

APDC ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JUNE 2024



**ASSOCIATION D'APPUI A LA PROMOTION DU DEVELOPPEMENT
DURABLE DES COMMUNAUTES DEFAVORISEES
A.P.D.C**

**BURKINA FASO
Unity - Progress - Justice**

BP : 2320 / Bogandé
Téléphone : 25 - 77 - 90 - 34 / 76 - 76 - 62 - 53
E-mail : apdc.gnagna@yahoo.com

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE INFORMATION WE RECEIVED FROM APDC IN JULY 2024 AND DESCRIBES THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE JANUARY – JUNE 2024 PERIOD. SUCCESSES AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED ARE CLEARLY DESCRIBED.

Period: January to June 2024

Location: Fada N'Gourma

Target audience:

- Internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Beneficiaries of fattening (FIT Project)
- EPC Groups

Objectives:

- Strengthening the economic resilience of beneficiaries (households) by implementing income-generating activities (IGAs): training, equipment and monitoring,
- Food support for the very poor and prevention of malnutrition through cooking demonstrations,
- Prevention of diarrhoeal diseases through hygiene awareness campaigns,
- Follow-up and advisory support to strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of beneficiaries/ economic assessment of IGAs
- Monitoring of fattening workshops and EPC groups.
- Building staff capacity in child nutrition

Summary of Accomplished Activities :

Strengthening the economic resilience of beneficiaries (households) by implementing income-generating activities (IGAs): Training and Equipment

These training courses took place from 06 February to 1er March 2024 (see report on IDP training courses). These sessions are summarised in the table below:

Domain	Number to benefit ciaries	Knowledge acquired	Equipment and inputs	First and last name the trainer	Date
Soap making	10	Quality soap-making techniques and marketing	Dishes, buckets, cups, cosmetic soda, oil...	TOGUYENI Nafissatou	06-10 February 2024
Manufacturing	10	Techniques for	Pots, buckets,	LOMPO	13-14

and marketing of Soumbala		making high-quality soumbala and marketing it	dishes, néré...	Dahanli	February 2024
Preparation and sale of local dishes	10	Techniques for preparing and selling local dishes	Table, pots, dishes, plates, cups...	SANA Salamata	19-23 February 2024
Groundnut processing and sales	05	Techniques for processing groundnuts into different products and marketing them	Pots, bristles, ladle, board...	TRAORE Habibata	26 February-1 ^{er} March 2024

NB: - All these training sessions were conducted in the Gourmanchema language, which made it much easier for the beneficiaries to learn.

- The list of equipment and inputs is not exhaustive in this table. Details are given in the financial statements.
- To avoid repetition, you can even include the details of each training course and the beneficiaries' assessment in the "Report on training courses ..." already sent out.

Food support for the very poor and prevention of malnutrition through cooking demonstrations

Food support

With the aim of helping the most destitute beneficiaries to feed themselves during the initial stages of their move to Fada, APDC used part of WNC's support to distribute food to these people, who included widows, orphans, old people who had been abandoned or disabled. In total, 32 people received 70 kg of cereals (millet) each.

Culinary demonstration sessions

Most of the beneficiaries displaced to reception sites are no longer able to practise good nutrition for themselves, their children or even their whole family, as the difficulties they face are enormous. APDC, concerned about the dangers of child malnutrition for these vulnerable households, has organised several awareness-raising sessions on nutrition based on culinary demonstrations. This activity involved explaining to participants the different types of food needed for children's development, depending on their age, and how to combine local foods for healthy, balanced nutrition. After each awareness-raising session,

the team carried out a cooking demonstration with the participants. The aim of the demonstration was to help the participants master the preparation of rich local meals (enriched porridge, enriched solid meals).

A large quantity of rich meals (porridge and solid meals) was prepared at each site during the cooking demonstration sessions and these meals were shared by all the participants at the end of the session (women and children). Each cooking demonstration was attended by between 150 and 180 people.

