

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023/ JANUARY 2024

# Integrated & sustainable farming

New births, milk distribution and challenges for the near future. Follow us as we report on our achievements in November, December 2023 and January 2024

**Africa 70's 6th newsletter**

**In this newsletter we'll talk about**

- The Camels' birthing season
- Veterinarians' mission
- Milk distribution
- New families for baby goats
- Forage
- The next months of the project



R.A.S.D.  
Ministerio de Desarrollo  
Económico



Africa '70

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## **CAMELS' BIRTHING SEASON**

The birthing season has started and already six animals have given birth and we are housing in the pens three mothers who will soon give birth to their babies.

After three weeks in the protected pen with their babies, the mothers gradually begin to be milked, first once a day and then twice a day.



**Movimento Africa '70**  
**Via Missori 14, 20900 MONZA**  
**(MB)**



**Email: [africa70@africa70.org](mailto:africa70@africa70.org)**  
**PEC: [africa70@pec.it](mailto:africa70@pec.it)**  
**Codice Fisc.: 80150050153**

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## **VETERINARIANS' MISSIONS**

In November and December, the field missions of our coordinator Dr Sara Di Lello and animal nutrition expert Dr Zambianchi allowed the annual international donor trip in the camps.

During the mission, veterinarians were able to confirm the pregnant status of the animals and provide baby bottles and powdered milk to feed the young camels with additional rations to ensure their faster growth.

The use of powdered milk is an absolute novelty in the refugee camps and requires a lot of care in rebuilding the milk and cleaning the utensils.

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## **MILK PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**

We are currently at 60 litres per week of milk production, but we estimate that by the end of February we will be able to guarantee a minimum of 175 litres per week. This quantity will allow us to start distributing milk to 200 elderly women whose list will be given to us in February.

On the first of March, we will start again with the distribution in the Wilaya of Aaiun: 50 litres of milk every two days.

The women will then receive 250 ml daily of a food with a very high nutritional value, rich in protein, calcium and vitamins. A real cure-all for our elderly beneficiaries who belong to a chronically malnourished population.

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## **NEW FAMILIES FOR BABY GOATS**

In November, we also distributed eight goats with their baby goats to as many single-parent families.

The animals were handed over in the presence of a veterinarian who gave the families guidance on how to feed and manage the animal to preserve its future productivity.

The next distribution of 10 animals (5 pregnant ewes and 5 goats) is scheduled for February.



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## **THE FORAGE PROBLEM**

Breeding in the Tindouf desert is not easy, the last few months have been characterised by a shortage of fodder: managing to find it has not been easy and its cost has been very high.

Furthermore, as we constantly change suppliers we have to weigh each supply because the fodder bales can weigh from 9 kg to 18 kg and there is quite a difference!

In February, the harvest of locally produced fodder barley is scheduled to come to the rescue, giving us a sigh of relief.

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## **THE NEXT MONTHS OF THE PROJECT**

Our intervention is on the home stretch with completion scheduled for August 2024.

All our efforts in the coming months will go into analysing the data collected and trying to obtain new funding. The slow growth cycles of the camel require at least six years to make a concrete analysis of economic sustainability.



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