



Investing in rural people

Executive Board

President's report on a proposed grant under the regional grants window to Billital Maroobe Network for Water for Peace: Inclusive and Sustainable Access to Water in Pastoral Areas Affected by Multifaceted Crises

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 21.

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For more information on IFAD's partnership with Farmers Organizations through the Farmer's Forum, please visit <https://www.ifad.org/en/farmers-forum>.

President's report on a proposed grant under the regional grants window to Billital Maroobe Network for Water for Peace: Inclusive and Sustainable Access to Water in Pastoral Areas Affected by Multifaceted Crises

I. Background and compliance with the IFAD Regular Grants Policy

1. The pastoral livestock system is an important source of livelihoods and economic activities in West and Central Africa. Pastoralists comprise between 10 and 20 per cent of the population in the Sahel and contribute to around 60 per cent of the meat and milk products consumed in West Africa.¹ At the same time, pastoralists are particularly vulnerable to the combined effects of climate change, demographic growth, fragility and insecurity.² The high levels of fragility prevailing in traditional pastoral areas have led to disruptions in traditional migratory patterns (called transhumance) and social arrangements between farmers and pastoralists, leading to an exacerbation of conflicts over the access to natural resources, especially water.
2. The purpose of this proposed grant is to engage a regional apex pastoralist organization with strong local roots and proven capacities to support community driven social cohesion and peacebuilding interventions among pastoralists and farmers in the Sahelian countries and coastal countries bordering the Sahel. It will do this by investing in hydraulic systems and creating participatory social agreements related to the management of water systems in pastoral tracks, combined with providing related services useful for pastoralists based on monitoring and alert systems and digital innovations.
3. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Regular Grants Policy (2021).³ It contributes primarily to priority commitment area 2 (strategic focus on fragility, conflict and building resilience). The grant will also contribute to commitment area 3 (strategic partnerships); and 5 (sustainability and scaling up results), enabling IFAD to strengthen its regional partnerships and build the capacity of local pastoral organizations.⁴ These will facilitate the sustainability and scaling up of tested and proven results in the long run.
4. The recipient was identified through direct selection, which was approved by the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee on 6 December 2023. Billital Maroobe Network (RBM) is the only transnational producers' organization (PO) focusing exclusively on championing the cause of transhumant pastoralists in West Africa and the Sahel region. As a transnational network, RBM brings together more than 75 pastoral organizations comprising 750,000 members and benefiting more than 2,000,000 pastoralist beneficiaries. RBM has been the partner of choice for most regional and international institutions, including in IFAD interventions such as the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C) and the recently implemented West and Central Africa regional assistance project for pastoral and agropastoral households confronted with the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lean period and insecurity (PAS2P) under the Rural Poor Stimulus Fund (RPSF). They have also been a strategic partner with IFAD as part of the Farmers' Forum.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa 2017. New Fringe Pastoralism: Conflict and Insecurity and Development in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

² Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). 2017.

³ See EB 2021/132/R.3.

⁴ See EB 2021/132/R.3 and EB 2021/134/R.13.

II. The proposed programme

5. The overall goal of the programme is to promote intercommunity social cohesion between crop farmers and livestock breeders in fragile contexts. It will do this by improving access to and strengthening the inclusive and equitable management of hydraulic resources through social agreements, and improving access to pastoral monitoring and services. The objectives are to:
 - (i) Pilot test a new participatory⁵ approach for strengthening social cohesion in pastoral and agropastoral areas and establish effective processes to identify water needs and agree on the location, construction, and operation and management of pastoral hydraulic infrastructure to facilitate water access;
 - (ii) Simultaneously increase the availability of water and promote efficient and equitable access to permanent water points to secure livestock mobility and reduce conflicts related to competition for water and pastoral resources; and
 - (iii) Develop, test and document the experience of offering related services for pastoralists, including monitoring and alert systems and digital innovations.
6. The direct target group will be composed of 12,800 pastoralists and agropastoralists, 50 per cent of whom will be women and 60 per cent young people. The intervention will target pastoral and agropastoral communities, including displaced persons, in the central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and the northern regions of the coastal countries of West Africa (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo), where the prevailing situation is characterized by: (i) increased fragility; (ii) widespread disruption of livestock mobility systems; and (iii) the amplification of cross-border transhumance, which involves the search for new destinations and the negotiation of social agreements with populations in areas that cross-border pastoralists are not used to frequenting (therefore raising the risk of potential conflicts). Further targeting will rely on conflict sensitivity analysis, based on an inclusive and participatory process including farmers, local authorities, decentralized technical services, administrative authorities, traditional leaders and representatives of civil society.
7. Indirect beneficiaries will include:
 - (i) Local authorities in intervention areas, decentralized technical services and central administrations;
 - (ii) The national and local private sector, which need stability and social cohesion for their businesses to prosper; and
 - (iii) Subregional institutions responsible for promoting economic integration.
8. The programme will be implemented over three years and will have the following components, each contributing to social cohesion, better access to water and better management of natural resources, as well as the production of knowledge aimed at informing interventions and public policies:
 - (i) **Component 1: Deploying innovative approaches to building social agreements together with the establishment of hydraulic infrastructure.**
 - This will include activities around developing approaches for negotiating the social agreements related to hydraulic infrastructure and undertaking the construction of new water points to be shared by farmers and pastoralists.