Prevention of diarrhoeal diseases through hygiene awareness campaigns

The reception sites for displaced persons are unhealthy places, hygiene measures are less practised and many diseases such as diarrhoea affect these populations, particularly children. To prevent diarrhoeal diseases in children, APDC has organised hygiene awareness sessions for people living in these reception sites. During these sessions, discussions focused on food hygiene and the environment. Participants learned how to avoid diarrhoea by observing daily hygiene rules.

Carrying out monitoring and advisory support to strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of beneficiaries/ economic assessment of IGAs and assessment of functional EPC groups

Follow-up and advisory support

After training and equipping beneficiaries to set up income-generating activities (IGAs), the APDC team undertook monitoring to understand how the IGAs were developing and to encourage beneficiaries to continue their activities. During these follow-ups, the team spoke with each beneficiary to understand the progress of their activity (financial situation) and the difficulties encountered in their IGAs. The team gave practical advice to beneficiaries based on the difficulties they were encountering.

Provisional financial review of IGAs (March-20 June)

Groups	Recipes
Soap (10 recipients)	FCFA 417,000
Soumbala (10 beneficiaries)	434,000 FCFA
Local dishes (10 beneficiaries)	314,000 FCFA
Groundnuts (05 beneficiaries)	368,000 FCFA

Total revenue	1 FCFA 533,000
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The major difficulties encountered by some IGA beneficiaries

-High cost of raw materials,

- Soap imports from neighbouring countries such as Côte d'Ivoire make it difficult to sell the soap

ADDED NOTE FROM REBEKA, coordinator of APDC - Fada : Soap is already available and imported from Côte d'Ivoire? There are traders here in Fada who import soap from the Ivory Coast (at a slightly lower price than in Burkina Faso), and these traders resell this soap to the local population. This soap is a little bigger than the one sold by the beneficiaries, and this slows down the sales of some beneficiaries a little because the raw materials that the beneficiaries use to make the soap are a bit expensive, so this doesn't allow them to make their soaps as big as the imported soaps.

- Customer poverty (internally displaced persons)

- Lack of knowledge of the city by these mostly elderly women (where consumer markets are / where wholesalers are)

NOTE FROM REBEKA : The soumbala beneficiaries were chosen according to the needs expressed by the target women, so the majority of them are slightly older women, because here, this activity is much more popular with slightly older women (most of them over 45). As they are a little older they did not know the town of Fada well before the insecurity, and also the fact that they are not used to travelling around the town of Fada on foot to discover many more sales outlets apart from their host sites (the host sites are a little distant from the town of Fada), some of them find it difficult to sell their soumbala regularly.

- Difficult access to firewood

- Health problems for children (for some breast-feeding women),

- Difficulty maintaining customers (some women have no mastery of customer management)

- Not a good enough grasp of consumer markets -

NOTE FROM REBEKA : This issue with knowing markets and their location does not just concern the soap beneficiaries, but all those who do not have a good grasp of the town of Fada, because for several beneficiaries, their reception sites are a little far from the town, so they are unable to build relationships with the wholesale customers (for example, the wholesale customers who can pay them a lot and regularly so that they can produce and sell regularly). They do sell, but for the most part, their customers are retailers on the host sites.

Assessment of functional EPC groups AND fattening workshops

EPC GROUPS

In addition to monitoring the IGAs, the APDC team also monitored the beneficiaries of the functional EPC groups.

Because of the security situation, which forced the mass displacement of people from our area of operation to Fada, only the two EPC groups in Binadéni that have not been displaced continue to operate.

