



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## MALI SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Small-Scale Irrigation Project is a donor-to-donor agreement between USAID and the German Development Bank (KfW) to support the Malian government's National Program for Small-Scale Irrigation, 2012-2021 (*Programme National d'Irrigation de Proximité, PNIP*). The PNIP has the objective of developing 126,000 hectares benefiting potentially 3 million people with an estimated cost of 396 billion FCFA (\$792 million USD). This project is managed in cooperation with KfW, the Ministry of Rural Development (MDR), and the National Directorate for Rural Infrastructure (DNGR).

From 2016-2021, the PNIP plans to develop 48,000 hectares of land under improved irrigation for an estimated cost of 118 billion FCFA (\$236.2 million USD). The USAID contribution as part of the agreement is \$4.5 million over four years, 2016-2019. Germany, Canada, and the European Union are also contributing to this effort to develop small-scale irrigation in Mali in partnership with the Government of Mali.



*A small-scale irrigation dam built as part of KfW assistance in Sikasso. Photo credit: Charles Davis/USAID 2016*

### Intervention Approach

The core of the Feed the Future Initiative is centered on improving food security and nutrition for Mali's growing population. Achievement of these objectives will require bolstering Mali's agricultural production, which remains the foundation of the Malian economy with 80 percent of the population relying upon agriculture for their livelihood.

Despite Mali's dependence upon agricultural production, the majority of Mali's cultivated land remains subject to seasonal variations in rainfall, drastically affecting agricultural production from year to year, holding the security and prosperity of Mali's rural community in the balance. Further aggravating the poor growing conditions for many farmers, rainfall and weather is becoming increasingly less predictable due to climate change.

For these reasons, particular attention must be paid to rural small-scale irrigation infrastructure. The objective of this program is to improve food security by providing irrigation infrastructure that will increase agricultural production by providing a supplemental water supply during periods of insufficient rainfall. This will be done by partnering with the KfW to install small-scale irrigation infrastructures in rural communities through the construction of micro-dams. These small irrigation dams work to trap available rainfall in retention ponds that can be used to irrigate farm lands and extend the season. Reliable access to water and better water management will greatly increase and stabilize rice yields in these areas. Rice yields in irrigated perimeters can rise from a present 4.5 MT/ha to 6MT/ha and in free-flooding and small irrigation systems from 1.5 MT/ha to 2.5 MT/ha. This additional access to water may also be used by beneficiaries for fish production, animal watering, vegetable gardening, diversifying livelihoods, and improving nutrition among the targeted communities.

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## Expected Results

Based on average costs for this type of irrigation installation, USAID funding will support the construction of 12 new irrigation structures (covering approximately 480 hectares) in the Sikasso region, over the period of 4 years. The size and cost of these structures will vary depending upon site conditions. In addition to the infrastructure development, KfW will partner with the Feed the Future Mali Cereal Value Chains (CVC) activity, which provides technical assistance to cooperatives and value chain actors in Sikasso, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu. This technical assistance delivered by CVC will provide technical assistance and aid communities to manage, maintain, and operate the infrastructure for maximum benefit by increasing their capacities. CVC will also help the communities find markets for the expected increases in production, diversifying and increasing revenues and reducing poverty among target beneficiaries.

### Contact Information

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As part of the framework for the project, there are three main objectives:

- 1) Small-scale irrigation is established in a sustainable and equitable manner in the Sikasso region;
- 2) Beneficiaries and stakeholders have technical and organizational capacities to develop irrigation schemes and commercialization of products in the Sikasso region;
- 3) The results of the Mali Small-Scale Irrigation Project are widely disseminated and promoted.

### Partnering with Donors and the Government of Mali

In an effort to support the objectives of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Small-Scale Irrigation project works to strengthen Mali's national development strategy; increase alignment of aid with Malian country priorities; and eliminate duplication of donor activities through harmonizing multiple donor activities and funding. KfW has been the lead donor in the

area of small-scale rural infrastructure, which remains the cornerstone for rural agricultural development in the country. This activity leverages existing opportunities to coordinate with other donors such as Canada and the EU in order to ensure an effective and united approach to development, in partnership with the Malian government.

### Linking with the USAID/Mali and Feed the Future Strategy

The Mali Small-Scale Irrigation project aligns closely with the USAID/Mali Country Development and Cooperation Strategy and the USAID/Mali Feed the Future strategy, particularly the objective of increasing agricultural sector growth through the development of the rice, millet, and sorghum value chains. The activity contributes to the USAID/Mali country strategy through improving economic resilience as part of the Resilience Objective and reducing poverty and malnutrition as part of the Prosperity Objective.