

ASSOCIATION D'APPUI A LA **P**PROMOTION DU
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

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Unity - Progress - Justice

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Activity report July - December 2024

- Target:**
- **Beneficiaries of various funding**
 - **Beneficiaries of the FIT programme**
 - **Populations taking part in the various APDC awareness campaigns (host sites)**

The activities scheduled for the period July-December 2024 were as follows:

- ❖ Raising awareness of malnutrition/dietary diversification
- ❖ Raising awareness of hygiene and diarrhoeal diseases

- ❖ Raising awareness of sexual abuse and gender-based violence (GBV)
- ❖ Monitoring income-generating activities (IGAs)
- ❖ Monitoring of fattening workshops
- ❖ Exchange and feedback meeting on IGA results
- ❖ Raising awareness of EPC groups (setting up and renewing EPC groups)
- ❖ IT training for presenters by the accountant (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Objectives:

1. Strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of the beneficiaries of the various income-generating activities (IGAs)
2. Monitor and encourage FIT project beneficiaries to continue their family sheep fattening businesses
3. Promote savings for greater resilience by setting up new savings for change groups (EPC groups) and monitoring and supervising existing groups.
4. Promoting hygiene and good nutrition to ensure good health for all.
5. Promoting the protection of and respect for the rights of women and girls by raising awareness of sexual abuse and gender-based violence (GBV)
6. To assess the impact of the activities on the lives of the beneficiaries and their households, as well as on the communities involved in the various awareness-raising activities (assessment, observations and outlook).
7. Strengthen the computer skills of the facilitators.

ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Raising awareness of diversification

During these discussions with the beneficiaries, we took care to explain the meaning of malnutrition, its causes and consequences, as well as the solutions available to remedy this pathology.

a) Malnutrition: Causes and consequences

Malnutrition is a pathological state resulting from the deficiency, excess or imbalance of one or more nutrients.

(Excess or deficiency or nutrient imbalance).

There are many causes of malnutrition.

These include: malaria; diarrhoea; measles; meningitis; pneumonia; poor nutrition (excess or deficiency); unhealthy environment; failure to follow the child's immunisation schedule...

The consequences of malnutrition are many and varied, depending on the case:

In foetuses, babies and young children, malnutrition can

- Weakening foetal brain development ;
- Damage to the immune system
- Reduced ability to fight infection
- Increase the risk of certain infections
- Hindering growth
- Increasing the risk of infant mortality
- Increased fatigue and apathy
- Impede cognitive and mental development...

Pregnant and breast-feeding women

Malnutrition increases the risk:

- Complications during pregnancy;
- Spontaneous abortions;
- Stillbirths ;
- Deaths from spontaneous abortion ;
- The stress of childbirth ;
- Having a low-birth-weight baby.
- Complications of anaemia...

On a social level, we explained to them that malnutrition can lead to :

- Economic losses ;
- Social marginalisation
- Increased demand for social services...

b) Malnutrition: solutions (exclusive breastfeeding, dietary diversification and medical treatment)

Given the negative consequences of malnutrition on the population, we gave them some advice on how to prevent and manage cases of malnutrition:

Exclusive breastfeeding for up to 6 months after birth, and the gradual addition of rich, balanced liquid and solid foods for children over 6 months. Nutrient supplements such as vitamins are also necessary for the good health of young children.

Dietary diversification through the introduction other solid or liquid foods other than breast milk, such as :

- basic energy foods: local staple foods (millet, rice, maize).
- additional energy-rich foods: vegetable oil, fat, sugar.
- protein-rich foods: milk, eggs, fish, meat, pulses
- Foods rich in micronutrients (vitamins and minerals): fruit and vegetables.

For infants and young children, enriched porridges are also very important

The following aspects need to be taken into account when dealing with cases of malnutrition: medical care at the health centre (treatment is essential for children who

are already suffering from malnutrition); nutritional care, at the end of their games and emotional stimulation.
You must also respect the vaccination calendar and weigh your children.
Sleep under an impregnated mosquito net to avoid malaria.

