



2024 GRANTS REPORT

Introduction

The Friends of Niger grant program is designed to respond to needs and aspirations identified by communities in Niger. We strive to build local capacity and improve self-sufficiency at the local level by supporting small but meaningful projects.

Project Champions are an essential component of our capacity building strategy and we can't thank them enough for their role in successful project implementation. They act as liaison to each funded grant activity and support project efforts through regular communication and coaching. This year, one grant cycle was tested and it proved to accomplish the task well and make good use of our volunteer grants team. Reporting and accountability continue to show improvement and add value to our program.

GRANT-MAKING	2024	2021 to present
Applications Received	41	183
Funds Requested	\$202,000	\$789,370
Volunteer Reviewers	15	100
Projects Funded	9	47
Funds Granted	\$45,274	\$203,364

Projects Completed in 2024

Women

We believe helping women benefits whole families and communities. This year, four grants targeted girls and women as participants and beneficiaries.

Food preservation training and equipment was the focus of a project benefitting a women's cooperative in Agadez. The group of 50 women will share the use of a solar dryer, a freezer, a propane stove and other supplies enabling them to add value to produce through food processing techniques and to preserve seasonally abundant fruit and vegetables to make them available when fresh products are hard to come by. Training was provided in food safety, product development, processing techniques, packaging, marketing and financial management.

In Maradi, a training program targeted 25 girls whose horizons were limited by being taken out of school to act as guides for blind and disabled persons who beg for a living. The girls received several months of intensive training in sewing and other handcrafts they can sell to support themselves and their family. This training was accompanied by career advice to increase their financial autonomy and improve their living conditions.



In Niamey, training in income generating activities was provided to 100 women whose livelihood depended on the difficult work and precarious lifestyle of selling and delivering sand. These women developed new skills in producing and selling soap, incense and perfume, thus providing safer income-generating alternatives and improving their quality of life.

Functional literacy training, garden equipment and supplies were provided to 60 women in the Agadez area.

Project / Organization	Funding	Champion
Adding Value to Ag Products Agadez/ Tamakrast Niger	\$5,050	Alhassan Souna
Support Girl Guides for Blind & Disabled/ MICA Women's Center Maradi	\$4,670	Amy Wilson
Restoring the Dignity of Sand Carriers/ TAGAZ ESPOIR	\$5,118	Kimberly Dixon
Training and Empowerment of Women Tchirozérine/ TIDENE	\$4,917	Paige Buckley

Health

A project directly funded by member Joel Neuberg trained 20 women to use local ingredients to produce "VitaLocal", an infant formula intended as a supplement for infant feeding. Training focused on marketing, organizational management, the production process and quality monitoring. Equipment was purchased for milling and roasting locally available crops.



Products were developed after thorough research of best practices resulting in effective use of locally available, nutritious ingredients.

General operating funds were provided to a nonprofit supporting handicapped individuals and their families. The Jane Huser Maxwell Fund annually pools donations and designates those funds to support a chosen project or organization in Niger.

New latrines and multiple handwashing stations were built to serve 2211 students. The improved facilities will reduce health problems and encourage girls to stay in school.

Project / Organization	Funding	Champion
Production of Improved Infant Flour For Children, Breastfeeding Women /BEGUE	\$5,000 *	Joel Neuberg
General Support/Organisation Pour Developpement Inclusif ; Jane Huser Maxwell Fund	\$2,400 *	Pam White
Latrines Lycee Tchadoua/MICA	\$4,678	Ismaghil Moussa

* fiscal sponsorship

Water



Improving access to clean water directly benefits community health and can relieve the burden on women. Clean drinking water is now available for households, schools and a health center in four communities.

Two well improvement projects were completed north of Agadez. In one community of more than 100 families, a dilapidated well was repaired, a cover installed and a solar pumping system established.

In another village the water supply was protected by covering the well, and installing a pumping system and a holding tank. Plumbing was installed to distribute the water to key areas, including the school, health clinic and community sites.

A borehole was drilled in the Balleyara region and additional funding was leveraged from another organization to install a pump and solar panels.

