

RAIN FOR THE SAHEL AND SAHARA



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



RAIN'S MISSION

RAIN works in partnership with underserved rural and nomadic peoples of Niger to increase educational opportunities and improve livelihoods for more resilient communities.

RAIN ENVISIONS

Nigerien communities that have the resources and opportunities to determine their own future.

RAIN'S VALUES

RAIN operates under mutual respect—the giving and sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources among our staff, partner communities, and stakeholders in Niger.

We strive for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all our work, and rely on partnership and collaboration to build local ownership.



Dear Supporters and Friends,

I'm so proud of RAIN's performance in 2023. In particular, I celebrate that **not a single girl in the education program dropped out to get married**. Additionally, 75% of RAIN students will continue their schooling. Both results are remarkable in a place where high dropout rates and early marriage are common. With income generating activities and community gardens, more rural women boosted household incomes and nutrition. These results are even more meaningful as coup-induced sanctions raised costs for Nigeriens.

RAIN continues to enjoy **strong support from local leaders and partner communities**. Our approach emphasizes collaboration, innovation and investments to help communities become more resilient. RAIN is well-positioned to expand our programs and reach more girls, women and remote communities. We'll continue to assess and adapt to security and other conditions to minimize risks to beneficiaries, staff and partners.

RAIN's board and staff are enormously grateful for your support. **In a world with so much need, it's important not to overlook the "quiet crises" and to give people hope for the future.**

Your continuing financial and moral support will allow us to sustain and grow RAIN's local partnerships in rural Niger for years to come.

