



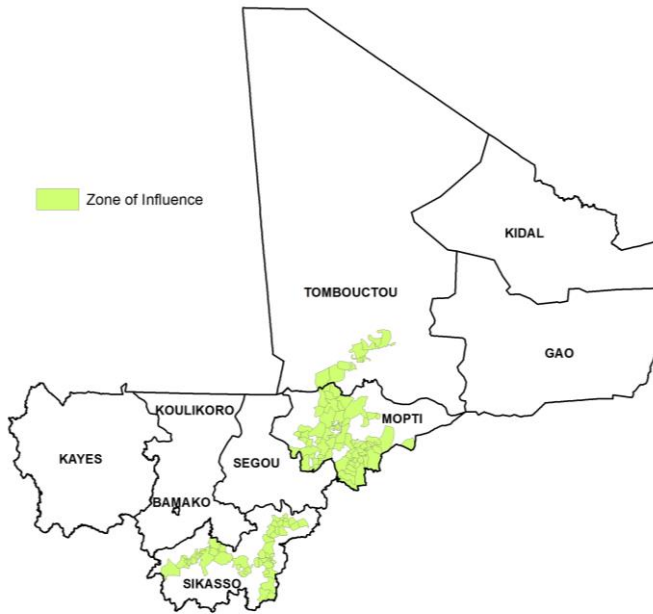
USAID
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MOCTAR MENTA | USAID/IFDC

USAID MALI

AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Agriculture and Economic Growth (AEG) Team at USAID/Mali manages a portfolio of approximately \$24 million annually to support the Government of Mali’s National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) and the U.S. Government’s Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS).

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY FOR MALI: The Mali GFSS country plan serves as an overarching framework for integrated food security, nutrition and resilience programming. The plan is informed by results and analyses from prior and on-going work under the Feed the Future Initiative and continues to focus on the sustainable reduction of hunger, poverty and malnutrition by achieving three principal objectives: (a) inclusive agricultural-led growth; (b) strengthened resilience among people and communities; and (c) improved nutritional status, especially among women and children.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: The proposed geographic focus is composed of a set of communes divided into two sub-zones: a central/northern sub-zone in Mopti and Tombouctou regions and a southern sub-zone in the Sikasso, Koutiala and Bougouni regions. The Mopti sub-zone is dominated by a semi-arid Sahelian climate, while most of the Sikasso sub-zone receives more precipitation and is situated in the Sudanian tropical savanna. The two sub-zones currently have very different security situations. In Mopti and Tombouctou, the security situation remains fluid with access to different parts of these regions frequently changing. A majority of USAID focus communes in the Mopti sub-zone reflect the Government of Mali's priority list for vulnerable communes in need of humanitarian support. Target communes in Sikasso, Koutiala and Bougouni have higher rates of stunting compared to national averages, making these focus communes vulnerable from a nutritional point of view, but security in this sub-zone has not been an issue.

CLIMATE RISKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Because of the differences in climate, cropping and animal husbandry practices, security, and vulnerability to shocks found in the two sub-zones, different types of USAID programming might be required to address key food security issues. For example, as maize is largely grown in the south, almost all work specific to that value chain would occur in the Sikasso sub-zone. The center and north of Mali have a higher concentration of pastoralists, and cultivator-pastoralist land and water issues might factor into activities with a livestock component. Increasingly variable rainfall patterns are more likely to result in climate shocks in central Mali, making climate resilience programming extremely important. Additionally, the internationally-recognized Inner Niger Delta and Sourou Floodplain protected wetlands are located within some target communes in Mopti making natural resource management a key component to USAID programming there.

NUTRITION: Both sub-zones have rates of stunting above the national average and will be targeted with nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. Nutrition, health, and WASH activities will continue to operate in both sub-zones, building on successful Feed the Future programming to date, while broadening the scope to target nearly all 1,000-day households.

RESILIENCE: USAID/Mali will build resilience of vulnerable people to recurrent shocks and stresses exacerbated by climate, conflict, and high levels of poverty in the Mopti region. Mopti was selected due to its comparative advantage of having high levels of existing Feed the Future, Health, Education and humanitarian assistance programs to better coordinate and plan appropriate interventions for all USAID/Mali programming.

TARGETED VALUE CHAINS: Previous Feed the Future programming targeted specific value chains including millet/sorghum, rice and livestock. Under the Mali GFSS country plan, USAID activities will have more flexibility in their choice of value chains, including the original ones as well as maize and horticulture. Mali has recognized maize as an important crop for self-reliance in food security, and horticultural products will increase incomes for women while improving access to households for high-nutrient vegetables.

STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED CONNECTION TO MARKET

SYSTEMS: USAID will help producer organizations and farmers increase their capacity to better grow, harvest, handle, and process agricultural products. Activities will promote the spread of technologies that increase productivity; reduce post-harvest losses; and improve the storage, processing, and safety of agricultural products to attract higher market prices at different times of the year. USAID funding will supply appropriate farm implements or machinery to clean and improve the quality of food stocks for sale in the market, effectively increasing profit-making ventures at household, community and firm levels. USAID intends to create new opportunities for women and youth as a result of improved product processing and the dissemination and adoption of new technologies, including in agroforestry.