



Amman Imman: Water is life
Herds for Economic Resiliency (HERds)
Grant amount: \$49,402

Dining For Women (DFW) HERds Project: Final Report

Submitted by:

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Some of the women in Tanfourgan, ready to take their goats home after the market. February 2018

Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve.

The Amman HERDs program loans livestock to extremely vulnerable women to achieve the following goals:

1) increase their financial security and independence, 2) meet the daily nutritional requirements of their children to reduce childhood mortality, and 3) empower the women to learn complimentary skills for herd and fodder management to successfully start their own small business.

“A New Breath of Life”



Beldo Malam from Tanfourgan is 40 years old and has 9 children. Two of them are younger than 5 years old. She has traveled several times to Nigeria and Chad in search of work to provide for her family. Her husband is very old.

“The lack of money but especially of food require us to go become migrant workers. Sometimes we come back home empty-handed. This year, I am not going anywhere. With Amman Imman goats, I'll be able to prepare the "illiwa " (millet gruel) for my children and make cheese to sell in order to pay the school supplies for my children. That's why I thank wholeheartedly Amman-imman's team and Dining for Women for this new breath of life they have brought to us and our children.”

What was accomplished in connection with this project? Please address each stated objective. If any project objectives were changed, please also explain the circumstances leading to the modification of the objective(s).

To meet the objectives of this project, the Amman Imman team established an approach in advance that included:

1. **Targeting beneficiaries:** Amman Imman identified women living in extreme vulnerability according to criteria established by the women of the community.
 - o **Accomplishment:** In total, 89 (eighty-nine) women were identified, each from a different household. 41 women were from Tangarwashane and several surrounding communities. They received their goats in July 2017. A second group of 48 women from nearby Tanfourgan and additional surrounding communities, received their

goats in February 2018. Later this year, after the goats give birth to 2 or more babies, goats will be redistributed to a second group of beneficiaries in Tangarwashane and Tanfourgan. Additionally 45 additional women, members of the women's cooperative, have indirectly benefitted.



Goats gave birth in Tangarwashane. Families are benefitting from milk produced by their lactating female ruminants

2. **Animal health training:** To better care for the ruminants, women benefitting from this program needed to master conventional husbandry methods.
 - **Accomplishment:** At this time, 89 beneficiaries have received training in animal health (subjects such as common diseases, their symptoms, treatments and preventative measures) from the veterinarian and department of agriculture/livestock. In addition to these beneficiaries, several women who wished to improve their knowledge and expertise in herding have participated in the training.
3. **Setup of a management committee:** The goal was to establish a committee of women responsible for overseeing the project.
 - **Accomplishment:** With the NGO's support, the beneficiaries set up a committee that participated in the start-up, monitoring, and evaluation of all activities related to the HERds project. This committee meets every 2 weeks to discuss the health of the goats and the management of the fodder bank.
4. **Choice of goats:** It was important that the women choose the goats that they would be loaned, in order for them to take ownership and feel invested.
 - **Accomplishment:** Each of the targeted women freely chose 3 goats in a temporary local market created for this purpose.

5. **Animal Purchase and branding:** At first we decided to delay the purchasing of cows until the winter, but then the decision was made not to purchase cows. With pasture areas currently shrinking, it was decided that it would be detrimental for this project to make cows available to beneficiaries. Additionally, the market price of cows is relatively high compared to that of goats. Instead, Amman Imman loaned three instead of two goats to each women. Unlike cows, goats have a high reproductive capacity, adapt to unfavorable climate conditions, and provide ideal dairy products for feeding young children.

- **Accomplishment:** Thus, a first batch of 123 goats was purchased in July 2017 and a second batch of 144 was purchased in February 2018, for a total of 267 goats. Additionally, all the goats were branded DW, i.e. "Dining for Women".