2. Raising awareness of hygiene and diarrhoeal diseases

APDC has continued to step up the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases by raising awareness of hygiene issues at sites for displaced people in Fada. During these sessions, discussions focused on food hygiene and the environment. These exchanges enabled the participants to reinforce their knowledge on the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases through :

- Observing the rules of daily hygiene (food hygiene, hand hygiene, personal hygiene, clothing hygiene, classroom hygiene and environmental hygiene).
- Deworming against intestinal parasites from the age of 12 months, in accordance with current standards and protocols.

The participants greatly appreciated this practical advice, which can help them to reduce the risk of illnesses linked to poor hygiene. They expressed their commitment to respecting the rules of daily hygiene for the well-being of all their families.

3. Follow-up and advisory support to strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of beneficiaries/ economic assessment of IGAs

a. Follow-up and support

After the first phase of monitoring IGAs, the APDC team continued to build the capacity of beneficiaries through monitoring and control in order to understand the evolution of IGAs and encourage beneficiaries to further strengthen their activities. During these follow-ups, the team spoke with each beneficiary to understand how their activity was progressing after the first phase of support (financial situation) and the difficulties encountered in their IGAs. During these home visits, the team gave beneficiaries practical advice based on the difficulties encountered.

b. Financial review of IGAs (July-December 2024)

Groups	Profits
Soap (10 recipients)	242 500
Soumbala (10 beneficiaries)	491 500
Local dishes (10 beneficiaries)	407 000

Groundnuts (05 beneficiaries)	426 750
Total revenue	1 567 750

c. The major difficulties encountered by some IGA beneficiaries.

Several beneficiaries mentioned the same difficulties as those mentioned in June 2024 (especially those of the Soap IGA)

- High cost of raw materials (soap products),
- Not very difficult to sell due to soap imports from neighbouring countries such as Côte d'Ivoire...
- Difficult access to drinking water (for some beneficiaries of the soumbala IGA)
- Lack of mortar (large mortar for pounding néré grains: soumbala production)
- Difficult access to firewood (beneficiaries of local dishes and soumbala)
- Health problems of members
- Difficulty maintaining customers and attracting wholesale customers,
- Difficulty in finding fixed locations (their own space in markets or public places) to set up and run their businesses (beneficiaries of local food and soumbala).

d. Some practical advice

We provided some practical advice, such as :

- Courage in their activities
- Self-esteem
- Good customer management
- Looking for other consumer markets in the town of Fada and secure localities if possible.
- Waking up very early in the morning to get enough water from the standpipes to make their soumbala.
- Find a strategy to save their profits for the purchase of other necessary materials (such as mortar or other materials), as APDC and WNC do not have sufficient financial means to increase the missing equipment, it is therefore important that each beneficiary makes a special effort to purchase other materials useful to their IGA through their profits.

4. Setting up new EPC groups and reviewing old functional EPC groups

New groups are still being set up, as the best time for farmers to pay their contributions is January-June (as the months of October-December have a lot of expenses: children's school fees, financial needs for end-of-year celebrations, etc.). Awareness campaigns to set up new EPC groups will continue from January to June 2025 at the various host sites.

However, the APDC team has undertaken follow-ups with the beneficiaries of the functional EPC groups (the two EPC groups in Binadéni).

Financial results of these groups :

Group names	Number of members	Previous loans recovered	Total amount contributed	New loans granted	Total amount in the till
Palamanga	23	47000	1020000	109000	958000
Bouayaba	20	24000	537000	70000	491000
Totals	43	71000	1557000	179000	1449000

5. Assessment of fattening workshops

As the security situation had forced most of the beneficiaries to sell their livestock (as they had nowhere to continue their fattening activities), some of them had initiated other IGAs that would have enabled them to meet a minimum of their daily family needs. With the encouragement of the APDC team, some of them tried to resume their fattening activities despite the difficulties. Here are the results of the fattening workshops.

