



2020 Annual Report

Friends of Niger (FON) is a charitable and educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to initiate and support activities related to Niger and its people and for the benefit of its membership. Any person with a personal or professional interest in Niger is welcome to become a member.

2020 Officers

Pres. John Baird
VP Phyllis Dichter Forbes
Treas. Gary Geoghegan
Sec. Cheryl Turner /Christy Collins

Members at large

Ismaghil Ag Moussa
Tom Corcoran
Dale Downes
Michael Kilsinger
Larry Koff
Trish Meyer
Amy Wilson

CONUSA delegate

Seybou Douma

Niger Diaspora

Rabiou Yari

Organizational Update

The board continues to evolve, expand and improve the capacity of the organization. A second member survey garnered 107 responses! This provided more input from members to the board and helped to identify 6 new board members! The board is grateful for the contributions of board members Cheryl Turner, John Hutchison, and Tom Corcoran who stepped off the board in 2020. A virtual board retreat took place across two Zoom meetings in the fall, giving the board more time to dig into topics in depth. Our heartfelt thanks to member Ken Patterson who did a terrific job of facilitating our retreat as a professional service donation.

A working group was established to discuss ways to expand member engagement, advocacy and education. Three issues of the Camel Express newsletter were distributed to the membership electronically. Our Facebook group was reformed to be an open, public forum for all things related to Niger and connecting members and interested folks. FON developed a meaningful profile on Guidestar.

Fiscal Snapshot for 2020

Total Income:		\$50,295
<i>Donations and Interest</i>		
Total Expenses:		\$60,492
<i>Admin/overhead</i>	\$2,097	
<i>Project Support</i>	\$58,395	
Funds on hand Jan 1, 2021		\$29,998

Projects funded in 2020

Wambouzou food transport and storage	\$7,500	with Kirker Foundation & Rise Against Hunger
Albino Program /Au Coeur	\$12,639	Special Appeal: Niger PCV groups 4, 5, 6
Worldwide Fistula Fund	\$500	Jane Huser Maxwell/Sahara Sisters
ODI Niger	\$1,070	Jane Huser Maxwell/Sahara Sisters
Girls micro credit training	\$1,255	with TCP Global
Health Kits for 7 villages	\$2,628	With OURZP
Medical supplies storage & transport	\$10,000	with Kirker Foundation
Wambouzou Student Feeding	\$1,161	with Achet 'Akai, Rise Against Hunger
ADESS Flood/Malaria relief	\$1,766	with Association pour le Développement de l'Education et al Sauvegarde de la Santé
OVD Tedhilt Flood/Malaria relief	\$1,766	with Organization Vie & Development Tedhilt
HIMMA Flood/Malaria relief	\$1,765	with HIMMA
CONUSA Flood/Malaria Relief	\$1,765	with Conseil des Nigériens aux USA
AJDE Flood/Malaria relief	\$1,765	with Alliance des Jeunes pour un Développement Endogène
Cadres et Etudiants Flood/Malaria relief	\$1,765	with Cadres et Etudiants du Niger
Benalya Solar Installations	\$11,049	
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING	\$58,395	

One Family One Garden

Building on previous success with moringa gardens, FON has provided support to Infirmiere d'Etat Moustapha Harou to improve nutrition for families in the Dakoro area with kitchen gardens maximizing greywater. FON funds have supported purchase of fencing materials to protect the gardens from animals, water containers, and garden tools, as well as an assessment of how well the 'greywater' approach has worked. This project was funded in late 2019.

Solar Electrification of Health Clinics

We learned that solar electric systems installed in clinics needed some follow up and adjustment. Systems that had previously been installed proved to have poor performing batteries, thereby limiting their capacity and usefulness. This was remedied by providing an additional grant to upgrade the systems on the already installed clinic solar systems.