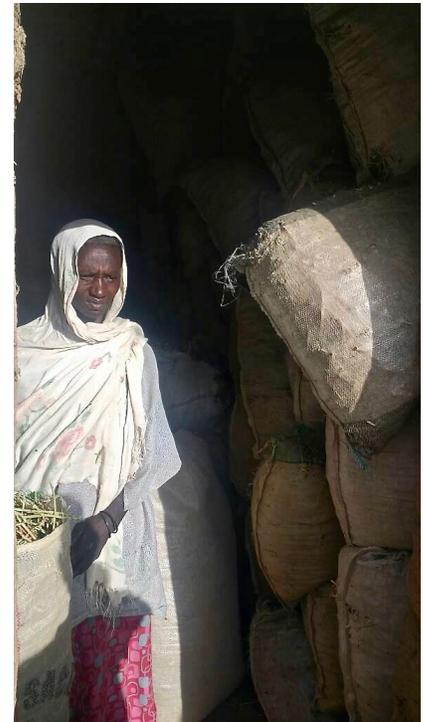
A veterinarian vaccinates the goats

6. **Deworming and vaccination:**

- **Accomplishment:** To improve productivity and the quality of dairy production, all the goats were examined, vaccinated, and dewormed by a veterinarian before being made available to the women.

7. **Fodder Bank Establishment:** A local fodder bank was established to supplement the feed for the animals.

- **Accomplishment:** We have established a bank in the village of Intatolen, which is near Tangarwashane. Due to the small capacity of the storage room, we only purchased half of the fodder which was originally planned. An additional portion of the feed will be allocated to these women at a later stage. Furthermore, we plan on constructing a building to store the fodder. Additionally, there is another community that also had beneficiaries. But because they are too far from the current fodder bank, and hence do not benefit from it, we plan on establishing another fodder bank there.



Fodder Bank Manager in Tangarwashane

Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under *Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and Indirectly Impacted.*

Initially, the anticipated number of direct beneficiaries was 50 women who would each benefit from 2 goats and 10 others who would have 1 cow each, for an

initial total of 60 women. However, there are now 89 women who have directly benefited from 3 goats each. Also, we anticipated that 420 children would indirectly benefit from this project, while currently, 623 children indirectly benefit, 318 of whom are girls. This was possible because the market price of goats was low at the time this project was carried out, and money intended for the purchase of cows was reallocated to acquire more goats.



Mouheni of Tangarwashane with a mother and baby goat

What challenges did you face in connection with this project? How did you address these challenges?

During the implementation of the project, the Amman Imman team faced three main challenges:

1. **Cultural considerations:** Ideally, the women beneficiaries would be responsible for appearing at the market in Tchintabaradène (a large city located nearby) to choose their livestock. However, cultural barriers forbid these women from going to the market. Therefore, we created a temporary market locally, thus allowing the women to choose their goats while respecting their cultural barriers. Additional cultural challenges affected the development of the women's cooperative.
2. **Lack of grazing:** While it is true the cow produces more milk than the goat, the advancing desert in the Azawak is a threat to the breeding of cattle. The choice of ruminants, especially the goat, was motivated by its resistance to the year's seasonal conditions



Woman chooses her goats at the local market set up in Tangfourgan, February 2018

and that it produces a milk more suitable to nourish children. This is why Amman Imman preferred to give beneficiaries more goats than expected, and not to give cows.

3. **Lack of knowledge in photography:** The field team does not have enough knowledge in the field of photography. For this reason, a significant portion of the pictures taken during this process were not of good quality. However, to overcome this constraint, this group of workers will be instructed in photography to better monitor this project.

Is your organization or project situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

During the course of this grant, one of our major funders decided to stop funding all their projects in Niger, for Amman Imman and other NGOs as well. The foundation provided Amman Imman with \$50,000 through this transition. Donations received by other sources have allowed us to cover our other program expenses and projects including our mobile health clinic costs, allowing us to operate uninterrupted.

Additionally we have bolstered our staff. We currently have three in-country full-time field staff, one field supervisor, and a recently hired country coordinator. We will soon be hiring a fourth field staff.

What were the most important lessons learned?

