Feed the Future Performance Evaluation of the Livestock for Growth (L4G) Activity in Mali
Evaluation Summary

Goal: Promote inclusive competitive economic growth of the livestock value chain in Mali by strengthening support services and improving access to veterinary services, livestock fattening, and water.

Implementation Period: Sept. 2014 - Sept. 2019

Budget: $14,489,448

Value chains: Cattle and small ruminants (sheep, goats)

Key Findings

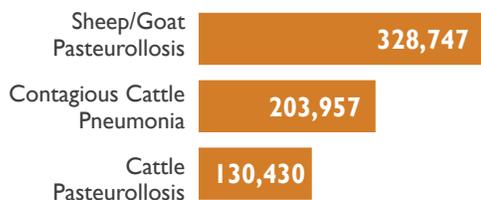| The Private Proximity Veterinary Services Program	Fattening Training	Water Access

The Private Proximity Veterinary Services Program

Vaccination rates were low, so L4G launched Services Vétérinaires Privés de Proximité in 2015. This activity put three accredited private veterinarians and 76 veterinary auxiliaries (VAs) in the field.

663,134
total vaccinations

Sheep/Goat Pasteurollosis	328,747
Contagious Cattle Pneumonia	203,957
Cattle Pasteurollosis	130,430

Producer Organization (PO) members take vaccinations more seriously.

"We now vaccinate our animals normally, even if they do not show signs of sickness symptoms."

(PO member)

Fattening Training

L4G established 45 Farmer Field Schools (FFS), a cascading train-the-trainers model, which were intended to be co-located with veterinary services.

Participants learned about...

- Market delivery
- Buyer preferences
- Innovative marketing plans to sell their animals at peak price periods

"I told the agents that they had nothing to teach us because this is an activity we already know. But after some sessions, I realized that I had a lot to learn."

(PO member, Djenné circle)

Water Access

Drilled or rehabilitated six boreholes with solar powered pumps and water storage tower in six locations in Bankass and Koro circles in Mopti and installed a solar powered pump and water tower in the Koro district central market.
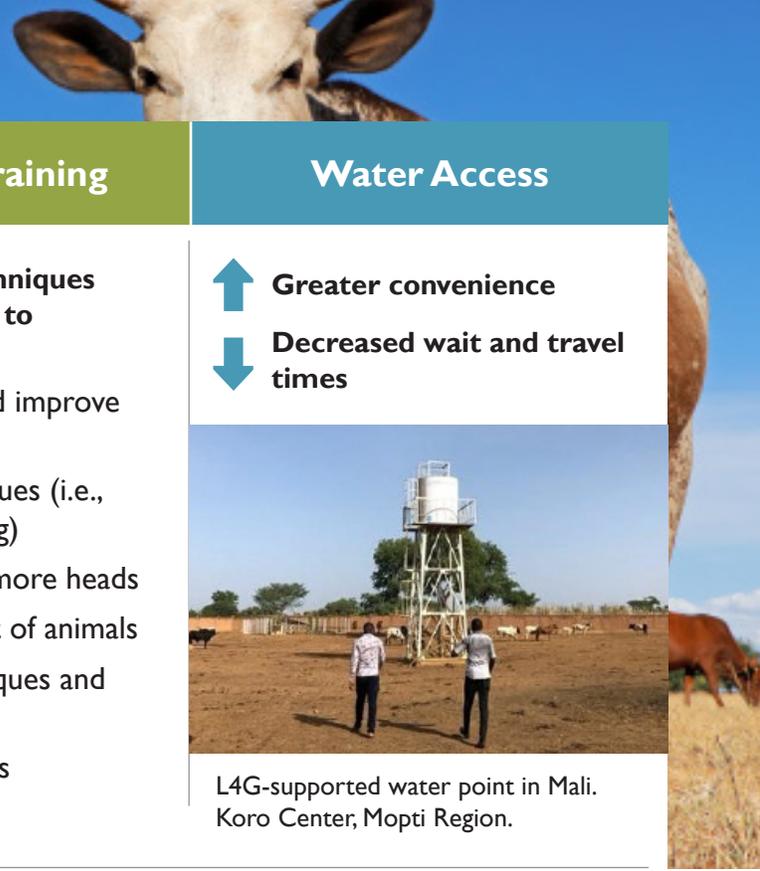
Improved water access

Five of the six locations benefited from completed, operational pumps. *(Vandalism prevented completion of one water point.)*
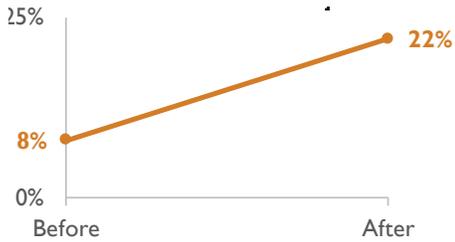
"L4G has rehabilitated the water point in the cattle park, and I must admit that it has relieved us. It is a total relief for the town hall, the farmers, in short everyone."

(Mayor, Water point user)

The Private Proximity Veterinary Services Program

More animals were vaccinated: 22% between 2016 and 2018, compared to 8% in 2014 in *Koro and Bankass circles.*

The primary challenge to vaccinating more animals was violent extremism and intercommunity conflict.

Fattening Training

Most valuable techniques learned according to participants:

- How to grow and improve fodder
- Fattening techniques (i.e., timing of fattening)
- Ability to fatten more heads
- Estimating weight of animals
- Marketing techniques and contracts
- Calculating profits

Water Access

⬆ **Greater convenience**

⬇ **Decreased wait and travel times**

L4G-supported water point in Mali. Koro Center, Mopti Region.

Recommendations

To increase vaccination rates, **VAs need cold storage** (refrigerators, freezers, medicines, and thermo-tolerant vaccines) and **start-up funds** (to acquire supplies and support transportation).

There was a significant attrition rate among VAs; only 23 of the 76 VAs remained active. To improve sustainability and avoid favoritism, both the SVPP vets and state veterinary services should be involved in VA selection.
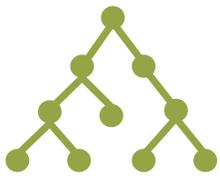
To further improve the impact, **VAs should be assisted with start-up funds to acquire their first stock of supplies and transportation.**

Training sites should be expanded to more circles and regions.

State services should be integrated.

Improve cascade training sessions by developing a stronger system of financial support, transportation allowance, training in a larger number of villages, and training with more representatives from each producer organization.

Provide technical assistance to water point committees around **financial oversight and planning,** including site maintenance and repairs/ replacement.

Collect public feedback at new water points.

Use a participatory process to select water management committee members to promote transparency and public confidence in management decisions.

Restore the one non-functional water point.

Methodology: ME&A evaluators used a mixed methods approach.

20 key informant interviews

+

22 focus groups

+

10 documents reviewed

+

1 performance monitoring and survey analyzed

+

2 regions visited

Mopti (Koro, Bankass, Bandiagara, Mopti, and Djenné circles)

Timbuktu (Diré, Goundam, and Niafunké circles)

199 total respondents

Read the full evaluation report at https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WPHQ.pdf