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Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE
WOMAN FARMER
2026

JOINT PROGRAMME: Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment



NIGER 2026 FACTSHEET

Context

In Niger, rural women continue to face structural and cyclical barriers that constrain their economic empowerment, food security and resilience. These challenges include poverty, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to natural resources for vulnerable groups, recurrent climatic shocks, insecurity, and political instability.

These constraints shape women's livelihoods and limit their opportunities to strengthen production, generate income and participate fully in community decision-making.

The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) in Niger operates in a context where women's experiences are shaped by intersecting factors, including gender, age, disability, livelihood type, family responsibilities, local leadership roles and access to productive resources.

In Dosso and Maradi regions, rural women engaged in cereal, legume and vegetable production face barriers to land, finance, markets, information and services, while climate shocks such as floods, drought and irregular rainfall continue to undermine agricultural performance and household resilience.

The JP RWEE is aligned with Niger's strategic priorities, including the President's vision, the Resilience Programme for the Safeguarding of the Homeland, the Economic and Social Development Plan, the National Gender Policy,

and the revised National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls (SNAEF 2025–2029).

Within this policy environment, the JP RWEE responds to the need for integrated support that tackles food security, livelihoods, social norms, leadership and policy reform together.

Programme overview

Building on lessons and achievements from the implementation of Phase I (2014–2021) in Niger, JP RWEE Phase II (2022–2027) expanded its geographic focus to new municipalities in the Dosso and Maradi regions—Fabidji, Kankandi, Gazaoua, and Tagriss—while adopting a more inclusive and gender-transformative approach.

The programme is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Food Programme (WFP) and local partners, and supported by Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

The JP RWEE contributes to national and global commitments by supporting rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience in line with Niger's development strategies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2027.

The programme targets agropastoralist households, women entrepreneurs, community leaders and women farmers in millet, maize, cowpea and vegetable value chains. It also includes unemployed youth at risk of migration, while engaging men as allies through the HeForShe approach¹ to help shift restrictive gender norms at household and community levels.

JP RWEE works across four outcome areas:

-  Improved food security and nutrition;
-  Increased income, decent work, and economic autonomy;
-  Enhanced participation and leadership in rural institutions;
-  A more gender-responsive policy environment.

Key approaches include strengthening women's access to land and productive resources, promoting climate-smart and agroecological practices, expanding access to market information and savings groups, building women's leadership through Dimitra Clubs and women mediators, and supporting national and local institutions to integrate gender into policies, planning and budgeting.

Key results

In 2025, the programme directly supported 8,770 people, including 7,309 rural women and 1,461 men, working jointly with local authorities, community leaders, producer organizations, Dimitra Clubs and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

The programme has achieved significant results across the four outcome areas:

 Food Security & Nutrition Improved agricultural capacity and household resilience	
100% Participating households gained access to land and productive resource	201% Women's dietary diversity increased Benefiting 7,584 women
6,304 Households expanded agricultural production	100% All targeted communities improved their capacity to manage climate shocks
Goat mortality fell from over 30% to under 5% Improving household resilience	

 Income & Decent Work Increased economic autonomy and financial inclusion	
+13% Producers' market participation increased	2,936 CFA Women's average agricultural income increased
4,000 Women accessing savings and credit 150 VSLAs expanded financial inclusion of rural women	750 Women accessed financial services to invest in productive livelihoods
200 tonnes Food supplied to school feeding	81% Awareness of financial services Participants demonstrated strong knowledge of gender-responsive financial products and services

 Participation & Leadership Enhanced involvement in community decision-making	
+201% Women in decision-making structures	59% Participation in community groups Strengthening collective action and representation
357 Dimitra Clubs active in 40 villages promoting more equitable gender norms	100 Women mediators trained Women strengthened their role in local governance and conflict resolution processes
12 Land conflicts resolved Women mediators successfully facilitated peaceful settlement of disputes in Fabidji	22 Land commissions strengthened local land dispute resolution
A community delivery room established A Dimitra Club mobilised community resources to build a delivery room in the local maternity hospital	

 Policy Environment More gender-responsive legal frameworks and awareness	
2 National gender strategies developed The programme supported landmark frameworks for women's economic empowerment and gender equality	30 Policymakers strengthened gender-responsive planning and budgeting
+167% Knowledge of legal rights increased Women demonstrated stronger understanding of legal and policy mechanisms	50% Women aware of their rights and protection
National Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy 2025–2029 adopted A new SNAEF strategy provides a national framework for advancing gender equality	

¹ A global solidarity movement for gender equality launched by UN Women in September 2014. Its main feature is that it directly involves men and boys as agents of change to combat the inequalities and discrimination faced by women and girls.



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Looking forward

Looking ahead to 2026–2027, the programme will focus on consolidating achievements and closing gaps identified through the Mid-term Review (MTR).

Priorities include intensifying support to agropastoral production, finalizing the remaining cohort of agropastoral field schools, continuing nutrition activities in Maradi, strengthening market access and access to credit, and completing delayed infrastructure and storage activities that are necessary to translate production gains into more stable income.

The MTR confirmed that the programme is highly relevant and well aligned with national priorities, while

recommending stronger last-mile operationalization of gender-responsive land practices, more shock-resilient economic infrastructure, deeper engagement of communes and technical services.

The programme will ensure sustainability and legacy by strengthening engagement with Dimitra Clubs, VSLAs, women mediators, land commissions and local governance actors.

The exit and sustainability strategy will be operationalized, so that long-term gains are embedded within local and national systems beyond the programme's end in 2027.

Fati Amadou, Dosso region

At 50 years old, Fati Amadou from Fabidji in the Dosso region is already seeing how complementary livelihood support can strengthen both household food security and women's economic agency.

Before joining the programme, her main activity was agriculture, including market gardening and some rainfed farming, but low yields limited what she could produce for her family.

Through the JP RWEE, she received a small livestock kit made up of three goats and five hens. The animals quickly became more than an asset: the manure they produced allowed her to fertilize her garden plots organically. Combined with seeds provided by the programme and training on improved production practices, this helped increase her harvests significantly. Fati harvested 150 kg of tomatoes in 2025, compared with barely 10 kg in previous years.

The increase in production had immediate effects on her household. Part of the harvest was consumed at home, helping diversify the family diet. She shared part of it with neighbours and sold the rest, generating income that she is now reinvesting in other income-generating activities.

Her experience illustrates one of the programme's strongest lessons in Niger: when women gain access to complementary assets, practical skills and community-based support, they are better able to improve production, strengthen food security and expand their own economic choices.

Fati's story reflects the programme's broader integrated approach, linking livestock, agriculture, nutrition and women's empowerment in ways that build resilience over time.



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