School feeding program and Medicines for Niger

Kirker Foundation/Niger is a Nigerien NGO that works to increase availability, access, and utilization of quality medicines and supplies in medical facilities in Niger, especially in remotes areas. Kirker Foundation/Niger partners and coordinates with a wide range of government and non-government entities in Niger and abroad to secure medicines, supplies, and support resources to provide essential medical supplies where needed.

In 2020, FON approved a grant of \$7,500 to Support and emergency feeding program and transport a shipment of medicines. Nutrition packets from Rise Against Hunger were contributed to a school feeding program for nomadic children in Wambouzou in the Tchintabaraden region. Other funds were used for in-country clearance and distribution of medical supplies from a shipment, Including 120,000 surgical and N95 masks for use in slowing the spread of COVID-19, antibiotics, oral hydration supplies, and prenatal vitamins. The MAP shipment was valued at almost \$16 million and will be distributed to hospitals and health centers throughout Niger.

An additional \$10,000 grant to Kirker Foundation/Niger was granted to cover in-country costs for two more shipments. As with previous shipments, the medicines and supplies were selected in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health to ensure they are used appropriately throughout Niger's health care system, greatly expanding the capacity to meet the needs during the pandemic. A video of the shipment being received in Zinder can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/PkllrYKbRxY>



Support to Women's Organizations to Implement Micro-credit Programs



FON provided support for training for a micro-credit program in the Tchintabaraden region. Working with Filles, Femmes et Développement (FIFED) a training was provided for women prior to their launching a microcredit program. The training was conducted by Potentiel Terre in coordination with TCP Global who will provide the initial loan funding to this and other sites in Niger. The loan program was launched successfully and Potential Terre established contacts with local banks and financial entities that will help with future work.

Micro-credit Training for Filles, Femmes Et Développement (FIFED)

Emergency Assistance for Malaria Prevention in Flooded Areas

Heavy rainfall over several weeks damaged homes and crops, and resulted in severe flooding that left conditions perfect for breeding mosquitos that transmit malaria. FON moved quickly to provide emergency assistance to Nigerien NGO's in several regions. FON members responded to a special appeal allowing FON to provide \$10,592 to six different non-profits. Funds were used to purchase and distribute insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets and antimalarial drugs, and other related support.



Member designated funds

FON supported other projects in Niger by acting as a fiscal agent for donations from members directed to organizations in Niger including:

- ♦ Albino Program /Au Coeur du Niger Supported by Niger PCV groups 4, 5, 6
- ♦ Worldwide Fistula Fund & ODI Niger supported by Jane Huser Maxwell Fund/Sahara Sisters

Purpose and Mission

Friends of Niger is an organization founded by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to initiate and support activities related to Niger and its people. We pursue three main purposes:

1. Connecting and engaging people who may have lived in Niger
2. Supporting development in Niger, and
3. Advocating for and educating about Niger

We aim to serve as a clearinghouse for Niger-related opportunities, and to network with and engage our 850+ members in ongoing activities and projects related to Niger.

We promote development by providing funds and fiscal sponsorship for projects that support our mission and values. We partner and connect to other organizations to link needs with resources. We educate others about Niger and advocate for activities and policies that promote the mission of Friends of Niger. We strive to maintain a low overhead and leverage the skills and assets of members and volunteers to accomplish our mission. We focus on projects that are locally identified and add value to the lives of Nigeriens.

Donations & Membership

Friends of Niger is an all-volunteer tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN 65-1267451, and contributions to Friends of Niger are tax-deductible. Donations are accepted at any time and can be made via PayPal at www.friendsofniger.org, or a check payable to Friends of Niger can be mailed to: **Friends of Niger PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041**

We welcome new members! Any person with a personal or professional interest in Niger can apply for membership and is entitled to receive regular e-newsletters. Those members who have made a minimum donation of \$20 annually are considered voting members with the right to vote for the Board of Directors and for any other issues that may be brought to the voting membership. Membership forms and contact information are available at our website www.friendsofniger.org