

# **Final Report**

## **Country Gender profile: Niger**

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### Initials and Abbreviations

# 1. Basic Profiles

## 1 -1 Socio-Economic Profile

**Economic indicators** source: 1\*) 4)

GNI/capita (US\$)	Growth rate of real gross domestic product	The contribution of the informal sector to the GDP	Gini index	Inflation rate
349.4\$ (2009)	0.9% (2009)	74.9% 2008	- 3 (2010)	4.3 (2009)
169.300 CFA (2008)	9.5% (2008)	NA	NA	0.1 (2006)

Note: World Development Indicator 2001 replaced GNP with GNI in line with The 1993 SNA

**Demographic indicators** source: 1) 5)\* 12\*\* 4) \*\*\*

Total (millions)	% of female population	% of urban population*	Population growth rate	Total fertility rate*	Life expectancy **	
					Male	Female
14.693 (2009)	50.1% (2009)	19.8% ('2009)	3.3% (2009)	7.1 (2009)	58 (2005-2010)	56 (2005-2010)
	NA	18.4% (08)	3.3% (2008)	7.1 (2008)	58% (2009) Global ***	

**Public expenditure per sector** source: 5) 6) \*\*

	Health sector	Education **	Children and maternal health care	Hydraulic/ environment	Agriculture /Animal breeding
2008	11%	21%	1.2%	6.4%	8.4%
2000	10%	12%	0.13%	5.4%	10.7%

**Industry/GDP** source: 4)

	Agriculture	Industry	Service
2008	43.7%	14.1%	35.7%
2007	40.839%	13.8%	38.3%

**Labour indicators** source : 7)

Unemployment rate For poor populations	Male	Female	Total	Non Poor populations	Male	Female	Total
2008	12%	25%	25%	2008	12%	24%	16%
2005	NA	NA	NA	2005	NA	NA	NA

Proportion of workers (staffs) 2009-oct 2010

Categories	2009		Oct 2010	
	Male %	Female %	Male %	Female %
A	79.29	20.71	79.6	20.4
B	67.36	32.64	66.13	33.87
C	61.88	38.12	62.19	37.81
D	61.4	58.54	39.72	60.28
Total	69	31	68.16	31.84

- The category A is the highest in the hierarchical grading of civil servants. They are recruited with a minimum of bachelor degree and are directors in the ministries and regions;
- The category B is the second one. The civil servants of this grade have been trained for their specific professional activity after receiving the baccalaureate (BAC). They are under the direct orders of directors sometimes as heads of division.
- The category C which comes after is the grade of civil servants that have received their specific training after receiving the junior secondary school certificate (BEPC).
- Finally, the category D is the grade of civil servants that have a small qualification or those that have the level of primary school certificate and have started secondary school but have not been able to finish the junior secondary school.

Indeed, the general status of public service of the Government (May 2009) in its article 44 stipulates that: jobs in the public service are graded and shared following their level of recruitment in 4 categories indicated in the decreasing hierarchical order by the letters A, B, C and D. the article 46 explains that the category A gives the opportunity of the holder to occupy the functions of administrative duties, planning, coordinating, training, controlling, study and council. The category B or category of application gives the opportunity to occupy functions of training, assistance of managers of different departments in the carrying out of their tasks as well as the functions of application of regulations or techniques. The category C or category of specialized execution, gives the opportunity to occupy the functions of execution that require some general or specialised knowledge and particular aptitudes. The category D or category of execution corresponds to current and simple execution tasks.

**Proportion of workers** source: 1) 13)\*

<b>male</b>	Agriculture	Industry	Commerce	<b>female</b>	Agricultur e	Industry	Commerce
October 2010*	79.83	68.33	57.95	October 2010*	20.17	11.67	42.05
1980	7%	69%	25%	1980	6%	29%	66%

The 1980 data represent the proportions per sex of workers shared out in three sectors which are agriculture, industry and commerce. So, these three sectors encompass the totality of workers that is the 100%.

Whereas data for 2010 are proportions of men and women in specifically each sector. For example there is 79.83% of men and 20.17% of women involved in agriculture that is 100% of this sector.

Presently, the presentation of proportions of workers has changed. The civil service uses more than 7 sectors like agriculture, mining industries, electricity, Gas and water, banks, insurances, social services, etc. Thus, we cannot just talk about the three sectors (agriculture, industry and commerce) to present workers. But, the variation within themselves remain significant where our choice to take the internal proportions with each one of these three sectors.

**Decision making** source: Department of female status improvement and childcare

	municipal counsellor	Female Ministers	Female senators
	17.99%	25%(2009)	12,.39% (2009)

### Laws on women

Vote rights (1948)	Vote rights
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### Ratification and adoption of laws on women

Convention for total elimination of violence against women (CEDEF)	Ratified in 1999
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### Female promotion policies

(Female promotion policy,1996, revised in 2009)	1) Plan and implement laws on women promotion. 2) Female related data collection and management 3) Promote female democratisation and implication to political instances.
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### Governmental organisation for female promotion

National machinery	Department of Female Promotion and the issue of gender, Ministry of Population, Female Promotion, and Child Protection
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## 1-2 Health Profile

### Health structures source: 5)\*

N° of doctors / 1000 inhabitants	N° of hospitalisation beds per inhabitant	Public expenses (% du PIB)
0,28 (2009)*	0.033 (2009)	9.4 (2009)
NA (2008)	NA ('2008)	11% (2008)

### Infant health source : 5) 9)\*

Mortality rate		
Under-12mths (per1, 000)	Under-5 (per1, 000)	
2006	81	198
2006	Rich * (-5yr) 157	Poor populations * (-5avr) 206

% of vaccinated children (12 to 23 months)				
PEV targeted children *	TB	VPO3	measles	
2008	29%	54,7%	88,16%	65,6%

### Family Planning source: 4)\* 8)

Rate of contraceptive prevalence	Rate of assisted childbirth	Maternal mortality rate (per100, 000)	First marriage age (age)	Fertility rate
12,92% (2008)	34,8% (2009) *	273 (2008)	15 (2008)	7,1 (2009)*

### HIV/AIDS source: 10)

Total % age 15-49	Female age15-49)
0,7% ('2006)	0,7%(2006)

### Nutrition source: 4)

### Community health centres source: 4)

% of Under-5 children with abnormal weigh 2009	% under-5 malnourished (2008)
<b>40,9%</b>	47,1%

	Access to clean water		Access to adequate sanitations	
	Urban zone	Rural Zone	urban	rural
2008	98%	33%	77%	35,7%

### 1-3 Education Profile

#### Commitment to education source: 2), 4)

Education system (years)		Public expenses on education(as % of)	
Compulsory	Primary	PIB	Voted Budget
NA	6	NA	13,5% (2009)

#### Literacy rate Source: 4)

	Total	Male	Female
2009	NA	NA	NA
2007	29%	42,8%	17,1%

#### Gross enrolment rate source : 6) 11)\* 4) \*\*

	Primary education (Gross enrolment rate TBS)			Secondary education *			High education (proportion male/female)	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
2009	77%	58,6%	2009 (Pro portion)	63,09% **	37,91% **	UAM (08-09)	79,6%	20,4%
2008	71,7%	53,5%	2008 TBS	19,65%	12,46%	UIS (2008)	82%	18%

#### Proportion of teachers at higher level of education 2008 4)

	Abdou Moumouni University (UAM)	Islamic University of Say (UIS)
Female	10%	0%
Male	90%	100%

### References

- 1) World development Report 1996, 1997- 2001
- 2) Human Development Report, PNUD, 2010
- 3) The State of Children in the World, UNICEF, 1996,2001
- 4) National Institute of Statistics
- 5) Analysis on the Situation of Children 2008
- 6) Statistics of Elementary Education Dept 2009
- 7) Survey on the situation of Poverty
- 8) Health Statistics Annual
- 9) National Policy of Child Protection
- 10) Health development Survey EDSN
- 11) Statistics of Secondary and higher Education Department
- 12) EPT World Monitoring report 2009
- 13) Statistics of the Department of Public Affairs

## **2 General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender**

### **2-1 General Situation of Women in Niger**

#### **General situation of women in Niger**

- 1) The total population involved in the agricultural sector (which represents only 6% of the land), is 79.74%.
- 1) Niger is one of the least developed countries occupying the 167 rank out of 169 countries on the human development report scale, (according to UNDP 2010).
- 2) The total adult literacy rate in 2008 is 29%, out of which 17.1 percentage concerns women (and 42.8% for men) (according to INS Niger in numbers, 2008).
- 3) The poor rate of schooling girls ((58.6% of girls against 77% for boys), and withdrawal from school are serious issues to education.
- 4) Koran has a strong impact on the society in Niger. In early 1990's, women groups attempted to enact the family law (know as Code Familial), but Islamic fundamentalism opposed the enactment. Presently (in 2010) there is a law on the status of individuals. Consultations are on way to collect the opinion of the populations before its adoption.

#### **[General situation]**

Niger was independent from France in 1960. In 2000, the total estimate population is 10.2 million (according to the department of population). The territory (1.270.000km) is located in the south edge of the Sahara desert, also called Sahel area. Though the farmland is only 6%, 79.74% of the population is involved in the agricultural sector. Repetitive droughts make desertification to progress causing population instability with massive migratory movements from the central Sahel area (13% of the land where the amount of rainfall per year is only 200 to 350 mm), to the southern area (12% of the land, with an amount of rainfall per year of 350-500mm). Daily female roles such as fetching water and gathering wood for fuel are becoming more and more difficult, because forests and water sources are retreating from resident areas. Massive movements of men towards urban areas seeking employment opportunities make women in rural areas.

A slump in the agricultural sector resulting from draught and soil impoverishment, and the poor input generation by the mining sector led to a permanent food shortage in the country. The growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product is 9.5% in 2008. However, because of the persisting food shortage in the whole country, the growth rate is only 0.5% in 2009.

The introduction of structural adjustment programs since 1983 led to large budget reduction in such sector as education and public health, but also to important employment cuts in the public sector. In addition, the national retirement policy adopted in 1998 (which concerns all public workers who attain thirty years of service), contributed to empty the public sector of experimented workers. According to the Human Development Index in 2010, Niger is classified 167<sup>th</sup> out of 169 countries, making of it one of the less advanced country with regard to social development (Human Development Report, UNDP 2010).