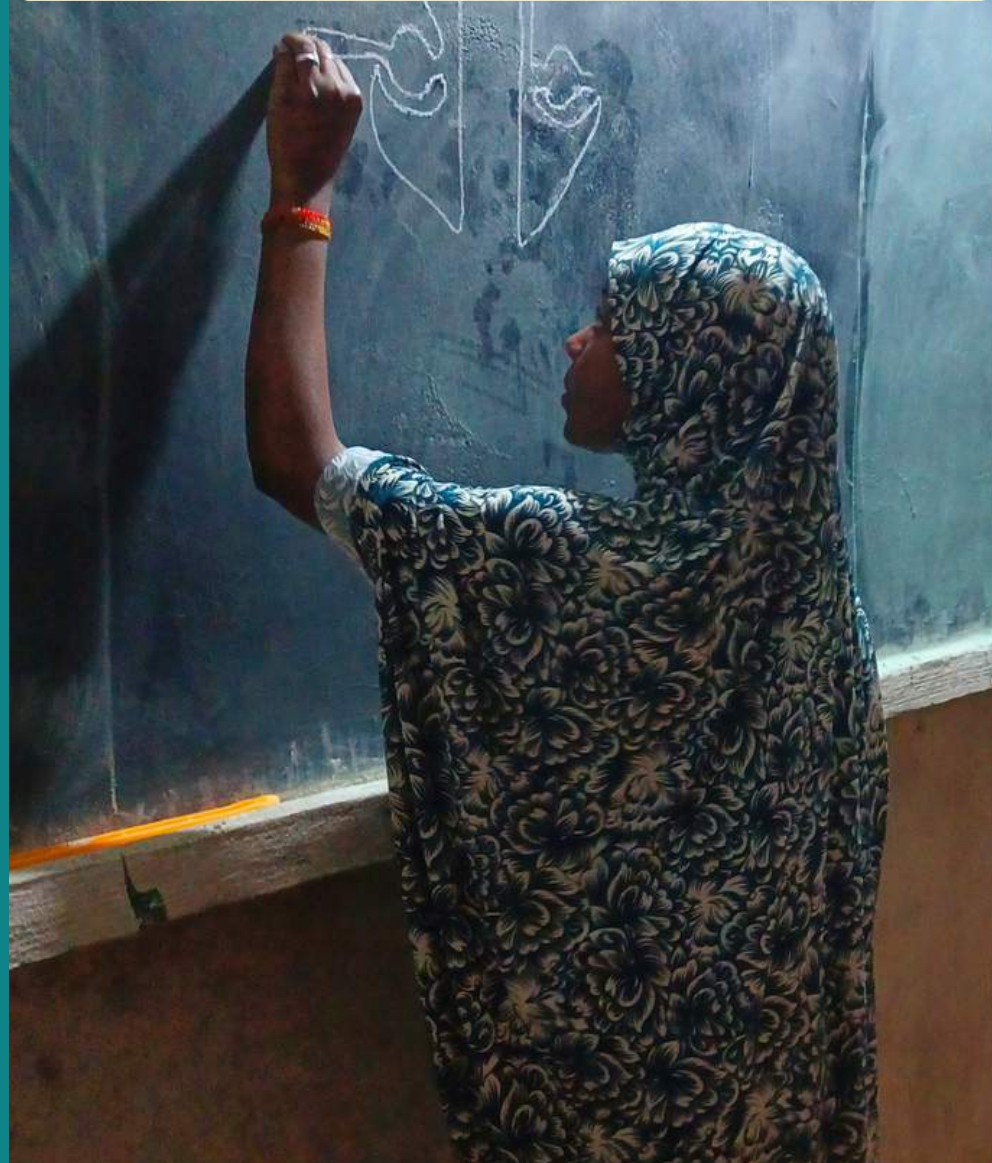
With gratitude for your commitment,

Susan Fine, Chair

RAIN Board of Directors

Overview of Programs

Access to Education



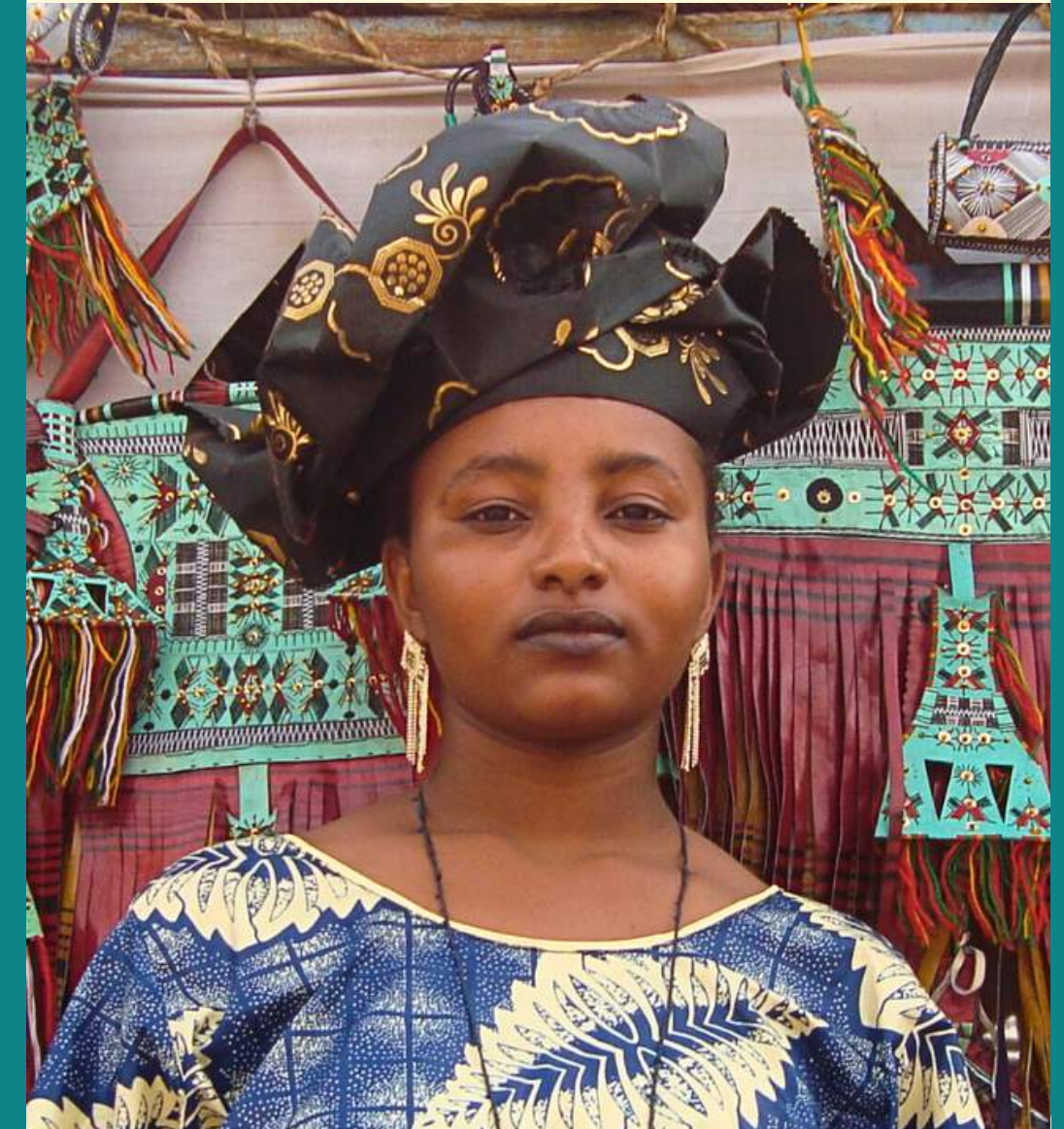
Training local women as mentors and education advocates; offering free daily reinforcement classes; and providing room and board through homestays & at the Agadez Learning Center.

