



## Friends of Niger 2020 Survey Compilation/Summary

The following information is the result of a survey distributed to members. It has had individual and personal information removed to protect privacy. For more details please contact the President of Friends of Niger.

### 107 responses

#### CONNECTING AND ENGAGING

##### 1. Locations in Niger where respondents lived/served

Agadez	3%	4	Niamey	30%	37
Diffa	4%	5	Tahoua	9%	12
Dosso	11%	14	Tillaberi	9%	11
Maradi	17%	21	Zinder	14%	18

##### 2. Survey respondents program or involvement in Niger:

Peace Corps volunteer	70%	87
Peace Corps staff	4%	6
Non-government organization	5%	7
USAID/other US govt. program	4%	6
Nigerien	2%	3
Boston U	5%	7
Other	6%	8

##### 3. Willing to share basic contact information with other FON Members:

Yes	96%	99
No	3%	4

##### 4. Would like get involved in organizing some kind of get together:

yes	30%	30
no	40%	39

##### 5. Respondents interested in serving on committees or board:

Project committee	25%	14
Finance committee	12%	7
Membership engagement committee	9%	5
Advocacy and education committee	20%	11
Board of directors	18%	10
Social media outreach: Facebook, Camel Express, web page	14%	8

##### 6. Respondents suggested they could promote or lead the following activities:

###### Connecting & engaging

- FON Happy hour
- Hausa Conversation Club
- Strategic Planning
- Events in the Boston area, or other areas



Engaging BU program alumni

Reunion

Supporting development

Governance, agriculture, food security, nutrition, emergency response

Veterinary Services

Supporting Nigeriens doing good work at the grassroots level

Small NGO's, local women's groups doing micro-credit activities

Clean water, malaria eradication

Fund-raising for projects & non-profits in Niger

Provide financial support

Interpret, translate

Education/advocacy

Learning about Pre-History of Niger

Zoom show of some sort from anybody who thinks their stuff is interesting

Support stateside education efforts, third goal, as a way to engage members

## SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

### 7. **Contacts in Niger or with other non-profits working in Niger that might be useful for FON, and possibilities for collaboration:**

- Naney- microfinance NGO started by former RPCV working in the Kollo area
- PCV training group 1965
- Play Africa
- Pencils for Kids (a Canadian organization)
- Farmers of the Future (as US NGO); may be able to make contact with deserving groups or individuals who could apply for FON support for projects outside their programs.
- NGO ACCEESS, small startup organization primarily focuses on its annual clothing drives for rural children.
- Water Charity
- Oxfam Int'l in Niger.
- The Nomad Foundation continues work in Agadez area-nomad school projects
- Remember Niger Coalition (RNC)
- World Vision and Save the Children
- Middlebury Institute of International Studies (formerly the Monterey Institute) Many of these students would be happy to assist with various projects, there are lots of RPCV's on Faculty, Staff and as students.
- Former student who is about to start a job as a Program Manager with CRS in Niamey, RPCV (Ukraine and Cameroon)
- Contacts with ONEN, which works in education (second-chance schools etc.) FON could partner with ONEN on education projects.
- Contacts with ODI-Niger works with disabled in 152 villages surrounding Balayera.
- Contacts with two local women's groups in Balayera, which engage in micro-credit activities. I have raised funds for these groups independently.
- HIMMA, Handicap Niger, Niger Progress



## 8. Interest in partnering with FON to lead and/or implement project(s)/activities

- governance, agriculture, food security, nutrition, emergency response; partnership with NGOs (local or intl)
- health education and mid-wifery
- Forestry, environment, agriculture
- more solar power
- some kind of ag project.
- Small business grants
- Agriculture/composting
- Veterinary services, veterinary school
- Improve human health, nutrition and economics of the poor
- Water supply development
- laptops, computer labs for the schools.
- teacher education projects or programs for primary school children
- clean water and malaria eradication, higher education.
- work with Nigerien refugee woman living in New York; would like to establish links with schools in Niger to send school supplies and other kinds of support.
- Education, empowering women, etc.
- RPCVs teaching Nigeriennes remotely: English and access to information to help them develop their own projects.
- schools with solar electricity, laptops, Internet
- documentary photography and visual storytelling.

