millet		2,253	2,253	
USA	USA-C-01196-01	Corn Soya Blend	240			
USA	USA-C-01196-01	Rice	1,280			
USA	USA-C-01196-01	Split Peas	340			
USA	USA-C-01196-01	Vegetable Oil	90			