



2021 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. Any person with a personal or professional interest in Niger is welcome to become a member.

2021 Officers

Pres.	Amy Wilson
Vice Pres	Alix Barstow Fedoruk
Treas.	Gary Geoghegan
Sec.	Christy Collins
Past Pres.	John Baird
CONUSA delegate	Seybou Douma

Members at large

Mary Abrams	Ismaghil Ag Moussa
Kelsey Andersen	Myriam Kaplan-Pasternak
Paige Pihl Buckley	Alhassan Ali Souna
Kimberly Dixon	Douglas Steinberg

Organizational Update

Many thanks to outgoing board members, who all brought unique perspectives and generously contributed time and energy to make our efforts a success. Bravo and our sincere gratitude to: Dale Downes, Phyllis Dichter Forbes, Larry Koff, Yari Rabiou, and Cheryl Turner.

Six new board members joined us in September, among them two Boston University exchange program participants and a new member of the Nigerien diaspora. This increasing diversity of backgrounds is a great trend for our organization, helping us widen our reach and impact.

Continuing on our path to perfect our business practices, we formally adopted a conflict of interest policy and a policy for financial management of projects and grant making. We expanded our email contact list to include Boston University Contacts from Sue Rosenfeld, and now connect with over 1000 Friends of Niger through routine electronic newsletters.

Fiscal Snapshot for 2021

Total Income:	\$56,853
<i>Donations and Interest</i>	
Total Expenses:	\$23,862
<i>Admin/overhead</i>	<i>\$2,054</i>
<i>Project Support</i>	<i>\$21,808</i>
Funds on hand Jan 1, 2022	\$62,989

Grants Awarded in 2021

20-14 Update Health Clinic Solar Energy Systems	\$ 4,407
21-01 Tchizamene Clinic Solar Batteries & Beds	3,418
21-02 Bangiya Elementary Desks	1,643
21-03 Biocontrol of Millet Borer	4,760
21-04 Vocational Training	5,040
21-05 Handicapped Services [Jane Huser Maxwell Memorial Fund]	2,540
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING	\$21,808

Grant making process

Our process for supporting projects underwent major renovations in 2021, moving from continuously accepting proposals to a more predictable two grant cycles per calendar year. This new process includes a call for applications using a clear format, a transparent criteria-based review process, the active engagement of FON members in proposal review, and an increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluation. The Projects Committee has recently been renamed the Grants Management Committee to better reflect these changes in the role FON plays in supporting development activity. Board members Mary Abrams and Alix Fedoruk now serve as co-chairs of the committee, overseeing the grant making and review process. Volunteer reviewers read and evaluate a number of proposals and work as a group to make recommendations to the board based on a wide range of expertise and experience.

	<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2*</u>
Applications received	22	10
Funds requested	\$95,500	\$59,000
Volunteer reviewers	13	16
Grants approved	4	3
Funds awarded*	\$15,430	\$12,713*
<i>* Note: Selection process completed in 2021 however funds were not conveyed until Jan 2022</i>		

Friends of Niger gives priority to projects that:

- ◆ Address a locally identified need
- ◆ Are feasible and likely to be successful
- ◆ Benefit a group or community
- ◆ Have community involvement in and local contributions to project design and implementation
- ◆ Have a plan to sustain the benefits into the future
- ◆ Build local capacity and leadership

Our grant making is designed to link resources to opportunities through a transparent, fair and accountable process with an emphasis on capacity building throughout. We stress monitoring and evaluation from beginning to end and fund only strong proposals with promise for a successful outcome. Our goal is to provide grants AND support professional growth of applicants.

PROJECT RESULTS & UPDATES



Tchizamene Clinic Solar Batteries & Beds Agadez Region

This 2021 grant of \$3,175 enabled the NGO Organisation Vie et Développement to replace four older solar batteries providing electricity for a remote clinic in the Agadez Region.

The old batteries were no longer able to provide the power needed to maintain cold storage for medicines and vaccines. The grant also funded the purchase of 10 beds and mattresses. The Clinic, staffed by two nurses, a midwife and an assistant, serves a population of around 10,000.

With these upgrades, the Clinic is able to provide 24/7 care with good lighting, cold storage for medicines, and improved accommodations for persons requiring inpatient care.

Prior to receiving funding, patients lie outside on mats with IV's attached to an adjacent tree.