## 9. How the Board can effectively involve FON members in project implementation to share the workload and get more done:

- Perhaps more information projects currently under consideration, and follow-up on projects recently implemented or being implemented.
- Board only supports members who have to do what they want done. Board can help make connections with people/ resources, make suggestions, consult....
- The definition of more is a few high quality projects that fundamentally improve people's lives in a significant manner. Rally RPCV to participate because the projects are difference makers that matter,
- Define some types of tasks that members-at-large who don't have active in-country contacts or travel could help out with, and ask us to sign up to be on-call for those.
- Projects should be fully described and members should be invited to comment.
- I commend the Board and leadership of FON. John Baird et al do a fine job.
- Act as consultants for locally driven projects.
- Partners in Health is using Haitians to help train and inspire Africans in human health care. A good model to look at
- It's hard with limited volunteers. I read the newsletter, pay attention to the Facebook posts and donate but it would be nice if there were more social opportunities? Our group of Niger RPCVs (served in early 90s) gets together every other year and that helps but it's nice to have connections to anyone still working in or connected to Niger.
- Is there a need to expand the projects committee? Is it difficult to get good applications for project support?



- Hard to say under the present circumstances. Maybe through contacts with AID?
- Ask away. You never know what kinds of contacts members might have.
- Consider holding Zoom gatherings to activate the network and get the ideas flowing.
- Find more contacts in Niger to manage projects on the ground. Make sure they get paid
- This could be one objective of a strategic planning effort.
- I believe the FON board has improved recently in contacting and involving members. Understandably this is challenging without new RPCVs from Niger. But reaching out to other organizations has been an important step.
- Define problems which can be solved. Formulate solutions which are reasonable. Implement programs (projects) with missionary and / or humanitarian organizations with proven track records.
- More clarity about what sort of commitment is being asked would be helpful.
- (While I recognize and applaud the extraordinary dedication and hard work of the volunteer Board, not everyone is able or willing to make that sort of commitment, would be helpful to understand how to make more limited commitments
- More communication and sharing of successes among board and members. Happy to put more information in Camel Express, would love more flow of progress and milestones and successes of projects.
- Regularly share information about ongoing projects. I think you already do this, but consider sharing earlier and include specific asks.

## **ADVOCATING & EDUCATING**

### **10. Advocacy FON be involved in if any:**

- Socio-economic/ educational/ health development/ self-government/ coping with climate change/ sustainable living in Niger/ Sahel.
- FON should not be advocating.
- I think our advocacy direction is good.
- Education by all means
- Continue existing programs. They are worthwhile and need to know they can continue.
- Children's chewable vitamins for one
- Empowerment of women and girls.
- Certainly women's health and education--they should probably be the primary focus
- Supporting NPCA much more. Ask members why they neglect lobbying responsibility
- Educating our political leaders on Niger and advocating for Niger
- Issues that affect Niger and which FON takes action on should be fully aired with members who can then write letters, write op eds or do other advocacy work.
- One Health
- education/computers in schools
- promoting women's education and well-being
- better methods of farming in an increasingly dry climate
- at home, promoting better relations/understanding of Islamic religion/Muslims without promoting Islam, necessarily.
- Encouraging the full funding of international aid programs; staying close to the situation with the Peace Corps in order to provide support if and when PC can resume operations.



- Higher education for girls and women. Delayed marriage and childbearing (age 18+). Malaria prophylaxis. Clean water. Elimination of Al Qaeda, ISIS, and Boko Haram. Economic stabilization. Remote and distance learning. Mentorship programs.
- My work (domestic violence intervention) is based in advocacy, yet I feel I'd need more info/context to answer this. I was in Niger almost 30 years ago, so would love more education on the pulse to lend support with what I know and can do now.
- Helping share accurate information about Niger and how US policies impact the country.
- Advocate for PC return to Niger.
- Global health, education, economic opportunity with the US gov. I do this for my work and would be happy to provide issues and training.
- Sharing info about Niger in schools particularly social studies classes and NGOs that involve high school youth
- Advocate for any resources offering health services, clean water, education and nutrition
- Focus on solvable problems. Deal with successful outcomes. Get rid of the 'bull-shit' when it comes to presenting results to the donors.
- Staying abreast and speaking up about US policies & opportunities that may affect Niger. Supporting Nigeriens who live in US with issues they face. Advocating FOR beneficial activities in Niger--not getting into the role of advocating against any Nigerien politics.