The total adult literacy rate is 29% out of which only 17.1% counts for female (against 42.8% for male). Females' low enrollment rate (the gross enrollment rate of female for primary education is 58.6% according to the statistics of the Ministry of

National Education), and high dropout rate are still important problems to educational issues. . Early marriage and short interval childbirths are severe burdens on women's physical well-being. Access to medical services is limited and family planning remains unpopular. Women are in charge of most of the housework and nearly half of food production.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Public Affairs and Labor (in December 2010) the ratio of female working in the public sector is only 30.15% (of which the majority has auxiliary status), against 69.85% for male. The rate of female working population in the private sector is 16%..

### **[Cultural and Social Background]**

Social prejudice regards girls as a source of dishonor in the family. That is why it is always preferable to give birth to a baby boy. A girl might lose virginity before marriage, become accidentally pregnant, or simply start prostitution, etc. For the common popular consideration, women are dependents. They stand for some sort of workforce in the eye of men. Women in reproductive age have many restrictions, such as no participation in public meetings and no entrance to the mosques or funerals, etc. Besides, other ancient practices (still existing but not always applicable) such as "Sororat" or "Levirat" (respectively meaning to inherit the sister of a deceased wife and the wife of a deceased brother) contribute to reduce women to simple "objects".

Domestic education is based upon sexual prejudices that are deeply rooted in the common beliefs on the issue of gender. There is an important discrimination based on sexual differences in every ethnic group, which is determinant in the social role and position of every individual. Therefore, education is discriminatory and tends to be always in favour of male. Girls have exclusive responsibility of all household works that contributes a lot to the restriction of their movement and liberty of action. Sexual discrimination confines women in their households where they have to vow blind submission to men (as fathers, brothers, or husbands). They are mainly busy with domestic activities in homes (food cooking, childcare...), while men are more active outside where opportunities for production exist. Certain activities especially reserved to women are degrading for men to undertake in the common belief. Yet when these activities are economically productive, men would occupy them thus preventing women from having a substantial income.

In her early age, a woman receives education in the perspective of being a good wife for her husband, and a good mother for her children. In her life, an ideal woman should vow submission to man, which implies discretion, patience, reserve, non-violence, in short all to insure total liberty abdication. Once restricted in all her ambitions, she depends entirely on man.

Sexual education, which is anyway informal, is generally the business of family members who promote the supremacy of masculinity. The sexual life of the young girl is exclusively reserved for her husband, and once married she has to vow total submission to him. That is why man has full authority in the household. It is generally incumbent on him (the husband or the father) to secure food and guide the household.

In schools, education is the extension of domestic education: discrimination develops around sex, the expression of which is the denial of certain rights to girls,



most of the times by means of physical violence. Moreover, some of these prejudices are contained in pedagogical programs.

Marriage is often a simple arrangement between families, tribes, or clans. There is no need for the consent of both the boy and the girl to arrange the union. Parents' feeling prevails on the feeling of the concerned people. That explains the proliferation of forced and/or arranged marriage among ethnic groups especially in Maradi and Zinder. Early marriage is also another form of forced marriage for which the two partners do not often have the choice.

The government has issued a code on the valorisation of individual status that is still waiting for validation. This code, if adopted will help regulate social relationships of the populations as individuals, which are under regulation of three types of legislation:

- 1) The customary law (according to the survey on the situation of women and children in Niger- 2008-, it consists on established practices applied to daily life by a given community as legal law).

- 2) Islamic law (for which Koran is the source of legislation; when we know that 99% of the population is Muslim- INS, 2009) Marabouts are legislators who make the law.

- 3) Modern justice, which leans on the international law.

According to customary or religious practices, a man can simply pronounce repudiation and chase his wife away whenever he wishes. As the wife is not having enough resources to sustain herself, she has to seek refuge in her parents' home.

Female, of all ages, represent the less educated social group. They drastically lack formal education and/or training to pretend having a good employment.

Despite the promulgation of different laws by the government, female still have no access to elementary rights such as equal rights to inheritance, the right to land ownership.

Socio-economic, cultural, political, and judicial constraints make female representation and visibility very poor in public life, and in the social structure.

So many obstacles hinder female promotion in political structure, which is the ideal way of acceding to higher instances of decision making for the management of public life. In short, female live literally under the domination of male.

Yet, there is a little improvement in recent years, because more and more women are playing important roles in public life (in the government, in the parliament, or other social structures), having more responsibility. With the economic crisis, women contribute more to the family expenses.

To make female contribution to public life will effective, it is important to multiply improvement strategies and enhance their capacities especially in management. Among other strategies, intensification of female education is required. There is urgent need to improve the rate of schooling of girls, and promote literacy for women, to insure their integration, their economic independence, and political representation (information bulletin of CONGAFEN Matan Daga N°14 June 2010).

Female are always responsible of housework even if they have other activities (professional, economical). Female particularly complain about their economic weakness and the lack of production means to explain their inferiority as compared to male. The situation of dependence is quite worst because of chronic food shortage in the country. Men always regard women as inactive, not enough participative to the development of the society despite their contribution to the household management.

## 2-2 Government Policy on Gender

### Government policy on the issue of gender

- 1) The constitution makes provision of the consideration of the issue of gender in its article 21.
- 2) The issue of gender is also contained in the Speeded up Development Strategy of Poverty Reduction.
- 3) Female Promotion Policy is formulated in March 1996 and revised in 2009
- 4) The National Policy on the issue of Gender (PNG) exists since March 2008.

#### [Gender policy and plans]

There were no provisions on improvement of women's status under the Government Development Program of 1987-1991. Female Promotion and Child Protection Department at the Ministry of Female promotion formulated the gender Policy in 1996. Since 2005, a project, financed by UNFPA "Gender Initiative in Niger", is active dealing with issue of gender. The project collaborated with seven other ministries in addition to the Ministry of Female Promotion.

From the moment that social development is the business of all, the contribution of female is then as precious as male's. Therefore the Department of Female Promotion and Gender should undertake actions with the intention of insuring female independence by promoting equity and equal rights on socio-cultural, economic, judicial, institutional, and political grounds between male and female.

For this purpose, the Department of Female promotion has to:

- Monitor policies and strategies of female promotion, plan and implement the action plan on improvement of female status.
- Promote strategies on the improvement of female status and the issue of gender.
- Insure the integration of the issue of gender in national development policies, plans, and programs.
- Reinforce partnership with associations and NGOs in conducting female promotion and gender activities.
- Coordinate activities conducted by associations working for the promotion of female status improvement and the issue of gender.

Niger ratified conventions such as:

- The convention on female political rights (1954), ratified in 1966
- The UNESCO convention on the fight against discrimination in education (1962), ratified in 1968
- The convention on marriage consent, registration, and minimum age of marriage (1964), ratified the same year
- The convention on the abolition of human trade, and exploitation of prostitution (1951), ratified in 1977
- The African chart of human rights and populations (CADHP- 1981), ratified in 1986
- In early 1990's, women's groups tried to enact family law (Code Familial), which includes the legal age of marriage (more than 16 years old for women, more than 18 years old for men), equal rights of inheritance for both sexes,

prohibition on polygamy, etc. Under the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism, political parties launched a movement against the enactment of the Code Familial in 1994. Instead, in 2009, the government issued a code of individual. Yet, it is still waiting for validation after social consultations. At present, two consultants (female) are continuing their research for a "Code Familial" that is acceptable to the public, with assistance from international and bilateral aid agencies and NGOs.

- The convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against women was ratified in 1999

The 2010 constitution says in its article 21 that "the government should insure total elimination of discrimination against women. Public policies will guarantee female development and participation to public life ».

In 2000, Niger committed to achieve MDO (Millennium Development Objectives), for the objective number three is about the independence of women, and equal rights for all. That is why the Accelerated Development Strategy of Poverty Reduction (PGN) has integrated the issue of gender.

Then in March 28, 2008, the government adopted the National Policy of Gender (PNG). The document in its introduction says that social injustice is quite important for individuals or large groups. As the result of this situation, we can notice such negative impacts on the well-being of the population as very low participation of women in productivity, poor mobilisation to the efforts of poverty reduction, reduced capacity of economic growth, and very poor level of development of the country. In short, social disparity (between male and female) hinders the efforts of promotion of human rights, poverty reduction and economic growth (World bank, 1999, 2001; CEA 2004).

The National Policy on Gender aims at promoting equity and equal access to development for both male and female. Therefore, it has two main objectives: 1) Define institutional, socio-cultural, judicial, and economical conditions to promote equity and equal access to development opportunities for the populations 2) Integrate plainly the issue of gender in the agenda of surveys and researches on socio-economic conditions of the populations, in the analysis and planning of development programs, in the implementation of strategies and actions for the consideration of the issue of gender.

The National Policy on Gender turns on four main axles:

- The promotion of equity on the situation of male and female in the household and in the society as a whole
- The promotion of equity in the economic system (in the household and in the society) for both male and female
- The enhancement of effective application of female rights, the fight against gender related violence, and equal opportunity to access to public management.
- The enhancement of capacities of intervention of the institutional structure of the National Policy on gender implementation

There is a ten-year plan (2009- 2018) elaborated to monitor and follow-up effective implementation of the policy.

## 2-3 National Machinery

### Department of Female Status Improvement

- 1) In 1989, every ministry has issued a focal point to monitor gender-related activities. The situation has not changed much in spite of donors' declaration to solve female matters due to shortage of budget. Five-member units replaced focal points in ministries.
- 2) In 1991, the Department of Female Promotion, at the Ministry of Social Development, was the essential of the national machinery on the issue of gender.
- 3) Several other ministries have been associated to the handling of the issue of gender, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education, and the ministry of Public Affairs and Labour.

#### [National machinery]

Name	Department of Female Promotion and the issue of Gender (DPF/G) at the Ministry of Population, Female Promotion, and Child protection
Staff size	Total staff size : 115(for the whole ministry), 22 for the Department of Female Protection (of which are 14 women and 8 men)
Budget	(Very limited for sure),though not available
Function	1) Plan female status improvement policy 2) Coordinate female status improvement activities conducted by other ministries and female development organisations. 3) Provide technical cooperation for the promotion of gender.

In 1981, a Department of Female Condition dealing with women's issues was founded for the first time in the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture. In 1987, the Ministry of Public Health, and Women was founded, the vice minister was female for the first time. Then in 1991, the ministry became the Ministry of Social Development and Female status Improvement, and the Department of Population, and the Department of Child Protection were added to handle plainly the issue of gender.