Five villages outside Maradi benefitted from a water tower with solar-powered equipment. Accompanying workshops for 113 women focused on hygiene, water management, care and maintenance of the water system. Around 1,500 people now have improved access to clean water in the region.



Project / Organization	Funding	Champion
Well Rehabilitation / Assemblée Formateurs et Animateurs des Assoc.	\$4,500	Ismaghil Ag Moussa
Mini-Potable Water System/ Assemblée Formateurs et Animateurs des Assoc.	\$5,315	Scott Youngstedt
Well Construction Fatabadje/ AFESE / NANAAY	\$5,725	Amy Wilson
Empowering Women Through Clean Water/ Récupération des Mendiants	\$4,820	Douglas Steinberg

Education & Youth

Keeping young people in school and providing skills training for future careers are essential to the success of the next generation of Nigeriens. Basic furniture was provided for a school in Tessaoua to improve the learning environment. Two Agadez schools can now grow vegetables to support the nutritional needs of students and teach gardening skills and applied science. An intensive training in leatherworking and tailoring was provided to 60 previously unemployed, uneducated youth in Niamey.



Project / Organization	Funding	Champion
School Benches Tessaoua/ CDGES	\$3,085	Amy Wilson
Tailor and Leatherwork Training/ DIMA	\$5,000	Brandon Bragato
Two School Gardens Agadez/ Les Puits du Desert et TIDENE	\$5,311	John Baird

Agriculture

Agriculture sector grants helped improve food security and provide important sources of income for communities.

A project sponsored by Joel Neuberg made available certified quality seeds for 200 of the most vulnerable farmers in Guecheme commune in the Dosso region and provided solar electricity for the school.

Three projects improved animal husbandry skills among women and youth and provided training in managing finances. In Abalak, grant funds purchased cows to increase availability of milk for consumption and production of cheese for sale. In Balleyara, sheep for breeding and associated materials were acquired. In Guidimouni, a poultry breeding program for 32 women and youth purchased laying hens and initial food and veterinary supplies.



A multi-year project to reintroduce an indigenous wasp as a biological control of millet borer which causes significant crop damage was completed in the Dosso Region. Youth trained as extension agents propagated and distributed the wasps to farmers in 125 villages throughout the area. Radio broadcasts about the project resulted in requests from at least five additional communes to replicate the program.

Project / Organization	Funding	Champion
Guéchémé Solar and Seeds/ DFAO BEGUE	\$5,225*	Joel Neuberg
Sheep Husbandry Balleyara/ ODI Niger	\$5,486	Pam White
Milk Cows Abalak/ Société Coop. Simplifiée des Femmes Couturières "FAKRU"	\$4,775	John Baird
Poultry Production NAMU Le Notre/Moune Kouloudou	\$5,213	Alhassan Ali Souna
Biocontrol of Millet Miner/ Potentiel Terre	\$4,760	Cheryl Turner
Training and Follow Up for Biocontrol of Millet Miner/ Potentiel Terre	\$2,600	Cheryl Turner

* fiscal sponsorship

Ongoing projects

Fossil Lab Internship/ University of Chicago	\$4,960
Youth Recycling Program/ Potentiel Terre	\$5,813
Agricultural Faculty Development / Récupération des Mendiants (RECUP)	\$5,200
Goat kits for vulnerable women/ Société Coopérative Simplifiée (SCOOP-S) Kokari	\$4,232
Literacy for vocational Education Students/ DIMA	\$5,000
Agricultural processing and marketing Iferouāne/ Tamakrast Niger	\$4,863
Cement Well for Drinking water	\$3,830
Sabon Gida School Construction/ Tagaz Espoir	\$5,000
Malaria Prevention Niamey/ Failatoul Hairan (La Bienfaisance)	\$980
Niamey Youth Soccer/ FISCAL SPONSORSHIP / Soccer Boosters/Moringa Rotary Club	\$1650

This work is made possible through donations. Go to www.friendsofniger.org or write a check payable to Friends of Niger and mail to: 4865 Hwy 234 Box 180, White City, OR 97503.

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