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Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States, inaugurates classrooms at CES Tallague in Niamey, Niger.

PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT II

November 2016

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PEACE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT II

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And annual summary of activities October 2015 – October 2016

Reporting Period: July – September 2016

(Although The reporting period is July – September, 2016, activities through November 15, 2016, were included in this report, as the project is coming to its end and this is the final quarterly report)

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List of Abbreviations

AARC	Auto Appréciation de la Résilience Communautaire
CAC	Community Action Committee
CAG	Content Advisory Group
CD	Country Director
CDC	Cadre de Concertation or Community Development Council
COP	Chief of Party
CR	Community Reporter
CRO	Communication and Reporting Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DFA & C	Director of Finance, Administration, and Compliance
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EA	Equal Access
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
FDC	Fondation pour le Développement Communautaire (Community Development Foundation)
FOG	Fixed Obligation Grant
GIK	Grant in Kind
HQ	Headquarters
IRD	International Relief & Development
IR	Intermediate Result
IVR	Interactive Voice Recording
LGCI	Local Government Capacity Index
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUJAO	Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest (Movement for the Unification of Jihad in West Africa)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
USAID PDev II	USAID Peace through Development II
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
RAIL	Réseau d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales (Local Activities Support Network)
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SI	Salam Institute for Peace and Justice
SMS	Short Message Service (text messaging)
SO	Strategic Objective
TTAP	Tailored Technical Assistance Package
USAID/WA	United States Agency for International Development/West Africa
VE	Violent Extremism
VTC	Vocational Training Center
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarter was the last quarter of activity for PDev II in Chad and Niger. As the project comes to an end, final activities have centered on ensuring sustainability post-PDev II. In Niger and Chad, this meant final coaching and training for youth and civil society organizations (CSO) members, production and dissemination of guides and manuals, and completion of construction projects.

Final coaching and training took place for youth leaders, participatory theater troupe members, and mobile cinema facilitators in both countries. This final training and coaching will enable them to continue to apply their skills and training within their communities. As in Burkina Faso, the theater troupes have become very popular in some of the core zones in Chad and Niger, and are beginning to be hired by projects, NGOs, and other development partners to perform skits that evoke discussion, creating a space of dialogue wherein community members can discuss and find solutions to common problems. In Niger, in anticipation of upcoming local elections, PDev II partnered with the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to provide training to young political leaders, to ensure peaceful and participatory elections in the future.

A regional radio retreat for radio producers in the Lake Chad zone provided an opportunity for the producers to get together to discuss successes and failures in producing and broadcasting CVE radio programs in Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. The producers each brought locally-produced programs with them that were reviewed by all participants, and then discussed how they improve their programs and broadcasts. Partner radio stations continued to produce and air CVE programs in Chad and Niger; in addition, production and broadcasting continued on the regional French radio program *Reflets du Sahel*, enabling listeners to share knowledge and best practices in community resilience and solidarity against the common menace of violent extremism.

Construction of two new radio stations in Niger was completed this quarter, as was the installation of five new radio towers. These new radio stations in Diffa and Maradi will provide much-needed access to information by the communities in these vulnerable zones. The radio towers will allow the radio stations to increase their broadcast range, thereby increasing the numbers of listeners to their CVE programs. Construction of classrooms also came to a conclusion in Niger, improving the learning environment for thousands of students and contributing to increased access to quality and credible information throughout the country. In Burkina Faso, three of the seven classroom blocks were completed, and the final four classroom blocks will be finished by the end of November. In Chad, the USAID Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR), the mayor of Ndjamena 7, and the PDev II Project Director were able to inaugurate the first of eight wells. In his remarks, the mayor congratulated PDev II for providing the well, situated in a leper colony, which would bring the first access to water that the community had since it had been founded more than 30 years ago. Members of this community previously had to rely on family members or friends to bring them water, as they themselves were barred from drawing water at neighboring wells. By the end of November, the pumps and enclosures of the remaining seven wells will be completed, providing water to hundreds of Chadians in the eight communities.

PDev II also worked with CSOs, helping them design and implement their final programs and activities, improving their capacity to serve their communities. Activities ranged from public conferences and training workshops to radio roundtables and call-in shows on such topics as the importance of good governance, the role of religious leaders, women, and youth in helping communities counter violent extremism, and how to prevent youth radicalization. Sixty-four CSO leaders in Chad received training on organizational development and management, identifying and analyzing community needs, and project management techniques and strategies. In Niger, PDev II provided more than \$50,000 in grants to local CSOs to undertake community projects in various core zones.

PDev II also continued to support local communes' efforts in participatory budgeting, sharing annual development plans, and strengthening local leaders' capacity to promote good governance. In continuation of its support for good local governance, PDev II provided funding and technical support for the identification of best practices in local governance. A contest was held to identify the best practices in partner core zones, and a ceremony was held in N'Djamena was held to recognize the winners. In addition, the final radio call-in programs and community discussions between mayors and citizens were held, promoting transparency, citizen participation, and accountability in local governance.

In both Chad and Niger, guides/manuals for local governments were produced and distributed. These *Best Practices Guides in Local Governance* contain concrete examples of what local governments have done over the past five years to promote participatory and transparent budgeting and use of local resources. The manuals were presented to the partner ministry in each of the two countries, and were distributed to local communes so that local governments throughout the two countries can be inspired by these best practices.

INTRODUCTION

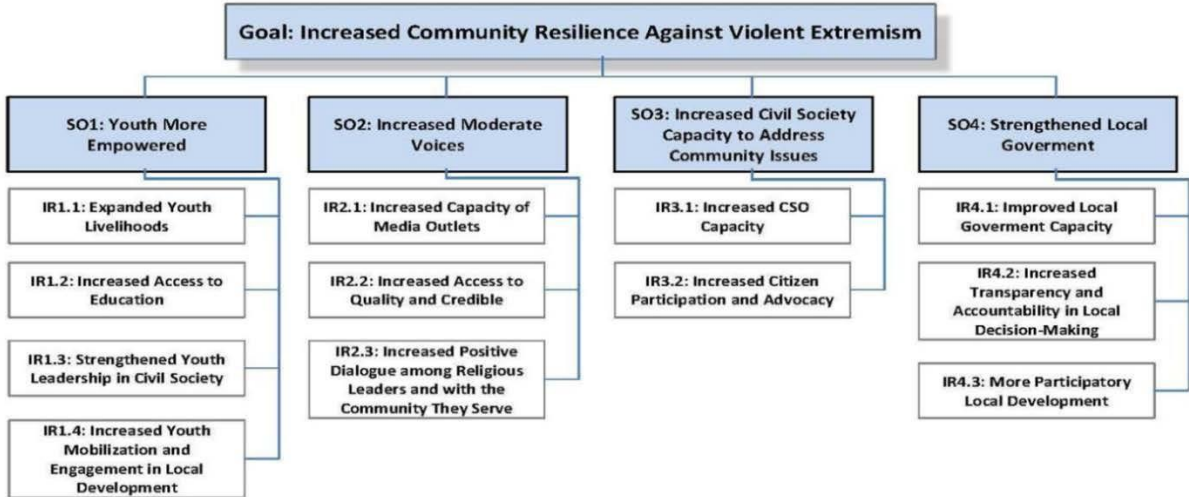
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development/West Africa (USAID/WA) is assisting Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso to reduce the risk of instability and increase resiliency to violent extremism through the USAID Peace through Development II Program (USAID PDev II), a five-year initiative launched in November 2011. As USAID/WA’s implementing partner, International Relief and Development (IRD) applies its holistic, community-led approach to accomplish the four, mutually reinforcing strategic objectives (SO) of PDev II:

- SO 1: Youth More Empowered** through expanded livelihoods, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training, civic education, capacity building for youth associations, and leadership training to increase participation in local decision making by young men and women;
- SO 2: Moderate Voices Increased** through integrated radio, social media, civic education, and conflict resolution activities, enhanced quality and credible information, and positive dialogue;
- SO 3: Civil Society Capacity Increased** through formal and informal training, strengthened advocacy skills, citizen-led accountability initiatives and issue-based campaigns integrated with radio and social media and enhanced through civil society organization (CSO) coalitions and networks;
- SO 4: Local Government Strengthened** through organized and enhanced community entities and CSO capacity, greater citizen participation, and training in public administration, transparency, advocacy, and government outreach, and integrated with radio and social media.

Each USAID PDev II strategic objective is aimed at strengthening a specific resiliency critical to addressing socio-economic, political and cultural drivers of violent extremism. Activities are particularly focused on youth and are designed to ensure broad participation and address cross-cutting issues such as gender equity, as well as to strengthen the resilience of the whole community.

USAID PDev II Results Framework Targets Specific Resiliencies and Ensures That Interventions Are Cross-Cutting and Integrated for Maximum Impact



AREAS OF OPERATIONS

USAID PDev II covers a large number of geographically distant and often culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse communities. Given the immensity of the Sahel, interventions are limited to communities with the highest violent extremism (VE) risk factors, determined through assessments conducted by the project. Core zones—those with the highest VE risk factors—receive the full spectrum of USAID PDev II interventions; non-core zones receive only radio programming. The selection of core vs. non-core zones was based on three criteria: the existing CVE (countering violent extremism) methodology utilized in identifying high-risk areas, population density, and the synergy and complementarity with other key CVE programs. USAID PDev II is fully operational in all 45 core zones across three countries: 20 in Niger, 15 in Chad, and 10 in Burkina Faso. It is envisioned that by the close of the project, radio programming will reach 56 non-core zones: 20 in Niger; 23 in Chad; and, 13 in Burkina Faso.

The complete list of USAID PDev II core and non-core zones is included in Annex I; maps illustrating core and non-core zones in each country are provided in Annex II.

KEY PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS THIS QUARTER

Construction of classrooms and radio stations: The construction of the final two radio stations was completed in Niger, as was the installation of five radio towers. In addition, classroom construction was completed in two schools in Agadez, and one school in Niamey. The project was honored to have Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States, inaugurate the classroom block at CEG Tallague in Niamey in July. In Burkina Faso, the United States Ambassador and the Burkina Faso Minister of Education inaugurated the classroom block in Ouahigouya, which was followed by two other inauguration ceremonies at the schools in Djibo and Arbinda.



Inauguration of a classroom in Burkina Faso by the Minister of Education and US Ambassador

Lake Chad Region Radio Producers Retreat: During one week in July, 15 producers from 13 community radio stations in the Lake Chad regions of Niger, Chad and Cameroon met in Niger for a Lake Chad Radio

Retreat. The week-long event was aimed at encouraging information-sharing and fostering a productive dialogue among the radio stations in relation to their efforts to counter violent extremism in the region. At the end of the retreat, the radio producers expressed gratitude to the project for helping them improve their capacity to better inform their listeners on issues related to CVE, and for giving them the opportunity to establish a network of contacts with other producers in the region facing the same issues and challenges.

