

# STORY

The past few years have been tough on the Tahoua region of Niger. This area largely relies on farming, but the rainy seasons have been shorter than normal so there wasn't enough water to grow a good corn crop. Many families aren't able to make enough money to meet all their needs, so often family members have to travel to far-off regions to look for work to send money home.

Then things went from bad to worse. In addition to unpredictable rainfall, food prices began going up and up. It didn't take long before food was just too expensive for families to buy. To help, some parents began to eat one meal a day so that the children could have two. In the past, many families would save a portion of their crops to "go to seed" (the process of letting crops grow until they produce seeds to plant the next planting season). But they needed those crops to feed their families, so they weren't sure if they'd be able to plant at all the next planting season.

In areas of Niger where people are struggling to make ends meet, it is difficult for relief organizations to figure out how they can best lend a helping hand. Relief organizations must ask themselves many questions. What is needed? What is going to make the biggest difference? What is going to help the most?

Our organization decides to tackle the problem of hunger first. But how? In trying to help many people who are hungry and having trouble producing enough food, would you A) provide them with all the necessary food that they need for two months, or B) some good seeds that they can plant? If you choose A, (food), proceed to point 1. If you choose B (seeds), proceed to point 2.

# POINT 1

Things are going well in the area which your organization works in Niger. It has been a month since you have provided food for families, and everyone seems happier and healthier. Your organization receives a grant to do another project in the area, to continue the work you have begun! You look around at the community and decide that this project should focus on the water needs of the community. People often get sick because they don't have access to clean water, and you want to do what you can to stop this from happening. But what is the best way to go about it? Would you A) build a well in the community, or B) pay local citizens to do work that keeps natural water resources clean? If you choose A (building a well), proceed to point 3. If you choose B (paying citizens to do work maintaining water resources), proceed to point 4.



# POINT 2

Things are still rough in the area your organization is located in in Niger. Seeds have been distributed to families, but they have not yet produced food. Families look forward to the happier times when they will be able to harvest these good seeds. But for the time being, your organization receives a grant to continue the work you have begun in Niger. You look around at the community and decide that this project should be dedicated to water. People often get sick because they don't have access to clean water, and you want to do what you can to stop this from happening. But what is the best way to go about it? Would you A) build a well in the community, or B) pay local citizens to do work that keeps natural water resources clean? If you choose A (building a well), proceed to point 5. If you choose B (paying citizens to do work maintaining water resources), proceed to point 6.



# POINT 3

The area of Niger that you work in is not doing as well as it once was. The two months of the food program is up, and your organization is not able to afford to give food to everyone anymore. Also, the well that you have created is not stopping people from getting sick. Like many of the other wells that exists near the community, it seems that something has negatively affected the water so it keeps making people sick. Luckily, you have one more chance to make a positive difference in this community. Your organization has a program that provides livestock to a community who needs them. You have been gifted with many goats to give to the people of this area. The questions now is, how should you distribute them? Would you A) give one goat each to as many families as possible, or B) give all the goats to the local women's group for them to decide how to use them? If you choose A (giving one goat each to many families), proceed to point 7. If you choose B (giving the goats to the women's group), proceed to point 8.



# POINT 4

The community that you work in is no longer receiving food aid because the two months is up and your organization cannot afford to continue giving food. Many people are hungry again and looking for new ways to feed themselves and their families. However, there is good news! Your water project has created safer water for the community, and people are able to drink it and use it without getting sick. Paying local people to work on maintaining water resources turned out to be a great idea, because the community already had water sources, they just weren't clean. Also, now many community members have been paid from that program and can use the money to buy food and other resources. Your organization also has one more chance to make a positive difference in this community. You have a program through which people can donate animals to give to a community who needs them. You have been gifted with many goats to give to the people of this area. The questions now is, how should you distribute them? Would you A) give one goat each to as many families as possible, or B) give all the goats to the local women's group for them to decide how to use them? If you choose A (giving one goat each to many families), proceed to point 9. If you choose B (giving the goats to the women's group), proceed to point 10.



# POINT 5

The community you work in has begun to harvest the crop from the seeds you gave! They have been living off of a little for a long time, but now they are able to have enough to eat, and some to sell to make money. However, the well that you have created is not stopping people from getting sick. Like many of the other wells that exists near the community, it seems that something has negatively affected the water so it keeps making people sick. Luckily, you have one more chance to make a positive difference in this community. Your organization has a program through which people can donate animals to give to a community who needs them. You have been gifted with many goats to give to the people of this area. The questions now is, how should you distribute them? Would you A) give one goat each to as many families as possible, or B) give all the goats to the local women's group for them to decide how to use them? If you choose A (giving one goat each to many families), proceed to point 11. If you choose B (giving the goats to the women's group), proceed to point 12.