Sustainable Water & Agriculture



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

Economic Security



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

Record-high temperatures, pervasive poverty, and regional insecurity create many challenges for Nigeriens that affect their way of life.



Niger is **ranked 189th of 191** countries on the UN Human Development Index.

50% of children under-5 are chronically undernourished and **more than half** of Niger's **27 million people** do not have access to **safe drinking water**.

28% of girls are married by 15 and **76%** are married by 18 – **the highest rate of child marriage in the world**.

Fewer than 11% of women have an account with a financial institution or mobile money service provider and **91% of the country** is considered to be in **“multidimensional poverty.”**

Access to Education in 2023



1,408 students benefited from **free, daily after-school enrichment classes.**



160 local women mentors served **799 elementary and middle school students** across **27 communities.**



80 rural students living as far as **75 miles** away from their local middle school received **room and board.**



Across our partner middle schools and at the ALC, **not a single girl dropped out to get married.**





Impact Across our Education Programs



In 2023, RAIN hosted **58 children** from rural communities to **receive room, board, and support** through the Agadez Learning Center -a **70% increase since 2019!**



A total of **87 students** passed the national BEPC exam at a rate **5% higher than average**, including 9 ALC students!



Over **75% of enrolled students will continue on to the next grade level** and the majority of the rest will have the opportunity to repeat their courses to improve their results.

Access to Education in 2024 and Beyond

- RAIN will reach over **3,000 rural and nomadic students** across 29 communities, including partnerships with 6 middle schools and 23 elementary schools.
- RAIN will train **170 mentors** to support, advocate for, and provide leadership and life skills for over **841 students**.
- Across 5 regional hubs and in the city of Agadez, RAIN will provide room and board to **over 150 middle school students**
 - 92 will be housed with local families
 - 62 will live on-site at RAIN's Agadez Learning Center
- **RAIN's largest group of students ever!**