Inauguration of the first well in Chad: The inauguration of the first of eight wells took place in Chad in early November. The ceremony was led by the USAID AOR, the mayor of Ndjamena 7, and the PDev II project director, in the presence of community members, representatives of the Ndjamena Community Action Committee (CAC) and the Ministry of Water, as well as other officials. As noted earlier, this well will bring the first access to water for members of a leper colony that was established in the Chadian capital more than 30 years ago.

Close out meetings in Niger: As the project winds down, PDev II/Niger partner RAIL organized day-long meetings in core zones that that included local government officials and community members and PDev II staff to:

- Review the major activities that were undertaken under PDev II, highlighting the achievements of PDev II in building and strengthening community cohesion, stability and resilience;
- Discuss major lessons learned; and
- Make recommendations for future programming.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Youth Are More Empowered

Activities this quarter under this SO focused on income generation and vocational training in Chad and Niger; improving learning environments in schools through donation of learning materials and school furniture in Chad and Niger, and completing the construction of classrooms in Niger and Burkina Faso that will improve the learning environment for youth in the selected schools. In addition, support to the University of Diffa in Niger allowed the university to write and produce the proceedings of a large international symposium on security in the Lake Chad basin held at the university earlier in the year.

Intermediate Result 1.1: Expanded Youth Livelihoods

The PDev II/Niger team focused much of its efforts under this Intermediate Result (IR) this quarter on providing vocational and income-generation training, which included completing the motorcycle-taxi (“kabu kabu”) vocational training for 150 at-risk youth in Agadez, Tahoua II and Tillabéri, and vocational training for 100 youth who lost their livelihoods in Diffa when the motorcycle-taxi business was banned (because many Boko Haram attackers were using motorcycles to move around the town, the motorcycle-taxi business was banned). The 100 youth were divided into groups, and were re-trained in small engine repair, welding, or small electronics repair in two vocational training centers in Diffa. This last training in the vocational training centers will be completed in mid-November, and each graduate will receive a kit that will enable him to find a job or to be self-employed.



A trainee doing motorcycle maintenance

Community Action Committees (CACs) in several of PDev II/Chad core zones identified a number of income-generating prospects for youth, which resulted in more than 275 young people acquiring skills and tools to help them find employment. One hundred and twenty (120) young men participated in training at vocational training centers, about half of whom received training in small engine repair and maintenance, the other half in welding or refrigeration and air conditioning. Thirty (30) young women received training in tailoring, while another 30 were trained in catering and food service. Other young people received income-generation training in local bread-making; painting and plastering; transportation (in order to drive taxis or delivery trucks); and block ice manufacturing and delivery (to small shops and homes without access to refrigeration). Each also participated in the business skills training that addressed such issues as how to open and manage a bank account; how to register a business and pay taxes; and the importance of re-investment and customer service. At the conclusion of each training program, a ceremony was held in order to give the participants tools that they could use in their new livelihoods as well as a certificate of course completion. Religious and other community leaders gave CVE messages at the ceremonies, to



Participants learning the fine points of tailoring in Chad

encourage the youth to take their training seriously and put their startup kits into immediate use in order to begin generating income to help them meet some of their basic needs, become more involved with their communities, and thereby become less vulnerable to extremists.

Intermediate Result 1.2: Increased Access to Education

Schools in Chad and Niger face many shortages, including teachers, books, furniture, equipment and other essentials. PDev II addressed some of these shortages in Chad by providing 980 student benches, 180 teachers' desks, chairs, and metal shelving units, and more than 4,300 textbooks and other learning materials valued at \$192,000 to 18 schools. The furniture and textbooks will improve the learning environment for more than 10,000 students in the core zones, particularly in the vulnerable zones of N'djamena and the Lake Chad region. In Niger, two schools in Agadez and one in Niamey received school furniture and equipment for a total value of more than \$15,000.



Student desks were part of the furniture and equipment provided to schools this quarter

To improve the capacity and visibility of the University of Diffa in Niger, in the region of the country most hard-hit by extremist attacks, the project has been providing support to the university to address issues of security in the region. In previous quarters, PDev II had provided support to the organization of an international symposium on security in the Lake Chad basin, and this quarter the project provided a grant to the university that enabled it to publish the proceedings in English and

French. The proceedings, entitled

Proceedings of the International Symposium on Peace in the Lake Chad Basin, were presented in a ceremony led by the Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation of Niger and the University of Diffa rector. In his remarks, the minister expressed the hope that the document would inspire international donors and stakeholders to assist the communities in the Lake Chad zone, and described the support for the symposium and the translation and publishing of the proceedings as great examples of cooperation in fields of research against terrorism between the governments of Niger and the United States.



Opening remarks by the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of Niger

Intermediate Result 1.3: Strengthened Youth Leadership in Civil Society



Youth leaders in Faya

Coaching sessions and final training in leadership, participatory theater and mobile cinema activities took place in Niger and Chad this quarter. In addition, coaches/trainers in Chad shadowed the youth as they performed their participatory theater skits and led the mobile cinema projection discussions, and then gave them feedback on how they could improve in the future. A total of 154 participated in these coaching sessions/ trainings that will contribute to the sustainability of youth leadership post-PDev II by teaching youth how to assess the and diversify their messaging streams, learn and capture successes in their activities, initiate and sustain funding and other relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations, and seek greater engagements within their communities.

Intermediate Result 1.4: Increased Youth Mobilization and Engagement in Local Development

Youth-led community events that were undertaken during the quarter were: participatory theater performances; mobile cinema projections (including pre- and post-performance surveys to gauge spectator reactions (i.e. change in behavior); dialogue sessions (workshops) involving youth engaged in political parties and in those in civil society; youth-led community improvement activities; and a cultural and sports week with a CVE theme.

A total of 69 participatory theater performances throughout the core zones in Niger reached more than 43,000 community members. The PDev II-trained youth also carried out audience surveys to better understand how the participatory theater performances affected spectators. The survey specifically looked at how the spectators appreciated the performances, their takeaways from the performances, and if the increase in knowledge or perception led them to make a change in behavior or not. The initial results of the questionnaire were positive, meaning that spectators were able to take away key lessons and information and in a number of cases responded that when presented with similar situations in the future, they would act in keeping with the recommendations on behaviors promoted through the participatory theater. The results of detailed analyses of the surveys (regionally and nationally) will be shared as part of the final report of PDev II.

In Chad, 21 participatory theater performances drew more than 4,400 spectators, as the theater troops addressed such community issues as civilian and military confrontations; tenant and landlord disagreements; inter-religious conflict; land tenure; and public health and safety during the rainy season which brings increased cases of cholera and malaria.



Youth ready to plant trees in their community in Faya, Chad.

Youth leaders in Chad also designed and led activities to address issues within their communities. Forty-five activities that brought together 3,075 youth in communities in N'djamena, Faya, Moussoro, and Mao to carry out a range of activities including planting trees to community centers and schools; cleaning markets and other public places; and painting school classrooms. Through these activities, the youth leaders demonstrated to their peers and to the community at large that youth are viable members of the community who can positively contribute to their respective communities.

Youth leaders in Chad also organized 20 training sessions on how to mitigate and prevent conflict in schools. As the beginning of the school year drew near, several school directors and the CACs of N'Djamena 7, 8 and 10 approached PDev II with their concerns about violence at school, caused by inter-ethnic and inter-religious tensions, lack of student desks and textbooks. In response to this request, 10 PDev II youth leaders, together with 10 experienced trainers of conflict prevention and peace education adapted modules for school settings in Chad. They then proceeded to train more than 700 school directors, teacher representatives, members of the *Association des Parents d'Eleves* (APE, the parent association), and students from each of the 117 secondary school in the three core zones on N'Djamena. Each school sent a school director, a teacher representative, two members of the APE (female and male) and two students (male and female). The participants were very appreciative of the training, and felt that it had trained them to be agents of peace who could help decrease the incidents of violence at their respective schools.

In addition, 114 mobile cinema projections in the Niger core zones reached 19,491 community members. Youth in each region mostly projected their own proper short films that had been produced with PDev II support, but in some instances youth also projected films from other regions where the content of the other films proved relevant. For example, the film produced in Maradi addressed youth manipulation during the electoral period. Prior to the announcement that local elections would be postponed, youth from Maradi, Agadez, and Tahoua had already begun using the Maradi film to raise spectator awareness of electoral violence and manipulation. In Chad, 20 film projections drew 3,100 community members in Moussoro, Faya, and Mao. As in the previous two quarters, youth facilitators trained in mobile cinema conducted short surveys before and after screenings, aimed at assessing spectators' changes in knowledge, perception and attitudes vis-a-vis the core themes presented in the films. The questions were developed on the basis of the content of each short film, and sought to encourage debate and discussion among spectators. Initial results indicated significant increases in knowledge and perception on key themes presented in the films. Specifically, the results suggest that:

- The mobile cinema projections and post screening discussion sessions were effective means of transferring information to spectators; and
- The information and dialogue that took place as a result of the screenings resulted in an increase in knowledge and positive change in perception on key thematic areas related to conflict and VE.

In another activity led by youth in Niger, PDev II partnered with IRI, a partner in the USAID Good Governance and Political Party Program (PPRG), to conduct eight workshops (*dialogue sessions*), one in each of the eight regional capitals of Niger, between youth engaged in civil society and those in the youth wings of various political parties. About 50 people attended each workshop (i.e. 400 across the eight workshops). The aim of the workshops, held between July 30 and August 30, was to create an open, neutral and inclusive framework that would allow the youth of the different regions to discuss their needs and priorities. In order to ensure an equal and representative participation, the implementation team ensured that participants at each workshop were from the ruling (majority) and opposition political parties and a diverse range of civil society organizations. This is largely why the discussions and atmosphere during each workshop were open, positive, dynamic and results-oriented.

Each of the workshops consisted of:

- Plenary sessions during which youth participants brainstormed and analyzed various types of priorities for their region;
- Group work sessions for in-depth discussion and analyses of the 'regional priorities' defined during the plenary sessions; and
- Plenary sessions involving exchanges between youth, and regional and national level politicians.

Those forums also gave youth an opportunity to develop strategies and commitments for organized and peaceful involvement in the municipal elections planned for 2017.



