



FACT SHEET

Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Enhanced Resilience (REGIS – ER)



PHOTO: C. Warhol

A young woman shows off a goat she received through habbanayé, a traditional livestock sharing practice

Goal:

REGIS-ER works to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable populations in marginal agricultural and agro-pastoral zones in Niger and Burkina Faso.

Life of Program:

November 2013 – November 2018

Total USAID Funding:

\$ 70,039,011

Geographic Focus:

Twenty-five communes within the marginal agriculture and agro-pastoral belt of Niger and Burkina Faso

Implementing Partner:

NCBA-CLUSA



BACKGROUND

Following repeated large-scale humanitarian emergencies in the Sahel, USAID recognized that continuing to treat these recurrent crises as acute emergencies is extremely costly and does not effectively address their underlying causes. Thus, USAID’s Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) initiative has realigned existing and new humanitarian and development assistance efforts to strengthen resilience in agro-pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones of the Sahel. USAID will reduce chronic vulnerability by increasing economic well-being, strengthening institutions and governance, and improving health and nutrition status. REGIS-ER is RISE’s flagship multi-sectoral resilience project that works to end the vicious cycle of crisis and help the Sahel’s most vulnerable populations stay firmly on the path to development.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

REGIS-ER addresses the root causes of chronic vulnerability by increasing the capacity of households, villages and systems to adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses. REGIS-ER integrates sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management, governance and health and nutrition activities in collaboration with local communities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

REGIS-ER’s expected results are tied to the project’s three main objectives:

1. Sustainable livelihoods: diversified economic opportunities, intensified climate-smart agricultural and animal production and marketing, increased access to financial services
2. Enhanced governance: strengthened natural resource management, disaster risk management, conflict prevention and management, increased coordination between regional and local governance structures
3. Improved health and nutrition: increased access to potable water, improved health and nutrition practices

KEY ACTIVITIES

REGIS-ER’s main activities include:

- Creating a network of community-based solution providers to promote local entrepreneurship while increasing access to key products, services and information
- Improving soil fertility and crop production through conservation farming, farmer-managed natural regeneration, bio-reclamation of degraded land, anti-erosion/water conservation structures and small-scale irrigation
- Promoting livestock as a means to increase revenue, improve nutrition and build household assets
- Diversifying diets through home and community gardens and nutrition education
- Increasing access to credit and savings through village-based saving groups, access to micro-finance institutions and warrantage
- Enabling effective and inclusive natural resource management through legally recognized land use plans and local conventions
- Strengthening community-based early warning systems and response capacities
- Preventing conflict by strengthening local land tenure structures, demarcating pastoral corridors and obtaining legal rights to land use
- Increasing access to potable water sources by constructing/rehabilitating boreholes, strengthening community water management and marketing water treatment systems
- Enabling key health and nutrition practices through mother-to-mother groups, husband schools, safe space for adolescent girls and community quality improvement teams
- Mobilizing communities to attain open defecation-free status through community-led total sanitation