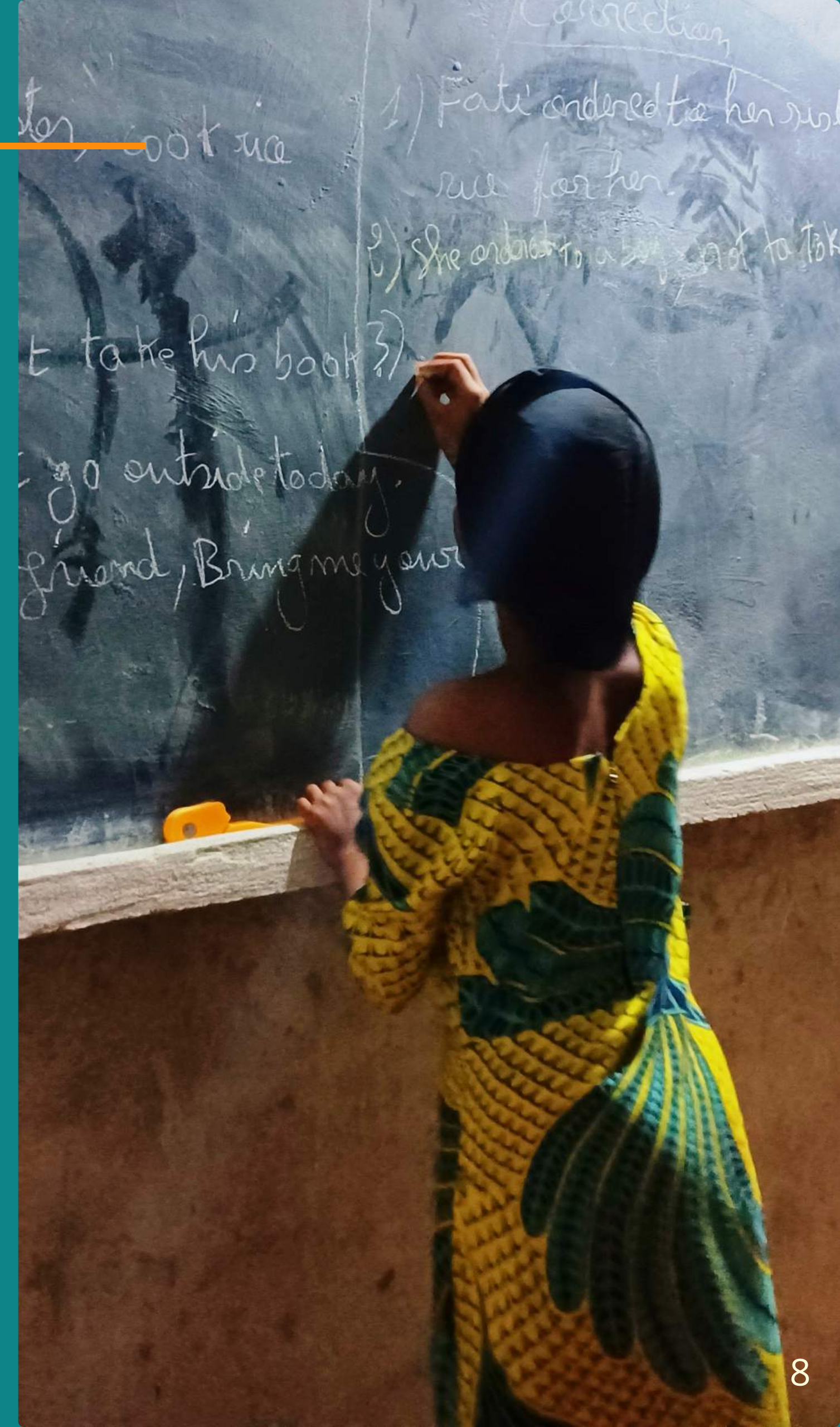
Creating a Brighter Future

Ouma participates in RAIN's programs at her middle school in Ingall. She says:

"Since the mentoring program came to our school, I've paid more attention to my studies because we have after-school classes and **our mentors work with us on all kinds of topics like the importance of education and avoiding child marriage.**

"This is the first time we have a project like this at school and it's helpful because we have a lot of challenges...