Officials opening the Week of Culture & Sports

The final youth-led activity in Niger was the organization of the *Cultural and Sports Week* at the University of Niamey, with CVE as one of its themes. For several decades, the national student union of Niger (*Union des Scolaires Nigériens* or *USN*) which is the representative organization of all Nigerien students, organizes an annual *Cultural and Sports Week for Nigeriens Schools*. This annual event is usually organized during the summer holidays, allowing students from all over the country to meet at the selected region of the country to fraternize, strengthen their social cohesion, and discuss their roles and

contributions to local and national development. This year's theme was *Contributions of Nigerien Schools in Countering Violent Extremism and Illegal Migration*. The event helped to strengthen the commitment and build the civic consciousness of students from the eight regions of the country. Nearly 600 students (90% from Niger and about 10% from nearby countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo) participated in the week-long event, which included the official launching by officials of USAID/Niger and the Nigerien Government, conferences (debates), soccer matches and cultural nights of music, theatrical performances, and films. Spectator participation in both mobile cinema projections and participatory theater performances were high; one of the reasons, perhaps, why there was a strong uptick in sharing on social media (particularly through the *Espace des Acteurs pour la Paix* Facebook page) of content about participatory theater and mobile cinema.

Overview of Strategic Objective 1

October 2015 – October 2016

During the past year, USAID/PDev II continued to build capacity of its youth leaders, and improve the learning environment of students in the three Program countries.

Four hundred twelve youth participated in trainings related to leadership, social media, participatory theater and mobile cinema, social media, and GPS technology for community mapping. Youth trained in participatory theater, an art form that helps community members address issues that break down community resilience, carried out more than 590 performances in communities throughout USAID/PDev II core zones.

Youth forums were another major avenue of building youth capacity this past year. A historic regional forum (the first and only time in PDev II) was held in Niger in April of this year, bringing together 150 youth leaders from three project countries to jointly discuss problems, identify solutions, share experiences and set youth related priorities at core zone, regional, and national levels.



A plenary session of participants at the regional youth forum in Niamey, Niger.

Mobile cinema viewings of USAID/PDev II produced full-length and youth CVE films took place in all three countries over the past year. In total, 470 projections in communities throughout the core zones took place, reaching an estimated 68,000 people. Youth leaders facilitated follow-on discussions, encouraging the audience to discuss factors of violent extremism.

USAID/PDev II continued to support efforts to increase youth livelihoods and employment opportunities as a means of addressing youth unemployment through vocational and income-generation training. In total, 477 youth participated in these trainings to increase youth employment, from local bread-making and tailoring, to catering and small engine repair. Over \$300,000 was invested in youth vocational training (training and provision of start-up equipment) across the three program countries.

Increasing access to education was another major undertaking of USAID/PDev II during this year. One of the major activities was the *Local Heroes* project, implemented in all three countries to promote academic excellence by enhancing students' motivation and interest for education by introducing them to role models from their communities who stayed in school and have successful careers. Across Niger, USAID/PDev II implemented local hero programs that awarded prizes to the top performing students in 13 schools. In Burkina Faso and Chad, local hero programs were held in nine schools.

In an effort to improve the learning environment, particularly in rural schools, and demonstrate the benefits of education to both parents and students, PDev II also provided school supplies and



Participants at the donation ceremony viewing some of the school furniture and

equipment to youth in schools. Over the past year, the project has donated student benches, teachers' desks, chairs, and shelving units, as well as textbooks valued at more than \$300,000 that enhanced access to education for students in 37 schools in Chad, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

PDev II completed its classroom construction in Niamey and Agadez in Niger, and in Ouahigouya, Arbinda, and Djibo in Burkina Faso. The remaining classrooms in Markoye, Gorom-Gorom, Dori, and Seytenga in Burkina Faso will be completed by the end of November. Youth in six vocational and youth centers in Niger also benefited from the donation of equipment and learning materials valued at about \$43,000.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Increased Moderate Voices

PDev II improved access to quality information for thousands of Nigeriens by the completion of two radio stations in Maradi and Diffa, and the installation of radio towers in two other radio stations, in Dabaga and Bermo. In addition, in the United States Ambassador to Niger, the Honorable Eunice Reddick, took advantage of her visit to the *Cure Sale* festival to inaugurate the radio station that the project had completed in a previous quarter in Ingall, in the Agadez region. Radio partners in both Chad and Niger received radio equipment that will improve their capacity to produce and broadcast CVE programs. In Niger, the PDev II media team continued production of the television show in Hausa that addresses cultural and ethnic issues and challenges in the country and the greater Hausa-speaking region. Finally, a regional retreat for radio producers in the Lake Chad region brought together radio producers from Niger, Chad, and Cameroon to discuss ways of improving their CVE programs and broadcasts in the region most affected by Boko Haram. In Chad, civic education training workshops for Arabic school teachers in the Lake Chad area were organized and delivered; a workshop bringing together youth, religious leaders, and CSO members on youth radicalization was also organized in Bol, one of the places hardest hit by Boko Haram recruitment and attacks; and the draft religious leader manual was presented.

Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased Capacity of Media Outlets

Radio circles are networks of partner radio stations within PDev II core zones that are aimed at



A participant being interviewed about the retreat

strengthening the exchange of information among the radio stations, and harmonizing efforts to efficiently and sustainably counter violent extremism. Radio circles are expanded partly through identifying and engaging new partner radios. In Chad, radio circle meetings this quarter produced notable results. Three circles met: the *Batha Circle* (in Arabic); the *Kanem Circle* (in the Kanembou language); and the *BET Circle* (in the Goran language). During those meetings, the PDev II media team guided the participants on how to efficiently build scripts and conduct

interviews, after which they were divided into working groups that developed and produced a total of 36 regionally relevant radio magazine programs (12 programs per circle), for a total of 14 hours of content that were broadcast by nine partner radio stations. The PDev II media team witnessed a significant improvement in the radio partners' ability to develop strong and compelling narratives, and to work together constructively to increase the quality of their programs. Participants were highly complementary about the educative value of the circle meetings and associated activities. For example, Ousman Maigadi, reporter and producer at *Radio Dar badja d'Amtiman* said: *The Radio Circle meetings taught me important knowledge and techniques. Before joining the activity, my programs didn't follow any proper methodology or techniques, and I was essentially improvising. I now understand the importance of writing scripts and planning interviews in order to build strong narratives.*"

From July 18 to 22, partner *Radio Alfani* (in Niamey) hosted the Lake Chad Radio Retreat, which involved 15 producers from 13 community radio stations in the Lake Chad regions of Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The retreat was aimed at encouraging information-sharing and fostering a productive dialogue among the radio stations in relation to their efforts to counter violent extremism in the region. During the first two days, the PDev II media facilitators guided participants in practical episode-planning exercises employing the same knowledge, attitudes and behaviors (KAB) approach used by PDev II media teams to produce radio series. Additionally, interactive and small group sessions enabled participants to share their experiences, challenges and lessons learned from the production of CVE programming.

During the remaining three days of the retreat, participants were divided into three groups, each of which used the concepts and techniques discussed during the first days of the retreat to design, write and produce three CVE programs in French. Each team then presented its work during plenary sessions. Some of the themes of the programs centered around fostering cooperation and assistance between people of different faiths, supporting truthful interpretation of Koranic values, and raising awareness of the rationale underlying Boko Haram's tactics in the Lake Chad region. Each program was translated into local languages and subsequently broadcast by participant radio stations in order to ensure a wider outreach to affected communities across the Lake Chad region. Joseph Amanani of *Radio Guider* in Cameroon, encapsulated participants' overwhelming positive assessment of the usefulness of the retreat when he said, *"The journalistic approaches, experiences and techniques discussed and demonstrated during this retreat have enabled*



A representative of the Ministry of Communication receives a copy of the handbook in Chad.

me to learn new ways to conduct interviews and bring out key information. I've also learned how to build a strong narrative using the KAB methodology.”

A radio mentoring activity in Niger aimed at providing technical assistance to new radio station personnel (managers, producers and technicians) was developed as a replacement for an *in situ* activity initially proposed in the annual work plan that became unachievable because of delays in the construction of the new radio stations and installation of radio towers. The mentoring was undertaken between August 5 and 17, and 15 media professionals (5 managers, 5 producers and 5 technicians) from newly-active PDev II partner radio stations in Ingall, Dabaga, Dan Issa, Bermo, and N'guigimi were trained by two mentor radio stations in Tessaoua and Arlit. These 15 media professionals received personalized support from the more experienced counterparts in the host stations to prepare them to independently produce quality local CVE productions in their respective radio stations.

The production and distribution of a radio production methodology handbook was another major achievement during this quarter. It was produced through the close collaboration of the PDev II media teams of the three Program countries. The handbook provides an overview of the approaches, techniques and methods employed by PDev II in the development and production of CVE radio programs, including community engagement strategies. The handbook will strengthen the capacity of partner radio stations and ensure a sustainable application of the methodology and know-how provided by the PDev II media teams during the life of the project.



The US Deputy Chief of Mission (middle, at the dais)

In Chad, a ceremony was held on September 28, at *La Maison des Médias* in N'Djamena, at which the French and Arabic copies of the handbook were distributed to all 15 partner radio stations in Chad and one copy to the Ministry of Communication. Radio partners commented positively on the quality and the thoroughness of the handbook. The PDev II media team in Chad took advantage of the handbook launch event to distribute to nine partner radios (Ati, Mao, Amtiman, Bol, Moussoro, Nokou, Mondo, Palmeraie and Oumhadjar) 300 mobile SD cards containing over 100 episodes of *Chabab Al-Haye*, *Dabalaye* and *Reflets du Sahel*) and

technical equipment such as microphones, headsets, recorders, computers and antennas. The actors of the youth drama *Chabab Al-Haye* also performed a live segment of an episode on corruption. The president of the High Council of Communication (HCC), Mouktar Wawa Dahab, chaired the event. In his opening speech, he stated, “*The lack of access to quality and credible information is an important driver of social conflicts and the radio stations have a critical role to play by opening minds, promoting social cohesion, and amplifying moderate voices. Given the current technical and financial challenges faced by the community radios in Chad, especially in rural areas, I want to acknowledge PDev II’s tangible contribution to their development and the sustainability of their operations.*”

The Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Chad, Ms. Joyce Winchell Namde, also participated in the event and commented on the importance of community radios’ contribution to countering violent extremism, and applauded the dedication of PDev II to building and strengthening the capacity of media outlets and professionals. In Niger, the distribution of the radio handbook followed a similar pattern as that of Chad. French and Hausa copies were distributed to 35 partner radio stations in Niger, one copy to the Ministry of Communication, and 15 copies to various organizations operating in the media field.

In Niger, the radio listening club contest of the previous quarter resulted in the Listening Club *All African Boys* of Mainé Soroa winning a grant to implement their project entitled *Restoring Security and Peace*. Activities during the week at the end of July/early August included a one day forum on peace and security in which 40 participants from youth groups (fadas) gathered to discuss the contribution of youth in restoring peace and promoting tolerance and two radio roundtables on local radio station *Mangari* in Hausa and Kanuri on the theme *The contributions of youth to peace building*. In addition, 10 public listening sessions in which 200 participants (70 females and 130 males) from 10 youth groups (fadas) participated in listening sessions of selected PDev II programs relevant to youth resilience, peace and tolerance, and youth's contribution to social cohesion. The week's activities concluded with a closing ceremony that consisted of a musical contest, skits, games and dances (*algaita*).