In the future, to prevent misunderstandings and avoid delays, we recommend that the field team:

- **Start with community education before establishing a women's cooperative.** We began the establishment of a women's cooperative that would be responsible for leadership of the project. However, because traditionally in our communities decisions come from men, and women are not used to making decisions, the process was stifled. We decided to hold off on the further development of the women's cooperative. Little by little, through consistent sensitization working with the men and the women, this is improving. We will soon return to the strengthening the women's cooperative.

- **Conduct a study in advance to identify cultural obstacles that could hinder implementation of the project.** We hadn't anticipated that the men would not allow the women to go to the public market in Tchintabaradène to choose their goat. Given that HERds is a women-led project, and selecting their goats would empower them, it was very important that the women take part in this activity. After some discussion with leaders of Tangarwashane and our team, we rectified this problem by working with government officials to bring a mini-market to Tangarwashane in July 2017. In February 2018, we also brought a mini-market of goats to Tanfourgan for the women to choose their own ruminants.



With dairy products available, children's nutritional intake has increased.

What has changed within your organization as a result of this project?

Livestock growth throughout Niger was hindered by a fodder crisis. However, in the Azawak region in northern Niger, this situation is more acute because people live exclusively off livestock byproducts. One benefit of this project was the NGO's improved image with local communities and the administrative services of the Abalak Department (such as the Prefecture, the Town Hall, the Health District, and the Livestock Service) who are now even more receptive to the NGO's various activities.

Describe the unexpected events and outcomes, including unexpected benefits.

This project began with a certain delay caused partly by cultural constraints and partly by the timing of its execution. Despite the shift in schedule, this project has improved the living conditions of more women and children than expected.

Did you change your strategy as a result of obstacles you encountered? How will you address these challenges in the future?

If the field team had understood the need to sensitize the community before establishing the women's cooperative, the project would have been simpler, because this cooperative would:

1. Firstly, help the management committee throughout the project cycle; and secondly, assist the monitoring and evaluation team.
2. Identify community traditions which could block or delay fulfillment of our projects;
3. Assist in creating a more detailed and realistic schedule for completing the project.

We decided not to use women from other Amman Imman HERds program as trainers for the Tanagarwashane women, previously explained in the interim report.

Approximately, how many lives have been touched, both directly and indirectly, by the project?

Completion of this project has allowed us to directly improve the standard of living of 89 women and indirectly improve the lives 623 children including 318 girls. In total, 712 people from our communities have benefited from the HERds project. Another set of women will be given goats, after the first group has babies, and hence there will be even more beneficiaries.



The consumption of milk, cheese and butter, reduces malnutrition rates, especially in small children, by improving their nutritional levels.

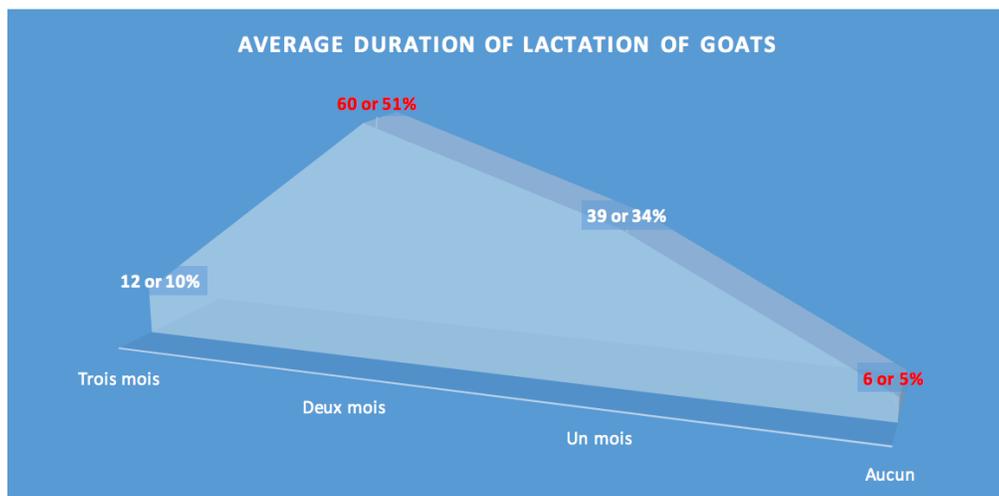
What are the measurements used to monitor success and how was this information measured (e.g., surveys, observation)? Be specific and include measurable results.