# POINT 6

Things are going well in the community you work in! The people you work with have begun to harvest the crop from the seeds you gave. They have been living off of a little for a long time, but now they are able to have enough to eat, and some to sell to make money. Also, your water project has created safer water for the community, and people are able to drink it and use it without getting sick. Paying local people to work on maintaining water resources turned out to be a great idea, because the community already had water sources, they just weren't clean. Also, now many community members have been paid from that program and can use the money to buy food and other resources. Your organization also has one more chance to make a positive difference in this community. You have a program through which people can donate animals to give to a community who needs them. You have been gifted with many goats to give to the people of this area. The questions now is, how should you distribute them? Would you A) give one goat each to as many families as possible, or B) give all the goats to the local women's group for them to decide how to use them? If you choose A (giving one goat each to many families), proceed to point 13. If you choose B (giving the goats to the women's group), proceed to point 14



# POINT 7

Unfortunately, your work in Niger has not done much good for the community. The food donations, while sustaining families for a while, have now run out, and people are still very hungry. The well is no longer used because it has been making people so sick. And your goat program, while it helped families produce and sell goat milk for a while, doesn't look like it is making much of a difference. It hasn't helped families beyond those that own the goats, and the goats haven't been able to procreate and have kids, since each family only owns one. You feel disappointed that your programs haven't made much of a difference, and wonder what you could have done differently to help the people of Niger.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE "WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER" SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 8

Your work in Niger has been hit and miss. The food donations, while sustaining families for a while, have now run out, and people are very hungry still. The well is no longer used because it has been making people so sick. However, your program with goats was wildly successful, and has done great things for the community! The women's group used the goats for a traditional livestock sharing method called "habbanaye" (hah-bah-nay-yeh). Through habbanaye, the women's group identified the women in the community most in need of help. Each woman then received two female goats and one male, along with training on how to take care of them. When her goats produced kids, that woman gave one female and one male goat back to the group to be passed on to another woman in need. This program allowed many families to benefit from the goats in the community! Though your first two programs did not do much good in the long run, you feel good that the goats went to good use and are making a positive difference.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE "WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER" SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 9

Your water project has continued to benefit the community greatly, and people are still no longer getting sick from their water. However the food aid, while sustaining families for a while, have now run out, and people are still very hungry. And your goat program, while it helped families produce and sell goat milk for a while, doesn't look like it is making much of a difference. It hasn't helped families beyond those that own the goats, and the goats haven't been able to procreate and have kids, since each family only owns one. While you are glad that the community has safe water, you feel disappointed that your other programs haven't made much of a difference, and wonder what you could have done differently to help the people of Niger.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 10

Your water project has continued to benefit the community greatly, and people are still no longer getting sick from their water. The food program ended long ago, though, and people have been hungry. Thankfully, your program with goats was wildly successful, and has done great things for the community! The women's group used the goats for a traditional livestock sharing method called "habbanaye" (hah-bah-nay-yeh). Through habbanaye, the women's group identified the women in the community most in need of help. Each woman then received two female goats and one male, along with training on how to take care of them. When her goats produced kids, that woman gave one female and one male goat back to the group to be passed on to another woman in need. This program allowed many families to benefit from the goats in the community! Though the food program did not make much of a difference in the long run, you are glad to see that the water project and goat program are making a positive difference in this community.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE "WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER" SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 11

The seeds that you have given continue to be fruitful for the community, as families harvest most of their crop and leave some to “go to seed” to produce more food next year. Those seeds will benefit the community for a long time to come. However, the well is no longer used because it has been making people so sick. And your goat program, while it helped families produce and sell goat milk for a while, doesn’t look like it is making much of a difference. It hasn’t helped families beyond those that own the goats, and the goats haven’t been able to procreate and have kids, since each family only owns one. You are glad that the seeds are continuing to help people, but wonder what you could have done differently to help the people of Niger.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 12

The seeds that you have given continue to be fruitful for the community, as they harvest most of their crop and leave some to “go to seed” to produce more food next year. Those seeds will benefit the community for a long time to come. The well project was not so useful though, and the well is no longer used because it has been making people so sick. However, your program with goats was wildly successful, and has done great things for the community! The women’s group used the goats for a traditional livestock sharing method called “habbanaye” (hah-bah-nay-yeh). Through habbanaye, the women’s group identified the women in the community most in need of help. Each woman then received two female goats and one male, along with training on how to take care of them. When her goats produced kids, that woman gave one female and one male goat back to the group to be passed on to another woman in need. This program allowed many families to benefit from the goats in the community! Though your well was not successful, you are glad that your other two programs were, and feel happy that you were able to positively benefit this community.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 13

The seeds that you have given continue to be fruitful for the community, as they harvest most of their crop and leave some to “go to seed” to produce more food next year. Those seeds will benefit the community for a long time to come. Also, your water project has continued to benefit the community greatly, and people are still no longer getting sick from their water. However, your goat program, while it helped families produce and sell goat milk for a while, doesn’t look like it is making much of a difference. It hasn’t helped families beyond those that own the goats, and the goats haven’t been able to procreate and have kids, since each family only owns one. You wonder what you could have done differently to help the people of Niger. However, you are very glad that your seed program and water project have made an impact, and are glad that they will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

**THE END. PROCEED TO THE “WHAT LWR DID IN NIGER” SECTION IN THE LEADER GUIDE.**



# POINT 14

The seeds that you have given continue to be fruitful for the community, as they harvest most of their crop and leave some to “go to seed” to produce more food next year. Those seeds will benefit the community for a long time to come. Also, your water project has continued to benefit the community greatly, and people are still no longer getting sick from their water. In addition, your program with goats was wildly successful, and has done great things for the community! The women’s group used the goats for a traditional livestock sharing method called “habbanaye” (hah-bah-nay-yeh). Through habbanaye, the women’s group identified the women in the community most in need of help. Each woman then received two female goats and one male, along with training on how to take care of them. When her goats produced kids, that woman gave one female and one male goat back to the group to be passed on to another woman in need. This program allowed many families to benefit from the goats in the community! You feel happy that you made decisions that would benefit the community in the long term, and are very glad that these projects have positively impacted the community in the way that they have.

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