Intermediate Result 2.2: Increased Access to Quality and Credible Information

In Niger, the PDev II Media Team produced and broadcast episodes of both youth and good governance radio programs during this quarter. A total of 12 episodes of the youth soap opera *Gwadaban Matassa* were produced in Hausa, Zarma and Tamasheq; and 12 in Kanuri as well. Altogether, broadcasts and rebroadcasts, on eight radio stations, totaled 225 hours. The PDev II Media Team received significant feedback on the Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) system in response to the narrative and the different characters in *Gwadaban Matassa*. Listeners commented on how the program contributes to raise youth awareness of the benefits of inter-religious dialogue and peaceful coexistence, develops their critical thinking, and persuades them that education is the best antidote to ignorance. For example, one listener from Diffa stated that the program provided him with *"a moral compass and the capacity to differentiate between right and wrong, preconceptions and facts"*. Boulama Ari, from Mainé, reported that he had witnessed a change in people's attitudes following the broadcast of the youth drama. He said: *"People of all religious confessions now realize that we are fitting the same enemy, Boko Haram."*

A total of 13 episodes of the Good Governance show *Sada Zumunci* were produced in Niger, drawing on 296 interviews conducted by community reporters. Additionally, a total of 23 episodes were produced in Kanuri and broadcast on six radio stations in Diffa. Among the topics covered were the social integration of refugees and displaced peoples, the atrocities perpetrated by Boko Haram, and equitable access to public services. Altogether, broadcasts and rebroadcasts totaled 355 hours. Following the broadcast of the *Sada Zumunci* episodes, many listeners wished the continuation of the IVR system. Among them, Mamane Sani Oumarou from Zinder stated: *"Listening to the episode on the role of religious leaders in promoting peace and social cohesion, I realized that access to accurate and credible information is critical in order to develop resilience among the people (especially youth) and to better counter the propaganda of violent extremists"*

During the reporting period, the PDev II media team in Niger wrapped up its partnership with the Nigeria-based satellite channel AREWA24 via the production of new TV segments on CVE topics. In addition to ongoing broadcast of the segments on the *Gari Ya Waye* morning show on AREWA24, all segments were broadcast by two PDev II partner radio/TV stations, *Anfani* and *Dounia* in Niger.

During the reporting period, the listening clubs in Niger held a total of 44 listening sessions/meetings, a tangible illustration of the contributions of these clubs to increasing the access of their local communities to quality and credible information on countering violent extremism.

In Chad during this quarter, 11 episodes of the Good Governance show *Dabalaye* were produced in Arabic for a total of 108 hours of broadcast and eight hours of rebroadcast on 19 radio stations. The PDev II media team produced and broadcast 11 episodes of the youth soap opera *Chabab Al Haye* in Arabic for a total of 85 hours of broadcast and 22 hours of rebroadcast on 19 radio stations.

Listeners commented that *Chabab Al Haye* programs contribute to raising youth awareness on tolerance and peaceful coexistence, changes their attitudes, and persuades them that knowledge can eliminate ignorance and stereotypes. Hussein Adam Hassan, a listener from Ngabo, shared this evocative example of attitudinal change: *One of my good friends was flirting with banditry and violence, and did not listen to anyone. One day, I encouraged him to listen to a few episodes of Chabab Al Haye with me. It had a huge effect on him! He realized that his violent behavior hindered all efforts to achieve peace and social cohesion in his community, and so he decided to turn his anger into positive actions, his intolerance into compassion. I am so proud of my friend. Thank you PDev II!*

Under this IR in Niger, the final activity is the production of the final CVE-themed film. A team of international film makers teamed up with a Nigerien film maker to produce a film on community resilience, highlighting the Diffa region. This film will be finished by early December, with versions in French (with English subtitles), Hausa, and Kanuri.

Intermediate Result 2.3: Increased Positive Dialogue among Religious Leaders and with the Communities They Serve

During the reporting period, PDev II conducted three sets of activities to promote positive dialogue between religious leaders in Chad and with the communities they serve: a youth radicalization awareness training; civic education teacher training workshops; and a press conference on the draft religious leader manual.

The youth radicalization awareness workshop was held September 11-15, 2016, in Bol. The 40 participants consisted of youth leaders, CAC members, and religious or traditional leaders from the Lake Chad region. Through a combination of guest lecture presentations, discussions, and working groups, the workshop addressed the processes of youth recruitment, radicalization, and extremist messaging, particularly with regards to Boko Haram; identifying the needs and competencies of youth as it relates to their role in and contributions to society; the role of religion in promoting alternatives and other strategies for youth resilience against violent extremism; and raising community awareness and engagement against youth radicalization. The participants issued a variety of recommendations to the national government, donor and development organizations, and fellow religious and youth leaders.



Group work was part of the youth radicalization awareness workshop

In September, PDev II also conducted three consecutive three-day civic education workshops for Arabic school teachers in the Lake Chad Region, in Ngouri, Baga-sola, and Doum-Doum. The PDev II civic education manual was the primary resource for the workshop, which were attended by a total of 70 teachers from Arabic-language public schools. The manual promotes civic values of non-violence, tolerance, and human rights through the use of active learner pedagogy. Dr. Gamar, Director of ISESCO and a local partner of PDev II, coordinated and oversaw the workshops.

During this quarter in Chad, the PDev II SO2 team held a press conference to present the religious leader manual that had been drafted over the past couple of years. The manual has become a unique demonstration of positive inter-faith collaboration in that country, and has been endorsed by a wide spectrum of Chadian religious leaders in the country (e.g. High Council for Islamic Affairs, the Catholic Church and the Union of Protestant Churches in Chad), although it does not constitute an official document of the religious institutions. At the press conference in N'Djamena in September, representatives of the High Council for Islamic Affairs and Christian and Muslim religious leaders gave an historical overview of the manual and publically endorsed it for the widest possible dissemination as a major resource for religious leader training and peace-building throughout Chad.

Overview of Strategic Objective 2

October 2015 – October 2016

USAID/PDev II continued its support to partner radio stations this year through technical support and training, provision of equipment and material, and radio station construction. Over the past year, 160 radio personnel in all three PDev II countries participated in a variety of training, from journalist ethics and CVE program production, to equipment repair and community reporting. Radio partners received a variety of equipment, from sound systems and digital recorders, to computers and microphones, enabling them to more effectively deliver information and provide space for sharing ideas. The total value of equipment provided to partner radio stations in Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad this past year was \$80,074. PDev II also completed the construction of two radio stations in Niger this year, which will provide access to quality information to thousands of listeners, and installed five radio towers (three in the new radio stations, and two others in Dabaga and Bermo stations).

CVE messaging was conveyed through a variety of radio programs during the year. In Chad, the USAID/PDev II/Chad media team produced 37 episodes of the youth magazine *Chabab Al Haye* and 42 episodes of the good governance magazine *Dabalaye*, totaling more than 740 hours of radio broadcasting and rebroadcasting hours in Chad. In addition, local productions by radio partners in Chad were aired for a total of 1,031 hours of broadcasting and rebroadcasting. In Burkina Faso, the USAID/PDev II media team produced 41 episodes of the youth magazine *Manegr Soré* in Moore and *Pinal Sukabé* in Fulfulde, as well as episodes of the new good governance magazine *Zansong Soré* for a total of 1,030 hours of broadcasts and rebroadcasts in Burkina Faso. Partner radios in Burkina Faso also produced 41 hours of broadcasting and rebroadcasting hours. In Niger, radio broadcasts also included episodes of the Hausa language good governance program, *Sada Zumunci*; and of the youth soap opera *Gwadaban Matassa*. Over the past year, PDev II, in order to increase listenership of CVE messaging in Diffa, the region most affected by extremist attacks, has also been translating its youth as well as its good governance radio programs into the Kanuri language. A total of 52 episodes of the youth program and 130 episodes of the good governance program have been produced. They were broadcast and re-broadcast last year for a total of 130 hours.

To increase and amplify moderate voices in Chad, USAID/PDev II conducted trainings for teachers of Koranic schools on civic values and virtues which made them more aware of not transmitting radical views to their students. In total over the past year, 78 Koranic school teachers received training, to enable them to improve capacity to influence the attitudes and behaviors of their adherents and reach some of the most disaffected populations.

Following the regional conference for religious leaders that took place in Ouagadougou last year that resulted in country-specific plans for how religious leaders in the three countries could become more active advocates for youth employability in the three countries as well as have a greater impact on countering violent extremism, a series of events took place in each country. The religious leaders acknowledged that, because of increasing youth exposure to violent extremism and extremist groups using religion to recruit youth, they needed to work with families, communities, local and national governments, national and international development organizations, the media and private sector, and all other actors in order to help youth become more resilient to violent extremism. The specific strategies and plans would focus on increased youth employment, community integration, participation in local affairs, and leadership.



The Governor of Tillabéri (center) at a regional conference in Niger

Religious leaders in all three countries then developed specific action plans for taking concrete steps towards addressing the root causes of the vulnerability of youth to violent extremism. They named their plans after the respective places where those resolutions were taken: the *Zinder Action Plan* (for Niger); the *Bakara Action Plan* (Chad); and the *Dori Action Plan* (for Burkina). Religious leaders in Niger were able to implement more of their activities than those in Burkina Faso and Chad, due in part to the lack of time in Burkina Faso (the project closed there at the end of June), and the change in personnel in Chad (it took a few months for the Vatican to nominate a new Archbishop, and the *Plate Forme Interconfessionnelle*, which developed the *Bakara Action Plan*, did not want to move forward unless all actors were present).

In Niger, between May 12 and 23 of this year, the religious leaders organized regional forums and conferences under the broad theme of: *Programs to Educate Youth on Employment and Self-employment opportunities*. Participants included religious and traditional leaders, youth, and parents, leaders of civil society organizations, national and international NGOs, regional chambers of commerce, and local government officials. Together, they discussed specific solutions to the multiplicity of problems facing youth (e.g. high rate of unemployment; social, cultural and political exclusion by society, etc.) and discussed how the actors represented at the conferences could work together towards solving such problems.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Increased Civil Society Capacity to Address Community Issues

PDev II's efforts over the past several years have borne fruit, as more and more CSOs have been able to effectively design and implement activities to address community divisions and conflicts. In Niger, seven local CSOs received grants worth more than \$50,000 to plan and implement activities to raise awareness, promote peace, and build resilience within their communities. Community Action Committees (CACs in Chad and CDCs in Niger) held their final PDev II-supported meetings, with all expressing their thanks to PDev II and confirming that they will continue to meet and work closely with local government officials and community leaders to address citizen concerns. In Chad, three CSOs received grants to promote inter-religious dialogue and understanding among youth in Ndjamen; train youth in conflict prevention; and conduct televised and radio roundtables with religious leaders on their role in helping counter violent extremism and promote social cohesion.