Here are the financial results for these groups:

Group names	Number of members	Previous loans recovered	Total amount contributed	New loans granted	Total amount in the till
Palamanga	23	FCFA 140,000	966 000	47 000	1 059 000
Bouayaba	20	31 000	480 000	24 000	487 000
Totals	43	171 000	1 446 000	71 000	1 546 000

Assessment of fattening workshops

As already explained in previous months, the security situation at the end of December 2023 had forced almost all the people in our intervention zone to move to Fada for greater security and to enable our country's soldiers to be more successful in their operations against the terrorists who have been sowing terror among the people for years. This situation has forced the beneficiaries to sell their cattle, as they have nowhere to continue their fattening activities. Several beneficiaries were keen to continue fattening their animals, but the harsh living conditions forced them to abandon the activity (most of the beneficiaries except those in Binadéni, the only village that was not displaced). The main reasons for their abandonment were :

- Lack of land to set up workshops,
- Poverty,
- Lack of feed for livestock (fodder...)
- Thefts of animals by bandits (animal thieves) because the lack of fencing in the reception sites exposed the animals and the thieves took advantage of this situation to pillage...

Here are the results of the fattening workshops, you'll see the details in the table I'll send you.

Number of animals sold	Total sales	Profit	Number of animals remaining or re-purchased
295	20,590,500 FCFA	FCFA 5,345,250	36 including 34 sheep and two young oxen

Comments: The beneficiaries explained the use of the money from their sales as follows:

- The purchase of food (for those who have fled and left their food in the villages),
- The purchase of some materials for shelters and bunks (plastic bags, mats, etc.)
- Managing their children's healthcare,
- Setting up small income-generating activities (IGAs) such as selling cakes, making dolo...
- Buying clothes,
- Others have paid piglets to fatten them because they think this activity is easier and a little less expensive...
- Some have started a small business (selling soap, shoes, loincloths, etc.).
- One beneficiary (Dabini Albertine) paid for two young oxen to raise them because she thought it was easier than sheep. According to our last survey, she still has her two young oxen, but she often takes them out to graze on the grass, so it's not like sheep-farming, where the animals are always on the premises and fed.

Meeting to take stock and share experiences of the IGAs

On 20 June 2024, a meeting was held in Fada for the 35 beneficiaries of the IGAs.

The objectives of this meeting were to present the results of their activities (financial and moral) and to allow beneficiaries to share their experiences in order to encourage several beneficiaries to move forward in their activities.

A number of points were raised at the meeting, including the following:

- The financial balance sheet, which they felt was unsatisfactory - according to the women, this amount of profit is not much ; they would like to have more profit.
- The impact of the benefits for them and all their families - Many of the beneficiaries have very positively assessed their IGAs (for all those who have been more successful) ; the testimonies have been very positive, the woman who was most successful processed groundnuts. She has testified that she earns an average of 2,500 to 3,000 francs per production and thanks to her profits, she has been able to expand her IGA by setting up a workshop to sell other products (condiments, groundnut products and many others), and thanks to the profits they

earn, they are able to provide for several of their families' daily needs, such as food and some of their children's health care.

The difficulties encountered during this first phase AND Solutions to help with moving forward :

Based on discussions and the financial balance sheet, it would appear that the beneficiaries of groundnut processing were able to sell their products more successfully (because demand for groundnut oil and biscuits is higher than in other areas).

Soap manufacturers in particular were finding it difficult to sell their products quickly due to the large volume of other soaps from neighbouring countries such as Côte d'Ivoire...

The beneficiaries shared their experiences/practical advice during our meeting with them. Emphasis was placed on the search for quality in their production, how to manage customers and the effort to discover other consumer markets in order to make their IGAs more profitable.

Training APDC staff on malnutrition

In order to strengthen the team's capacities in the field of child nutrition, a training session was held from 13 to 15 June 2024 at the APDC Fada base. During these three days, Mr Morbiga (Trainer) spoke to the team about :

- The different stages of children's growth,
- Child malnutrition and its consequences,
- ANJE (Alimentation du Nourrisson et Jeune Enfant) services for mothers of children aged 0-6 months and those of children aged 6-23 months.
- Food diversification for children, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers.

The training was extremely useful, as the techniques for preventing and curing child malnutrition are no longer a secret to the team. We intend to put this new knowledge to good use to prevent child malnutrition.