In 1995, as the result of a meeting with major donors (Swiss Cooperation, ACDI, and UNDP), a declaration to take female related problems in charge was made but remained ineffective due to shortage of budget. It appears that the objectives assigned to the policy of gender are still unrealizable once necessary fund to conduct activities is not available.

IN 2000, focal points in the ministries become a five-member unit with same objective. The unit insures the consideration of the issue of gender in the policies of the various ministries, and monitor with the help of feminine organisations and associations, all gender related activities. In 2010, the Ministry of Population, Female Promotion, and Child Protection issued the Department of Female Promotion and gender.

**[Gender related Activities conducted by other Ministries]**

Ministry of Health The gender unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the development of the issue of gender at all levels.</li> <li>- Insert the issue of gender in all development plans and strategies of the Ministry of Public Health.</li> <li>- Enhance the capacities of health personnel on the issue of gender.</li> <li>- Monitor the consideration of the issue of gender in the Ministry of Public Health.</li> </ul> <p>Strategic axes of ING partnershipAxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutional analysis on the consideration of the issue of gender in ministries</li> </ul>
Ministry of National Education: Department of Girls' Enrolment Promotion CTPSF	<p>1) The main objective of the DPSF program is to improve the enrolment rate of girls in targeted zones, to balance the disparity rate on basis of gender.</p> <p>2) Specifically it aims at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raise the Gross Enrolment Rate (TBS) for girls in these zones from 59.98% in 2009, 91% in 2013.</li> <li>- Raise the Gross Admission Rate of girls in vulnerable intervention zones from 73.13% in 2009, to 90% in 2013.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Public Affairs and Labour ; The gender unit	<p>The gender unit is in charge of :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The integration of the issue of gender in the political programs of the ministry</li> <li>2) Gender issue dissemination all around in the ministry</li> <li>3) Enhancement of the personnel's capacities to handle the tools related to the issue of gender.</li> <li>4) Consideration of the issue of gender in all development interventions in line with the texts in force (General Status of the Public Affairs, the Labour Code, the Employment Policy, and the Three-year Program for the Youth).</li> </ol>

### 3. Women Situation by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

Education
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The adult literacy rate in Niger is one of the lowest levels in the world; the literacy rate for female 17.1% in 2008.</li> <li>2) The enrollment rate for primary education is 77% for male, 58.6% for female, and the gross rate of schooling is 67.8%. An estimation of the completion rate for primary education for female is 48.2 %. (Yearly Statistics on Education 2008-2009). This situation results from the low quality of education, the</li> </ol>

insufficiency of the infrastructures, school desertion in favor of domestic works, undesired pregnancy, early or forced marriage, parents' lack of understanding, poverty, etc.

- 3) In the category of higher and vocational education, the field of study that women choose is limited when compared with men because of social prejudice.

### **[General situation]**

The whole education program is made of three levels:

- 1) Primary school (for 6 years from 7 years old),
- 2) Secondary education (for 7 years from 13 years old; the lower secondary: 4 years, upper secondary: 3 years)
- 3) Higher education follows the two levels.

One type of school is the Koran school based on Islam and that most of the students attend to (EIU, 1996).

Educational facilities suffer from shortage of infrastructures and teachers, both in quality and quantity, and stationeries. Marked geographical disparities in enrolment rates for primary education exist: 71.21% of students live in rural zones against 28.79% for urban centers. Yet, the gross enrolment rate in rural areas is only 64.4% against 78% in urban centers (Ministry of National Education, 2009 annual).

Pre-school education is concentrated in urban areas and the enrolment rate is only 2.5% for three to six years old (statistics of the Ministry of National education, 2010). Though education costs are free in principal, the enrolment rate in every stage of education is low because of expenses related with schooling, lack of parents' understanding, and the difficulty of attending school caused by nomadic lifestyle and religious and customary beliefs.

The adult literacy rate is 17.1% for female against 42.8% for male (INS 2008). It is much lower than the average rates of African nations in Sub-Sahara. To improve primary education and to raise the enrolment rate, the government elaborated a Ten-year Education Development Program, which is in its second phase of execution. The share of educational budget in 2010 is 19.76% (Ministry of National Education, 2010).

### **[Primary, secondary and higher education]**

The gross enrollment rate for primary school is 67.8% (2008- 2009). Girls count for 58.6% against 77% for boys. These figures are much lower than the average rate of African nations in Sub-Sahara where the net enrolment rate is around 77% (World Report on EPT monitoring 2008).

The reasons of the low enrollment rate for girls are 1) the responsibility for housework 2) lack of parents' understanding of modern education, 3) education related costs for such items as stationeries and clothes, 4) access constraints and poor quality of education.

When parents cannot afford educational expenses for all children, boys tend to have priority over girls in schooling. The enrollment rate for girls is low especially in the areas close to the commercial areas of Nigeria border (Diffa, Maradi, and Zinder), since children have to participate to the family economy. Because of fatigue from housework or family business, girls' school records are generally lower than boys'

are. Girls tend to drop out because of difficulty to catch up or, of early pregnancy. The completion rate of girls for primary education is 48.2% (according to the Ministry of National Education, 2009). To improve girls' enrolment rate, the Department of Girls' Enrolment Promotion (DPSF) is in charge of mobilisation of necessary funds for the development of girls' schooling. It (DPSF) implements the policy of girls' enrolment action plans through the program of intervention in vulnerable zones, and activates the communication plan on girls' enrolment process. The Department has permanent support by the Inter-ministerial group, ACDI; IMAGINE (a project financed by the USA- not active any more following the recent political changes in Niger). To believe the directorate of the DPSF, the situation is growing better.

The gross enrollment rate for secondary education is 12.46% for girls, against 19.65% for boys in 2007-2008 (Ministry of National Education 2008). The completion rate is lower than 7.85% for girls and 11% for boys (Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education 2008). Reasons for girls' low enrolment rate for secondary education include: 1) early marriage (the average age for marriage in the rural area: 13-14 years old), 2) parents' objection against attending schools in the urban areas, far from home (since secondary schools are often concentrated in urban areas). As virginity is an important issue in the social life for girls, mothers are opposed to the idea of exposing their daughters to danger. Therefore, few girls get to higher education. Faculties, which female students choose, are limited because of social prejudice. Though women are often engaged in such fields as health and education, men dominate fields such as science and agriculture.

As higher educational institutions, in Niger there are only the University of Niamey (founded in 1973) and Islamic University of Say (founded in 1987). The recent creation of three polytechnic institutes in Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua adds to existing structures of which five other high vocational schools. The dissociation of the primary and the secondary levels of education is consequential from the moment the influence of the one over the other is important. Thus, two distinct ministries are in charge of each level: primary education is under the regulation of the Ministry of Basic Education, and secondary and higher education is under the Ministry of Secondary and Higher Studies.

### **[Non-formal education]**

As children over nine years old cannot enroll in primary school, the Department of non-formal education provides literacy and functional education with the help of NGOs as a form partnership referred to as "make do"(faire faire). These organizations contribute to fill in the gap of ignorance providing literacy for male and female, and creating second chance schools for over age children. When they give women the opportunity to study, it is important to ask husbands for their consent to let their wife attend the class. It often requires efforts of sensitization for men to accept.

### **[Vocational and Technical education]**

Public vocational schools are under various ministries, according to each respective field. Private vocational secondary schools are under the Ministry of Vocational Education, and for higher levels, they depend on the Ministry of Higher and Secondary education. Female promotion and Training Centers are under the Ministry of Population, Female Promotion, and Child Protection. There is no discrimination between men and women for entrance examination. However, because the completion of the lower secondary school is required for the examination, female enrollment rate is low. Social stereotypes that regard occupations such as automobile mechanic as traditionally men's job, keeps female enrollment low, though the number of women who opt for vocational education is increasing in recent years. That is why more girls register in vocational schools at the expense of their male fellows (respectively 54% against 46% - ANSITEF 2008). Yet in tertiary and industrial fields of studies, female are only 38.5% and 5.5% respectively. In vocational schools, teaching staff for female is only 7.5% of the total.

### 3-2 Health

#### Health

- 1) Malnutrition caused by poverty, food shortage, lack of adequate knowledge and information is serious; children between 12 and 23 months of age are the most affected by anemia (92%). Post-natal anemia rate is 60%. Forty per cent of under-5 is malnutrition, and maternal anemia rate is 60%. Eighty per cent of children fewer than five of age is victim of anemia, of which 7% suffer from the severe form.
- 2) Early and frequent childbirth put severe burden on maternal body. Because of the aftereffects of repetitive childbirth, many women are simply worn-out in their teens.
- 3) Because of religious belief, family planning is uncommon, especially in rural areas.
- 4) Medical personnel are in short supply. Especially in rural areas, female personnel such as midwives and nurses are very much in need.

#### [General situation]

Health indicators in Niger are much worse than the average rates of Sub-Saharan African nations. The mortality rate of under-5 is 198 per 1,000 births, which is one of the least figures in the world (INS 2006). The rate of people who have access to adequate sanitary facility is 71.06%. Unhealthy environment causes the spread of malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, and measles, the main cause of death for infants.

Statistics show an important shortage of medical personnel such as one doctor per 33,482 people, one nurse per 7,305 people, one midwife per 6,399 mature women (INS, Niger in numbers, 2008).

It is essential for midwives or nurses to complete lower secondary education for professional education (three years), which makes it difficult for women to be involved in medical services. Because of their cultural background, not a few female are reluctant to take medical examination by male nurse who is often in rural area. Farm village medical teams (1-2 persons in a village), which consist of traditional birth attendant (Matron) and emergency medical member, are about 4,000 in the country, and they cover 52% of the rural area.



The government initiated the Primary Health Care Act in 1990. In line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the government elaborated a Health Policy for the period going from 2002 to 2011, and adopted a Health Development Plan (PDS) in 2005 to cover the period 2005- 2009. The main objective of the plan (PDS) aims at reducing mortality rate of mothers and children, by improving the efficiency and quality of health care using existing resources. Therefore, the PDS has eight specific objectives:

1. Improve population's access to quality health services.
2. Enhance reproductive health activities.
3. Enhance the process of decentralisation in the health sector
4. Increase population 's participation to local health policies
5. Enhance management and institutional capacities of the Ministry of Public health
6. Remedy the crucial problem of qualitative and quantitative health personnel.
7. Increase management efficiency of the infrastructures and the resources of health structures.
8. Insure medical provisions availability and quality in health structures.