In addition, the final Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool was applied to CSOs in Niger with which the project has worked most successfully over the last four years.

Intermediate Result 3.1: Increased Civil Society Capacity

The Life of Project target for training CSO members in Niger was 145, and by the end of Year 4, the Program had trained 745 CSO staff members, a 514% over-achievement of the target. Thus, no CSO training was carried out in Year 5. However, although no CSO training occurred, the Niger country team still thought it would be useful to carry out the OCAT in Year 5 on the CSOs that PDev II had worked most closely with during the life of the project, and so administered the assessment between September 18 - 26 on: *Alternative Space Citoyen; Communication pour Un Changement des Comportements (CCCP/HASKE)* of Arlit; *Observatoire Religieux pour la Prévention des Conflits (ORPC)*; *Association des Femmes Nigériennes Contre la Guerre* of Agadez; *Femme et Famille (FEFAM)* of Tahoua II; *Initiative et Actions* of Maine Soroa; *Eco Développement Participatif (EDP)*; *Association Nigérienne de Défense des Droits Humains (ANDDH)* and the *Mouvement Patriotique pour une Citoyenneté Responsable (MPCR)* of Niamey V. Results are noted in the table below.

Organization	Location	Factors of Assessment					Avg. Score
CSO Name	(Core Zone)	Strategy	Finance	Project Management	Infra-structure	Capacity to Address Community Needs	Score
<i>Alternative Space Citoyen</i>	Zinder I	100	83	92	100	95	95
<i>Mouvement Patriotique pour une Citoyenneté Responsable (MPCR)</i>	Niamey V	100	83	100	83	100	96
<i>Observatoire Religieux pour la Prévention des Conflits (ORPC)</i>	Agadez CU	100	100	92	100	81	96
<i>Femme et Famille (FEFAM)</i>	Tahoua II	100	100	83	83	95	93
<i>Association des Femmes Nigériennes Contre la Guerre</i>	Agadez	75	100	92	100	81	86
<i>Eco Développement Participatif</i>	Maradi I	100	67	92	100	86	89
<i>Communication pour Un Changement des Comportements (CCCP/HASKE)</i>	Arlit	100	67	75	83	71	79
<i>Initiatives et Actions of Maine Soroa</i>	Maine Soroa	100	83	83	100	86	89
<i>Association Nigérienne de Défense des Droits Humains (ANDDH)</i>	Tillabéri	100	83	100	83	100	82
Average, %		97	83	90	92	86	89.6

Over the years and in all program countries, the single greatest problem facing CSOs is lack of access to finance, which severely hampers their ability to address the needs of their communities. Consequently, low capacity to address community needs is the second most important problem facing CSOs in program countries. Similar figures for CSOs in Niger, in FY 2014 and 2015 were: 2014 (Finance: 81% and Addressing Community Needs: 82%) and 2015 (Finance: 83% and Addressing Community Needs: 89%). As indicated in this report, PDev II took steps towards meeting these needs of CSOs by approving grants for high-performing CSOs to undertake community projects.

The overall baseline OCAT score for CSOs affiliated with PDev II, established in Year 1, was 61%. The overall life of program (LOP) OCAT score for PDev II/Niger is 72%. The Program undertook vigorous CSO capacity building activities in the early years, which was rewarded by an overall increase in OCAT scores. The data for Year 5 in the above table show that the Program has surpassed the target for CSO capacity building of 72% by obtaining an average score of 89.6%.

In Chad, as a result of the OCAT conducted in the last quarter on 16 CSOs in Mao, Ati, Moussoro, and Faya, a series of training workshops was organized for 64 representatives of the CSOs in identifying and analyzing community needs; project management, and organizational development and management. Led by organizational specialists, the workshops were conducted in Ati, Mao, and Moussoro in September (with the Faya CSO members attending the Moussoro and Ati workshops). Local government authorities and community leaders who attended the closing session of each workshop thanked PDev II for its unwavering support for the development of their communities and expressed hopes that a sequel to PDev II would be financed by the US Government or other donors to continue this important work.



Participants at a CDC meeting in Niger.

In both Niger and Chad, Community Action Committees (CDC/CAC) held their final PDev II-supported meetings. They thanked PDev II for the support the project had given to them over the years, and expressed their intention of carrying out activities to help their respective communities build resilience to violent extremism and promote local development.

Intermediate Result 3.2: Increased Citizen Participation and Advocacy

In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to observe September 15 as the *International Day of Democracy*, with the purpose of promoting and upholding the principles of democracy, and invited all member states and organizations to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner that contributes to raising public awareness. During this quarter, PDev II in Niger provided funding and technical support that enabled the CDC of Tchintabaraden to implement a project entitled *Citizen participation in promoting peace and democracy*. The key activities for the project were: A panel discussion, an awareness-raising campaign in 17 villages of the municipality, a mobile cinema projection and a participatory theater performance in celebration of the *International Day of Democracy*. The approximately 100 participants at the panel discussion delved into such issues as the roles which citizens can play at the family, ethnic, religious and other levels towards promoting peace and democracy; The campaign (caravan) enabled citizens of the municipality to exchange with the organizers of the campaign and local authorities about many issues associated with peace and democracy. About 200 people attended the participatory theater performance that was presented by a PDev II troupe of Tchintabaraden; and approximately 100 people attended the mobile cinema projection of a short film that dealt with the harms of drug use and the recruitment of vulnerable youth by terrorist groups and drug traffickers.

Additionally, in Niger, PDev II awarded grants valued at more than \$50,000 to CSOs to organize and implement activities to promote good governance and accountability over the management of public goods and services. Key outcomes from the implementation of the grants were to be constituted into a practical guide to citizen control over the delivery of public goods and services. The CSO grants in Niger that were completed to date are as follows:

- The *Association des Femmes Nigeriennes Contre la Guerre* in Tahoua received a grant of \$5,947 to organize a two-day workshop attended by representatives from CSOs from the PDev II core zones of Agadez, Arlit and Iferouane on citizen participation in local development. The association also organized two local radio debates on the same subject.

- *Eco Développement Participatif (EDP)* received a grant of \$5,482, to organize a two-day workshop on how citizens can hold local governments accountable. *EDP* also organized two local radio debates that touched on a wide range of issues, including push factors for VE such as: Societal discrimination and frustration; marginalization and social exclusion; repression and blatant violation of rights by the authorities; the lack of transparency in governance, and endemic corruption coupled with impunity of elites.



A working group session at the FEFAM workshop.

- The *Association Femme et Famille (FEFAM)* received a grant of \$5,653 to hold a two-day workshop on the legal aspects of the delivery and management of public goods and resources, and two radio debates that focused on the relationship between local government and citizens, and the need for a permanent framework for the exchange between citizens and their elected officials.
- The CSO *ANDDH* of Tillabéri also received a grant valued at \$5,677 to organize and implement a two-day workshop and radio debates. As in Agadez, the workshop addressed the legal aspects of citizen oversight: what rights citizens had in demanding accountability from the public officials, and what the legal process was to exercise those rights. The two radio debates involved a member of the civil society, a municipal official, a member of the CDC, and a youth leader. The four speakers discussed issues related to the impact of violence during elections and its impact on citizens and local development, and how poor governance can lead to a resurgence of violent extremism.
- The CSO *Mouvement Patriotique pour une Citoyenneté Responsable (MPCR)* received a grant of \$29,589 for a project entitled *Nigériens for improved accountability*. The components of the grant were a panel discussion, two radio debates, a regional workshop, a national workshop, and the production and distribution of a manual on citizen oversight of the delivery of public goods and services. The panel discussion was moderated by the President of *MPCR* on the theme: *Issues of citizen participation for increased government accountability*, with discussions centered on the fundamentals of democratic governance and the role of citizens in it. The radio debates, as with the ones organized by *ANDDH* in Tillabéri, focused on the impact of election violence on communities and on local development, and how poor governance can contribute to a rise in violent extremism. Speakers at the radio debates included the Secretary General of *MPCR*, a religious leader, a municipal councilor and a member of CDC of Niamey IV. The two-day regional workshop on citizen participation in local governance was attended by 30 people from various fields (e.g. civil society, local politicians, representatives of state institutions, private operators, religious and traditional leaders, and representatives of the CDC). Three presentations were given the first day, followed by open discussions. The first presentation addressed the role of citizens in ensuring transparent local governance; the second was a presentation of Niamey V's experience in citizen oversight of the delivery of public goods and services; and the third was a research paper on the how poor local governance has led to the suspension of several regional mayors. The second day of the workshop was devoted to working group sessions that led to the drafting



Women religious leaders in Chad discuss their roles in countering violent extremism.

of a national guide on citizen oversight of the delivery of public goods and services. Approximately one week after this, *MPCR* organized a national validation workshop during which 30 participants reviewed the draft guide produced at the aforementioned regional workshop, and added the recommendations from the workshops associated with all of the CSO grants on citizen participation and oversight discussed above. They then integrated those observations to produce the national guide that will be printed and distributed by the end of November.

In Chad during this quarter under this intermediate result, PDev II collaborated closely with the *Plate Forme Interconfessionnelle* to organize four roundtable discussions that brought together Christian and Muslim religious leaders to discuss the contributions and roles of religious leaders in the fight against violent extremism. One of the roundtable discussions was coordinated by four women leaders, three from the capital and one from Bol, on the role of women, particularly female religious and community leaders, in helping build resilience to violent extremism. The women leaders called on the government leaders, in helping build resilience to violent extremism. The women leaders called on the government to double its efforts to ensure the safety and security of the people of Chad, and underscored the numerous roles and responsibilities women have in educating children to be responsible citizens. Some of the discussions were aired on TV and radio; a recording of the sessions was listened to and discussed by a radio listening club.

Youth leaders from various CSOs based in N'Djamena held a debate on July 30 at the Catholic University Center. The debate, the theme of which was the *Contributions of Young People in the Fight against Violent Extremism*, was facilitated by a CSO member, a Program Officer from *Plate Forme Interconfessionnelle*, and the PDev II/Chad Deputy Country Director. The facilitators encouraged participants to improve their level of inter-religious understanding; to promote tolerance, dialogue and peace; and to stand against tribalism and intra- and inter-religious divisions, and all other forms of violent extremism.

A one-hour radio roundtable and call-in show, hosted by Radio *Kaddaye* of Bol, was conducted on August 5. Participants included three Chadian youth, two religious leaders, one local government official, and one member of the security forces. They discussed the roles of the constituencies that they represent in building resilience and social cohesion, especially in the face of jihadist recruitment, inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflict, and other security issues. Listeners made a wide range of contributions to the discussions, and expressed that more of such awareness-raising programs should be held.

Overview of Strategic Objective 3

October 2015 – October 2016

In Niger, results of the OCAT carried out each year indicate the capacity of CSOs that PDev II worked most closely with improved during the life of the project. In Burkina Faso, although the OCAT was not carried out over the same period of time as in Niger (because the PDev program in Burkina Faso started later and ended earlier than in Niger and Chad), results also showed an increase in the capacity of the CSOs that PDev II partnered with, and provided training to. In Chad, OCAT results were less viable. A larger turnover in project personnel, including in the team lead for SO3 (CSO strengthening) resulted in delays in application of the OCAT. In addition, budget and security issues reduced the number of activities in many of the core zones, which also affected the application of the assessment. Nonetheless, some data revealed improved capacity of certain CSO partners in Chad, as well.

CSOs in all three countries also received funding from the Program to implement activities that promoted community resilience to violent extremism, mobilized youth and community members to

become actively involved in community development, and promoted inter-religious and inter-ethnic tolerance. In total, 24 CSOs received grants totaling about \$138,656 over the past year, to implement various activities in their communities.

With USAID/PDev II support throughout the year, CACs in Burkina Faso and Chad, and CDCs in Niger held regular meetings to discuss community issues, and to play their role as liaisons between the community members and local officials, and received various types of training, including internal and external communication techniques, and how to improve their visibility and functioning.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthened Local Government

Local governments in PDev II countries continued to demonstrate good governance practices through increased transparency and accountability. The Local Government Capacity Index (LGCI) applied in both Niger and Chad this quarter revealed an increase in transparent and participatory local governance. In addition, best practice manuals in local governance produced and distributed in both Niger and Chad will allow other local governments to follow the lead of those in the PDev II core zones.

Intermediate Result 4.1: Improved Local Government Capacity

In Chad, the Local Government Capacity Index (LGCI) was administered this quarter (June – August) in two core zones (Bol and Faya), with the following results:

Performance of Core Zones Against the Factors for LGCI Assessment, %					Score comparison	
Zone	Community Development Plan	Budgetary Planning	Community Development Committee	Project Management	2015 overall Score	2016 overall Score
Bol	72	56	48	73	56	62.25
Faya	87	100	63	83	40	83.25

As indicated in the last two columns of the table, both municipalities made considerable improvements over their performance in 2015, with their greatest strength being the availability of community development plans and their weakest area of performance being the presence of functional development committees.

Improvements were ascribed primarily to the continued efforts of elected officials towards good local governance, and the technical support provided PDev II and other development partners. Local officials expressed satisfaction over the scores of their municipalities and pledged to continue to improve their local management practices.

In Chad, due to financial resources, security issues, and the decision by Project Management, with concurrence from USAID, to focus on specific core zones over the last few years, the LGCI was not administered in all core zones. In Niger, however, the LGCI was implemented more regularly and in almost all core zones over the past three years. Comparative results are as follows:

Regions	Core Zones	2014 %	2015 %	2016 %
Agadez	Agadez	61	69	93
	Arlit	78	69	84
	Iferouâne	70	62	77
Diffa	Diffa	86	89	91
	Maine Soroa	97	94	90
	Bosso	95	NA	86
Maradi	Maradi II	66	82	88
	Maradi III	85	88	93
	Tessaoua	85	81	88
Niamey	Niamey IV	73	92	97
	Niamey V	80	92	97
Tahoua	Tahoua II	Not done	81	91
	Tchinta		84	93
	Tillia		82	90
Tillabéri	Tillabéri	77	91	94
	Baleyara	81	92	95
	Ouallam	75	86	91
Zinder	Zinder I	78	94	85
	Zinder II	83	79	80
	Tanout	83	80	85
Averages (%)		80	84	89

The largest increase is the 32 points recorded by Agadez, followed by 24 points recorded in Niamey IV. However, the municipalities of Mainé Soroa and Bosso experienced overall decreases in their scores. Efforts by the local government were hampered by the security situation in the region: Boko Haram attacks have resulted in the establishment of a state of emergency that has restricted many economic and social activities and investments in the field of development. In the case of Zinder II, which lost three points, the local government attributes that to the difficulties of mobilizing resources for the implementation of community projects. Local government officials accuse the city of Zinder, which supervises Zinder II, of not providing them their allotted financial resources to carry out their projects. Overall, however, a net increase of 9% in the average scores demonstrates that PDev II has been able to have a positive impact on local governance.

Intermediate Result 4.2: Increased Transparency and Accountability in Local Decision Making

One of the tangible results achieved by PDev II is the implementation of the Community Action Committee (CAC), which were then converted into *Cadre de Concertation (CDC)* in the Project's 20 core zones in Niger, pursuant to the Local Legal Code, Articles 14 and 204. At the national meeting on the establishment and roles of CDCs held in Niamey last quarter, the recommendation was made to develop a guide so that other communes would be able to establish their own CDCs. This quarter, therefore, local partner NGO *RAIL* developed the guide to serve as a reference tool on how other communes and communities can establish their own CDC to strengthen transparency, accountability and community resilience to violent extremism at the local level.

The development of the guide consisted of a number of steps, including informational meetings in the seven targeted regional capitals of PDev II; surveys to collect information on the implementation process, the operation and impact of the work of the CDC; the drafting of a preliminary guide with consultants from the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature (ENAM)*, the National School of Administration and Magistracy) and in collaboration with the *Centre de Formation en Gestion des Collectivités Territoriales (CFGCT)*, the National Training Center for Management of Local Authorities ; and a national validation workshop, during which the guide was reviewed and validated for production and distribution. After receiving USAID approval, 1,000 copies of the guide were printed for distribution to state institutions, partners, local authorities, members of CDCs and civil society organizations. As Ms. Tazar Zeinabou Issa, the second vice mayor of Tessaoua stated, *"It's really a good thing to have initiated this guide because it will be a tool for other municipalities that have not had the chance to be supported by PDev II."*

In Chad under this IR, activities focused on identifying local governance best practices, and developing a practical guide of those practices in order that other local governments could learn from them. A competition was held to identify best practices in local governance in seven municipalities in the project core zones: Doum Doum, Ngouri, Baga-Sola, Michémiré, Chaddra, Oum-Hadjer and Nokou (the remaining eight partner municipalities had participated in a similar competition last year). The good governance criteria for the competition were: transparency in the management of local affairs; social inclusion; openness to citizen participation; and, accountability in the development and expenditures of municipal budgets. The competition was financed by PDev II and was organized collaboratively with the National Association of Municipalities of Chad, and the Ministry of Decentralization and PDev II. A jury was established, comprised of members of the association of municipalities, the Ministry of Decentralization, and PDev II. The jury then prepared survey questionnaires based on the aforementioned criteria, which they administered to focus groups made up of 15 individuals from the local government (including mayors) in each of the municipalities. It was then



Members of the jury and winners at the award ceremony.

The jury then prepared survey questionnaires based on the aforementioned criteria, which they administered to focus groups made up of 15 individuals from the local government (including mayors) in each of the municipalities. It was then

followed by the administration of the survey to focus groups comprised of at least 10 citizens in each commune.

The jury then compiled and analyzed the results and selected the top three winners. The municipal governments of Doum-Doum, Nokou, and Oum-Hadjer were declared the winners, and each were recognized at a ceremony held in N'Djamena in late September, in the presence of mayors, municipal councilors, citizens from each competing municipality, representatives of the structures represented on the jury, a representative of USAID, and CAC members from each competing municipality. Each of the three winners received \$2,300 worth of equipment and material for their respective municipal government (ex. cabinets, desks, computers, generators, etc.).

Government officials and citizens of all competing municipalities were very complimentary about the thorough, effective, transparent and participatory manner in which all phases of the competition were undertaken, and recommended continuing the competition in Chad as a means of recognizing good governance and promoting decentralization. As Ms. Kaoussara Hissene, the First Assistant Mayor of Oum-Hadjer said, *"Thanks to PDev II and through these competitions, we have learned how to identify local governance best practices in our communities and how to improve the management of our municipalities."*

In both Chad and Niger, manuals entitled *"Best Practices in Local Government"* were produced and distributed to local communes. These straightforward and practical manuals give concrete examples of what communes in the PDev II core zones have done to promote transparent and accountable local government. A ceremony in Chad was held to officially present the guide to the Ministry of Decentralization. In his remarks, the Deputy Secretary General of the ministry thanked PDev II, and added that the guide could serve as an inspiration for all local governments as they continue their efforts of decentralization and of improving their accountability and transparency.

Intermediate Result 4.3: More Participatory Local Development



A completed two classroom block.

In Burkina Faso and Niger, construction of classroom blocks in selected schools continued. In Niger, classroom construction was completed in Agadez and Niamey, and in Burkina Faso, classroom construction was completed in Ouahigouya, Arbinda, and Djibo. In July, PDev II was fortunate to have one of the classroom blocks in Niamey inaugurated by Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the United States, during her visit to Niger. Classroom construction continues at four schools in Dori, Seytenga, Markoye and Gorom-Gorom in Burkina Faso, with an anticipated completed date of 30 November.

Construction in these last four sites has been delayed due to inaccessibility of the sites during rainy season, increased security issues in these zones, lack of skilled labor in these isolated areas, and the organization and management of the construction company itself.

In Chad well construction continues in N'Djamena, Ati, and Michemire. One of the four wells in N'Djamena was recently finished, and was inaugurated by the USAID/WA Deputy Director of the Regional Peace and Governance Office (the PDev II AOR), in the presence of the Mayor of N'Djamena 7, the Director of Village and Artisanal Wells of the Ministère de l'Eau (the Ministry of Water), the PDev II Chief of Party, CAC representatives, and members of the community. In his speech, the mayor highlighted the fact that the well, built in a leper colony, is the first access to water that the colony has had since it was established. For more than three decades, the lepers have had to rely on friends or relatives to go to nearby wells to draw water, as the lepers themselves were not allowed to approach the wells. The three remaining wells in D'Djamena, the two in Ati and the two in Michemire will be completed by the end of November.

As per the Water Quality Assurance Plan, each CAC and representatives of the municipal governments will hold discussions with the community on how to manage the wells, and PDev II will support the training on pump repair and the provision of a repair kit to the local *artisan reparateur*, a person tasked with addressing maintenance and repair needs of small infrastructure at the commune level. In the absence of local government agent, a person selected by the CAC members will be trained on how to maintain and repair the well pump.



The USAID AOR, the N'Djamena 7 mayor, and the PDev II project director inaugurate

Overview of Strategic Objective 4

October 2015 – October 2016

Over the past fiscal year, USAID/PDev II continued to strengthen local government through a variety of means, focusing on training, grants and needs assessment by the application of the LGCI. Results of the LGCI showed that some local governments had made strides in improving their governance, while others demonstrated a continued need to strengthen their systems.

To address the training needs of local officials, workshops were organized in each of the USAID/PDev II countries, including participatory budgeting, conflict resolution, communication and programming. A total of 83 local officials in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger were trained during the past fiscal year.



Participants preparing for an LGCI assessment in Chad.

In addition, participatory community meetings on the Annual Communal Development Plan and Report; live radio debates between mayors and citizens; radio call-in programs focusing on local governance issues; and town hall meetings between mayors and citizens all demonstrate that local government in the core zones of the Program is becoming more transparent, accountable, and participative.

The manuals to highlight best practices in local government produced and distributed in Chad and Niger will leave behind concrete evidence of the improvements made in transparency and accountability by local governments in the PDev II core zones, and will serve practical guides for other communes throughout the two countries.

SUB-AWARDS & DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION

All 29 grants (13 for Chad and 16 for Niger) that were submitted to USAID/WA, for a total value of \$813,458 were approved. In addition PDev II approved 60 Direct Implementation activities (16 for Chad and 44 for Niger) for a combined total of \$892,935. In all, PDev II implemented activities this period for a total value of \$1,706,393. The tables below provide the listing and total value of awards approved by USAID/WA and those for Direct Implementation activities this quarter.

Sub-Awards for Year 5 Quarter 4: Chad

Grant Number	Grant Activity	Grantee	Grant Location	Grant Type	Grant Value (US \$)
CH-LAK-111-00482	Vocational training – Small Engine Repair & Welding	CTAP	Lake Chad Area	FOG	90,094
CH-NDJ-111-00496	Vocational training – Refrigeration/AC	CTAP	N'Djamena	FOG	66,436
CH-NAL-111-00530	Vocational training – Mechanic/Small Engine Repair	IPEP	National	FOG	147,099
CH-NDJ-111-00554	Vocational training – Professional Driving (Taxi & Transport)	IPEP	N'Djamena	FOG	48,173
CH-LAK-111-00563	Vocational training - Sewing	Centre Cornelia	Lake Chad	FOG	30,156
CH-NAL-111- 00565	Vocational training – Catering & Food Services	Centre Cornelia	National	FOG	45,592
CH-NDJ-111- 00564	Vocational training - Sewing	Centre Cornelia	N'Djamena	FOG	38,462
CH-NDJ-443-00281*	1 Well in N'Djamena 8	N'Djamena 8 CAC	N'Djamena	GIK	6,464
CH-NDJ-443- 00282*	2 Wells N'Djamena 7	N'Djamena 7 CAC	N'Djamena	GIK	12,368
CH-NDJ-443- 00283*	1 Well in N'Djamena 10	N'Djamena 10 CAC	N'Djamena	GIK	6,464
CH-BEG-443- 00289*	2 Wells in Michemire	Michemire CAC	Michemire	GIK	19,194
CH-BAT-443- 00286*	2 Wells in Ati	Ati CAC	Ati	GIK	21,461
CH-NDJ-111-00569	Establishing an Arabic Newspaper	ADP	N'Djamena	FOG	13,254
Total					545,217

**Although approved in previous quarters, this is the first time the information appears in the sub-award table*

Direct Implementation for Year 5 Quarter 4: Chad

Direct Implementation Number	Activity Description	Activity Location	Approved Budget (US \$)
CH-LAK-111-00551	Youth Income Generation Training: Paint and Plaster	N'Djamena 7	5,482
CH-LAK-111-00574	Local bread making income generation training in Lake Chad	Bol	30,512
CH-NAL-113-00556	Participatory Theater Trainer's on Site	National	18,578
CH-NAL-113-00557	Multimedia on Site Support	National	17,534
CH-NAL-113-00558	Youth Trainer's on Site Support	National	17,634
CH-NDJ-114-00503	A Regional Youth Led Approach to Community Solidarity	N'Djamena	12,721
CH-NAL-222-00555	Production and distribution of mobile SD cards containing radio programs	National	4,776
CH-NAL-222-00562	Radio Hub Social Media	National	5,226
CH-NAL-223-00506	Manual validation workshop	National	3,979
CH-LAK-223-00505	Civic Education Training	Lake-Chad	22,616
CH-LAK-223-00566	CVE Training	Lake-Chad	33,507
CH-NAL-331-00568	Training CSO Linked to OCAT	National	18,729
CH-NDJ-331-00575	School Based Conflict Prevention Training	N'djamena	39,323
CH-NAL-441-00527	Identification of Local Government Best Practices	National	20,385
CH-NAL-441-00576	Production and Distribution of Local Government Best Practices Manual	National	8,491
CH-NAL-442-00528	Local Officials publically share the commune Annual Report in N'Djamena 8, Ati, Bol and Oum-Hadjer	National	8,748
Total			268,241

Sub-Awards for Year 5 Quarter 4: Niger

Grant Number	Grant Activity	Grantee	Grant Location	Grant Type	Grant Value (US \$)
NG-NIA-112-00825	Equipment of two classroom in CES Talladge	CEG Talladje	Niamey IV	In Kind	4,878
NG-AGA-112-00826	Equipment of two classrooms in CEG 2 Djermakoye	CEG 2 Germakoye	Agadez	In Kind	3,267
NG-AGA-112-00827	Equipment of two classrooms in CES Franco Arabe	CES Franco Arabe	Agadez	In Kind	3,267
NG-AGA-221-00823	Assisting our CVE partners: Equipment of Dabaga's community radio	Radio Dabaga	Dabaga	In Kind	23,970
NG-DIF-112-00971	Production and Distribution of Symposium Proceedings	University of Diffa	Diffa	FOG	14,160
NG-AGA-443-00294*	Construction of a Classroom in the CEG 2 Germakoye	CEG 2 Germakoye	Agadez	In Kind	10,758
NG-AGA-443-00295*	Construction of a Classroom in the CEG Franco Arabe	CEG Franco-Arabe	Agadez	In Kind	10,758
NG-NIA-443-00231*	Construction of one block of two classrooms in the CEG in Talladje	CEG Talladje	Niamey IV	In Kind	30,658

NG-NAL-114-00992	Youth CVE Engagement Platform: Cultural and Sportive Week of Nigeriens School	Nigerien Student Union	Niamey	FOG	36,635
NG-AGA-332-00955	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making	AFNCG	Agadez	FOG	5,889
NG-DIF-332-00964	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making	Initiatives & Actions	Diffa	FOG	5,874
NG-MAR-332-00965	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making	EDP	Maradi	FOG	5,482
NG-TAH-332-00966	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making in Tahoua	FEFAM	Tahoua	FOG	5,848
NG-TIL-332-00967	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making	ANDDH	Tillaberi	FOG	5,677

NG-ZIN-332-00968	Reinforcing citizen control for more accountability in local decision making	Alternative Space Citizen	Zinder	FOG	5,492
NG-NAL-332-00899	Nigeriens for improved accountability	MPCR	National	FOG	29,589
Total					202,202

**Although approved in previous quarters, this is the first time the information appears in the sub-award table*

Direct Implementation for Year 5 Quarter 4: Niger

Direct Implementation Number	Activity Description	Activity Location	Approved Budget (US \$)
NG-AGA-114-00983	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Agadez	4,548
NG-DIF-114-00984	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Diffa	7,416
NG-MAR-114-00985	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Maradi	4,548
NG-NIA-114-00986	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Niamey	3,465
NG-TAH-114-00987	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Tahoua	4,548
NG-TIL-114-00988	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Tillaberi	4,548
NG-ZIN-114-00989	Civil Society and Political Party Youth Engaging for Community Advocacy & Peaceful Local Elections	Zinder	4,548
NG-MAR-114-00937	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Maradi Region	6,581
NG-AGA-114-00938	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Agadez Region	6,581
NG-DIF-114-00939	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Diffa Region	6,581
NG-NIA-114-00940	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Niamey Region	6,581
NG-TAH-114-00941	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Tahoua Region	6,581
NG-TIL-114-00942	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Tillaberi Region	6,581
NG-ZIN-114-00943	Youth Mobile Cinema projections	Zinder Region	6,581
NG-NIA-114-00930	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Niamey Region	5,666
NG-AGA-114-00931	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Agadez Region	5,666
NG-DIF-114-00932	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Diffa Region	5,666
NG-MAR-114-00933	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Maradi Region	5,666
NG-TAH-114-00934	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Tahoua Region	5,666

NG-TIL-114-00935	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Tillaberi Region	5,666
NG-ZIN-114-00936	Youth Participatory Theater Performances	Zinder Region	5,666
NG-NAL-221-00990	Mentoring Training for PDev II New Radios Staff and Management Committees members (4 radios)	National	21,000
NG-NAL-221-00976	Social Media Training	Zinder and Niamey	21,476
NG-NAL-222-00887	Meetings of Regional Radio Circles	National	30,000
NG-REG-221-00969	Lake Chad Cross-Border Radio Exchange	Regional	35,455
NG-REG-221-00958	Development, printing, and distribution of radio handbooks/manuals (in Hausa and French)	Regional	10,000
NG-NAL-221-00970	Supply Regional Radio Circles with shared 'loaner' radio equipment	National	9,000
NG-REG-222-00845	Rotating, collaborative production (with Chad and Burkina) of PDev-wide French language CVE-themed program, aired on capital city stations	Regional	19,400
NG-NAL-222-00889	PDEVII production and broadcast of 42 radio shows Good Governance radio magazine - <i>Sada Zamunci</i> (Hausa & Kanuri)- production and broadcast hours	National	108,458
NG-NAL-222-00888	PDEVII production and broadcast of 42 radio shows of youth radio soap opera - <i>Gwadaban Matassa</i> (Hausa, Zarma, Tamashek, Kanuri)- production and broadcast hours	National	112,307
NG-NAL-222-00830	Production of TV segments AREWA24	National	4,800
NG-NAL-222-00830	Production of TV segments and broadcast on Niger national TV station	National	8,000
NG-NAL-222-00993	CVE film	National	6,376
NG-NAL-222-00887	Broadcast of local content produced during Circle meetings	National	22,050
NG-NAL-222-00887	Production and distribution of mobile SD cards containing radio programs (50 per circle)	National	4,500
NG-NAL-222-00953	Listening Clubs regularly discussing PDEV II productions (20 clubs)	National	3,103

NG-NAL-222-00891	Contest for best Listening Club engagement activity	National	6,000
NG-NAL-222-00996	Youth Web and Social Media Engagement Platforms pilot	National	14,016
NG-TAH-332-00977	Journee de la democratie: Promoting citizen participation	Tchintabaraden	6,090
NG-NAL-332-00956	Monthly CDC meetings (Under RAIL FOG NG-NAL-441-00885)	National	40,672
NG-TAH-332-01001	PDev II official closing community event in Tahoua	Tahoua	2,012
NG-NAL-441-00994	Final LGCI (Under RAIL FOG NG-NAL-441-00885)	National	6,960
NG-NAL-442-00954	Prepare and disseminate repertoire of good governance best practices in local governance (Under RAIL FOG NG-NAL-441-00885)	National	37,054
NG-NAL-442-00979	CDC Reference Guide (mandate, mechanisms, and role in identifying and resisting VE) - (Under RAIL FOG NG-NAL-441-00885)	National	42,654
Total			690,733

Summary: Sub-Awards and Direct Implementation for Year 5 Quarter 4

Country	Sub-Awards (US \$)	Direct Implementation (US \$)	Grand Total (US \$)
Chad	545,217	228,918	774,135
Niger	202,202	690,733	892,935
Grand Total	747,419	916,651	1,667,070

MAJOR CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

Security Issues

Attacks by two extremist groups in Niger continued this quarter, especially in the Diffa Region, resulting primarily in the deaths of soldiers. The states of emergency declared by the central governments in the Diffa region in Niger and in the Lake Chad region in Chad continue to disrupt lives and commerce and impede the free movement and daily lives of the people in the affected areas. In Niger, attacks on prisons where detainees accused of extremist acts are being held and the kidnapping of an American citizen, the first of its kind in the country, have elevated fears of both the local and expatriate communities.

Program Closeout and Reduced Work Week for Program Staff

Labor laws and regulations in all PDev II countries give employees certain rights, including the right to take off two days of paid leave a week to search for employment, beginning one to three months prior to the project's conclusion (depending on the employee's position in the company). During this quarter, this has not only reduced the time staff members have to implement activities, but also has had an impact on staff morale, scheduling, etc. During this quarter, the management team anticipates that these dynamics will only increase as realities of program closure draw nearer in Niger and Chad.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Performance Management Plan (PMP)

During the past quarter, the PDev II responded to the request of the USAID's AOR for some refinements to be made to the project indicators, as, for example, the differentiation between the number of unique individuals and the cumulative number of individuals trained on topics within each of the strategic areas. IRD Headquarters assigned a consultant from its Monitoring & Evaluation and Learning Unit to work with the PDev II Project, and this individual took the lead in speaking with the AOR on three separate occasions (July, September, and October) in order to incorporate these changes to the indicator tables and to the ITS spreadsheet (which presents and compiles annualized data from each of the three PDev II Project countries). He also provided technical assistance to the PDev II Project's M&E unit in Chad so that data collection processes were improved and streamlined.

In addition, with his technical support, the PDev II Project continued with its efforts to have an internal assessment conducted of its project activities within each of the three countries. In the previous quarter, a set of twenty questionnaires had been developed for the collection of quantitative data, and a series of questions had been prepared for qualitative data compilation from responses to be provided by a range of project beneficiaries during focus group discussions. Since the project in Burkina Faso was due to end in June, its internal assessment had to be conducted first, during the third quarter; Niger and Chad, with later closing dates, were studied during Quarter 4.

It should be noted, though, that governmental travel restrictions in Chad prevented the deployment of survey teams, each comprised of several enumerators, outside of the national capital. Moreover, policy in that country required that the project be subject to a review by a team formed by government personnel, as orchestrated by the Ministry of Interior's Department of Non-Governmental Organizations (*DONG* in French). Accordingly, the PDev II Project in Chad coordinated a joint study with three personnel assigned by the *DONG* to work with the PDev II Project in recruiting, training, and supervising individuals from each study site community to undertake their role as enumerators on behalf of this internal assessment of the PDev II Project. With such an arrangement, six project sites, including two in N'Djamena, were covered by this study in Chad; in Niger, the study had been conducted at eight sites. Analysis of the data will be prepared as a separate document to complement the final, end-of-the- project report.

USAID/PDev II Indicator Data

Indicator tables reflecting achievements for each country are presented as an Annex to this quarterly report.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Budget and Work Plan

The PDev Year 5 budget was approved by USAID and modification 9 fully executed on May 10, 2016. USAID asked that the portion dedicated to the final evaluation be taken out of the PDev II budget, as the final evaluation will be carried out by an external contractor. As a result, the total amount of the PDev II budget is now \$ 61,255,800. Modification 10 was executed on July 21, 2016, increasing the obligated amount from \$55,459,257 to \$59,255,800.

Human Resources

Niger: This quarter a number of staff members were retrenched or resigned, including the Grants Manager, the Grants Officer, the Program Officers in charge of SO activities, the Country Director, and the Human Resources Manager. As a result, former employees from Chad and Burkina Faso have been hired as consultants to help with close out in Niger, as they are very familiar with the program, with IRD close out procedures, and USAID regulations.

Short-term Technical Assistance (STTA)

To assist with office close out in Burkina Faso, IRD headquarters provided technical assistance. Backstop personnel and a finance consultant supported the Chad and Niger teams and regional management personnel in reviewing and packing documents and files, disposing of material and equipment, and following the close out plan submitted to USAID. In addition, as noted above, former employees from Burkina Faso and Chad will be helping close out the office in Niger. IRD also dispatched a regional Security consultant to address any security issues that might arise during the close out period.

Inventory of assets

Niger: The final inventory list was finalized and equipment with a value of \$5,000, together with material assigned to USAID, were part of the disposition plan submitted to USAID. The Project received approval from USAID, and is in the process of disposing of this material and equipment.

Chad: As with Niger, the final inventory list was finalized and equipment with a value of \$5,000, together with property assigned to USAID, were part of the disposition plan submitted to USAID. The Project received approval from USAID, and is in the process of disposing of this material and equipment.

VAT Payment Issues

Niger and Burkina Faso: In both countries PDev II incurred some VAT payments during the period 2011 – 2013. A letter was sent to USAID in the previous quarter seeking approval to charge the VAT paid during that period to the project. USAID asked for additional information which IRD provided in July. The project is waiting for USAID's response.

Management Visit to Chad and Burkina Faso Offices

During this quarter, the PDev II COP and DCOP undertook management visits to both the Chad and Burkina Faso offices. In Chad, the COP helped the team advance the well portfolio, assisted with final activities, and worked with staff on close out. The DCOP provide ongoing assistance in finance and administration, reviewed procurement, finance, and operations procedures, and worked with the Chad team and the COP on close out. The COP and DCOP also visited the Burkina Faso office construction sites in Dori and Seytenga, and met with consultant engineer and the Director General of EBELBA, the construction firm that is building the classrooms in Dori, Seytenga, Markoye and Gorom-Gorom to express dissatisfaction with the overall quality of the work and the delay in construction. The EBELBA Director General gave his word that our concerns would be addressed, and that construction would be completed by the end of November.

Project Close Out

The PDev II COP and DCOP traveled to Chad in mid-October to assist with close out of the office, anticipated for mid/late November. They will then return to Niamey to help with final close out of that office by December 15. IRD HQ staff members on TDY to Niamey, consultants from all three PDev II countries, as well as some Nigerien interns have all been assigned tasks to help with close out.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

The grants awarded this quarter and those submitted for approval were screened according to PDev II environmental mitigation and monitoring measures and most were determined to be “Very Low Risk” per the EMMP. Similarly, the Direct Implementation activities during this quarter were screened according to PDev II environmental mitigation and monitoring and determined to be “Very Low Risk” per the EMMP. Construction activities were all rated “unknown or moderate risk,” and each subcontractor is contractually obligated to follow the approved Environment Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

The final EMMP report for construction completed in Niger included the following information:

- Construction of classroom blocks in Niamey: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that both schools planted trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Agadez: As with the classroom blocks in Niamey, all requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. To address erosion, which is an issue in this area due to strong winds and the nature of the sand, the base of the structures were reinforced with additional mixture of soil and gravel. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. Due to lack of skilled manual labor in this area, the construction company had to provide some training to the manual labor prior to assigning them tasks. The PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of.
- Construction of radio stations and installation of radio towers: As with the classroom blocks in Niamey and Agadez, all requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction of the radio stations and installation of the radio towers. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. To address erosion, which is an issue in these areas due to strong winds and types of soil, the base of the structures were reinforced with additional mixture of soil and gravel. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. Due to lack of skilled manual labor in some of the areas, the construction company had to provide some training to the local labor prior to assigning them tasks. The PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. It is to be noted that the community planted trees at all three new radio stations in Agadez, Maradi, and Diffa.

The EMMP status in Chad is as follows:

- Wells in N'Djamena (4), Ati (2) and Michemire (2): As with the construction in Niger, all requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction of the four wells in N'Djamena as well as the two wells each in Ati and Michemire. Proper procedures were followed to test the water for bacteria and arsenic. In all eight sites, the tests for arsenic showed no presence of arsenic. In N'Djamena, the bacteria tests showed that the water was drinkable, but for both Michemire and Ati, initial bacteria test results showed unacceptable amounts of bacteria. After discussions with directors in the Ministry of Water and the national laboratory, it was decided to clean the pump system with a chlorine treatment and test the water again, as it was the opinion of the ministry and the laboratory that the bacteria came from the installation of the system and not from the water table itself. The second round of tests came back with acceptable results, so the construction continued. At the construction sites, there was no stagnant water; a drain and runoff tank with a removable cover so people (especially children) and animals wouldn't fall in were put in place to capture runoff water from the well; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In some sites, public latrines were not available for the workers, so temporary latrines were set up during the construction period. In these places, the area was cleaned and the temporary latrines taken down at the end of construction. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. The oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of.

The EMMP report for the construction in Burkina that was completed at the end of November is as follows:

- Construction of classroom blocks in Arbinda: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Djibo: As with the classroom blocks in Arbinda, all requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Dori: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.

- Construction of classroom blocks in Gorom-Gorom: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Markoye: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Ouahigougiya: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.
- Construction of classroom blocks in Seytenga: All requirements of the EMMP were followed during the construction. There was no stagnant water; workers had access to latrines; drainage was not an issue because of the absorbability of the soil; no trees were cut down for the construction; and dust and noise were kept at a minimum. In addition, the PDev II engineer and the oversight engineering company made sure that no dumping of hazardous materials occurred, that waste materials were burned, and that all other waste was properly disposed of. Local labor was hired to provide manual labor. It is to be noted that the school is planning to plant trees outside the new classrooms to provide needed shade and help counter erosion.



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