⁵ The participatory approach will entail mobilizing the support of all upstream stakeholders (rural producers, local authorities, decentralized technical services, territorial administration, defense forces and security, etc.).

- (ii) **Component 2: Providing useful services for pastoralists based on the use of monitoring and alert systems and digital innovations.**
 - This will include providing support services to pastoralists and those impacted by their transhumance routes, including to improve traceability and protect pastoralists' assets and livelihoods during their movements.
- (iii) **Component 3: Project management and monitoring and evaluation.**

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

9. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes:
 - (i) Increased number and employment of negotiated social agreements involving all stakeholders around the construction of pastoral infrastructure;
 - (ii) Improved access to water points, promoting livestock mobility and reducing conflicts linked to access to pastoral resources; and
 - (iii) Improved availability and utilization of services and digital tools, improving the monitoring of and conditions for transhumant pastoralism.
10. The programme will have the following expected outputs under component 1:
 - (i) An analysis and application of approaches for negotiating inter-community social agreements related to investments in hydraulic infrastructure;
 - (ii) The establishment of pastoral hydraulic investments (wells, drinking troughs, temporary ponds) and transhumance corridors (marking of transhumance corridors, access water points and livestock parking areas); and
 - (iii) Establishment of cross-border consultation arrangements.
11. The programme will have the following expected outputs under component 2:
 - (i) Disseminating the Transhumance Tracking Tool, which is a data collection tool developed by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with RBM aiming at better understanding transhumance and supporting local pre-emptive responses to local actors and decision makers;
 - (ii) Introducing 1,000 breeders to the Betaclik application, which uses a digital chip implanted in each animal to monitor its health status (vaccination, treatments) and track its location to reduce theft risk;
 - (iii) Contracting with private veterinarians and local animal health networks to vaccinate 60,000 cattle and 30,000 small ruminants; and
 - (iv) Supporting 800 transhumant herders in obtaining civil status documents in the host sites.

IV. Implementation arrangements

12. RBM will be the direct recipient of the grant. The regional technical coordination team of RBM will ensure the overall coordination of the programme. These tasks include: (i) strategic dialogue with all programme stakeholders, including contracting with the donor and partners; (ii) the organization of consultation meetings and workshops; (iii) monitoring of budget execution and audits; (iv) monitoring and evaluation of activities; (v) annual reporting (based on the consolidation of country reports) and final reporting; and (vi) the organization of external and internal evaluations.
13. National branches of RBM will support the implementation of activities on the ground at the political and strategic level. They will develop collaborative relationships and facilitate dialogue, including with pastoral organizations.
14. POs will execute certain activities in the various selected countries of intervention, directly under the coordination of the regional technical coordination team of RBM.

These will include community mobilization and the implementation of social negotiations for the identification of works, and other services. Disbursements to POs from RBM will be made in several instalments. Disbursements will be subject to compliance with reporting obligations established in the protocols of understanding concluded between RBM and the member POs. In accordance with this procedure, all activities entrusted to POs will be subject to regular supervision by the RBM regional technical coordination team. POs from the national branches of RBM will develop collaborative relationships with local actors, participate in the choice of intervention areas targeted by the programme and mobilize beneficiaries for field activities.

15. The Lead Regional Economist and Regional Specialist, West and Central Africa Division, will be responsible for ensuring effective management of each grant agreement, working closely with the Senior Regional Technical Specialist, Rural Institutions and Global Technical Specialist, Livestock in the Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division.
16. There are no deviations from the standard requirements for financial reporting and audits.
17. RBM will develop the annual workplan and budgets throughout the entire programme implementation period. The procurement plan will also be available and submitted to IFAD to facilitate the rapid start of activities. RBM will submit interim financial reports and technical reports to IFAD every six months, and a final report at the end of the implementation period.
18. Additionally, for each fiscal year, financial statements of programme operations, resources and programme expenditures will be prepared by the RBM finance team. The audit of the programme accounts will be carried out annually by a qualified and independent accounting firm, recruited by the programme and acceptable to IFAD, on the basis of terms of reference previously approved by IFAD. The audit reports will be transmitted to IFAD no later than three months following the close of the fiscal year.
19. RBM will allocate funds to POs that are members and partners of the programme, through signed implementation protocols. RBM's regional technical coordination team will supervise and consolidate the various documents from the POs in its accounts and carry out financial audits at its level.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