Sexual and reproductive health stands for an important issue in the PDS (health development plan). This consideration led to the creation of the National Program of Reproductive Health (PNSR) adopted in 2005.

The main objectives of the program are the following:

- Speed up the process of reduction of morbidity and mortality rate of mothers and children.
- Contribute to demographic growth control through the promotion of family planning.
- Promote Sexual and Reproductive Health among the youth.
- Contribute to maintain HIV infection rate under 1%.

The Ministry of Public Health is one of the seven ministries that participated to the implementation of the first phase of the project called "Gender Initiative in Niger"(IGN).

A gender issue integration unit is presently active in the in the totality of existing ministries, including the Ministry of Public Health. The unit has to:

- Promote the consideration of the gender approach at all levels.
- Insure the integration of the issue of gender in all strategies and development plans of the Ministry of Public Health.
- Enhance the capacities of health personnel on the issue of gender.
- Monitor the integration of the issue of gender in the Ministry of Public Health.

Strategic axles of IGN partnership:

- Institutional analysis of the issue of gender in different ministries
- Activities schedule during IGN implementation.

With regard to the defined strategic axles, focal points have to:

- Evaluate the consideration of the issue of gender in their respective ministry, through the examination of the following points :
  - The repartition of responsibility posts between male and female.

- The strategic axes of intervention of the Ministry
- The achievements of running and completed programs from 2000
- The perspectives with regard to the intervention of the Ministry
- Elaborate annual action plans to be financed by the IGN (2006-2007) ;
- Hold workshops for training and information on the issue of gender with the help of IGN.
- Participate to capacity enhancement activities conducted by IGN.
- Attend periodic meetings organised by IGN.
- Elaborate monthly reports on the application of activities.
- Organisation of periodical meetings by IGN
- Insure the monitoring of the integration of the issue of gender in their respective ministries

### **[Children and maternal health]**

The mortality rate of newly born babies is 33 per 1,000; for children up to two years old, it is 81 per 1,000; and for children under-5, and it is 198 per 1,000. Mortality rate of the same category of children varies according to geographical disparities: in urban centers, mortality rate of the under-5 is around 139 per 1,000 while in rural areas it can reach up to 231 per 1,000 (EDSN). Children mortality rate varies also according to the level of education of the mother: for uneducated mothers, the rate is 222 per 1,000; mothers who have undergone primary education are concerned with 209 cases per 1,000; those with secondary education level have 92 per 1,000.

Mortality rate is 97 per 1,000 for female, and 89 per 1,000 for male.

Maternal mortality rate is 648 per 100,000 childbirths (EDSN 2006). Major causes for maternal death are excessive bleeding, the rupture of the uterus, infectious disease, hypertension etc. In addition, original causes of death include:

- 1) Early childbirth (the average of the first childbirth: 15-17 years old),
- 2) Frequent childbirth at intervals of less than two years (total fertility rate is 7.1%),
- 3) Low accessibility to medical facility (pregnant women who have never taken pre-maternal examinations: 57% (MICS 2000, UNICEF),
- 4) Low quality of personnel involved in medical services, (number of obstetrician and gynecologist: eight persons in the nation),
- 5) Shortage of childbirth assistant,
- 6) lack of adequate medical equipment and facilities,
- 7) Taboo related with pregnancy and childbirth (ex, the childbirth of the first baby should be done in her own house, even if its conditions are unhealthy). (Ministry of Female Status Improvement)

The rate of births attended by health personnel is 18% in rural area (while the national average is 28.5% in 2008, and 83% in the capital city; the Ministry of Public Health). Excessive workload and dietary habits of pregnant women contribute to the complication of childbirth. Gratuity of care decided by the government helped to improve prenatal consultations and attended childbirth rates.

The action plan for the reduction of maternal and infantile mortality rate adopted in Niger in 2006, aims at reducing up to 50% cases before 2015, and is in line with the Health Development Program and the National reproductive Health Program. One of the main objectives is to promote the assistance of 80% of pregnant woman before and after delivery. Thus, the ministry promoted some incentives since 2007 to attract

more women to go for medical consultations. The government declared free of charge all services regarding maternity and children up to five years old. The Ministry of Public Health issued the National Program of Reproductive Health and the strategy of reduction of maternal mortality rate.

Vaccination rate of targeted children is 25% in rural areas against 48% for urban cities.

#### **[Nutrition]**

Children between 12 and 23 months of age are the most concerned with anemia (92%). From 6 to 59 months of age, affected children are 84% (of which 56% with moderate cases, and 7% for severe cases). Malnutrition is serious as the result of poverty and lack of adequate medical care. Disparity of cases is important with regard to education level of mothers: it appears that 86% are uneducated women against 78%. In poor families, rate of anemia is almost two times more important than richer families (9% against 4%). In addition, out of total under-5 children, 40% of them are short stature in the age and 40.9% of them are under weight. The causes of malnutrition are as follows, 1) chronic food shortage since 1980s, 2) unvaried and nutritionally unbalanced dietary habit, 3) lack of care of children because of women's excessive labor.

The background of the above factors include soil erosion, subsidy cut for agricultural investment, lack of women's access to modern agricultural technology, population increase (UNICEF, 1994), desertification and lack of medical education.

#### **[Family planning]**

Total fertility rate is 7.1% (INS, Niger in numbers 2009). Traditionally, large family is the sign of social success, especially when there are several boys (regarded as the family force and source of richness). Nowadays, even though some people are aware of the burden that constitutes a large family, still most of them would take it as a fatality. Geographical disparity in crude birth rate is quite high: 222 per 1,000 in rural area and 116 per 1,000 in urban zone. Disparity related to education level in total fertility rate is 7.3 for uneducated women, 6.8 for educated women (primary level) and 4.6 for secondary level (EDSN, 2006). In rural zones, 37.5% of girls become mother at the age of 15, while in urban areas; the rate is only 17.8%.

Contraceptive prevalence rate is around 23% in urban centers, and only 9% in rural zones. Therefore, the rate of people using modern contraception is 4.5%, and 5.5% for traditional contraception. This shows that contraception is not totally a new phenomenon in Niger, there are only social groups totally opposed to family planning.

The law prohibits abortion. However, very often people do it done unofficially, because for unmarried woman pregnancy is a big shame for the family. Now, promoting family planning is very sensitive since the Muslim's movement in 1994 expressed their opposition. Therefore, the government focuses on reproductive health in its population policy, and promotes protection of family health through health education.

#### **[HIV/AIDS]**

Though Niger is one of the less HIV infected country in the African Sub-Saharan

nations with a prevalence rate of about 0.7%, it remains vulnerable. Some social and customary practices (“Sorora /Levirat /Excision), low level of female education and information, female low capacity to decision making concerning sexual life, are factors in favor of the proliferation of the disease. Since the first 18 AIDS cases reported and confirmed in 1987, the number is increasing, with 809 cases in 1992 and 2,800 cases in 1996. In 2000, 5,626 cases were detected and the rate of prostitute’s case is reported as 10% (observed in 2001 in three zones: Aguié, Firji, and Guidan- EDSN 2006). The rate of HIV prevalence is low for male up to 29 years old (0.1% against 0.6% for female). It reaches maximum level of 2.6% in the group age from 35 to 39. Women infection rate in the group age from 20 to 30 is definitely higher than male’s of the same group age. From 25 years old, the tendency changes and the prevalence rate is more important for male. Violence is another social problem that female face permanently. Female are victim of all forms of violence including sexual and psychological violence, the most obvious of which early or forced marriage. In Niger, the average marriage age is 15 for female (in rural zones it varies from 12 to 13). Early marriage brings about early childbirths, which is responsible for many complications including maternal mortality, and other health problems like fistula. In Niger, the number of fistula cases is abnormally high. Moreover, the average of fistula patients is about 13 years old, and it occurs in 58% of cases during the first childbirth. Though sexual mutilation cases are decreasing (5% in 1998, and 2.2% in 2006), female are still being victims of excision in various ethnic groups (for instance the Gourmantche tribal group with a total of 65.9% of mutilated women, 12.8% and 3.4% respectively for the Peulh and the Arabs). Most concerned zones include Tillabery, Niamey, and Diffa.

### **[Vesico-vaginal Fistula]**

Vesico-vaginal fistula is the aftereffect of unsuccessful childbirth, caused by birth canal damage. In Niger, the Ministry of Public Health with the participation of social organizations is very active with sensitization on the problem of fistula. The victims welcomed in various health centers receive adequate treatment. The National Program of Reproductive Health defined some objectives of which the issue of obstetrical fistula is considered:

- Take at 100% obstetrical fistula victims in charge.
- Promote social reinsertion of fistula victims (with the help of NGOs and associations).

Out of the women affected by fistula, 48% of them are 13-15 years old. The rate of women divorced by their husband due to fistula is 63% (UNICEF, 2000).

## **3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

### **Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

- 1) Because of constant food shortage, men work away from home and women’s labor burden in agricultural production and housework is increasing.
- 2) Though women are in charge of a large part of the food production, lack of access to land, modern agricultural instruments, fertilizer, financing and information hinder productivity improvement

## **[General Situation]**

According to the Rural Development Strategy (SDR), 80% of poor populations live in rural zones. SDR is the only referential structure for public intervention in –the rural sector. It defined three strategies:

- 1) Promote the access of rural producers to economic opportunities in order to create development growth conditions in rural zones.
- 2) Improvement food security; prevent risks of production, and manage properly natural resources to secure the lives of the populations.
- 3) Enhance rural institutions and organizations capacities for adequate management of the sector.

Though arable land is only 6% of the whole land, agriculture is Niger's key industry, which accounts for 43.7% of the gross domestic product (GDP). The proportion of irrigated land is 37% of total irrigable land (INS 2008). Key farming products are millet, sorghum, beans, rice, fonio, and maize. Commercial products are groundnuts, sesame, peanuts, cotton, etc, especially produced for exportation. Less than 20% of irrigable lands is valorized according to Rural Development Strategy. Because of large dependence on natural rainfall, food production is often dependent on the weather.

Niger faces constant food shortage because of successive drought, desertification, and soil infertility. Since men work in neighboring countries such as Benin, Togo, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, etc, women have to secure food for the family. A woman works for about 16-17 hours a day, for various jobs such as agriculture, handicraft works, housework, etc.

