

A photograph of several women and a young child in traditional Sahelian clothing. One woman in the foreground wears a dark purple headscarf with colorful stripes and a yellow shirt. Another woman behind her wears a green and black patterned headscarf. A young child is visible in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Rain for the Sahel and Sahara



## 2022 Annual Report

# **RAIN forges partnerships with rural and nomadic peoples in Niger to build enduring livelihoods through access to education and opportunity.**

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## **Sustainable Water & Agriculture**

Building infrastructure & training community members in sustainable water, agriculture, and business practices for better-fed families and stronger local economies.



## **Women's Entrepreneurship**

Establishing women's groups; providing training in basic finance & entrepreneurship; and providing access to capital and resources that do not exist locally.



## **Access to Education**

Training local women as mentors and education advocates; offering free daily reinforcement classes; and providing room and board through homestays & at the Agadez Learning Center.

Our programs provide building blocks that will last far beyond the end of RAIN's involvement.

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Dear Dedicated and Future Supporters,

In 2022, RAIN's programs expanded and our results often exceeded targets. We also inaugurated a partnership with Pathfinder International to improve the health, well-being, and economic resilience of women and girls in communities coping with the effects of climate change. RAIN's track record and deep experience in the Agadez region were instrumental in cementing this partnership.

Recently, I traveled to Niger with executive director Katherine Kolios and board vice chair Rebecca Black. Better understanding the conditions in which RAIN works - remote communities, bad roads, unreliable communication and occasional banditry - was invaluable. At the same time, it was so inspiring to see how RAIN is making a difference in a community that has never before partnered with an NGO and to hear the Agadez Learning Center students' dreams of becoming teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs and women police officers! This reinforced my belief that RAIN's investments to increase access to education, water, nutritious food, and financial services have an outsized impact, especially for women and girls.

We also met government and traditional leaders who stressed their support for RAIN's work, particularly education to combat early marriage and giving young people productive skills. As fewer NGOs work in Agadez than other regions of Niger, RAIN's mission is all the more vital and valued.

This report highlights RAIN's accomplishments in 2022 and our plans for continued growth and impact. RAIN's board is grateful for all you've done to help us realize these results. We hope you'll continue to support, advocate for, and uplift our partnership with the rural and nomadic peoples of Niger in 2023 and beyond.

With much gratitude,  
Susan Fine, Chair, RAIN Board of Directors


# Challenging Context


Pervasive poverty, climate change, & regional insecurity create an extremely complex context for RAIN's work.

Through it all, our dedicated staff, strong community ties, & hard-earned reputation enable us to make an impact.

 **Niger is ranked 189<sup>th</sup> of 191 countries** on the UN's Human Development Index.

 Niger has the **highest rate of child marriage in the world**. 28% of girls married by 15 and 76% married by 18. Niger has the highest fertility rate globally.

 **50% of Niger's population is under the age of 15**. Many live in rural areas with little access to education or resources to support themselves.

 Between production and supply chain disruptions related to Covid-19, the war in Ukraine, and more, **daily costs have risen 40-100% this year**.

In the face of these challenges and more, our Nigerien partners adapt and persevere.

When so much is unreliable, support from RAIN creates consistency. Consistency forms a foundation for development.







# Access to Education in 2022

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🎓 1,408 students received free, daily after-school classes across 6 subject areas - **a 150+% increase** in reach since 2021!

🎓 660 elementary and middle school students were mentored by local women in order to **build critical skills for daily life, school, and their futures.**

🎓 114 rural middle school students received **room and board** through the Agadez Learning Center or local homestays.

🎓 Exam-year students benefiting from RAIN's intensive support passed at a rate **20% higher than the national average.**

## Increasing Enrollment Increases Opportunity

Rural students are 50% less likely to enroll in elementary school and 65% less likely to advance to middle school.

For rural students to succeed, we first need to get them in the door.

This year, our rural partner schools saw a **15% increase in enrollment.**





# Growth at the Agadez Learning Center

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In 2022, the ALC saw record class sizes (including 32 girls starting 6th grade).

More girls want to sit the entrance exam... and more of them are earning high enough marks to secure a spot!

In 2023, we'll host 56 middle school students – providing full room, board, after-school classes, & extracurricular activities, so **students have the support they need to pursue their dreams!**



# Education 2023 & Beyond



In 2023, RAIN will:

 Expand our education programs to reach **over 2,000 students across 27 villages.**

This includes new partnerships in the areas of Danat & Aderbissinat – helping RAIN to reach rural children in every corner of the Agadez region.

 Expand the Agadez Learning Center to welcome more students – **increasing representation & inclusion for girls and students from historically excluded backgrounds.**

Plans include building a new dormitory with bathrooms, showers, living & learning space.

If you're interested in supporting this effort, let us know!



