

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Conducted via email/Survey Monkey November 2017 –March 2018

Survey Categories:

- 1/ Member History
- 2/ Member Connections & Networks
- 3/ Ideas About FON Organization & Management
- 4/ Ideas About FON Projects
- 5/ Member Skills, Interests, Abilities (details excluded from online version)
- 6/ Hopes & Dreams for Niger

104 responses received and tallied.

1 -MEMBER HISTORY & INFO

Employers

ACDI-VOCA	J. Adams Ventures Limited	United Nation
Boy Scouts of America	Lewis-Clark State College	Université de Faso
Business Impact NW	Point B Consulting	U of Missouri-Columbia
CONUSA	RESULTS	University of Washington
DC Govt.	Saginaw Valley State Univ.	US Forest Service
Department of State	Santa Rosa Junior College	USAID
Expanding Lives	The Best Education for	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fifth Judicial District	Development Foundation	Western Kentucky Univ.
Florida State U	The Multicultural Coalition	Your Own Water Foundation

Where you live

AP	Hawaii	Maryland	New York	Vermont
Arizona	Illinois	MI	New Jersey	Washington
California	Iowa	Missouri	New York	Wisconsin
Colorado	Kaduna	Minnesota	Ohio	Zinder
Connecticut	Kentucky	Montana	Oregon	
Wash DC	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Texas	
Florida	Maine	Nebraska	Virginia	

CA & WA highest concentrations of members

Years in Niger

Years lived worked in Niger 439 years combined

Financial support

Estimate how much financial support you have contributed to Niger and or Nigeriens directly or through organizations:

Amount	# out of 100 responses
some	75
More than \$10000	10
total reported support	\$662,000

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

Languages

What languages do you speak or write?

FRENCH	ZARMA	HAUSA	SPANISH	Other languages spoken
76	29	40	20	Russian, Creole, Lingala, Portuguese, Viyasan, Korean, German, Farsi, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish

2 MEMBER CONNECTIONS/NETWORKS

Stay in Contact

Do you stay in contact with people in Niger, if so please share more information about them if they might be able to help achieve our mission?

Yes - 49 do stay in contact

Supported projects in Niger

What development projects have you been involved in or supported in Niger in recent years?

ECONOMICS

- Poverty relief
- Women's micro-credit groupement in Balayera.

EDUCATION/ YOUTH

- Girl child education and disadvantages of early marriage
- Expanding Lives first generation high school girls to the US for leadership conferences.
- Evaluation training of education personnel.
- Girls education
- Nigerien education NGO works with second-chance schools, girls' education in Niamey

LITERACY

- Literacy
- Education of the Tuareg children in Tamesna
- Promoting youth leadership via rugby

HEALTH

- "handicapped" support in Balayera
- hospital
- Nomad Foundation : midwife training;

AGRICULTURE/ ENVIRONMENT

- Sahara Conservation Fund
- Moringa tree project

Connections to Development/Aid Organizations Working In Niger

Do you have connections with any development/aid organizations that work in Niger?

Baha'i Faith religious community of Niger
 Banche
 Catholic Relief Service
 CCF vulnerability program
 IRAM - Institut de recherches et d'applications des méthodes de développement
 Mercy Corps
 MICA

Millennium Challenge Corporation
 Niger Rugby Union
 P-DEV 2
 Sahara Conservation Fund
 Save the Children
 The Nomad Foundation
 UN
 USAID
 World Renew

3 MEMBER IDEAS ABOUT FRIENDS OF NIGER

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

What else can FON do to accomplish mission, serve members

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Identify good, sustainable projects to support through fund raising initiatives.
- ✓ Get rooted in Niger and work with Nigerien-based organizations and projects; Find Nigeriens in situ to help develop or sustain programs
- ✓ Leadership on, educating about the situation in Niger
- ✓ Endorse projects, and NGOs
- ✓ More in-person events in major cities?
- ✓ Raise funds, fund projects
- ✓ Continue to support a variety of organizations (women's health, girls' education, tree planting, economic development/livelihoods).
- ✓ Give an honest statement of a goal & measurement of success

IDEAS FOR ADVOCACY

- ✓ Prepare education/advocacy/publicity school programs, slide shows, news articles/ appeal letters to educate and lobby in support of FON initiatives. Books, podcasts, web sites, etc. Radio Lab to do a story on Niger or a volunteer's experience. Use the film as tool
- ✓ Provide ideas to folks on how they could advocate would be great. PCVs from Niger have powerful stories to share with our elected officials.
- ✓ Engage FON more in advocacy work that affects US contributions to international development that reach Niger--child survival funding, AIDS, TB, malaria, education, GPE, GAVI.
- ✓ Lobby U.S. Government