## **[Agriculture]**

Despite the underestimation of women's contribution in agricultural sector due to lack of official data, they are responsible for about 50% of food production. Women participate in cultivating various types of farm products: grains, onion, potato, etc. They also cultivate cooperatively owned land participating in vegetable growing as a part of off-season farming under the national self-sufficiency policy and the impulse of development NGOs.

For cattle breeding, men own 51% of the total cattle against 37% for women. Women are more involved in breeding ovine (51.2%), and only 31.7% for men. Men own more cows than women do. Generally, possessions are separate, but management is common. Otherwise, women are involved in cattle products (butter, cheese). Commercializing cattle products and by-products are an important source of family income.

## **[Land-ownership]**

To own land, one has to inherit, to purchase, or simply as a gift. Because of men's domination, access to land ownership is quite impossible to female. Women have

access to land generally under the form of temporary lending (which can be restituted at any moment), or buying (yet women do not have enough financial resources). In addition to not having economic means to purchase land rights, women cannot inherit their parents' rights of land use. Therefore, men often monopolize rights related to land. After marriage, husband gives his wife the right to cultivate. When divorcing, it is common that women cannot inherit any properties including land. Therefore, they cultivate their fathers' land instead. However, women do not have any land to cultivate when they have many brothers, because men have priority of utilization over women.

According to the FAO, if women's vegetable growing were successful and increase family income, this could improve their status within the family. However, envious men take away the land from women to get income in the same way. So, through FAO's KEITA project in Keita (a farming village in Tahoua region which succeeded to fight desertification), women were provided micro- finance to purchase land rights for their economic independence, a key factor in the process of female status improvement.

### **[Agricultural Extension Worker]**

To be an agricultural extension worker, it is required to complete lower secondary and then professional education for two years in vocational school. However, women who can finish secondary education are only a few, and consequently the number of female agricultural extension workers is quite limited. There are other reasons why female workers are few such as the requirement that they have to move around the rural area and stereotypes that women confine in homes, etc.

### **[Accessibility to Micro Finance]**

In Niger, money is generally under control of men. Because of lack of information and financing, women use primitive instruments for farming. Women productivity(growth is hindered by the lack of access to adequate fertilizer. MECREF (a mutual aid association of financing for women) founded with support of CIDA in 1995, is the only financial institution exclusively at women's disposal. The entrance deposit is 5000 CFA franc, which allows members to obtain loans up to three times their own deposit. Others finance organizations contribute to the economic development of women after realizing the necessity of adequate means of production procurement. These projects and organizations include Assussu, Tchigaba, Aquadev, Taimako, etc.

According to the staff of FAO, the rate of repayment of female borrowers is more reliable than for male. The FAO officials pointed out several means to raise loan repayment such as; 1) proposing income generating products, 2) arranging watchman from the organization which supply the financing. In some areas and tribes, there are successful cases where creditors use photos of debtors' face to manage loans.

### **[Cooperative society]**

The government founded the Cooperative Association during the uranium boom in the late 1970's. The cooperative is under the management of civil servants. Since these last have salary payment problems (paid only for seven months in a year), they

sometimes embezzle the income, and the inhabitants do not trust them.

In Kuwarentubare village in Maradi region, the populations established a grain-bank system, where poor families can buy grains with reasonable prices during the pre-harvest months. Bigger groups appeared in recent years such as Moriben, Niya, Aridel, etc. These non-governmental organizations are mainly busy with the supervision of producers by promoting local cooperatives, providing training opportunities, creating opportunities of access to adequate production instruments, etc. In addition, activities such as establishment of village women committee, enforcement of technical training by district government institutions, acquisition of seeds in good quality, etc, have eased the labor burden of village women, and increased sensibly their income. Night blindness of children and women also decreased because of growing richer types of food. These activities are disseminated over 326 villages in the region (UNICEF annual report, 1998).

Women, individually or collectively, produce more and more commercial products to increase their revenue as a way of acquiring social independence.

People collect forest products (for instance the Karité project financed by CECI), such as Arabian gum, but women do not participate in forestry as industry. On the other hand, collecting woods for fuel for family is always female role.

### **[Fisheries]**

Forestry and fishery activities count for 4% of the gross domestic product (Rural development Strategy, 2003).

People conduct fishing activities in Niger River, Lake Chad, and ponds. Men do fishing, and women do distribution of the catch. Husbands set the price; wives sell according to the instruction. Often women take part in the commercialization of the fish that they buy for retail. They receive the balance only when they can sell the fish at higher prices.

### **[Rural Code]**

The government started to work on the enactment of the Rural Code in 1985 to clarify land-ownership and its utilization in villages. Before, the customary law regulated this question. The statute law, proclaimed “law on basic policy of Rural Code” in 1993. It establishes concrete arrangement for farm village such as the right for nomads to use forests, and the Article 4 provides the right to use the natural resource for all Niger people irrespective of sex or birth, as common property. There is a rural code committee working under the Ministry of agriculture and Livestock. However, the effectiveness of the code is not enough at present, and some aid organizations and NGOs are promoting support activities to make the code more effective to secure female rights.

### 3-4 Economic Activities

#### Economic Activities

- 1) The rate of female workers in non-agricultural industry is low, 31.84% for civil servant (October 2010)
- 2) The causes which hinder women in employment opportunity are the social concept that women should be at home, low education level and the lack of accessibility to vocational training.
- 3) Economic activities of female and children in the informal sector are increasing

#### [General Situation]

Percentage of work force by industry: 80% for agriculture, 7% for manufacturing, 13% for service (1997 Ministry of Planning). Key industry besides agriculture is uranium and gold mining industry, which generate the essential no the country's revenue.

As the consequence of the introduction by the government of the structural adjustment programs in 1983, reduction in government employment as a part of the program increased people's dissatisfaction. Besides successive draught, funds from international organizations and bilateral assistance organizations were frozen due to instability as the result of various coup-d'état (in 1996, 1999, and 2010), making the economic situation in Niger even worst.

Economic crisis, vulnerability of employment market and influence of the structural adjustment programs lead increase of unemployment especially for the youth. Because husband's unemployment can be a cause of divorce, the situation for female whose social status is low remains insecure.

#### [Participation in production]

The proportion of workers in total population is 49%; the female rate in adult working population is 32.60% (INS, 2008)

Before the 1960's, only mature women can participate in economic activities. In spite of their participation in economic activities in recent years, women cannot develop important businesses. The concept that women work for family service and lack of access to important financial credit hinder female success. Therefore, female occupation is often in the retail industry.

#### [Employed Labor]

According to the monthly notes of the Ministry of Public Affairs and Labor, women working in the public sector are 29.29% in 2009, and fall to 29.21% in January 2010. They tend to be concentrated in the sectors of education and health. However, the available number of posts in both sectors is exhausted. The majority of women work as auxiliary agents (they count for 5000 against 1300 for men). According to the Ministry of Female Promotion, employers tend to hire men more than women, and point out that employers think the cost of pre and post-maternal leave is high, besides low education level of females. The proportions per sex of the employees arise as follows: Agriculture 79.83% of men against 20.17% of women; industry



88.33% of men against 11.67% of women; commerce 57.95% of men against 42.05% (statistics of the civil service).

Forty percent of female population is active against 65% for men. Yet, the figures of working women are distorted hence production activities of woman are not taken into account. The informal activities of women and their household works must be valorised because they contribute to the survival of the family.

Low employment for female is mining and construction industries, traditionally regarded as men's jobs, and the female employment rate is 4.52% for mining and 24.31% for construction (Ministry of Public Affairs and Labor, 2010). High employment industry for female is food-hotel with the support of the Ministry in the perspective of promoting female status, yet most of them drop out the activity after two weeks.

The government established the National agency for Jobs (ANPE) in 1996 and placed it under the control of the Ministry of Public Affairs and Labor in order to promote participation of women in the labor market through improving their work experiences. The Ministry directs companies to hire the graduates of vocational school for six to nine months with some pay (or no pay) as a part of employment promotion. However, normal vocational school is in the fields regarded as men's job such as electricity, machine, etc. So the program does not lead the expansion of female employment. The ministry also broadcasts TV programs on female's success stories for female employment promotion.

On the other hand, new fields such as data processing are easier for women to join, because no established social concept exists. Moreover, secretaries, regarded as women's jobs, often use computers, therefore women might have an advantage for the field, and women dominate 80% of the private training schools. According to the data of the Chamber of Commerce Agriculture, and Industry, in 2007, 3579 companies made registration in the whole country. Only 184 of them have a woman as manager, which is 5.14%. They include such fields of activity as industry and building (19), commerce and service (150), and craft (15).

### **[Informal Sector]**

In general, the economic activities in the informal sector are increasing. The main fields of informal sector are production activities, trade and services. The informal sector counts for 74.9% of the GDP is 30% (INS 2008).

Especially, women and children are a major workforce in the informal sector. Many women involved in the informal sector are in urban areas, and are engaged in retailing sale of foods or clothes, sewing, etc. Some women make and sell handicraft such as basket, leather goods, etc in centre of urban area. Yet these activities are not properly valued.

## **4. Women Community Centres**

In Niger, like everywhere else, women are the poorest group of the population. In fact, 63% of the population is poor, of which 34% live in extreme poverty (73% for female – INS, Economic situation of the nation 2007). In the notes of the National Forum for the Reinforcement of Female Community Centres in Niger (December 3to

5, 2007), it is indicated that this situation of poverty is the result of structural and socio-economic problems (among which is the issue of education). The strategies of poverty reduction contained no action plans for the promotion of vocational education for long. Anyway, underprivileged populations did not have access to vocational education.

The forum participants proposed the improvement of vocational education, the promotion of entrepreneurship liberal activities, as well the promotion of craft and micro credits. Girls' enrolment and female education are key elements for the realisation of the various national objectives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy (SRDP), and the Millennium Development Objectives (OMD).

#### **4.1 The Context of creation**

The government created the first community centres inside military camps in order to provide female with proper and useful training to handle with their daily life in the household. That was in line with the idea of massive girls' enrolment with the intention of proposing educated employees opportunity to the public sector.

One of the first off-barracks female community centre (called « Clair Logis »), is created in 1971, following the President's call to the church.

Then, in 1975, other promoters created more centres in response to the growing number of girls' school drops and lack of activity. Therefore, female community centres set new objectives, put stress on vocational training of non-schooled girls in order to promote income-generating skills through various activities. Thus, learners can have access to development through activities for economic integration.