To ensure a progressive approach to this project, tools were developed and meetings were held in order to screen for any divergence from the results and propose corrective measures. These included:

1. The development of a monitoring and evaluation support system that offered an observation method (of different indicators) through:
 - An evaluation rubric for the goats' performance;
 - A questionnaire on the goats' profitability;
 - An epidemiological observation record.

Here are some statistics:

- 1 mother goat died
- 89 baby goats, 44 males and 45 females, were born
- Only 2 women in Tangarwashane did not get live babies from their goats
- 5 goats gave twin babies
- 80% of beneficiaries in Tangarwashane got 2 or 3 babies
- 20 goats got sick and recovered



Observation : 51% of the goats had an average lactation duration of two months and only 5% did not have babies or the newborns passed away. (December 2017 from the first distribution at Tangarwashane)

2. Seven monthly meetings held between the management committee and the field team and 14 meetings held every two weeks between the management committee and the target group of women to:
 - Ensure adequate information and communication on the project;
 - Detect and understand problems (epizootic diseases, zoonoses, failure of the Fodder Bank,...) that may arise.

If the project is ongoing, provide plans and expected results, including projected timeframe.

To fully achieve our initially stated goals, we must still accomplish the following within the next 4 months:

1. Strengthen the activities of the existing women's cooperative in order to:
 - Facilitate deworming and vaccination for the offspring
 - Supervise the operation of the Fodder Bank,
 - Assist the monitoring and evaluation of the project,
 - Aid the redistribution of the mother goats belonging to Amman Imman to other beneficiaries after two years,
 - Begin paying the women managers of the operation
2. Establish a Fodder Bank in Tanfourgan, the village where the 44 beneficiaries of the HERds program of February 2018 operation are located, which will allow for:
 - Access to fodder,
 - Creation of animal husbandry best practices and increased milk yield from the goats,
 - Build a building for both fodder banks
 - Provide additional fodder for the first fodder bank
3. Organize women's cheese-making cooperatives in order to:
 - Allow for better storage of dairy products,
 - Organize sales of byproducts from the goats,
 - Generate funds to used for vaccinations and deworming of the goats
4. Build the project sign recognizing DFW

Provide a detailed list of all the expenses incurred during the grant cycle which have been paid for by the Dining for Women grant.

See attached budget of expenses.

Note: Amman Imman originally budgeted \$49,402, and has to date used \$32,103. There is therefore \$17,299 remaining to conduct the HERDs related projects that we have not yet implemented. This discrepancy can be explained by the fact that we launched the program 6 months later than anticipated, due both to climactic and sociological conditions that slowed us down. We request that DFW allow us to retain this funding in order to conduct the rest of our projects within the next 4 months.

Did this grant and relationship with DFW assist your organization in obtaining other funding, partnerships with other organizations, or public recognition in some capacity?

We have not received any additional funding for the HERds project. Nonetheless, the close collaboration with Dining For Women on this project has broken new ground for us through a relationship of trust and validation of our activities with the services of the State of Niger. For



Milk and mild products make happy healthier children.

example, in the Abalak Department, we count the Prefecture, the Town Hall, the Health Device and the Livestock Service among our partners.

Thank You Dining for Women and Amman Imman



Almountaha Weglassan is from Intatolene (part of the Tangarwashane distribution). She is 34 years old and has 7 children. Three of them are under 5 years old. Her husband is a migrant worker and travels to Libya to find work.

“The lack of rain caused grazing land to shrink. My husband’s livestock herd dwindled. We had very insufficient amounts of milk for the family; our children were sentenced to eat their meals without milk. When the NGO Amman-Imman and Dining For Women brought this help through the distribution of goats, malnutrition was taking place gradually in our village. But now, our children benefit greatly milk. Also, my goats have all given birth. I am frankly very happy with this support and would like to thank all those contributed to its realization.”