

# Every Woman is a Leader!

How to support rural women to become leaders in a very conservative context Niger presentation

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### **Plan de la formation**



Curriculum Development Context Structure & approaches used Results



The Tree of Life Limiting beliefs The Four Glasses – Leadership types Skills of a good leader - human web



Operational aspects Lessons Learned How to adapt to new contexts



# **GIRMA Project in Niger**

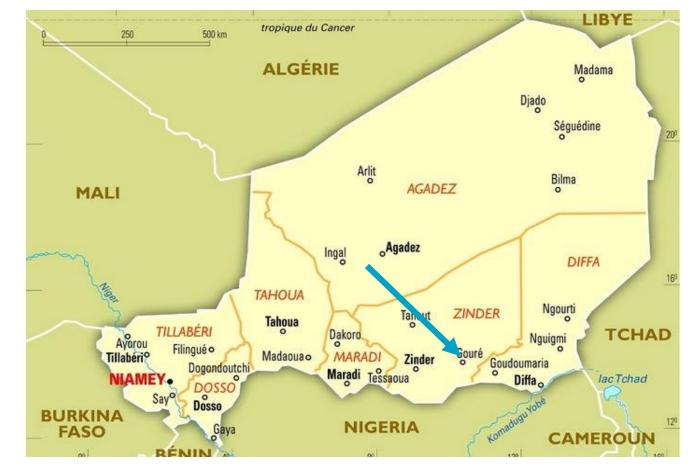
#### Magaria and Dungass Department

- 11 communes
- 622 villages
- 900,000 participants

#### 250 Employees:

- 4 international staff
- 74% men
- 26% women

#### **Project duration:** 2018 - 2023



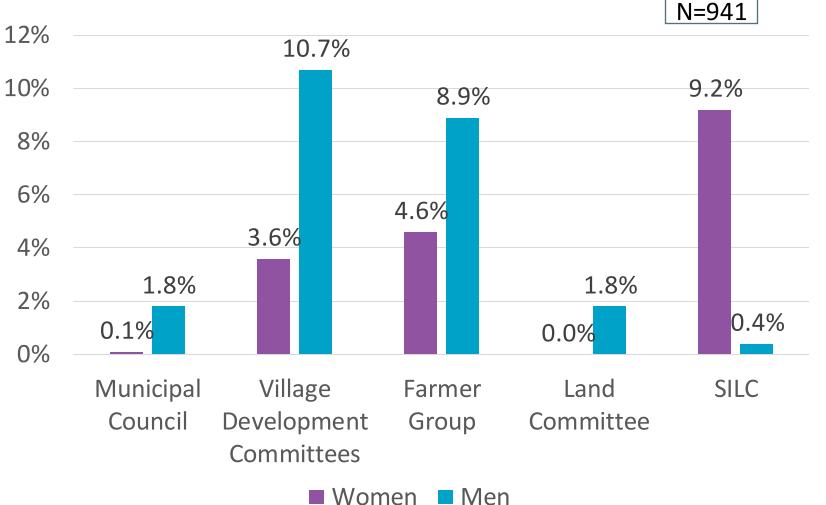
Objective: Improve food and nutrition security for 842,000 vulnerable households and strengthen community resilience



#### Percentage of Women and Men in Community Structures at Baseline

# **Baseline Findings**

- Few women in community development organizations
- Cultural & restrictive norms limit:
  - $\ensuremath{\circ}$  Active participation
  - Positioning in leadership positions
  - $\circ$  Self-esteem



### Socio-Ecological Model that Supports Women's Leadership







#### Individual

- Literacy training
- Leadership training

#### Household

Harmonious
Family House

#### Community

Women's rights training



# **Approaches Used**

- Participatory
- Interactive
- Activities
- Role-play
- Action plans



## **Curriculum Objectives**

- Helping women in leadership positions
- Helping women overcome their limiting beliefs
- Strengthening women's skills to participate in decision-making

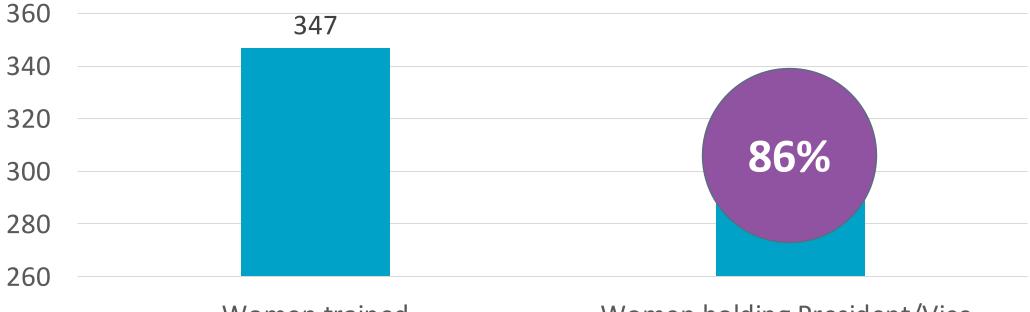


# **Module content**



### **Main Results**

#### Women Leadership Program Results



Women trained

Women holding President/Vice-President positions



### **Practical Sessions– Instructions**



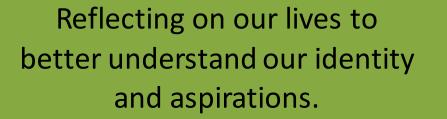
- Breakdown of participants into 4 groups
  - 2 groups of Francophones
  - 2 groups of English speakers

Creating a safe space



### **Understanding Yourself: The Tree of Life**

#### Like a tree







#### The roots

Your history and life experiences family, friends, mentors, traditions of your childhood, religion, language social movement.