Religious organisations (like the church), NGOs, the government, and private instigators create most centres. Still, since the past ten years, female community centres are not really attracting a big number of students. In fact, due to important constraints, centres are no more responsive to the needs of learners.

#### **4.2 OBJECTIVES**

Female community centres have mainly the same objectives:

They contribute to fight poverty especially for female. Among other objectives, we can cite the following:

- To stop delinquency
- To reduce joblessness
- To promote female integration in the process of development
- To promote female socio-economic insertion
- To train women to handle properly their function of household educator

#### **4.3 CURRENT SITUATION**

A) Total number of female community centres.

As the result of a survey ordered by the Swiss NGO (Contact) in 2007, it appears that 126 female community centres exist throughout the nation.

Below is a repartition table according to the type (governmental or private) and their function (Niger female community centres, Swiss contact and MP/PF/PE, November 2007)

	Governmental centres	Private centres (NGOS and individuals)	Total	Out of function
Agadez	5	4	9	1
Diffa	2	1	3	2
Dosso	8	9	17	0
Maradi	5	7	12	2
Tahoua	7	8	15	0
Tillabéry	12	2	14	2
Zinder	10	9	19	2
Niamey	15	22	37	11
Total	64	62	126	20
Percentage	50,8	40,2	100	15,9

NB: The report of the survey on the situation of female community centres in Niger conducted in November 2007; points out 131 centres are active, against 12 inactive.

In details, we have centres created by:

- 1- The government
- 2- Religious organisations
- 3- NGOs / Associations
- 4- Private instigators

a) Female community centres created by the government are located in the premises of youth and community centres and Samarias, and in feminine organisation centres. The government pays trainers. Whenever a part-time trainer works in a centre, the internal income of the centre serves to make his or her salary.

b) Centres created by confessional organisations and NGOs work on subsidy and students' contribution.

c) In female organisation centres, students can have spontaneous trainings, and the centres receive subsidy, but the main income comes from the participation of members. Therefore, their activities are not always continuous because of lack of means.

d) In governmental and religious centres, admission fees vary from 7.000 CFA francs to 15.000CFA francs.

e) Private centres created by individuals enrol exclusively female students. Yet an NGO created a mixed centre that has the same objective as the traditional centre.

In this type of centre, admission fees are much higher than the government centres; it varies from 30.000CFA francs to 90.000CFA francs.

## **B) Institutional base**

At the beginning, every centre was under the ministry or institution that promoted its creation. They had the possibility to run their own program. However, from 2009, all centres switched under the control of the Ministry of Population, Female promotion,

and Child protection following the decree n°2009-109/PRN/MPF/PE on March 26, 2009. On the same occasion, their denomination changed into “Female Promotion and Training Centre, or Female Community Centre”.

The ministry has issued three ministerial orders of application.

- 1) Order n° 031/PCSRD/MP/PF/PE/DPF/G/DL classifying Female Promotion and Training Centres or Female Community Centres
- 2) order n° 032/MP/PF/PE/DPF/G/DL (on June 15, 2010) that defines the conditions of creation of Female Community Centres
- 3) Order n° 033/MP/PF/PE/DPF/G/DL (on June 15, 2010) creating an inter-ministerial committee in charge of piloting institutional and educational structure of Female Promotion and Training centres.

#### **4.4 ACTIVITIES**

a) Before their reorganisation, Female Community Centres had the same pedagogical program:

- Sewing with machine
- Manual embroidery
- Knitting
- Crochet
- Dyeing
- Cooking
- Child care
- Domestic economy
- Social life
- Entrepreneurship
- Institutional life
- Home-made cosmetics -soap
- Drinks- fruit juice

#### **b) Female Promotion and Training Centres or Female Community centres**

##### **Denomination**

Female Promotion and Training Centres or Female Community Centres have a new reorganisation. In fact ministerial order n° 031/PCSRD/MP/PF/PE/DPF/G/DL in its article one says: « Female Promotion and Training Centres (CFPF) or Female Community Centres are classified into two main categories following the type of activity they conduct. There is category A centres, and category B centres ». The second article explains that category A are centres that can run their whole program independently for three years, because they have the material, human, and financial means to do so. Article 3 defines category B centres as those opting to implement one of the two official pedagogical programs: two years for food processing, and three for textile.

#### **Here is an extract of the pedagogical program.**

The new program starts with one-year compulsory subject. Then, student can orientate into two years specialisation field with possibility of choice. Each subject has a basic program and optional courses. In addition to this training program, other complementary courses (“life skills”) are organised to initiate learners to daily life realities.

- **Compulsory subject (first year)**

This subject is rather introductory and gives learners the opportunity to select the specialisation subject. It gives basic initiation to most of the vocational fields students will deal with later (food processing, textile- sewing, knitting, etc), and on daily life realities.

- **Specialisation subject (second and third year)**

The new program proposes a choice between two subjects of specialisation after completion of the compulsory subject. The composition of each subject is as follows:

- A basic degree course- or profession-
- Short optional modules that the students may chose to learn if they wish to have such skills as income generating activities in relation to the basic subject of specialisation.

Optional activities permit to have a certain flexibility in the program (training centres can adapt their program in line with local employment market), and on the other hand insure good quality educational program (though short, the modules aim at promoting the professionalism of the students).

CFPF education program consists in two main subjects:

- a) **Textile**

The basic course teaches the techniques of professional dressmaking. In addition, the students can learn optional modules in relation to the basic subject, such as embroidery, knitting, crochet, dyeing, etc.

- b) **Food processing**

This subject is mainly about food transformation activities. Optional modules teach about income generating activities in relation to food processing: transformation, conservation, stockade of agricultural products. After completion of one-year compulsory subject, students learn for a year the module on food industry, which makes a total of two years courses.

- **Complementary subjects or « life skills » (first and second year)**

New educational modules on « life skills » add to the existing courses (which consists on childcare, hygiene, domestic economy). The new modules contain new subjects as environment, health, citizenship, and an important article on the issue of gender (see chapter for complete list of activities).

A functional literacy program conducted in two years time provides the students with the basis of writing, reading, and mathematical skills to run properly their income generating business. Later, during the specialisation, the students learn also management and entrepreneurship in addition to the modules.

. They are transversal when they happen to be common to two distinct fields of education, except for literacy and management (that are functional to certain extent) and directly used in teaching both textile and food processing.

- **Adjustable program**

The new program is particular because adjustable. Vocational subjects taught as optional courses in each field (and not the basic course), as well as complementary courses (life skills).

The modulation approach gives the opportunity to organise short training programs

directly applicable to daily life realities. Their advantages include:

1. To give the students the opportunity of learning one more activity related to their subject of study, in addition to their normal course.
2. To offer to outside learners the opportunity to learn not necessarily being concerned with the training program of the centre (optional vocational courses, and/or courses on life skills)

Thus, centres can have to offer continuous training opportunities, especially the initiation to professional skills that can attract the interest of potential learners (who do not have the chance of completing the entire training program, but wish to learn skills related to a given income generating activity in a short time).

This is a good opportunity for centres to provide income-generating services to insure their self-financing. In fact, in addition to short-term vocational training courses, life skills courses can be interesting for partners can realise their own training because of lack of facilities.

#### **4.5 MANAGEMENT**

- Female promotion centres created by NGOs of category A, and governmental centres receive their equipment and are run by a certain number of public workers. In NGO centres, trainers are often work for a fixed terms. That is better for the centres to insure continuous activities.

Generally, directorate of the centre or a responsible and one or two full-time or part-time trainers runs all centres. The directorate selects part-time trainers using the students' contributions. In private centres, the instigator selects his staff.

Learning program lasts for five years. A diploma marks the end of the course. Female promotion centres enrol female at various age, illiterate or with little educational background (primary or secondary level). The number of enrolment is about 30 each year. The average age of new learners, vary from 14 to 25 years old. They pay admission fees that vary from 7.000CFA francs and 15.000 CFA francs for governmental and NGO promoted centres, and 30.000 to 90.000CFA francs for private centres.

At the end of the subject, students sit for an examination to compete for a diploma issued by the Ministry of Female Promotion and Child Protection. After completion of courses, the students can then start their own business.

Some of them are very successful (yet there is no available statistics of ancient students).

#### **4.6 REALITIES (PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES)**

Female Promotion Centres have to face important problems of existence. A survey on the situation of Female Promotion Centres ordered by the NGO Swiss contact in 2007, showed the various constraints the centres are facing:

- Trainers lack of qualification
- Lack of students'interest
- Lack of adequate equipment
- Obsolescence of facilities
- Partner's insufficiency
- Trainer's insufficiency
- Absence or lowness of trainers' salary
- Lack of qualified trainers

- Insertion problems after training completion
- Small or no innovation in training programs
- Lack of recycling
- Limited sponsorship
- Lack of training material
- Student drop out (marriage, family movement)
- Constraints of repayment
- Constraints of commercialisation of finished goods

The main challenges consist in the modernisation of these centres to adapt their activities in the spirit of making them conform to the definition or their initial mission. That is to say, centres should be able to provide decent opportunities of learning to the students. Yet, the centres cannot stand the various constraints (of resource mobilisation) they have to face in be A and B categories. Most of ancient students have to take complementary trainings with private patricians because they do not have enough resources, nor experience to launch their own business.

The fact is that at present time these centres are not effective, and cannot really fulfil their mission. To be useful, training programs should provide learners with enough skills to be able to face daily life in the household. Female integration and promotion depend on material conditions.

According to the above-mentioned survey, to insure good functioning of the centres, there is need to:

- Reinforce the capacities of trainers.
- Support centres with adequate equipment.
- Help learners integrate active life after completion of learning
- Enlarge intervention capacity of the Department of Female Promotion beyond examination organisation.
- Create a decentralised structure of centres management.
- Promote access to vocational education for illiterate young people who wish to learn.
- Increase enrolment capacities of centres to respond to high demand.
- Put adequate equipment in governmental centres.
- Look for support from donors..

## **4.7 Description of two types of Women Community Centres**

### **4.7.1 The « Clair Logis » private centre**

It is located in Sonni quarter, in the heart of Niamey city. The Catholic Church created it in 1981. It is part of an international structure busy with the fight against poverty. Its main objective is to help women get rid of poverty, and acquire their economic independence in the perspective of raising their social status. The strategy consists in providing decent training to the learners so that they can acquire enough skills to be materially and psychologically free.