"I'd like to thank RAIN and my mentor because her watchful eye has helped me to continue my studies. I will do everything in my power not to get married before I graduate."



Food & Water Security in 2023



RAIN Field Agents **partnered with regional agronomists to provide training to 109 women** across the communities of Ankaf, Betarmatas, and Torguit.



Program participants led the planning of how best to leverage their **32 acres** of garden plots.



The communities' efforts yielded over **7,500 lbs of produce** and women in the community of Bertarmatas **doubled their expected income!**



This income allowed women to **send their children to school** and **support their families'** additional needs.

Food & Water Security 2024 and Beyond



- Expand clean water to the Aderbissinat region **by installing a solar-powered well, water tower, and water access points** in Tchinagrof.
 - This key project expands our partnership with Pathfinder International and enables us to work with an additional **30 women gardeners!**
- Work with community partners to **plant more fruit-bearing and moringa trees** to provide nutritious, marketable food options, benefit surrounding agriculture, and reinforce high-risk erosion areas.
- **Expand our urban network** to offer rural women access to larger markets and urban women access to affordable and nutritious food.

Planting Hope for the Future



76-year-old Tima says: “**For years, my village struggled with water.** To access water, women needed to walk far from the village – and when they got there, there wasn’t enough water for their families’ needs.

“Our women’s group asked for RAIN’s support to set up a well that could provide drinking water and irrigate the women’s garden.

“I was so happy that I went to see the well for myself. I drank water from the well and it was so sweet. I believe that this is the end of our ordeal. **Now, we have this precious water – thanks to RAIN.**”

Economic Security in 2023



In 2023, RAIN worked with **514 women across 24 partner communities.**



RAIN and Pathfinder International launched **two urban women's groups** in Agadez, **reaching 40 women** who serve as a local collaborators for rural peers.



Communal savings grew to **11,892,025 CFA (almost \$20,000)** - a **62% increase** from early 2023!



These profits were used by the women in myriad ways including investing in: income generating activities (**41%**), food (**39%**), school supplies (**8%**), and family needs (**12%**).



Our goat herding program grew to include **39 new kids**, and participating women developed astute market strategies that helped optimize breeding efficiency amidst environmental challenges in Niger.





Economic Security in 2024 and Beyond

- Provide access to capital and financial training to over **600 women** participating in **30 Savings & Loans groups** - **another RAIN record!**
- **Expand our Savings and Lending exchange program**, with a host group accommodating other regional group leaders. These meetings rotate locations to ensure equitable knowledge exchange among groups.
- **Empower women to pursue opportunities** that provide needed services and products and may grow to employ others.
- Continue to **link various rural and urban groups** to share best practices, diversify materials and products, and reach broader markets.

Building Across Generations



Fatima, a member of Aouderas' Savings & Loans Group, says:

"I took my courage in both hands and used my loan to start selling kitchen utensils." **Fatima's faith -- both in RAIN's guidance and in herself -- paid off immediately:**