## Girls Deserve the Chance to Choose

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At 11 years old, Amina was engaged to be married. She said *“My future was sealed, I was waiting for my future husband to return from the goldmines when RAIN's team came to our village for the Agadez Learning Center entrance test.”*

Amina watched her neighbors and classmates sit the entrance test while she sat waiting for her fiancé to return. She wondered *“how can these girls have the chance to study and become teachers or nurses, while I have to stay in the village and wait for this uncertain fate?”*

She was inspired to fight to continue her studies. **Amina and her mother worked with ALC Director Azara to break off the marriage and enroll Amina in school.** She says, *“I was so happy it was as if I had been resurrected; God gave me the chance to start a new life, working towards a bright future.”*



## Bringing Hope Home With You

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Attending the ALC was Naoude's first time in a city. She was *"amazed by the houses stacked on top of each other. There were lights everywhere as if it was always daytime, and water within arm's reach."*

The whole experience opened her eyes. She broke off a childhood engagement. Years later, she reflects on how far she came:

***"Guided by my determination, I earned my health diploma, fell in love, got married, had kids, built a house and started my own pharmaceutical depot, where I tend to those who are ill and make a daily income of 30,000F. Together, with my husband, we have also set up a drinking water point in the village."***





# Sustainable Food & Water in 2022

- 🚰 RAIN supported the communities of Torguit and Betarmatas to supply **safe drinking water to 1,047 residents & over 1,300 neighbors**, as well as hundreds of truckers, travelers, and migrants passing through.
- 🚰 109 women established 127,950m<sup>2</sup> of community garden plots to **improve nutrition for over 4,000 Nigeriens**.
- 🚰 The gardens exceeded anticipated yields by 20%, growing **over 3,000 kg of produce**.
- 🚰 Betarmatas had **the largest tomato yield in the region**. Nigeriens from nearby communities called asking for their secret!

# Sustainable Food and Water 2023 & Beyond



In 2023, RAIN will:

🚰 Establish a new well and garden in the department of Aderbissinat. RAIN's gardens will produce at least 3,500Kg of crops/year to **provide healthy food to over 700 Nigeriens directly and 4,583 people in neighboring villages.**

🚰 Equip 150+ women with agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills to double their income from gardening activities.





# Sustainable Water Management & Agriculture

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*“The market gardening activity has brought many benefits to my family because we enjoy rich foods like tomatoes, onions, wheat, potatoes, squash, lettuce, leafy greens, and cabbage.*

*All these foods were added to our daily meals.*

***We used to eat vegetables on occasions like weddings and baptisms but now, we consume vegetables quite regularly.”***

*- Ahmed Ibrahim*

# Women's Entrepreneurship in 2022

 **292 women across 14 communities** participated in RAIN's Savings & Loans groups.

 Women **invested over \$13,500**. Two of the established groups invested over \$1,500 each.

 **165+ loans** taken, totaling over \$11,500.

 To date, 100% of participants repay their loans. Their **average return on investment is around 30%**.

 With their profits, the women **support over 600 family members**.

In isolated communities, **RAIN is often the only partner** providing women the opportunity they need to lift themselves, and their families, out of poverty.





# Women's Entrepreneurship 2023 & Beyond



In 2023, RAIN will:



**Expand to partner with 100 additional women** in 5 new partner communities in the Agadez region - including expansion into the areas of Aderbissiant and Dannet.