The centre has three classrooms, two workshops, and a kitchen. There are thirty sewing machines in each classroom, dishes, and computers. Students bring along little material (needle, crochets, etc.). There four trainers, all on full time, paid by the structure. They are also ancient students of the centre. There are 32 students at present time. Their age vary from 15 to 25, because below that age, students cannot assimilate body related instructions. Main activities include tailoring, knitting, crochet, batiks, childcare, hygiene, cooking, and computer sciences. The training

program lasts for three years. Trainers have regularly their salary using the contribution of the students. There is reference to the amount the centre pays for the month.

#### **4.7.2 CCOG Female Promotion Centre (governmental)**

Created in 1975n by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, it is located in the CCOG (Oumarou Ganda Cultural Complex). Its main objective is to stop delinquency, promote the integration of women in the development process, promote economic integration of women, prepare young female to their future role of mother and wife and household educator. It consists in a classroom and an office. The room that used to be the second classroom is not fit to live any more. Therefore, the students use the same room, shared into three by use of curtains. There are only 10 sewing machines, but very old and never effective. There are also a lot of dishes and a kitchen rather in poor state. The students bring along training material. They pay 15.000CFA francs as admission fees. There are three trainers who are regular public civil servants paid by the government. The centre recruited two other trainers among the ancient students of the centre. For the academic year 2010- 2011, 21 students are regularly registered of whom only 12 are attend the first year course, 5 are coming for the second year, and 4 for the last year. The age of students, vary from 13 to 25 years, between married women and young girls.

There are so many constraints, and the centre works only by the creativity and initiatives of the responsible. Facilities are not comfortable, old and narrow, the machines are out of function, participants 'contribution is very difficult to recover. In spite of all the constraints they face, participants learn tailoring, knitting, crochet, and cooking.

### **5. Remarks and suggestions**

Taking into account of the gender issue is far from being effective in Niger due to customary and cultural believes, the legal pluralism, the lack of information on the gender approach, the lack of knowledge on women rights by both men and women and not taking into account the gender dimension in the elaboration of many policies in different sectors. In all the socioeconomic sectors, women are marginalised even though they represent more than 50% of the total population. Rural women seem to be the most struck by discriminations in the sense that they have less access to basic social services, to valuable jobs and to control of resources. This situation is being complicated with the persistence of some great challenges such as the galloping demography and poverty notably.

The national policy on gender that has been elaborated gives ways which any partner can be inspired with because the problematic on the gender issue requires joint and coordinated actions due to the diversity of causes and the question that is transversal. Also, we are going to base ourselves on the different strategic axes set by this policy in order to give our opinion.

#### **5.1 The strategic axes of the National Policy on Gender and our comment**

*5.1.1 Strategic axis 1: "equitable promotion of the situation and the social position of women and men within the household and the community"*

A great divergence exists between the religious, traditional and modern point of views. The custom and religion give to woman a lower place which does not allow



her to participate in decision-making within the family and the community. Despite that, the family heads accept in their majority the utility of the work of women in their own families, the husbands do not accept that their wives also have the power to decide.

So, the interventions must target this relation which is not equitable within the family and the community. For this reason, one must base himself on the factors of social promotion that are considered in the area of intervention and proceed in a sense that women acquire them. However, the action must be done taken into account the authority that men exercise over women because to act only on women provokes tensions that sometimes are irreversible.

It is necessary to implicate men and women in the implementation of strategies designed that will contribute to the improvement of the status of women within households in the communities. Another condition for the improvement of the status of women, is building the general capacities to exercise rights and responsibilities of men and women. In this view, the actions will be based notably on:

- the capacity building of actors both men and women;
- pleading;
- lobbying;
- the communication for behavioural change (CBC);
- studies on the stereotypes and the behaviours that are not favourable to women;
- the recognition and the valorisation of the reproductive activities of women.

#### *5.1.2 Strategic axis 2: To equitably promote the potential and the position of women and men within the economy of the household and in the market economy.*

It was noted that poverty is prominent among women. Hence, overwhelmed with reproductive works (household), she has less time to devote to production works. She is often incapable to break the multiple socio-cultural barriers to accede to the training and the professional qualification required on the job market to occupy a well remunerated employment. Her weak competitiveness relegates her in subordinate employments. She suffers from discrimination in the exercise of certain gainful activities such as whole selling of agro-pastoral products, wood, etc. Moreover, men monopolised the public and private contracts and the entrepreneurship. They control the resources and credit is not easily accessible to women.

For the participation of women to economic development, these potentialities must be valorised at the same level as that of men. The instruction and the training will give her the qualification allowing her to compete at the same level of equity like man on the job market. Woman and man must have equal access to services and economic opportunities, a visibility and equal participation of each in the remunerated activities in all the economic sectors, notably in relation to access, the management and control of resources. Women empowerment passes also through the recognition and the valorisation of her work and in the household economy, as a productive work. For this reason an enlargement of the access of women to essential resources like funds, land, knowledge and technologies and building their capacities to master these resources is necessary. The women associations will be coached in order to have a good implication of women in the development process and their

participation in the authorities of decision making; it is necessary to aim the behavioural change of women for the promotion of female leadership and an offensive increased in the domains reserved until now to men. The reinforcement of their economic power in the households and in the community, regional and national economy is also a way to give them more confidence in themselves and power in the society.

*5.1.3 Strategic axis 3: “reinforcement of the effective application of women and little girls’ rights, the struggle against violence based on gender and the equitable participation of men and women to governance”.*

Laws are promulgated, international texts/legal documents are ratified even if it is sometime with reserves, but women suffer again with violence based on gender and encounter always difficulties of entering in the sphere of decision making. It should be noted that the texts/legal documents related to gender were insufficiently popularised at all levels, notably regional and community levels. The existence of provisions of the Islamic law, but also practices and customary habits makes difficult the application of legal texts. This situation is reinforced by the fact that some men find advantages in the perpetuation of inequities to the detriment of women within the household, such as for example the sharing of the heritage or in the exercise of the power to break unilaterally and discretionarily the marital bond (repudiation). Discriminatory texts and gaps in the law maintain the subordination of women. Again, women are weak in communication and negotiation techniques. Although some Nigerien women are increasingly involved in decision making at the political and administrative level, the quality of their participation in taking into account the gender issue remains poor.

Scientific studies and gender analysis tools, as well as disaggregated data by sex would have made it possible to obtain a better lighting on all these questionings and make more efficient the formulation and planning of programmes. Hence, any intervention necessitates the identification of specific needs of women and men in the regions and communes, the determination of obstacles and constraints of women and men in the programmes and projects as well as the actions proposed to bring specific solutions. It is on the basis of the specific realities in each locality and by a participative planning that interventions will produce the anticipated results and avoid being in radical contradiction with the culture, thus causing an effect of systematic rejection. The information must reach all the levels. So, the public and private televisions and radios and the community radios must be made into contribution. The actors that will be made into contribution concern the customary leaders, the religious leaders, the administration as well as the justice and the community organisations at the basis (women and men associations).

*5.1.4 Strategic axis 4: “reinforcement of capacities of intervention in institutional framework in implementing the National Policy on Gender”*

As indicated above the gender issue is not well known. The texts ratified are not well popularised most particularly at the basis where the concerned populations ignored everything about gender. There are even some men in the field of law that ignore them. Official actors as well as those from the civil society often have a weak technical expertise in relation to Communication for a Behavioural Change and production of supports. These actors take rarely into account the gender issue in their planning (for example elaborating significant budgets on gender or well defined

actions for each sex). It was noted the absence of written documents relating to gender in many regional departments, NOGs and local Associations and a weakness in equipment, audiovisual materials and in logistics means in the structures concerned by the promotion of gender (Ministries, NGOs, Associations, groupings, networks, cooperatives).

The capacity building will be done by providing texts/legal documents and experts in relation to gender, training on different techniques on social mobilisation, as well as the confection of materials. This capacity building will be done towards all the actors intervening in the field from central to local level via the NGOs and Associations.

The implementation of the National Policy on Gender must be done in synergy with all the actors through an effective coordination of interventions.

## *5.2 Conclusion*

Taking into account of the gender is a big challenge for sustainable development. In valorising all the potentialities of men and women, this will allow surely to maximise the responses to the needs of households and the State.

Due to the fact that gender is assimilated to the family code, a document that has provoked a serious opposition from religious leaders and some men that want by all means to keep their socio-economic privileges, sensibilisations must be done to allow the awareness of men and women. Consequently, it is based on an acting political will that the laws and texts/legal documents will profit from an effective application and that disaggregated data will be present in sectorial statistical annuals.

Since the inequity has its roots in the culture and the religion, the interventions must mobilise diverse actors such as the administrative and customary authorities, the international, national and local organisations, religious leaders, the collectivities, the community organisations at the basis. It is a network of engaged structures and convinced individuals that can mobilise the community by respecting the rhythm of different communities and the realities on ground. Hence, the circulation of the information on gender between these different actors eliminates the prejudices, facilitates the tracking of cases of persistence of inequities about gender and installs a real climate in favour of the respect of gender.

The women, main victims of these iniquities of gender need to know their rights, to be educated, to be trained and to acquire an economic autonomy to be more offensive and to have confidence in themselves. Their access to levels of decision making and their offensive depend on their intellectual level and the quality of their leadership. But, to benefit from the services placed at their disposal, there is a need of free time for them to devote to activities other than those of the reproduction.

However, the implication of men in all the activities is a condition of success because they have a great influence on women's decisions. Also, the equity between sexes cannot be effective while acting only on women. The actions must be truly gender sensitive.

The harmonisation of interventions as well within an implementing structure as on the level of relationship between different structures will allow the complementarity and the effectiveness. The actions will target all the components that influence the one above the others in order to give sustainable results in relation to equity among genders.

A weakness of interventions in Niger lies in the weakness of monitoring and evaluation. Hence, it is necessary that the monitoring is done at many levels like the

committees of vigilance at regional levels, the animators in the sub regions, the animators within the community of beneficiaries and the joint monitoring of project initiators and central departments that are competent in the sectors.