Number of animals sold	Total sales	Profit	Number of animals remaining or re-purchased
24	2105000	906000	26

NB: Most of the beneficiaries in Binadeni sold all their animals in December because of the diseases that were ravaging many animals in their area. They say they are waiting for the disease to pass before buying more animals and continuing their activities (probably by the end of February 2025 they will have bought more sheep).

6. Raising awareness of sexual abuse and gender-based violence (GBV)

To promote the protection of and respect for women and girls in this difficult context, the APDC team organised exchange sessions on sexual abuse and gender-based violence for the benefit of the communities hosting displaced people in Fada.

During these discussions, the participants learned about the different forms of abuse and GBV, what to do to prevent it and how to deal with it. They learned that :

There are many types of sexual abuse/exploitation, including sexual harassment, abuse of power to obtain sexual favours, rape, sexual assault, sexual relations with a minor, paid sexual relations and trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes

Gender-based violence (GBV) is equally varied.

Among others, we have :

Rape, sexual or physical violence, child prostitution, emotional or psychological violence, denial of resources, opportunities or services...

We explained the consequences of sexual abuse and GBV, which can include genital lesions, in particular fistula and anal ulceration;

Deaths, suicide, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS...

In view of the many consequences on the lives of the victims, we encouraged them to take preventive measures such as :

- Avoid all risk factors/behaviours that could lead to sexual abuse or GBV.
- Report any suspected cases of GBV or sexual abuse/exploitation to the appropriate authorities.
- Increase the education/awareness of women and girls (and even the whole community if possible) about the dangers and disadvantages of these bad practices.
- Increase their self-esteem, carry out IGAs to strengthen their financial autonomy and their power in their households and the community.

7. Impact of activities on the lives of beneficiaries and their households: Awareness-raising, monitoring of IGAs and fattening, EPC groups.

The various awareness-raising sessions enabled the participants to understand the meaning of themes such as malnutrition, hygiene, forms of sexual abuse/exploitation, gender-based violence, their causes and consequences, as well as the appropriate solutions to remedy them.

With regard to follow-up and advice for IGAs, beneficiaries reported that :

- Regular follow-up reinforces their activities in general (practical advice),
- The profits from their IGAs are used to meet family needs such as the purchase of condiments, water, health care and school fees for their children.

As far as the follow-up to the fattening workshops is concerned, this has enabled beneficiaries to continue their activities (Binadeni beneficiaries), and some beneficiaries have tried to reconvert to other small-scale IGAs. They appreciate the regular monitoring provided by APDC, despite the security situation, which has not encouraged them to continue or resume their family fattening businesses. Some of them have turned to other IGAs, such as making and selling dolo and small items, in the hope that peace will return and enable them to return to their respective villages to restart their fattening businesses.

Thanks to the profits from their activities, some of them have been able to support their families through :

- Construction of a house for his child pupils in Fada (Thiombiano Lamoudi, FIT beneficiary in Binadeni)
- Buying food,
- Managing the healthcare of their family members,
- Setting up small income-generating activities (IGAs) such as selling cakes, making dolo...
- Purchase of beef and piglets for fattening (Dabini Albertine de Mangoudeni),
- Buying clothes,
- Commerce (sale of soap, shoes, loincloths, etc.)

The members of the two EPC groups expressed their delight at the importance of regular contributions, which enable them to save money, carry out small projects and improve their living conditions. These contributions also enable them to manage some of their families' needs, such as children's school fees and health care.

8. IT training for presenters by the accountant (Word, Exel, Powerpoint)

This training was of vital importance, as it enabled the facilitators to improve their computer skills.

Nb: The meeting to discuss and report on the results of the IGAs has not yet been held. We plan to hold it in June 2025 to provide a more satisfactory assessment (the rainy season has disrupted the activities of some beneficiaries, such as soumbala and local dishes, as there are no kitchens to prepare them during the heavy rains).



Photo of hygiene awareness campaigns