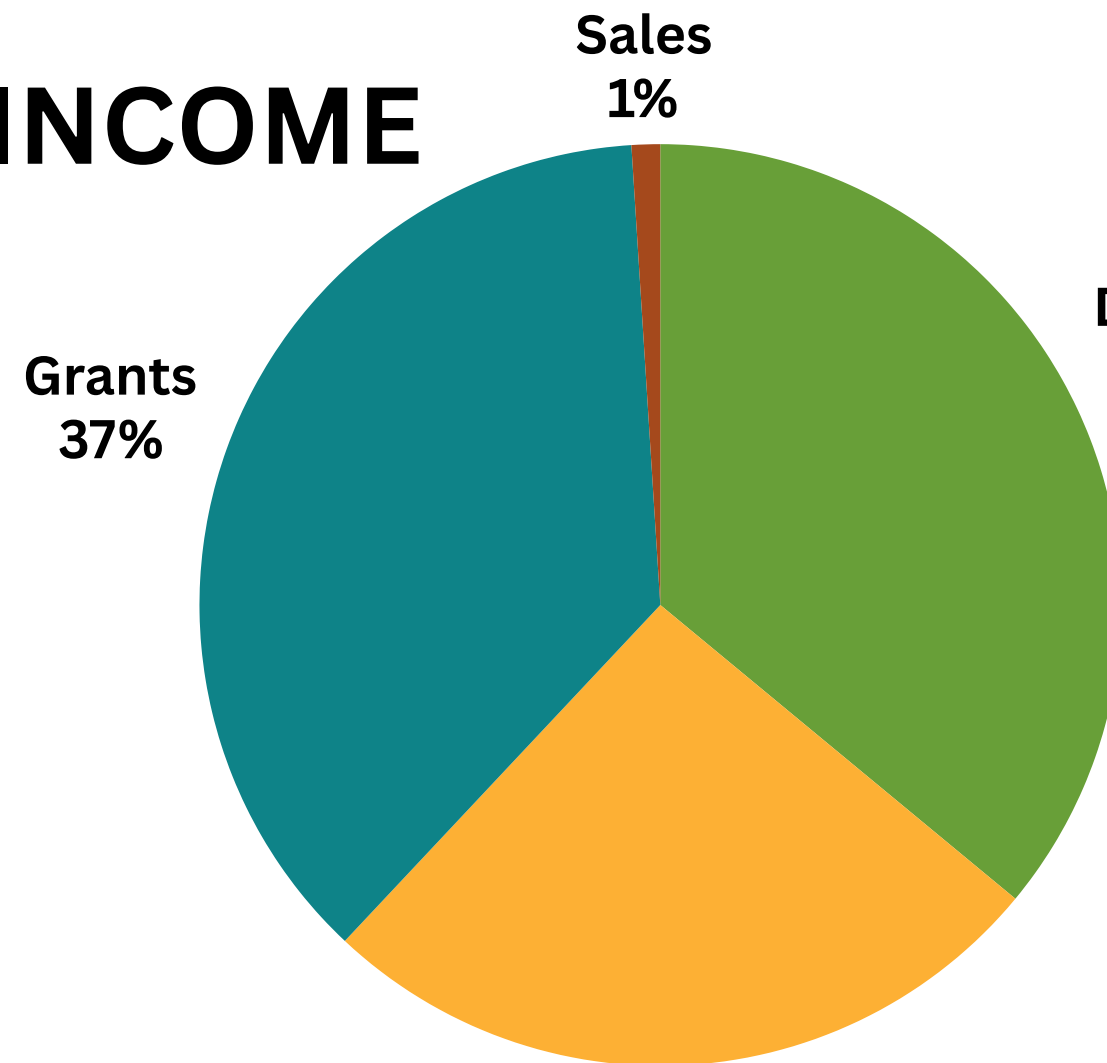
"One of my boys had an accident, his treatment cost 100,000cfa (*1/4 of Niger's GDP per capita!*) and I was able to help cover his medical costs."

Fatima contributes to her family's ongoing needs as well and has already seen longer term impacts: **"Through this activity, I was able to realize my dreams... I paid my child's school fees, he obtained his diploma, and today he works for the Dabaga Town Hall.**