IDEAS RELATED TO MEMBERS/ORGANIZATION

Connect, involve people

- ✓ Compile FON contact directory, reconnect returned peace corps volunteers
- ✓ Facilitate better communication between individuals in Niger and FON
- ✓ mobilize and engage the talented and creative membership. Develop a structure that utilizes the human resources of membership.
- ✓ More opportunities to meet in or outside DC or regionally.
- ✓ Get more members involved.
- ✓ More involvement of the members in projects
- ✓ Be more responsive and inclusive to members; reach out more
- ✓ Reach more RPCVs including from neighboring countries.
- ✓ Make a members' phone directory or contact list, including places and years of service.
- ✓ Posting a directory, connecting members
- ✓ RPCV trips
- ✓ create an on-line scrapbook, organized by year

Share news

- ✓ Acknowledge donations and what money is being used for
- ✓ Continue to share news and opportunities, tell more about projects via social media
- ✓ Better, more up to date information, more often
- ✓ Continue newsletter; more articles by folks there now...

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

Organizational development

- ✓ Clarify/update mission
- ✓ Establish offices in all seven regions
- ✓ follow up/follow through on requests for involvement of members

How can we better engage and mobilize members

COMMUNICATION

- Constant communication
- Use social media, e-newsletter,
- explore more social media such as WASAP, Twitter etc
- FON website that can act as a shared space for news, updates, member input, conversations, etc.
- keep posting news and stories on social media-good job on Facebook
- Go on the offensive at this critical time in US foreign policy
- Possibly organize a service-oriented trip for RPCV's who might want to return but do not want to do it alone.

MEMBERSHIP, NETWORKING

- Ask existing FON members to contact their PC friends and recommend they join. You could even build a PR campaign around "amis du Niger"
- making the organization more live, more real time, less dominated by a few old elite
- Let us know about other Niger/West African RPCVs in our region
- Use survey to act on member suggestions
- Local/regional chapters
- Create a map on which we can add our current locations.

ACTIVITIES

- A special event, meet up, get together
- Focus on projects supported by members, like family planning
- Develop, communicate goals
- Hold house parties/fund-raisers on specific days, group skypes
- Specific work/projects that needed to be done members could help
- More frequent publicity/sharing of the projects we support.
- Provide training in advocacy--this could be done via webinars.

INVOLVEMENT

- Facilitate listening and participation in board meeting via phone or video conference, share meeting minutes,
- Give MEMBERS regular and specific actions to take--they can be of varying degrees of difficulty.
- Get the black community involved in black Africa.
- Be open to bright ideas, ask for new initiatives, motivate members to lead projects.

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

Growth of Organization

Should the organization grow and if so how can we meet needs that exceed the capacity of volunteer board and committee members?

YES – 11

NO - 6

DON'T KNOW - 30

COMMENTS:

- First let us know what is going on.
- Growth would require a pool of people with enough time to do the work.
- Growth depends on interest and on connecting with more people who care about Niger and Nigeriens; it cannot be forced.
- has to be paired with identification of potential leaders and laborers
- if you have something to grow towards, sounds like you are not sure of your mission.
- Growth would help the org. meet its goals.
- Tapping into the interests and talents of the membership might lighten the load on the board and committee.
- only grow as much as Americans who spent time in Niger want to join FON
- If larger funding is sought board absolutely has to put accounting controls, policies and transparent processes in place. some funds might be used for bookkeeping or financial review stateside. Higher cost Niger-based projects either need matching partners on the ground to provide oversight or paid staff.
- Will need to develop at least a small cadre of paid staff.
- Consider move from volunteer only to hiring first employee only after securing enough funding for 3 years of operations.
- Partnerships with other organizations, related to Niger, or with similar goals/challenges.
- Perhaps via affiliations with larger, well-funded project organizations -- e.g. solar energy
- Grow to match its members' needs, not beyond that.
- Create avenue for all interested volunteers to participate in FON activities
- Yes, if volunteers can't do all the work, then we should get grant money to help us administer, especially project coordination, member communications, and finances

Newsletter comments

What kind of information would you like to see in the newsletter, do you have input to contribute?

LIKE THE NEWSLETTER – many positive comments!!

Good info and photos!