**Provide access to capital and financial training** to women participate in Savings & Loans groups.



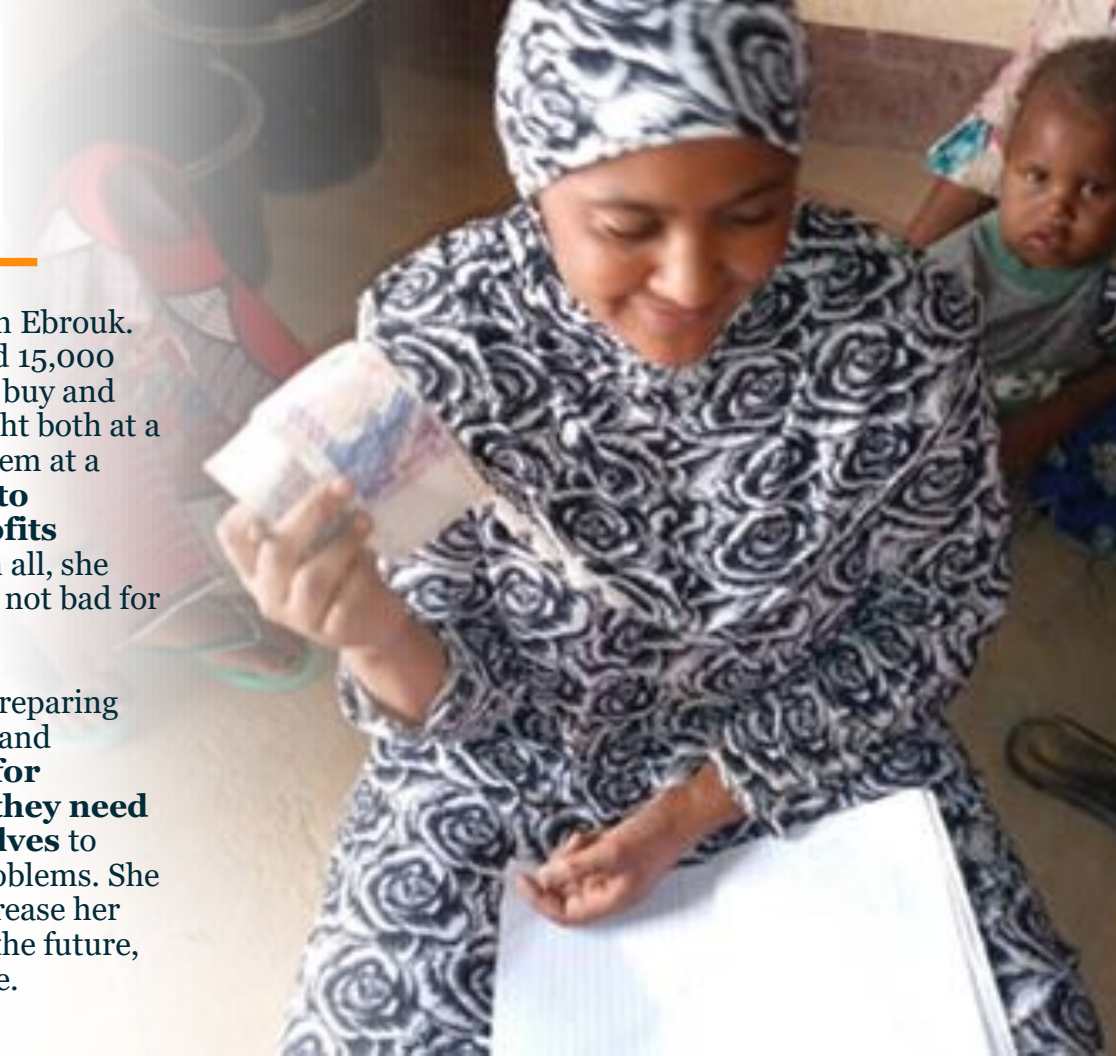
**Link each women's group** with similar rural and urban groups for additional support, to **share best practices, diversify the goods they can access, and reach broader markets** with their own sales.

## Working Together to Build Autonomy

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Mariama, known as Tata, lives in Ebrouk. For her first loan, Tata borrowed 15,000 CFA (a conservative amount) to buy and resell gas and biscuits. She bought both at a good price and quickly resold them at a profit. **She had enough time to reinvest and double her profits before repaying her loan.** In all, she earned 6,000 CFA, a 40% ROI - not bad for a first effort!

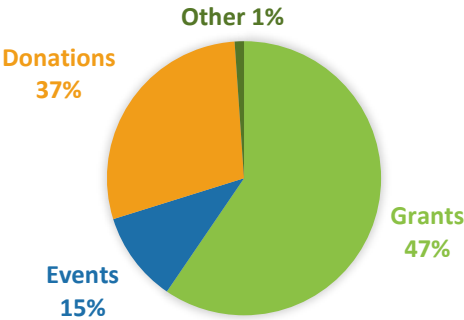
Tata celebrated her success by preparing dinner with meat for her family and neighbors. **Tata reflects that for women in her community, they need to be able to rely on themselves** to solve their families' financial problems. She expressed hope that she can increase her business, taking larger loans in the future, and developing an ongoing trade.



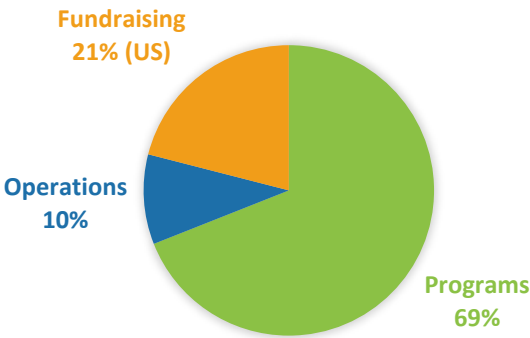


# FY22 Financial Overview

## INCOME

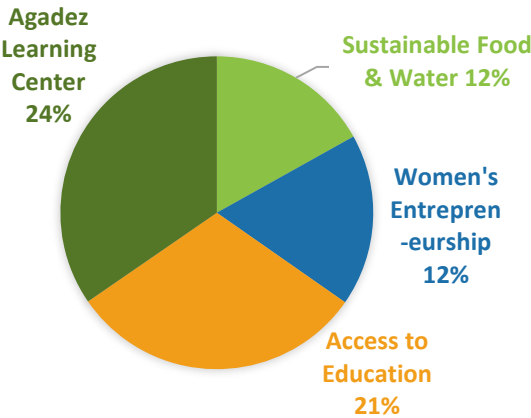


## EXPENSE ALLOCATIONS



Category	Expense
Access to Education	\$100,118
Agadez Learning Center	\$112,834
Sustainable Food & Water Systems	\$55,135
Women's Entrepreneurship	\$58,049
Operations	\$45,190
Fundraising	\$99,668
TOTAL	\$470,994

## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



# Thank You for Your Continued Support!



For any questions, to make a  
donation, or to get more involved,  
contact us at 603-371-0676 or  
[katherine@rain4sahara.org](mailto:katherine@rain4sahara.org)!

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