3 June call with USAID-Niger about collaboration with CPI

Attendees: Krista Desgranges, Abdourahamane Hassane, Ousmane Maman Ibrahim, Richard Gold

* Possible Monday in-person follow-up meeting in Niamey?
* Work plan will undergo 2-3 week review (or maybe longer??) after 15 June deadline. Work plan will be reviewed by USAID and other players. There will be back-and-forth revisions. USAID is happy to share the preliminary draft with AidData.
* They think commune level is best. I said we do, too, but only if CPI works with more than 2 dozen communes.
* Emphasis is on collective action outcome
  + USAID recognizes that collective action changes occur downstream
  + Krista envisioned endline surveys 2 years after treatment or even later
  + I mentioned that CPI thinks they might suspend work with CSOs much sooner (even after 6 months), and that there’s a lot of uncertainty around CPI’s timeline. I proposed that we ask CPI what scenarios would lead CPI to move up an endline survey.
* USAID has asked CPI for a revised rapid work plan before the actual work plan is due. I will forward USAID’s comments on the rapid work plan.
* Upon hearing that recent meetings with CPI have centered on CSOs, USAID clarified that PRG-PA is not just about working with CSOs but also a slate of actors including traditional leaders, cultural artists, private sector leaders, etc. (could be individuals or collectives).
* USAID thinks it will be difficult to delimit radio coverage, but my phone connection cut out and I didn’t catch the reasons USAID feels that way. I think I heard something about USAID being a major disseminator of radio programming.
* Project may include Agadez and Diffa, which are conflict-affected areas. USAID wanted to give us the heads up on potential complications. I said part of Bachir’s job is monitoring how security situations impede the project.
* USAID says AidData is fully within its rights to ask CPI for a draft of the work plan before 15 June.
* USAID reminds us that collaboration with CPI was part of the initial solicitation and that we are as much a partner on PRG as anyone. I replied that I believe CPI read the solicitation but perhaps did not understand what the IE would entail; now that CPI realizes the IE is more hands-on, they have reservations. Krista committed to helping us build a strong relationship with CPI and said we can copy her on correspondence.
* Bachir should read the PD. [Which version is that? I am swimming in documents and want to make sure I send him the right one. Is there a version in French?]
* Requests from USAID to AidData:
  + Clarify level of analysis
  + Update Scope of Work to include the understanding we have now; revise terms that are not clear. Abdourahamane will send us the piece of text we are to examine. We should make a quick revision now and revise once more after the work plan is complete. The goal is to avoid confusing the implementers with outcomes that are too abstract or high-level.
  + Prepare a list of everyone’s roles. Let’s start with ours, Bachir’s, and those of CPI’s existing staff. We can later add the roles of additional staff that CPI is in the process of hiring.
  + Specify how often we will communicate with CPI.
  + Schedule Phil and Ariel’s trips to Niger. I conveyed the info from Kathy about travel budget constraints until our funding renews in October. Maybe Phil could go this summer and Ariel in the fall?