SUCCESS STORIES

MEETINGS WITH SOME OF THE WOMEN WHO BENEFITED from training in Income Generating Activities

We went out into the field to talk to some of the women who have benefited from training in an agricultural activity to generate their own income. Here are some comments and photos.

SUCCESS STORIES

**Local dishes :
Namouno
Yonli**



My business is doing well, and it's helped me a lot to manage certain family expenses, such as the purchase of condiments, water and some of my children's medical care. I'm going to

	start drying the leaves to store them for the next dry season, which will enable me to make more profit as leaves are currently very cheap. I would like to thank APDC for training and equipping me.
Local dishes : Sita Ouoba 	I'm very happy to have benefited from APDC's help. I make two dishes (faro-faro made from beans and bean leaves or onion leaves, and soya kebabs). I often use my profit to make dolo and I also sell it well. Many thanks to APDC for its support.
Peanut : Alima Onadja	I transform peanuts into different products such as peanut paste, biscuits and peanut oil. Everything buys well and I can't even satisfy my customers, my products aren't enough for all the customers because I sell for several wholesalers, I give discounts and small gifts to customers and a lot of people are interested in my products. The work is a bit tiring and I can't make enough, so I'm planning to look for an employee to help me and I'm going to pay him for his work; and as there are a lot of unemployed women and young girls, I think the person who helps me in my work will also be happy. Thanks to the profits I've made, I've been able to open a small workshop selling other products such as cosmetics (ointments, soaps, threads, etc.) and various products for children (toys, sweets, biscuits, etc.). I don't know how to describe to you the very positive impact that APDC's help has had on my life and that of my family. I would like to say a huge thank you to APDC for its support, it has saved us a lot from poverty.
Peanut :  Touanpoa Thiombiano	I'm very happy because my business is doing well and I'm making a profit. I only sell peanut biscuits and peanut oil, I don't make any money but I'm doing well. For each product I make, I earn about 3,000 to 4,000 francs. These profits enable me to meet the family's daily expenses, such as buying water and condiments. Thanks to the profits from my business, I also often make dolo, which I sell, because people like to drink dolo in our area, so I try to alternate the two activities, which helps me a lot. My children are also very supportive of my work. We are very grateful to APDC for its help.
Soap : Agnès Yonli 	Kabakourou soap (soap in a ball) used to sell well in the beginning, but the importation of Ivory Coast soap by local traders has spoilt the market. This soap is bigger than ours, so many people are no longer interested in our soap. Raw materials are expensive here, which prevents us from increasing the volume of our soaps, and if we make them as big as the Ivory Coast soap, we can't make a profit, so it's a bit

	complicated for us. Personally, I'm going to continue selling liquid soap, but only for the time being, as liquid soap is bought a little more cheaply here.
Soumbala: Lissoaba Onadja	My soumbala business is doing well. I really enjoy this activity. I earn profits that enable me to support my daughter-in-law. I earn profits that enable me to support my daughter-in-law in buying water, condiments, wood and often food. My only major worry is that I can't find wholesale customers because I don't know the town of Fada very well, so I only sell in the small markets at our host sites. Many thanks to APDC and its employees who have helped us and who encourage us to succeed.

Conclusion:

APDC carried out several activities during this period from January to June 2024 thanks to the support of WNC and their partner. The various training courses offered to the 35 beneficiaries enabled the displaced populations to be better assisted by setting up several IGAs in several areas. These IGAs are still operational and require regular monitoring for greater profitability. APDC plans to organise exchange sessions with the displaced populations to reorganise and strengthen the EPC groups.

Functional fattening workshops need more monitoring, as the security situation does not currently favour this activity.

The APDC team has received training in nutrition, which has strengthened our capacity in this area, and we intend to put this new knowledge to good use by organising awareness-raising sessions on malnutrition/adequate nutrition for children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers in order to prevent child malnutrition.