

A healthy start

Fight malnutrition by installing water and sanitation facilities in clinics and communities

April 2015 to March 2016

Oxfam Herts Hike project 2015

Your support could help reach 3,000 mothers and their malnourished children, speeding up recovery time for children suffering from malnutrition; limiting the spread of diseases by installing washing and sanitation facilities; and training community members on the importance of good hygiene, keeping families healthy in the long-term.

THE CHALLENGE

For women like 22 year-old Fatimata Djibrilla and especially for her malnourished son, clean water is as important for survival as food. Unfortunately, both are in short supply in the remote village of Azzel Kelawel, where the family live. Fatimata's son is receiving medical treatment from a malnutrition centre. But his chances of a full and speedy recovery are seriously limited by the lack of clean drinking water. The only water available for Fatimata to give her sick child is dirty, and risks making him even more ill.



Fatimata Djibrilla feeding her malnourished child at the malnutrition centre, Azzel Village. The project will provide clean drinking water and toilets at health centres like this, helping to fight malnutrition. Photo: Ousseini Ali /Oxfam.

BACKGROUND

“Niger has the unfortunate accolade of being the least developed country in the world. A number of complex factors including malfunctioning food markets, climate change impacts, and cultural practices mean that malnutrition is a serious problem, estimated to cause nearly half of all child deaths in the country. This is a tragedy we are desperate to tackle.

“In rural Agadez region, where the project is located, there is a serious lack of safe drinking water and toilets – even in the malnutrition treatment centres. Without these facilities, it is impossible to prevent or treat malnutrition properly. Persistent diarrhoea caused by waterborne diseases can lead to malnutrition, and people suffering from malnutrition are more susceptible to contracting diseases from dirty water. It is a vicious cycle.

“The project will address this by installing water points and toilets in malnutrition centres and villages, reaching 15,000 mother-and-child couples over three years. We will install washing areas and facilities for safely disposing of medical waste, improving hygiene standards at the centres. We will also train community members on the importance of good hygiene, keeping kids healthy and preventing the spread of disease.

“All of these activities are crucial progress in the fight against malnutrition.” Bruno Kokou Fugah, Oxfam Programme Manager.



A community health volunteer running a training session on hygiene practices. This project will train 60 volunteers such as this to provide information to patients at malnutrition centres.
Photo: Rachel Walsh/Oxfam.



Niger profile

Population: 17.8 million

Development: 187 (of 187) on the HDI¹

Gross national income per capita: \$873 (UK: \$35,002)

Under-5 mortality rate: 114 deaths per 1,000 live births (UK: 5 deaths per 1,000 live births)

Population with access to improved water sources: 52%²

Source: 2014 UNDP Human Development report, unless otherwise stated.

¹ The United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: life expectancy and health, access to knowledge and standard of living.

²WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2012.

ACTIVITIES

Provide safe, reliable water supplies to malnutrition centres and local communities

- Rehabilitate water points in ten malnutrition centres and five communities.
- Install 500-litre tanks to enable the treatment and storage of water in ten malnutrition centres.
- Ensure that ten community water committees, involving women and men, are in place to manage the use of water pumps, collect user fees and organise regular maintenance.

Install toilets, wash areas, and waste disposal systems at malnutrition centres

- Build or rehabilitate latrine blocks at ten malnutrition centres, each made up of two toilets, one for men and one for women.
- Set up two hand washing stations at five malnutrition centres.
- Construct or restore cleaning areas for washing clothes in ten malnutrition centres.
- Build or rehabilitate hygienic waste disposal facilities at ten nutrition centres, to enable biochemical waste to be destroyed safely.

Deliver training and equipment to improve hygiene practices and water quality

- Train 30 hygiene technicians to maintain hygiene standards and operate water, sanitation and waste disposal systems at ten malnutrition centres.
- Train 60 community members to provide information to patients at 20 malnutrition centres and surrounding communities about hygiene practices.
- Distribute 3,000 hygiene kits to mothers attending ten malnutrition centres.
- Broadcast radio messages for one month on good hygiene practices.

BENEFICIARIES

This year, 3,000 mother-and-child couples attending 10 malnutrition centres will benefit from the installation of water points, latrines, and washing facilities. These mother-and-child couples will also receive a hygiene kit containing soap, water purification tablets and containers for transporting water.

SUSTAINABILITY

Water management committees and technicians trained by the project will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and hygiene of the water and sanitation facilities. Strong links with the health authorities will ensure that project activities are sustainable beyond the life of the project.

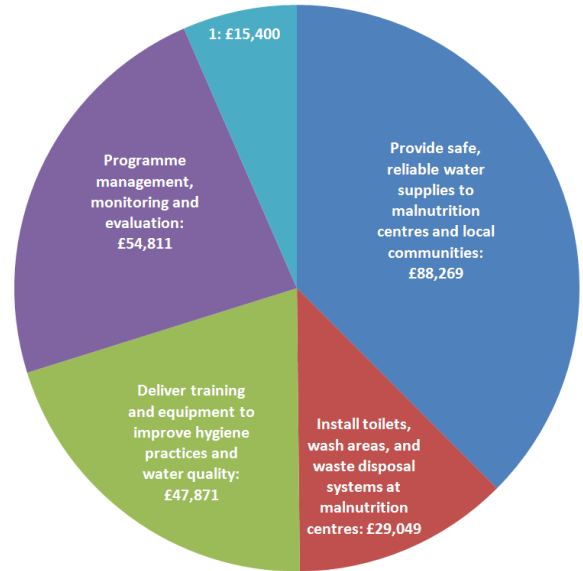
MONITORING

Hygiene standards in the malnutrition centres will be monitored, with pilot centres chosen to measure impact. A telephone line will be piloted in one of the project areas, allowing community members to call, free-of-charge, to give their feedback on the project.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The cost of implementing this project is £235,400.

- £18,149: Distribute hygiene kits to 3,000 mothers attending malnutrition centres.
- £29,049: Build latrines, hand-washing facilities, washing areas and waste disposal facilities at 10 malnutrition centres.
- £87,882: Equip 10 malnutrition centres with water points and water tanks.



1. Essential HQ management, support and administration.



Allassane Amadou at work in the health centre, Photo: Ousseini Ali /Oxfam.

ALLASSANE'S STORY

Allassane Amadou, 37, is a Senior Nurse at the malnutrition centre in Azzel village, Agadez region. As a government employee, his salary is relatively low, and wage payments are irregular, as they are for most government employees in Niger. These working conditions mean it is difficult for health centres in such remote places to retain staff.

Every day, Allassane treats women and children who are desperately ill from malnutrition. But the centre has no clean water. This means he cannot wash his hands or clean the medical equipment properly, complicating nutritional treatments and women's deliveries, both of which require lots of clean water.

Installing water and sanitation facilities at the centre will enable Allassane to do his job properly. Clean water will help prevent malnourished patients from catching waterborne diseases and enable women to give birth safely, improving recovery rates. The installation of latrines will help to stop diseases from spreading, and give patients dignity.

Enhancing the centre in this way will help to restore Allassane's pride in his work. Having the proper facilities to treat people makes him more likely to stay in his job, providing much-needed health services to the people of Azzel.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS PROJECT TO TACKLE MALNUTRITION IN NIGER. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN GIVE CHILDREN A FIGHTING CHANCE OF A BETTER FUTURE.