



FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2020-2021

The narrative description of our 2020 & our perspectives for 2021

We had an ambitious program for the year 2020. We planned, apart from our advocacy activities, (i) to build a play area in a kindergarten in Niamey, (ii) to organize the celebration of the World Car Free Day and (iii) to make two trips to Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) to intensify our advocacy efforts with the WAEMU's Commission for a harmonization of the development of public spaces in the 8 states members.

However, the Covid-19 appeared and patatras, all our planning fell through. Indeed, since the first quarter of 2020, the world has been facing an unprecedented health situation: COVID-19. What appeared to be cases of pneumonia detected at the end of December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, in the Chinese province of Hubei, became a few months later an international concern of public health emergency, including several parameters linked in particular to its origin, its epidemiology and its clinical behavior still remained to be elucidated. In just a few short months, the pandemic has radically transformed the way people live, work, shop and socialize around the world. The mobilization was global. Niger registered its first case on March 19, 2020 and followed the adoption by the Government of a series of measures that hampered the implementation of our activities.

As if that weren't enough, 2020 was also a year of historic flooding in Niger with rains that have not been recorded for 45 years. The floods caused significant material damage and several deaths. The Niger River overflowed like never before and entire districts were flooded. The distraught populations found themselves mostly in schools and public services. National flood situation on September 7, 2020 is: 329,958 people affected, or 38,099 households. There were 51 deaths from house collapses, 14 deaths from drowning and 90 injured according to the Minister of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management.

Nevertheless, we were able to carry out some advocacy activities first towards municipal officials at the city of Niamey. We were able to work with the local public markets to deliver a covid-proofing project funded by UN-Habitat. A nearly 2 years of advocacy supported by Kristie Daniel (she met the mayor of Niamey during her last stay in Niamey), the City of Niamey is engaged in the development of public spaces. Indeed, in 2020, 4 public spaces were built by the City of Niamey.

The year 2020 was also an electoral year with the organization of municipal, regional, legislative and presidential elections. We took this opportunity to meet the staffs of the four main political parties to discuss with them the promotion of public spaces in our country. The participants were receptive to our ideas. They are committed to supporting us in our advocacy for the promotion of public spaces in our country, in particular to place the promotion of public spaces on the urban development agenda.

In terms of prospects, we are planning for 2021, (i) to intensify our advocacy and lobbying activities with the new authorities, (ii) to develop a play area in two kindergartens of Niamey and (iii) to organize an information workshop for the new municipal officials of Niamey on public spaces.

We intend to intensify our advocacy actions to be able to influence the development policies of the new authorities.

The development of play areas is motivated by the fact that in Niger, public primary schools are sorely lacking in play areas while private primary schools have them. There is discrimination between children here. Children from poor families are deprived of the right to play. Also, we intend to engage in advocacy with the authorities of the Ministry of Primary Education for the development of play areas in all kindergartens and primary schools in Niger. Our play areas should serve as guidelines for the play areas development set in public schools.

The capacity building of new municipal officials aims to inform them about public spaces (definition, types, importance, etc.) and to share with them the shortcomings noted in the development of public spaces by the City of Niamey. This workshop could also contribute to improving the commitment of the city of Niamey in the promotion of public spaces. It is very likely that the City of Niamey will develop a new reference urban plan. By informing the municipal officials on are public spaces, we hope to influence the new plan, incorporating the design of public spaces.

Activities completed	Results	Other information
Participated in 3 meetings of civil society organizations with government and municipal officials about the importance of raising awareness of the populations about Covid-19.	All the companies of telecommunications (Airtel, Orange, Moov and Sahelcom) have published a message of raising awareness on the ways of contracting the virus and the barriers attitudes as soon as you launch a call during 5 months (April, May, June, July and August 2020).	
Finalized the market study with the inestimable contribution of Kristie Daniel. Produced 100 flyers on the main findings of the market study.	Flyers were distributed to the Ministry of Trade (30 flyers), the City of Niamey (60 flyers), Professionals of media (15 flyers) and Public Spaces for All (5 flyers). The professionals of media committed to organize media activities on the local market issue in order to contribute in the Government's mobilization in the promotion of local markets during 2021.	There is a need of producing other 100 flyers to continue the distribution of the main findings of the market study.
Several one-one meetings with municipal officials on the needs of public spaces in the city of Niamey	The city of Niamey has built 4 public spaces funded through government funds in 2020 at (i) Rondpoint Gadafawa, (ii) Place de la Francophonie, (iii) Rondpoint Harobanda and (iv) Gountou Yena. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sU_5VCHdYAYxzzaA8vh-pFKQaUID6_C0?usp=sharing	We planned to build a play area in a school and to celebrate the World car-free day but because of Covid-19 and the unprecedented floods in Niamey, the funds were returned to advocacy on public spaces during the electoral process
Advocacy on the importance of public spaces during the electoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main leaders of the political parties were very interested in the information shared; - The main leaders made the following commitments: 	

<p>process (December 2020-February 2021) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Powerpoint presentations to the mains leaders of the four main political parties of Niger (PNDS-Tarraya, MODEN FA-Lumana Africa, MNSD-Nassara and MPN-Kissin Kassa): 89 persons attended these sessions including 57 men and 32 women. - The information shared included the definition of a public space, types of public space and importance of public space. We discussed also the lack of public spaces in Niger with a focus on parks and local markets. A flyer on the importance and the situation of public spaces in Niger was shared to all the participants. - Two interviews in media about the importance of public spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Support us in our advocacy after the installation of the new government and municipalities in order to have public spaces promotion included in our urban development agenda; ~ The attendees who hope to be elected mayors decided to promote as possible public spaces with their own resources and will advocate for the donors mobilization including French development agency (AFD) and World Bank which are really interested in urban development in Niger. <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14t_yQGMKcR2xpJHHJWpCWJ0-yIUfQR-f?usp=sharing</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cPvAQf6E1LkTEz1nsdRBt8VUyBWlAlGC?usp=sharing</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/147kkt0IBGkJqYxhHyo2YGfjLcfNZgTu/view?usp=sharing</p>	
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