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USAID MALI

ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Accelerated Economic Growth team manages a portfolio of \$25.5 million for 2016. This portfolio includes two Presidential Initiatives - Feed the Future and Global Climate Change. The team also serves as the technical resource for Agency priorities including Digital Financial Services, the Development Credit Authority, and Public Private Partnerships.

FEED THE FUTURE

Feed the Future (FTF) is a U.S. government initiative focused on reducing poverty and malnutrition by 20 percent on a global scale. USAID Mali’s five-year Feed the Future Program, with a 2016 budget of \$22.5 million, launched a new generation of rural entrepreneurs by developing sustainable agricultural and health systems, delivering technology and knowledge, and building local institutional capacity to energize the Government of Mali and spur a vibrant private sector. The initiative targets investments in two value chains: 1) cereals, defined as millet, rice, and sorghum; and 2) livestock, focused on cattle and small ruminants.

The Accelerated Economic Growth team works closely with the USAID Health team and contributes to nutrition goals by promoting the production of nutritious vegetables, legumes, tree crops, and protein-rich meat from livestock as the core of the strategy's nutrition interventions. Taken together, these value chains and nutritional interventions will increase food security and economic prosperity for the 80 percent of Malians who are directly reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

To focus investments for maximum impact, FTF/Mali concentrates its interventions in 113 targeted communes in three of Mali's eight regions – Sikasso, Mopti and Timbuktu — and the two communes in the Millennium Challenge Corporation intervention zones of Segou. Within this zone, there are approximately 2.5 million people, or roughly 440,000 households, dominated by smallholder subsistence farmers and their families. An estimated 500,000 people in these communes are directly targeted through FTF agriculture interventions, with an additional 1.26 million benefitting indirectly. Targeted nutrition interventions will reach up to 600,000 mothers and children under five years old, contributing to the overall reduction of under-nutrition by 30 percent in the target areas.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

As the majority of Malians are dependent on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods, they are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To address these challenges, USAID/Mali has embraced the goals of the Presidential Global Climate Change (GCC) Initiative. USAID/Mali's current GCC activities center on a robust \$3 million per year GCC adaptation program which promotes adaptation and resilience by working to provide accurate and reliable climate and weather information to Malians, building on already-strong Malian government programs, including the Malian Meteorological Agency's (*Mali Météo*) agro-meteorological information program. The program strengthens the capacity of *Mali Météo* to improve its seasonal prediction capacity and its ability to provide improved weather information and forecasting to beneficiaries for climate-smart agricultural decision-making. The program also incorporates GCC considerations into local development plans and builds capacity of local institutions to put these plans in action.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

USAID/Mali's activities and programs are based on the goal of a strong, resilient Mali, driven by its populace to greater prosperity. That is not possible without the active engagement and strengthening of the private sector. USAID/Mali's programs to that effect include increasing access to credit for smallholders and women, and encouraging larger scale investment in significant enterprises.

ACCESS TO CREDIT: USAID/Mali, along with the State Department, USAID/West Africa, and the Swedish Development Agency (Sida), support a Development Credit Authority (DCA) program with two independent African banks: the Bank of Africa (BOA) and *La Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie au Mali* (BICIM). The DCA acts as a partial loan portfolio guarantee, covering 50 percent of any loan defaults under the program. This increases lending opportunities for farmers and women's enterprises.

INVESTMENT FACILITATION: USAID/Mali is also supports larger-scale capital investment in Mali's agriculture and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sectors, through the Mali Investment Facilitation Platform. This program links foreign investors with opportunities in Mali.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP): USAID/Mali also encourages direct support and collaboration with the private sector through PPPs, in which private sector enterprises engage with existing programs in mutually-beneficial arrangements. Current PPPs include supporting shea and jatropha cooperatives to access a profitable market, linking seed treatment suppliers with cereal farmers, e-verification of agricultural, and developing diversified revenue streams for cereal farmers through beekeeping.