#### The trunk

Represents everything about your current life: Thoughts, work, daily activities, responsibilities, Health, home.





Fruits

Represent achievements children, a home, a profession, a job, any other significant achievement.



#### Buds

Represent your hopes and dreams for the future, aspirations big or small. They serve as the basis for the fruits of your life.





Draw or reproduce a tree that represents your tree of life (roots, trunk, fruits and buds)

- Roots represents you past
- The trunk represents everything about your current life
- Fruits represent achievements
- Buds represent your hopes and dreams for the future



# **Limiting belief**





### **Limiting belief**

Nos espoirs et nos rêves, les bourgeons de nos arbres, sont affectés par ce que nous croyons. En fait, ce à quoi nous pensons chaque jour, notre tronc, est lié à ce que nous croyons. Par exemple, si je crois que je peux devenir un bon leader, je réfléchis à la manière dont je peux le devenir

# Limiting belief

- Belief that makes a person doubt what she can do or be
- May come from an erroneous conclusion about something in life
- In the form of an apology
- Negative thoughts of worry
- Justifications, fears, etc.

### **Common Limiting beliefs**

# Helplessness

You think you do not have the capacity to achieve your goal

- Why does this always happen to me?
- I am always wrong
- I don't have the skills to succeed

# Worthlessness

You think you don't deserve to reach your goal because you're not good enough

- I don't have confidence in my ability to be a good leader.
- When I speak, people are bored
- I am worthless

# **Recognizing our own limiting beliefs** Instructions (10 min.)

- 1. From your tree, select an aspiration you're going to work on
- 2. What negative thoughts come to mind when you think of this aspiration?
- 3. What unnecessary assumptions do you make to achieve your goals?

### **Reframing Limiting Belief**

It is important to realize that we can change what we believe and what we think at any time. By doing so, you have the ability to change the way you experience your environment.

# **Reframing our Beliefs Exercise**

During this activity, you would ask participants to select one of their limiting beliefs from the previous exercise. Ask them to reflect on the following questions silently.

- 1. Why do I have this limiting belief?
- 2. Does this limiting belief make sense?
- 3. What would I like this belief to be?
- 4. How can I reframe this belief to be positive?
- 5. Are there other people I know who believe otherwise? How does it work for them? Could this work for me?

#### **Examples of Flawed Thinking Patterns and Reframing**

#### Self-blame

- Because I forgot to take my supplies I am a bad person
- I forgot to take my supplies but I can understand so that it does not happen again.

#### Irreversibility

- Because I forgot the deadline, there will never be other opportunities
- Even if I missed this chance I can look for other opportunites

#### **Overgeneralization**

- Person X was mean to me, so nobody likes me.
- Person X is a gift to help me learn or understand something. Those who challenge us can be our greatest teachers!



### **Examples of Flawed Thinking Patterns and Reframing**

#### Black & White Thinking

- My life is worthless without my husband
- Although my husband is a good man, he does not define my value

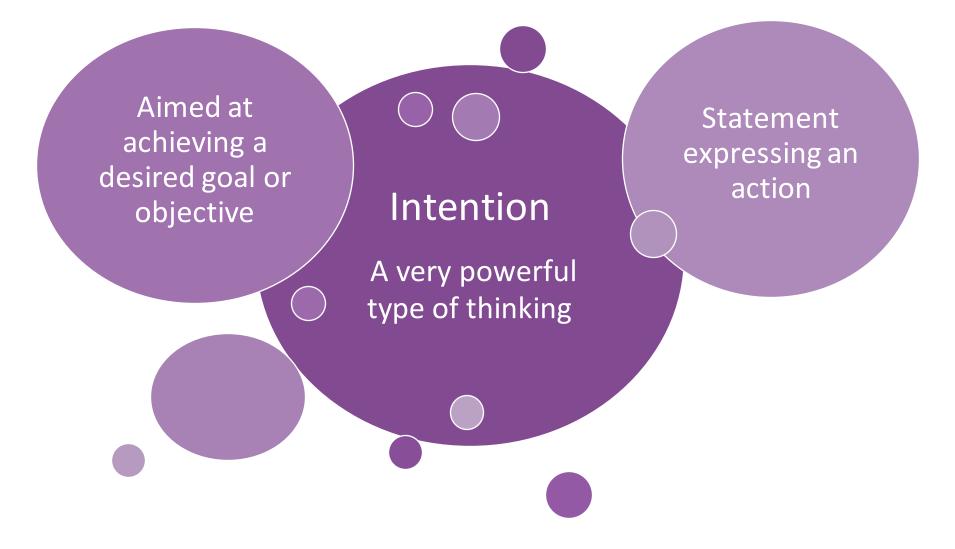
#### Personalization

- My mother-in-law is mad because she hates me.
- My mother-in-law may be upset for many reasons that I am not aware of—like poor health

#### Overreacting

- I forgot to order supplies for our meeting, it will fail
- Because I forgot to order the supplies does not mean my meeting will fail. I will order them tomorrow.