20. The total costs for this programme amount to US\$1,000,000. IFAD will provide financing totaling US\$750,000 over three years, corresponding to 75 per cent of the total programme cost; 25 per cent of the total funding, or US\$250,000, will be mobilized by RBM and its members as cofinancing, in the form of in-kind cofinancing for salaries, travel and operations to build consultative frameworks and stakeholder exchanges.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>RBM</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Component 1	270	207	477
2. Component 2	330	-	330
3. Component 3	150	43	193
Total	750	250	1 000

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>RBM</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	65	43	108
2. Goods, services and inputs	479	85	564
3. Travel and allowances	123	122	245
4. Consultancies	28	-	28
5. Overheads	55	-	55
Total	750	250	1 000

VI. Recommendation

21. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, Water for Peace: Inclusive and Sustainable Access to Water in Pastoral Areas affected by Multifaceted Crises, shall provide a grant of seven hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (US\$750,000) to the Billital Maroobe Network for three years upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Alvaro Lario
 President

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Development Objective	Promote inter-community social cohesion between farmers and pastoralist in fragile contexts.	12,800 people supported by project activities (50% women, 60% young)	Supervisions missions and activity reports by RBM	Reducing competition over access to natural resources including water can reduce the frequency of conflicts and tensions between farmers and pastoralists in West Africa
Outcomes	<p>Component 1: Increased number and employment of negotiated social agreements involving all stakeholders around the construction and management of pastoral infrastructure</p> <p>Improved access to water points which promotes livestock mobility and reduces conflicts linked to access to pastoral resources</p> <p>Component 2: Improved availability and utilization of digital tools and services which improve the monitoring of and conditions for transhumant pastoralism</p>	<p>Component 1: 10,000 people made aware of the need to rebuild the social pact, including through NRM (indicator disaggregated by gender and age)</p> <p>10 inclusive social agreements negotiated and validated as part of the construction of pastoral water infrastructure</p> <p>5 works in the 3 cross-border sub-areas (2 large size and 3 small size)</p> <p>40 km of marked transhumance route</p> <p>Component 2: Number of people reached by related services (watch/alert and digital innovations and support for veterinary care)</p>	Supervisions missions and activity reports by RBM	<p>Hypothesis 1: Social agreements make it possible to obtain the support of all stakeholders in the process of creating pastoral water infrastructure.</p> <p>Hypothesis 2: Inclusive and equitable access to permanent water points makes it possible to secure livestock mobility and reduce conflicts linked to access to pastoral resources.</p> <p>Hypothesis 3: Monitoring/alert systems and digital innovations make it possible to improve the conditions for carrying out livestock farming and to fuel advocacy for the promotion of cross-border community public goods.</p>
Outputs	<p>Component 1: Application and analysis of the effectiveness of innovative approaches to negotiating intercommunity social agreements linked to investments in hydraulic infrastructure</p> <p>Concerted implementation of pastoral hydraulic investments (wells, water troughs, temporary ponds) and transhumance corridors (marking of</p>	<p>Component 1: 10 trainers trained on the use of the module for social agreement negotiation</p> <p>10 representatives of the different bodies identified and trained as part of the module delivered to facilitators</p> <p>15 awareness raising missions aimed at establishing inclusive, negotiated and valid social agreements within the framework of</p>	Supervisions missions and activity reports by RBM	

Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<p>transhumance corridors, access water points and livestock parking areas)</p> <p>Establishment of cross-border consultation mechanisms</p> <p>Component 2: Dissemination of the “Transhumance Tracking Tool” aimed at better understanding transhumance and supporting local preventive responses to local stakeholders and decision-makers</p> <p>Betaclac application which makes it possible to monitor the state of health of each animal (vaccination, treatments), as well as information on its precise location</p> <p>Conclusion of contracts with private veterinarians and local animal health networks to ensure animal vaccination</p> <p>Support for transhumant herders to obtain civil status documents in host sites</p>	<p>construction of pastoral hydraulic infrastructures</p> <p>Tender documents launched and selection of suppliers for 5 hydraulics works (2 large size and 3 small size)</p> <p>5 NRM action plans developed</p> <p>3 priorities of action plans integrated into municipal development plans</p> <p>Component 2 : 40 community relays/sentries put to use, 5 per sub-space</p> <p>1,000 new breeders supported by the Betaclac application</p> <p>60,000 cattle and 30,000 small ruminants vaccinated</p> <p>800 transhumant herders obtaining civil status documents</p>		