**11. Types of advocacy activities respondents would like to get involved with:**

- I advocate not interfering politically, socially, religiously, etc. Just help improve the quality of peoples' lives,
- I like the model of Expanding Lives, focused on educating Nigerien girls to strengthen their own voices and decide what kind of activities they think would be effective. Would be glad to support more of that kind of work with time or donations. On the US side, I'd be glad to add my voice to campaigns advocating to the public and Congress to continue supporting worldwide empowerment and education of women and girls. I don't feel ready to develop or direct this kind of work, more to support others in doing so.
- Debt relief is one area where we might make our voices count.
- Job creation for youth
- Educational activities
- Veterinary school and veterinary services to improve human health, nutrition and economics of the poor
- Contacting legislators regarding the funding of aid programs.
- Water, malaria, and education.
- Most interested in ag or public health.
- Helping share accurate information about Niger and how US policies impact the country.
- Education
- Advocate for aid to Niger.
- Training people to lobby their members of Congress, get published in the media, mobilize their communities
- letter writing, analyzing issues and developing materials for others to use.

**12. Contacts or connections respondents have that could further our advocacy mission:**

- Officials in court of traditional local chief/ Sarki
- Jubilee, an organization that advocates for debt relief.



- Contact to Danish Ministry of Development
- One Health and better animal health monitoring worldwide. We will need to see what surfaces, where funding will come from and re-educate donors to understand that veterinary services is not about pet care.
- USAID Farmer to Farmer program
- VSF
- National Peace Corps Association
- BU networks. Networks of Nigeriens living in New York City.
- Connections with members of Nigeriens Government, and another high ranking official which can help facilitate our humanitarian actions and activities anywhere in Niger.
- I work for RESULTS: [www.results.org](http://www.results.org)
- Boy Scouts of America, we could possibly get Scouts to adopt a project in Niger to fundraise for...

**13. Types of education activities related to FON goals respondents are interested in:**

- Connecting Americans with their peers in Konni area
- (Have done several fundraising campaigns to raise money for emergency food distributions in periods of extreme drought, some implemented locally by Nigerien friends.)
- Science and history/geography
- Updates about current conditions in country.
- Community development
- History, cultures of Niger
- Veterinary Schools
- schooling for girls, scholarship for girls to attend schooling beyond the primary years (including support for room and board)
- Young women becoming acquainted with STEM programs in academics.
- Anything that raises the profile of Niger, especially its history, food, arts, etc. Things that people who don't know Niger can relate to so they do not lump Niger into the category of "shithole" countries.
- Helping schools with basic learning materials, books, pencils, pens, chalk, etc.
- Provided professional training to Nigerien Teachers.
- An incentive to encourage families to enroll girls in schools in towns and in villages.
- As we enter an economic depression and worldwide pandemic, we should try to maintain links to Niger and keep some aid coming. Whatever happened to the Plumpy'Nut production in Niger? Jimmy Carter Center should be backing this famine buffer. Also Ronald Wornick Foundation might be a source of funds for a project to produce emergency food in Niger.
- Hearing from Nigeriens, news of Niger
- Education of youth
- youth education i.e. classroom presentations, general education i.e. Rotary clubs



#### 14. Types of education activities respondents have done:

Classroom presentations	31%	47
Community presentations	26%	39
Educational activities	16%	24
Informal, tabling, etc.	16%	25
Other:	9%	14
Total	100%	149

- Multiple interactions with students/ potential PCVs etc over the years
- Churches
- field trips (show and tell)
- newspaper interviews, slide shows, posters with my photos of Niger
- Senior Citizen
- computers in classrooms
- rpcv presentations
- news articles- diaspora
- Lots in Haiti

#### 15. Materials, or strategies for education respondents would like to share:

- Render the introduction to life amongst those a different culture (Niger) more palpable by making it visual. Draw from images while living in Niger (I am currently preparing the physical archive of photographic negatives for deeding to the Smithsonian's Museum of African Art, at that institution's request).
- Traditional regional clothing, cloth, handmade crafts, jewelry. Demonstrate commonalities between people - help them identify personally. sensual presentations with pictures, music, color, incense, taste so people absorb and remember messages.
- souvenirs and snapshots
- I have a few photos dating back to the early years of independence. (PC staff, 1966-67)
- Pictures, Power Points, Historic and Cultural artifacts
- Lots of power points. USAID FTF has lots of materials
- No, but University students could take advantage of free US university online courses.
- Training
- Yes. Many photos which could be shared for members
- The strategic plan for RNC is on your website, but not specific to FON.
- Identify 'winners' and bring them together to define, develop, and manage programs.
- I have put together presentations for schools and scout groups.
- methods/strategies, slides (old school! and PowerPoint), props
- Slide show

#### 16. Respondents interested in helping FON promote advocacy/ education among members?

Yes	52%	27
No	47%	24
Total	100%	51