#### What is an intention



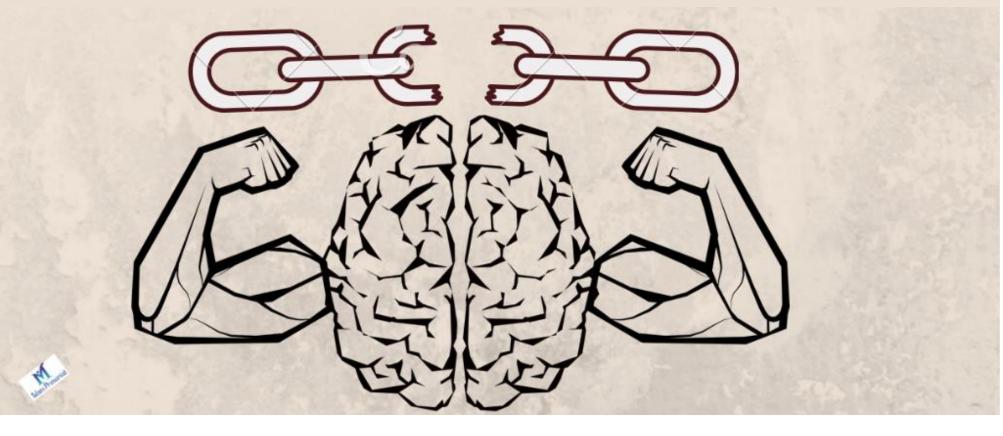
### **Creating an Intention Statement**

- A strong positive feeling/emotion should accompany it.
- An intention works best if it is said in a short and powerful manner.
- An intention paired with an image of your desired goal can have more power

When creating an intent, consider the following



ELIMINATE THOSE LIMITING BELIEFS THAT KEEP YOU FROM ADVANCING..

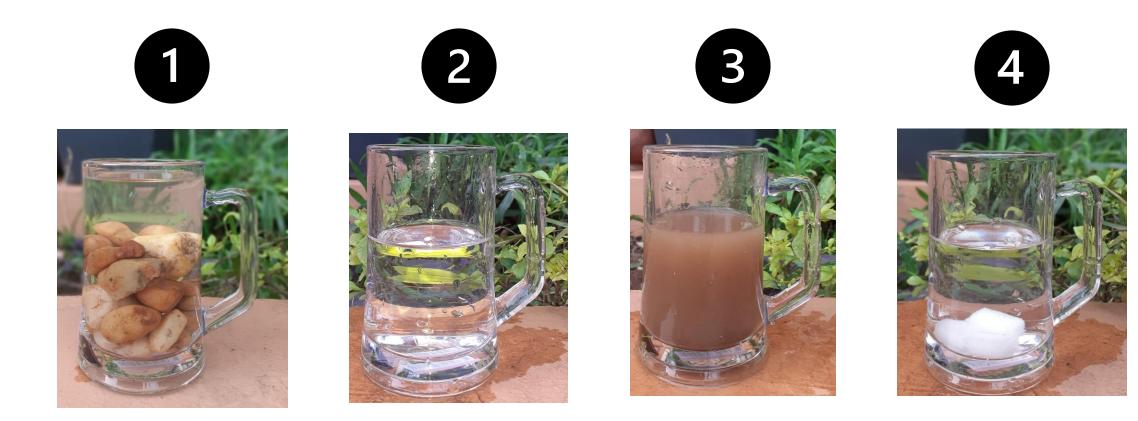


### Who am I?

- Just like an onion, we are composed of multiple layers
- Try to remove the layers one by one until you reach the central core
- Only by removing the layers can we analyze our true self...
- ...and realize the real person we are



### **The Leader in the Glass**



### The Leader in the Glass



The leader does not mingle with the group.



The water becomes muddy, this leader spoils the group.



No substantial changes in the glass.



The sugar mixed with the water in the glass and increased its value.

## **Competences of a Good leader**

#### **Group Cohesion Skill**

- Form a circle
- Weaving a beautiful web with the participants using yarn
- Lessons learned

#### Weaving a web





### **Organizational Aspects**





### **Lessons Learned**

- Involve women in literacy centers before training them on the module.
- Allow more time than planned to conduct the training to better build their self-esteem.
- The more opportunities we give women the better they surpass themselves.
- Monitoring action plans encourages women to be prepared.



### Resources

- Women's Leadership Program: Reflecting and Developing Skills to Enable Leadership, January 2022
- Compilation and adaptation of existing training materials

# Questions





#### Mentimeter



# Thank you for your participation!

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