December 2016

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Dear Friends of the Sahel,

In this latest edition of our quarterly OASIS Initiative newsletter, we have more exciting news to share along with updates on the powerful work that is happening in the Sahel.

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Gates Foundation Grants

We are happy to announce that The OASIS Initiative and our partners received two Gates Foundation Global Grand Challenge awards in Fall 2016 for putting women and girls at the center of development. With the “Room to Grow” project, OASIS will provide monitoring and evaluation for an innovative women-centered garden initiative in Niger. The second award will fund a much-needed Girls for Health (G4H) initiative in northern Nigeria that will support the transition of adolescent girls from secondary school to training in health career fields. We are thrilled to work with our partner organizations in the Sahel on these important projects.

A women's group working in the fields at their farming school in Dan Gado, Maradi. (Photo by Hadjara Chaibou Lawali, OASIS 2016 summer graduate student intern)

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News from the Sahel Leadership Program

We are also very excited that our annual Sahel Leadership Program (SLP) Intensive training is just a few weeks away. We will welcome 30 extraordinary women and men to a week-long intensive training in Niamey, Niger in January, where they will kick off their year as SLP fellows. Fellows will join renowned researchers, practitioners and senior decision-makers to address the threat of demographic and climate trends on food security in the Sahel. Check out this 4-minute video of last year’s SLP Intensive to get a sneak peek of what this year’s fellows can expect.
OASIS Publications

One of our three key approaches for overcoming the development challenges in the Sahel is to build the evidence base for effective and scalable innovations. In 2016 USAID’s Sahel Resilience Learning Project commissioned two recent reports written by Allyson Fritz of OASIS on best practices for resilience in the Sahel – focusing on warrantage and Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration. These reports are now being disseminated to local partners and organizations to help them learn from experiences of other communities and experts in the region.

Profile of an OASIS intern from Niger

Iliassou Chaibou Halidou is one of eight graduate students from Niger’s Université Abdou Moumouni (UAM) who completed a summer internship in ethnographic research in 2016 with OASIS. Mastering in Gender and Development, Iliassou and his peers honed their research skills through three courses on ethnographic methods. He and three other interns also spent several months living in communities in the Maradi region of Niger to support a team of local ethnographers conducting field research.

“Through this internship we were able to solidify our understanding of the practices,” says Iliassou, “and to better understand the importance of prioritising gender in the quest for sustainable and equitable development.” OASIS is happy to have been able to support the development of these young professionals in Niger.
Meet our donors

We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors and are pleased to introduce three of OASIS' significant donors in 2016: Katrina and Eric Costello, and Sterling Franklin. Katrina and Eric live in Astoria, New York, and Eric is a cofounder of Slack. As parents, they are especially interested in OASIS' work promoting girls empowerment. Sterling Franklin (pictured here) got interested in overpopulation when he read the "Population Bomb" by Paul Ehrlich as a senior at Stanford in 1968. He later went to work at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles and became a strong supporter of population and family planning work when he became a Trustee of the Morris S. Smith Foundation in 1993.

Donate Today!

As 2016 draws to a close, you have the power to change lives: please consider donating to OASIS today! With your gift, we will continue working with local partners and champions in West Africa to promote voluntary family planning, girls empowerment, and adoption of agriculture to climate change. All donations to OASIS are tax-deductible. Your support will help us build local leadership and overcome the most serious development challenges in the Sahel region of Africa. PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

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