SUGGESTED CONTENT

- Article about Expanding Lives,
- Girls' education, women entrepreneurs, state of affairs, human stories
- Information about situation in Niger economy and politics, success of other initiatives
- More on the state of public health in Niger. Statistics from Population Reference Bureau, which show how problematic Niger is.
- More ways to contribute, raising funds, collecting donations, or organizing.
- News of FON-supported projects and other innovative sustainable development initiatives in Niger
- News of RPCVs doing third goal work

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

- NGO updates from the field
- Promote the Niger film
- The situation with girls and women in Niger
- Updates from former PC Niger staff
- Where are they now stories
- Specifically what projects are being done and who does them. Are people of Niger engaged for sustainability purposes?
- Updating us on information relating to social, political and entertainment events supporting Nigeriens in the US
- Stats on the state of the country
- donor organizations, what they are doing in Niger
- Current events, profiles of aid workers, programs, and Nigeriens
- what is congress doing on development assistance
- How other development agencies are working in Niger.

METHODS/ALTERNATIVES

- Shift to regular (weekly or biweekly) short blurb format with links to articles via email. Especially about what FON is doing, and links to how people can get involved; look into ways to use Facebook content for non-Facebook users
- The argument about FON being nonpolitical is out of sync with modern reality. Provide more fact-checked info
- news should be more current, monthly, electronic.

4 MEMBER IDEAS ABOUT FON PROJECTS

Projects have been small scale, with little to no overhead and limited oversight from FON.

1. Rank priorities for funding/assisting projects in Niger:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Nutrition | • Economic development |
| • Health, sanitation | • Agriculture |
| • Education | • Other _____ |

Relative priority

		Low	Medium	High
1	EDUCATION	0%	20%	74%
2	HEALTH, SANITATION	3%	26%	66%
3	NUTRITION	6%	29%	63%
4	AGRICULTURE	12%	35%	47%
5	ECON DEVELOPMENT	6%	46%	43%

Other projects priorities

- ✓ Be selective and do things that are emblematic and highly participatory.
- ✓ Capacity of women and girls
- ✓ Clean water wells
- ✓ Conservation of unusual biological species: hippos near Ayorou, giraffe somewhere near Dosso, several in the Aïr.
- ✓ Energy access
- ✓ Environment

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

Other projects priorities - continued

- ✓ Food and sanitation are the most urgent.
- ✓ Making contraceptives available at clinics and health posts is the priority
- ✓ Microfinance, Small income generating businesses
- ✓ Niger should provide the priorities
- ✓ Peace and security
- ✓ Promoting STEM/STEAM career opportunities for the young especially girls/young women
- ✓ Response to climate change and desertification,
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Self-defense for towns and individuals.
- ✓ Solar
- ✓ Water resource management
- ✓ Water, Wells and clean water

Description of successful projects

Describe a successful project; what are the most important outcomes?

SUSTAINABILITY

- A successful project is one that continues after the developers have left.
- A project that has ownership among recipients, that is designed by recipients and partially funded by recipients and meets their highest priority needs
- Capacity building
- Driven by local need and ideas and results in the local people increasing their hope that they can control and improve their lives; NOT focusing other outcomes.
- Is it sustainable, did project meet goals
- It changes practices, and is continued with intervention/support
- Local commitment and participation, flexibility and willingness to make changes along the way
- Nigeriens taking over project. Leadership development.
- One that Nigerien participants are able to take over, while modifying and extending as needed.
- People in Niger needed it and can maintain and sustain it.
- Sustainable and engaged community
- Creates a positive change, and which is low-tech enough to be sustainable by the locals
- Give tools so they can help themselves
- Access to clean water and solar power

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ability to measure impact, sustainability
- Growth in household income, growth in girl's educational attainment, infant mortality.
- \$ reach the ground and help create real change.
- Progress compared to before intervention
- Reaching numeric objectives that have been agreed on collaboratively with Nigerien counterparts

FON VALUES

- Project is tied to a strategic initiative.
- Stick with core competencies of connecting with people's needs

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

- Impact that spreads
- Improved quality of life
- Target is happier and healthier

Type of project to avoid supporting

What type of projects should FON NOT do?

