



IMPROVING RESILIENCE AND NUTRITION IN MALI

Living conditions for populations in the north of Mali were considerably weakened by the political and security crisis of 2012, as well as by the recurrence of extreme climate events. Food insecurity and chronic malnutrition indicators worsened, community access to basic social services decreased, livestock losses rose and a significant decline in agricultural production was recorded. The present German-funded project aimed to strengthen the nutrition situation, empower women and boost livelihood resilience for 3 000 agropastoral households in Bandiagara Cercle, Mopti Region, through FAO's *Caisse de résilience* approach.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Support was provided simultaneously to the productive, financial and social capacities of vulnerable households and to their community institutions. Production inputs were distributed to 3 200 producers, who were trained as part of 128 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in good agricultural and farming practices. Cash transfers were made for 2 000 of the most vulnerable households, helping them to survive the hungry season and to develop income-generating activities. A number of training and awareness-raising activities were carried out in the field of nutrition (such as essential nutrition action, feeding of infants and young children, cooking demonstrations and the establishment of Dimitra Clubs). From an institutional viewpoint, the project contributed to the strengthening of governance and coordination of resilience at regional and local levels.

IMPACT

Food insecurity in the area covered by the project decreased considerably, with the proportion of food-secure households rising from 7 percent at the outset of the project to 62.3 percent at its close. The dietary diversity score also improved, while the number of households resorting to emergency strategies dropped from 57.2 percent to 19.5 percent. Finally, a positive change was noted in practices adopted by mothers and in the nutritional situation among children, with the proportion of acutely malnourished children under the age of five falling from 7.5 percent to 5.3 percent.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 2 000 000

Duration

December 2014 – October 2017

Resource Partners

Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture of Germany (BMEL), Federal Government of Germany

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Farming and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, GAAS-MALI (a national NGO), Kondo Jigima (microfinance institution)

Beneficiaries

3 000 vulnerable households in eight communes (64 villages) of Bandiagara Cercle in Mopti Region

ACTIVITIES

- 70 facilitators trained (FFS training, 32 courses on good agricultural, farming and nutrition practices) and 128 FFS established, bringing together 3 200 producers, of whom 1 580 were women.
- Production inputs distributed (market gardening seeds, agricultural inputs, chickens, goats and sheep).
- Establishment of revolving funds in villages covered by the project and cash transfers made to 2 000 vulnerable households.
- 19 school gardens improved and 30 Dimitra listeners' clubs set up.
- Training provided for 210 community support officers, 71 nutrition activity support groups (GSAN), five agricultural officers and 64 village facilitators for good nutritional practices.
- 2 816 awareness-raising sessions and cooking demonstrations organised.
- Programmes on nutrition broadcast by community radio station Kanda FM.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Project Title
 Improving the resilience and nutrition
 of vulnerable populations in Mali

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