Biological Control of Millet Borer

Millet, the staple grain that feeds an estimated 97% of Niger's population, is under attack by an infestation of 'millet borer' larvae, reducing yields in some areas by up to 60%. FON provided \$4,855 to the NGO Potentiel Terre to supply a native biological control for this devastating pest in the severely affected Mokko Commune, Dosso Region. The project targets 12,394 agricultural households in 102 villages across the Commune. This effort will re-introduce an indigenous wasp that attacks the millet borer larvae. Local young adults are already being trained how to raise and distribute the wasps to farmers, who are being educated on the integration of the biocontrol into their farming practices. The goal is to increase the millet yield by up to 80% in the affected areas. The project is being piloted in 25 villages, and gradually scaled up over three years. In this first year, Potentiel Terre has conducted outreach to villages and authorities, and provided training to youth who will lead the efforts in raising, multiplying and releasing the wasps during the growing season.



Millet borer larvae destroying millet crop; village meeting to introduce biological control method.

Bangiya Elementary School Desks

A grant of \$1,401 was awarded for the purchase and installation of 30 desks for a classroom, benefitting 90 children. In 2020, a handful of FON members had independently funded the construction of an elementary school classroom in a village in the Zinder Region. Once the classroom was completed in 2021, the Bangiya Village Cooperative requested funding to purchase desks.



Vocational Training for At-Risk Youth

The Maradi Centre de Formation des Artisans was awarded a \$5,000 grant to provide technical training to give youth viable alternatives to earn a living. The project worked with local judiciary, social services and prison officials to select 20 youth (10 boys, 10 girls). Skills training included sewing, auto mechanics, electrical work, construction, building maintenance, and woodworking. Participants were also trained in literacy, report-writing, and basic accounting. Several participants have gone on to find internships and one young woman is already established as a seamstress.

Update Health Clinic Solar Energy Systems

In 2021, a final payment completed the funding for an upgrade to solar electrification installations at six health centers (CSI) in the Maradi Region. The upgrades will extend the life of these systems for up to five years when maintained correctly. The work was done by BENALYA Group, a Niamey-based solar power company, with oversight provided by Moustapha Harou, a long-time FON collaborator. A detailed report of the work completed was received in August 2021.

Medicines for Niger

The Nigerien NGO Kirker Foundation/Niger works with the Niger Ministry of Health to provide medicines, medical supplies, nutrition packets and other essential supplies to hospitals, health centers and schools throughout Niger. A FON grant of \$10,000 in late 2020 funded the in-country clearance, storage and transportation for two shipments of critical medicines and medical supplies donated by MAP International and prioritized by the Ministry of Health. The two shipments contained antibiotics, hydroxychloroquine for malaria prevention and treatment, prenatal vitamins, nutritional supplements, surgical masks and other products valued at \$22,500,000. Medical products and supplies are being distributed to hospitals and health centers throughout the country in consultation with the Ministry of Health. Several hundred thousand Nigeriens benefit from these medicines and supplies.

LEVERAGING FUNDS

FON award of \$10,000 facilitated delivery of medical supplies valued at over \$22.5 Million

Health Kits for COVID Prevention

With Covid-19 spreading throughout Niger, the Nigerien NGO OURZP was awarded a grant of \$2,682 to fund prevention activities in seven villages in the Tchintabaraden Commune, Tahoua Region. The villages are located along migration routes and thus at high risk for transmission of the virus. The FON grant supported prevention education sessions and distribution of kits containing soap, disinfectant gels, face coverings and hand-washing instructions to households and public locations in these communities. A final report was received in October 2021.

Member Designated Special Projects

FON supports the ongoing connection and engagement of some of our members to Niger by acting as a fiscal agent for member designated donations. As a tribute to their friend Jane Huser Maxwell, a group of women collect money every year and designate some special project or organization to support. This year they sent funding to an organization providing programs for handicapped, disabled persons and those with mental health needs. The group calling themselves the Sahara Sisters has donated over \$14,000 to date.

Purpose and Mission

Friends of Niger Is an organization formed to initiate and support activities related to Niger and its people. Initially founded by Peace Corps Volunteers, members now include a diverse group of people who have lived and worked in Niger including Nigerien diaspora.

We pursue three main purposes:

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

We promote development by providing funds and fiscal sponsorship for projects that support our mission and values. We partner with 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. Contributions to Friends of Niger are tax-deductible and are accepted at any time. Donations can be made via PayPal at www.friendsofniger.org, or a check payable to Friends of Niger 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