- Anti-terrorism,
- Border patrols
- Christian proselytizing
- Duplication
- Family planning
- Government managed; instead work with local NGOs
- Health/medical projects.
- Major infrastructure projects.
- Non-sustainable
- One person receiving large sums
- Political activities
- Projects that support or promote any ethnic, political, or religious group over another.
- Things with political opposition.
- Human sexuality/Orientation due to cultural/religious
- Large scope, focus on rural communities
- Projects on private land, for relatives of chef de village
- Things that oppose human rights and women's reproductive rights
- Religious and political
- Where funds are not tracked or spent correctly

Other projects comments:

- Clean up all the trash
- Entrepreneurship training for poor young women
- Green energy and energy access
- More support for public health, especially provision of contraceptives!
- Projects should remain relatively small and include as much interpersonal interaction as possible. Create links that last over time.
- Rethink and renew mission and strategy
- Rotating savings and loans groups/village savings and loan
- Serve underserved regions. (Zinder, Diffa, Goure, n'guigmi))
- Tourism promotion – dependent on security
- Veterinary projects would be good, or animal exchange programs

5 MEMBER SKILLS, INTERESTS, ABILITIES

Are you interested in helping to implement projects? & What skills can you contribute? & What is your field of expertise or interest area?

Great input – BUT the information is excluded from online version to protect privacy.

6 HOPES AND DREAMS

Do one thing for Niger it would be . . .

If I could do one thing for Niger:

Peace & Conflict:

- Establish peace.
- Curb the rising wave of terrorism and make it a safer place to be
- Get US troops out and all of the extremists at the same time.

Business, economics

- Help bring in business investments
- Help them help themselves out of poverty
- Change the entrepreneurial mindsets of the youth
- Promote entrepreneurship

Women, girls, youth

- provide informative and empowering education around women's and reproductive health
- Education in own languages
- Women-directed projects
- Family planning services were readily available for All who want them
- Girls' education.
- Eradicate early child marriage
- Training opportunities for youth!
- help young people learn to think, respect others and work together for their country.
- Modernize its cultural concepts of appropriate behavior of women
- Promote birth control, Make a range of sufficient contraceptives available at health outlets
- Slow population growth
- Increase educational opportunities for women and girls

Tourism

- secure Agadez and put money into infrastructure there so tourism could come back.

Health, Food and water security.

- Wells
- Improved nutrition, food stability, food security
- Eradicate all the diseases and parasites

Advocacy, partnerships, capacity

- Be a good ambassador here in the United States and help promote its culture and needs.
- Get more local NGO's engaged and supported
- Analysis of development work to identify successful ones
- supporting Nigeriens to be able to do their own development work

Technology

- Improved cook stoves, less wood consumption (and fix that failed well I (we) tried to build)
- Agroforestry & reforestation
- Rehabilitate land on either side (rangeland, fields) of the cultivation zone border
- solar mini-grids to power rural electrification and development
- program with water level diviners
- protect and catalog history

Friends of Niger Member Survey March 2018

change one thing about Friends of Niger

If I could change one thing about FON

What we do:

- please more emphasis on public health
- Make it more public and create awareness about Niger.
- Provide them more resources
- More advocacy
- Make available items for sale to help support efforts, e.g. t-shirts.
- Develop a member contact list
- More exchanges with locals in Niger
- Promote return of PC to Niger.
- Clearer mission?

How we work:

- Easier way to engage from distance,
- Involve members and stakeholders. Also collaborate with other organizations working there.
- Expand leadership of RPCVs as well as from representatives of Nigerian community
- Increase our sense of community.
- New source of members
- Sign up more members.
- Strengthen their physical engagement with other friends of Niger online/offline
- Style of their administration
- Update the logo

keep one thing the same

If I could keep one thing about FON the same:

What we do: Camel Express, T shirt design, e-mailed newsletter, news posting on FaceBook, Working with RPCVs, logo, Opportunities to connect with FON members at reunions and special events/gatherings, stories of progress,

How we do it: Caring about Niger, commitment, Good will and sense of volunteerism, Heart, keep supporting Nigeriens, Members' commitment to and love for Niger, the interest of members in Niger, Sense of human empathy, good will and strong effort, scope of its area of interest, way it strengthens ties between Niger and the US, enthusiasm and love for the country and its people, passion for Niger, people-centered approach, amazing dedication of the folks who are running it now

other thoughts:

- Propose that FON take a leadership role in establishing a Niger Affinity Group similar to the Mali Affinity group.
- Peace and Health and Justice for Nigeriens Now!
- Thanks: for news links, for the survey, for asking our opinions
- Use capable, awesome people. We need leadership.
- Until there is improved security, Niger is a tough sell.
- Update the website!
- Continue planting neem trees.
- FON should take a leadership role in establishing a Niger Affinity Group similar to the Mali Affinity group. <http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/our-work/affinity-groups/mali-affinity-group/> I would be happy to work on this idea.