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MALI HORTICULTURE SCALING PROJECT

IMPROVING NUTRITION AND HYGIENE

Malnutrition remains a public health concern in Mali. According to a recent survey, 23 percent of children under the age of five in the country are stunted, meaning that their growth has been inhibited by poor nutrition. Causes of malnutrition include lack of access to nutritious foods, poor infant and young child feeding practices, lack of hygiene and sanitation, and births spaced too closely together. To help Mali reduce malnutrition and improve the living conditions of vulnerable households, USAID’s Mali Horticulture Scaling Project integrates agriculture; nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and health interventions to improve nutrition and health outcomes for mothers and young children. Key activities include the following:

- Nutrition trainings including: breastfeeding, diversified nutritious local food, and antenatal care;
- Social and behavior change communication campaigns on family planning and maternal and child’s health;
- Community-led total sanitation activities for the elimination of open defecation, and use of handwashing and water treatment methods;
- Provision of seeds and establishment of community gardens.

PROJECT’S APPROACH

The Mali Horticulture Scaling strategy has two main components:

- Support in vegetable production to foster yearlong production and consumption of nutrient-rich vegetables to improve the dietary diversity of women and children.
- Communication for social and behavior change to foster sustainable adoption of optimal behavior in regards to handwashing, immunization, complementary diversified nutritious food, and family planning.

MALI SCALING PROJECT GOALS

BUDGET: \$4,016,000

TARGET AREAS: Sikasso, Mopti and Timbuktu Region

PROJECT CYCLE: May 2014 – March 2019

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 67 percent of women of reproductive age consume a diversified nutritious local food in target areas.
- 67 percent of children aged 0-6 months are exclusively breastfed in areas covered by the project.
- 112 villages certified “open defecation free”.
- 61,700 people gained access to a basic sanitation service.
- 171,200 people reached with behavior change communication on water, sanitation and hygiene.
- 16,500 new users of modern family planning services.