## 5. Information Sources on Gender

### 5.1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

	Name and Specialty	Past records (project etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
<b>International Organization</b>	Khaled Ben Said, OIC/interim, UNICEF			kbensaid@unicef.org
	Yasmine Alem, Gender specialist, PNUD			Yasmine.alem@undp.org
	Eric Vitale Danish Cooperation			96 85 99 64 nimrpk@um.dk Responsible of program
	Camille Wauters UNIFEM			96 91 10 66 Point Focal Camille.wauters@unifem.org
	Issa Sadou UNFPA			sadou@unfpa.org Responsible of program
	Mme Souley Habsatou ACDI/FAES			Habsatou@cdaniger.net Program Advisor
	Kaoura Rahila Oumarou DCE			96 99 66 40 Rahila08@yahoo.fr Responsible of program
	Mme Veles Dellen Espagne			20 75 59 61 Oct-Niger@yahoo.es
	Raphaël H. Garcia Fernandez Espagno			Aecid_niger@yahoo.es AECID96 92 25 52
	Chinnici Daniela Cooperation Italienne			utlniger@intenet.ne Program coordinator
	Mme Bety Aïchatou CRS Oumani			abety@ne.waro.crs.org 20 73 39 16 / 93 91 37 10
	Belgian coop Jean Louis PONT			Jean-louis-pont@diplobel.fed.be
	Adamou Moumouni Coop. Suisse			Adamou.moumouni@sdh.net
<b>Government Organization</b>	Ministry of P/PF/PE			Ministry of Population/PF/PE
Local NGOs	CONIPAT founded in 07/90 A.N 054/MI/DAPJ on 28/02/94			Tel : 75 34 72/ 75 27 56 Fax ; 75 35 06 BP 11631 Niamey
	ANED : Association of Niger development Teachers			BP 887, Ny Tel : 75 50 44
	GAP Private Donors (Collectif des ONG)			Tel : 75 21 68 Fax : 74 08 88
	RIDD-FITLA Female Integration and Rights Diffusion Network			
	AFN Niger women Association (foundation.			BP : 2818 Ny

	21/09/759			
	ANBEF Family well-being Association AN 045/MI/DAPJ			Tel : 75 26 80 Fax : 72 27 90 BP : 13174 Ny
	SWAA Niger : Society for Women and Aids in Africa (Femmes et le SIDA)			Tel : 74 03 31 / 72 22 34 BP : 13406 Ny
	ANAICE Niger alliance of modern Artists for children S/Kountché Stadium Door 1082 Box 12521 Ny			Tel: 74 18 89 Mrs. Tiékoura SG 72 35 05D Mrs. GATIR 73 25 65D 73 47 26 poste B M. Urbain Middah 72 24 26
	UPFN Niger Female Promotion Union			Tel : 72 41 32D/74 12 55B
	MVF Living with AIDS			Tel : 73 49 82
	CONGAFEN Collectif des ONGs 34 Ass, ONGS Réseau, 1 caisse populaire.			Tel : 73 36 93B/72 50 40D
	UFMN NIGER Female Muslim Union			Tel : 75 22 27D/ 75 33 20B BP : 10256 Ny
	NigeASFN Mid-Wives Associatio			Tel : 74 17 06 BP : 12280 Ny
	FC Family Care International-Niger			Tel: 73 35 72 Fax: 73 34 01 BP: 10 000 Ny
	<b>Name and Specialty</b>	<b>Past records (project, etc.)</b>	<b>Report and Writing</b>	<b>Contact Address</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	GNFHL Locomotive Handicapped Women association			
	USTN Niger Labour Union			73 52 56 BP 388Ny
	RDFN :Niger Female Democratic Association			Tel : 73 24 65 Fax : 73 20 15 BP : 11933 Ny
	SAPHTA : Hygiene, and Sanitation			Ny, Zinder, Dosso, Tillabéry, Tahoua
	Association TANAT TGRAW			Tel : 44 05 97 BP 268 Agadez
	ASEFER :Support to Rural Women Socio-economic Activities			BP 11372, tel : 74 04 82 Ny
	MECREF Female Credit Bank			Bp 10815, Tél : 73 30 54/ 73 20 70 Ny
	DIMOL/ SRMSR Reproductive Health for a maternity			BP 13874, Tel : 75 27 25 Ny

	Without Risk			
	AFJN : Association des femmes juristes du Niger			Tel : 73 58 51
	SOS Women and Children Victims of Family Violence			Tel : 74 07 80
	FEMJES			Tel : 74 23 06
	GAPAIN: Niger Child Feeding Promotion Action Group			Tel : 72 26 33
	ANPJ : Niger Association for the Promotion of the Youth			
	CONIPRAT ; Niger Committee for the Fight Against Bad Traditional Practices			72 4207
	UFEN : Niger Female Association of Teachers			
	AIFEN: Niger Female Economic Integration Association			2636 / 74 03 39
	PFCV : Rural Women Credit Bank			73 55 26
	TCHEMAYA			74 04 53
	AFDO : West African Women association			74 02 83
	AFCEN : Niger Female trade Union			2039 /72 31 53
	APNC-Niger : Niger Professional journalists Association			2039 / 72 31 53

## 5.2 List of reports and references related Gender

- ✓ Bureau d'Études Niger Horizons, 2007, Aide Mémoire on the National Forum on Female Promotion Centres Reorganisation, MPF/PE/ l'ONG Swiss contact Niger
- ✓ CONGAFN/OXFAM Novib, Journal Matan Daga, Juin 2010, Promotion and Enhancement of Institutional, Political, and Social Environment for Equity and Equal Rights Effective Rights to Participation to Public Life
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- ✓ JICA, 2002, Women in Development Profile (Niger)
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- ✓ Ministry of National Education , 2010, Decennial program for the development of Education. (PDDE), Activity plan year 1 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase (January – December 2011). MEN
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- ✓ Ministry of Female Promotion and Child Protection, United Nations Population Fund, 2010, Survey on the role of traditional and religious for the promotion of female rights in Niger. MPF/PE/ United Nations Population Fund
- ✓ World report on EPT, 2009, Fight Differences.: The importance of gouvernance. EPT



## 6. Definitions

### <Technical terms>

#### **Gender**

Analytic concept to define the role and the relationship of male and female as they live together

It is impossible to change the biological sex, while the issue of gender (which is a social consideration), means that male and female can change according to social considerations and values. .

#### **Informal sector**

Part of economy based on small registered individual or familial businesses.

According to the definition of the International labour Bureau; people working in the informal sector do not have a specific technology, no sufficient capital, no identified business, no minimum staff size, no legal registration, no clear accountancy.

#### **WID (Women in the process of development)**

.A concept regarding women as full actors of development

#### **Rights to reproductive health**

The right reproductive health and to decide on sexual issue

To be able to decide freely on the issue of sexual act and procreation

#### **National Machinery**

Official organisation for the promotion of equity between male and female

The application and enhancement of policies for the promotion of female status, in addition to feminine organisations

#### **Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitate individuals or group of individuals on the social, economical, and political ground

#### **Anti discrimination measures**

Prompt and measures aiming at correcting shortcomings of a situation in which people have to face discriminatory conditions.

#### **Access and control**

Access is the fact of having resources to invest in an economic activity. Control, is the right to take part to the management of resources or services, or to own them.

#### **Reproductive activity**

Activity aiming at conserving life and continuity « creating future generations », like giving birth, entertain, and preserve life daily through activities like cooking, washing, etc.

#### **Percentage of female revenue**

There is no comparative data for every country. UNPD defines an average of 75% for female as compared to male

#### **Fertility/fecundity rate**

Average number of children a woman can give birth to in her life.

#### **0 to 11 months mortality rate**

Annual number of death of under one-year children, (per 1000childbirth)

#### **Under-5 mortality rate**

Annual number of death of children under-5 years of age, (per 1000 childbirth)

**Maternal mortality Rate**

Annual number of death of women during pregnancy or delivery, (per 100.000 cases)

**Rate of assisted childbirth**

Rate of childbirth attended by a health professional, (doctor, nurse, mid-wife, first aid agent, matron)

**Percentage of under weigh babies**

Rate of babies born with a weigh under 4.500 grams

**Gross rate of enrolment in primary and secondary schools**

Rate of children going to school, yet who are over age, (for instance 7 to 12 years old children)

**« Lévirat »**

The fact of inheriting the wife of a deceased brother

**« Sororat »**

When a woman marries the husband of her deceased sister

**Opportunity Cost**

Additional costs of education.

**« Make Do »**

Assistance agreement between the government and NGOs to conduct education activities;

## 7. List of Consulted Persons

### Consultant

Name	Address/ position
Mrs Fodi Halima Boubacar	Yantalla BP 887 Niamey Cél : 93939152 / 96 89 55 86 / 90 35 77 29

### Consulted Persons

#### Government

Name	Address/ position
Mrs Barkiré Mariama Mabey	Gender Unit Responsible, department of Female Promotion and the Issue of Gender
Mrs Kaza Amina	Directorate of Girls' Enrolment Promotion
Mrs Bako Ramatou	Gender Issue Focal Point, Ministry of livestock
Mr Idi Léko	Rural Code Committee
Mrs Siddo Ousseina	National Agency for the Promotion of Employment
Mrs Hassane Aïssata Cissé	Gender Issue Focal Point, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture
Mrs. Konaté	Facilitator in The Gender Unit Ministry of Public Affairs and Labour
Directorate	Department of Statistics, Ministry of public Affairs and Labour
Mrs. Courjan Geneviève	Female Promotion Centres responsible (department of Female Promotion and Gender)

#### NGO

Name	Address/ position
Mrs Marie Chantal	Textile industry Responsable (Clair logis-Female promotion Centre).
Mr Abdoulaye	Swiss Contact
Mrs. Fatouma	Niger Women Association (Trainer)
Mrs. Mohamed Marrie	Female Associations and NGOS Coordinator in Niger

#### International Organisation

Name	Address/ position
Mr Ali Madaï Boukar	National economist (UNDP)
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**Initials and Abbreviations**

ACDI	Canadian International Development Agency
ANSITEF	Analysis of Female and Child Situation in Niger 2008
CADHP	African Chart for populations and Human Rights
CEDEF	Convention of Female related Violence Elimination
CONGAFN	Female associations and NGOS Coordination in Niger
DPFG	Department of Female Promotion and Gender
DPSF	Department of Girls' Enrolment Promotion
EDSN	Health Development Survey in Niger
EPT	Education for All
IGN	Gender Related Initiative in Niger
INS	National Institute of Statistics
MEN	Ministry of National Education
MESS	Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education.
MSP	Ministry of Public Health
OMD	Millennium Development Objectives
PDS	Health Development Plan
PNG	National Policy of Gender
TBA	Admission Gross Rate
TBS	Enrolment Gross Rate
UAM	Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey
UIS	Islamic University of Say
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund