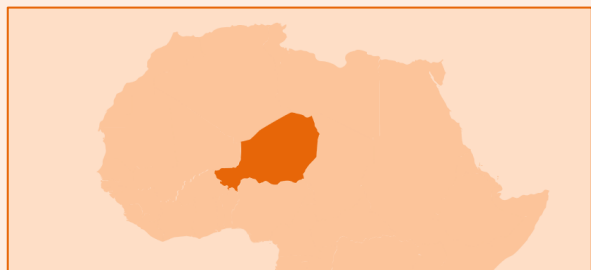


## Project to Support Socio-economic Stability in the Agadez Region (PAIERA PASSERAZ)



### EU Trust Fund for Africa - Sahel & Lake Chad



**EUTF PARTNER:**  
Karkara



**COUNTRY:** Niger



**BUDGET:**  
EUR 3.5M



From **04/2017**  
to **03/2019**

In 2015, Niger adopted a law that made any involvement in migrant trafficking a criminal offense. This law had a significant impact in the Agadez region, where many locals relied on trafficking as their livelihood. Many lost the income supporting their families after the law was adopted. The PASSERAZ<sup>1</sup> project aimed to help these struggling communities and provide alternative and legal livelihoods, by creating new jobs and opportunities for those who previously worked with traffickers as well as unemployed young people in the area.

The PASSERAZ team, led by the Nigerien NGO Karkara, began its work in 2017. The project constructed essential infrastructure, including roads, wells, and latrines, providing short-term paid employment opportunities for local residents. The project also emphasised boosting agricultural productivity and output in the region, a successful component of the project as evidenced by the testimonies of its participants:

*As Nana Cherif Boukar, a vulnerable household and beneficiary of agricultural income-generating activities in the municipality of Dirkou, noted: 'I received free of charge through the project an income-generating agricultural kit worth 522,000 CFA francs for vegetable farming. It included: 1 Honda 160 motor pump, 1 drilled well, 180 palm bunches, 1 wheelbarrow, 1 shovel and 1 hoe. With this kit, I thank PASSERAZ/NGO Karkara for giving me an employment opportunity.'*

*Similarly, Kochido Armadine, a 40-year-old, retraining participant, and beneficiary of a vegetable gardening kit in Dirkou, noted the positive impacts of the project on his livelihood, household, and community:*

### Objective of the project

To reduce the socio-economic impacts of reduced migration related activities in Agadez by generating alternative livelihoods.

### Key successes

- > Achieved its objectives through the creation of 3,850 temporary jobs and 1,795 sustainable jobs.
- > Raised awareness among over 70,000 individuals on alternatives to irregular migration.
- > Constructed 23 community infrastructures (schools, health centres, etc.).
- > Boosted livelihoods by supporting the launch of various small businesses with donated startup kits and training 23 community infrastructures (schools, health centres, etc.).

*'My production has almost doubled compared to before acquiring the kit from the project. Thus, the income from the garden has enabled me to meet the needs of my household in terms of food, clothing, health... and sometimes even help my neighbours.'*



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Additionally, the project provided kit and training to kick-start small businesses. Kassé Ali, a 30-year-old from Agadez remarked:

*"Before I did not have an activity but, today with the kit received, my hair salon is going well (240,000 CFA/month) and, with the income earned, I help my poor parents purchase food."*

Through these activities, PASSERAZ provided tangible hope and real alternatives to trafficking by offering practical assistance, skills development, and economic opportunities. People now have a way to provide for their families, rebuilding their lives following the 2015 law.

## How did the EUTF help?

**The PASSERAZ project achieved its main objectives and successfully addressed the most pressing needs of its target groups.** The project stimulated the local economy, generating 3,850 temporary jobs and 1,795 cash-for-work (CfW)<sup>2</sup> opportunities. It also facilitated the construction of 23 community infrastructures, including school fences, classrooms, riverbank protections, rural roads, health centre fences, latrines, incinerators and a morgue, and it supported the renovation of maternity and hospital units.