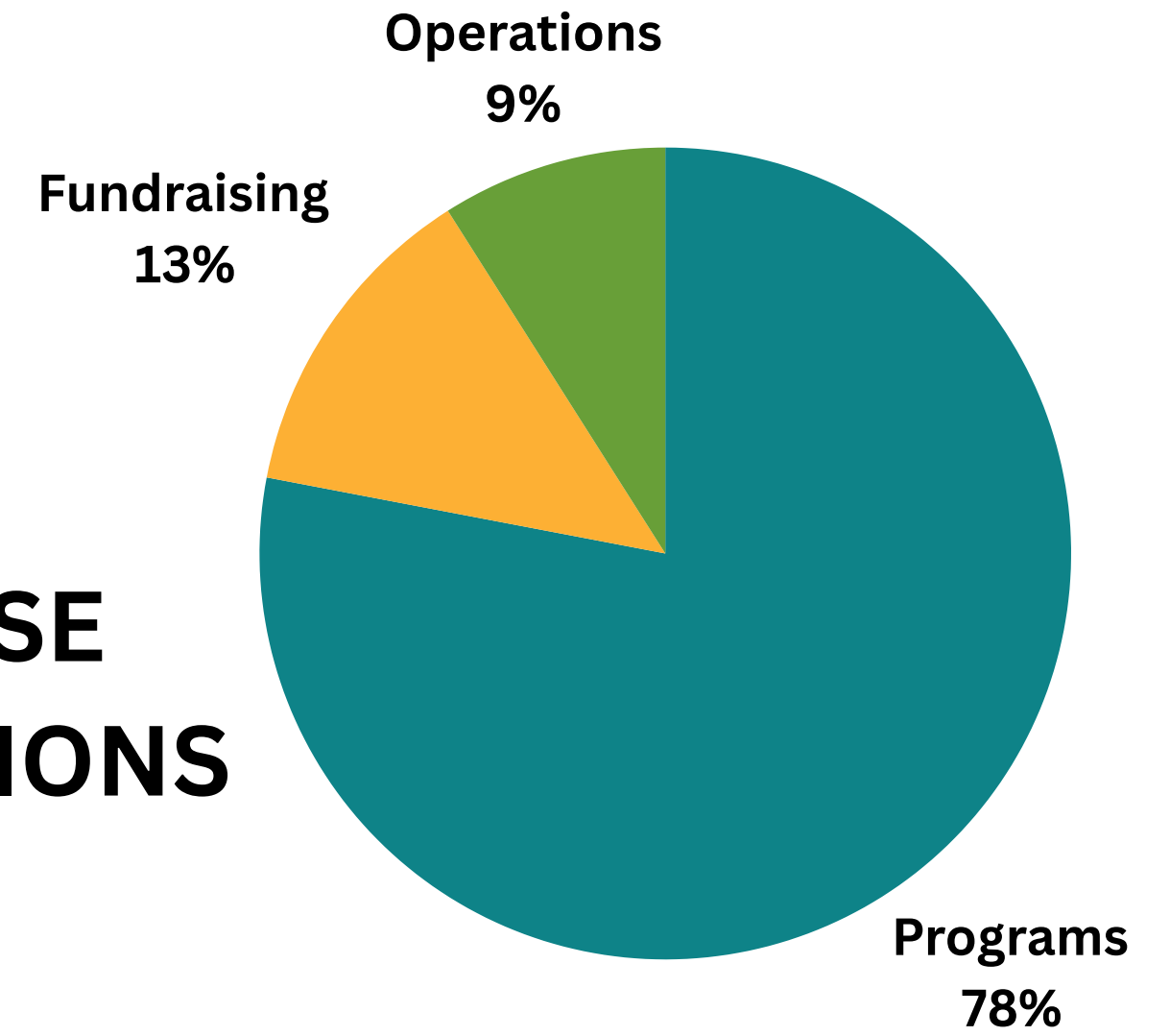
"We greatly thank the NGO for everything it does for us women."