**In addition to creating CfW opportunities, these infrastructures led to longer-term positive changes for communities.** Road rehabilitations in Arlit and Tabelot helped improve traffic flow and reduce isolation. The fenced schools and health centres improved student and patient safety and care, reduced noise pollution and accidents, and helped curtail defecation in school courtyards. These improvements contributed to a rise in preschool attendance.

**The project supported the launch of various small businesses, including food stores, market gardens, livestock and mobile shops, by donating income-generating activity kits<sup>3</sup>, and delivering training sessions.** This improved beneficiaries' livelihoods and created sustainable jobs. According to a survey conducted at the beginning of the project, 99% of the surveyed beneficiary households were in unstable economic situations before the project; at the end, only 1% remained unstable. Households' debt burden was also considerably reduced. Prior to the project, 86% of beneficiaries reported being forced to take on debt and 97% were forced to draw from reserves; at the end, only 14% were in debt and just 2% continued to draw from reserves. Respondents widely recognised the importance of the project's support, with 74% considering the contribution of income-generating activities to socio-economic stability at the household level to be very important.

## Keys to success

**Meeting urgent needs:** The project effectively addressed pressing issues faced by communities and former illegal migration actors. It was launched at a critical time when the impact of the law was the highest. It is evidenced by the high number of applications

received for income-generating activity kits. The project also found strong community interest in infrastructure development activities, making it easy to recruit candidates for CfW opportunities.

**Alignment with local and national needs:** Involvement of communities through participatory beneficiary selection, regular consultation with local stakeholders, and strong partnerships with authorities ensured activities responded to local needs. At a higher level, the intervention was aligned with government strategies, such as the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES).<sup>4</sup>

**Complementary components:** A combination of complementary activities to deliver CfW activities, income-generating activity kits, skills training, productive investments, infrastructures, and awareness-raising ensured comprehensive support to the communities. In addition, the selection process was recognised for its transparency and relevance, with each application undergoing a needs assessment to guarantee that the support addressed the beneficiaries' priority needs.

**Adaptive implementation and M&E:** The project relied on a strong M&E and data collection framework to facilitate flexible implementation and address challenges in an adaptive way. For instance, because the project experienced a slow start-up due to the lengthy inclusive stakeholder consultations necessary to obtain buy-in from all parties, the budget was reallocated, and contingency funds were used to allow additional activities to be carried over for five extra months and help the project catch up to its original plans and timescale.

## Building on success

The PROSTARAZ<sup>5</sup> project was launched in December 2021 with the aim to "support populations impacted by irregular migration in the Agadez and Zinder regions of Niger, by contributing to community stabilisation and socio-economic development". It set out to "support communities dependent on irregular migration to develop alternative socio-economic activities" in these areas with funding by the EUTF (€1.75 M).

Following the coup d'état of July 26, 2023, Niger repealed the 2015 law penalising assistance to irregular migration. Consequently, a planned Phase II for the project was not pursued. However, the EU continues to support socio-economic development in the region through initiatives like the PROSTARAZ project.



**EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa**

<sup>1</sup> *Projet d'Appui à la Stabilité Socioéconomique dans la Région d'Agadez.*

<sup>2</sup> Cash-for-Work programmes provide temporary public project jobs rebuilding infrastructure to vulnerable populations.

<sup>3</sup> These kits refer to packs given to beneficiaries to launch or expand income-generating activities. Some kits supported small-scale agriculture by providing farming inputs, while others aimed to help kick-start non-farm businesses, through the provision of supplies and equipment.

<sup>4</sup> Government of Niger, "Plan de développement économique et social période 2017-2021", May 2017.

<sup>5</sup> *Projet de Stabilisation et du Renforcement Socio-économique dans les Régions d'Agadez et de Zinder.*

### Disclaimer

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The research for this success story was conducted from January to April 2024, was based on project documentation, and presents the situation at that moment.