FY23 Financial Overview

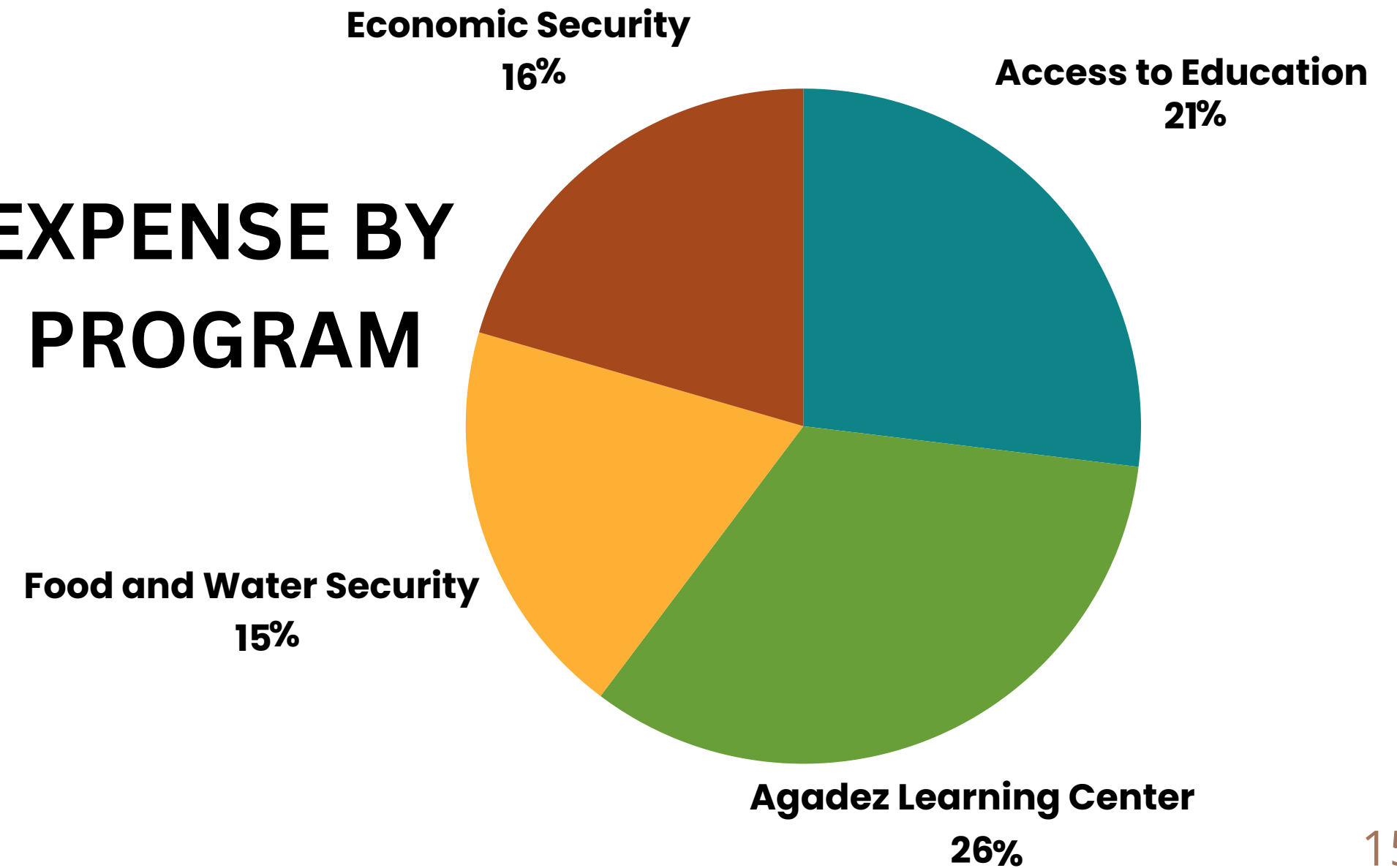
INCOME



EXPENSE ALLOCATIONS



EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



Category	Expense
Access to Education	\$95,925
Agadez Learning Center	\$114,739
Food and Water Security	\$65,818
Women's Entrepreneurship	\$73,023
Operations	\$40,525
Fundraising	\$59,794
TOTAL	\$449,824



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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For any questions, to make a donation,
or to get more involved, contact us at
603-371-0676 or info@rain4sahara.org

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