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NUTRITION AND HYGIENE

NUTRITION FOR MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Sikasso is one of the regions in Mali most affected by malnutrition. According to a recent assessment, 30.2 percent of children under the age of five in the region are stunted, meaning that their growth is inhibited due to poor nutrition.

Poor nutrition in pregnant and lactating women can lead to poor health outcomes for their children. Poor hygiene and sanitation can cause diseases that also have a negative impact on nutrition.

Causes of malnutrition in Sikasso include lack of knowledge about healthy behaviors related to nutrition and hygiene, lack of nutritious foods, poor access to essential health, water, and sanitation services.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HEALTHY BEHAVIOR

To help the region of Sikasso improve the nutritional status of women and children, the USAID Nutrition and Hygiene Project—implemented by Save the Children—supports a package of activities that includes social and behavior change.

These activities increase the adoption of healthy behaviors for nutrition, health, and hygiene—handwashing and use of water treatment methods—increasing local production and availability of nutrient-rich foods to diversify food consumption; and improving community-based treatment of malnutrition.

The project also supports access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities; advocacy and community mobilization for nutrition and hygiene; and the training of women as community leaders to educate other women on exclusive breastfeeding, and promote nutritive cooking in the target communities.

NUTRITION AND HYGIENE GOALS

BUDGET: \$9,894,427

TARGET AREAS: Sikasso Region

PROJECT CYCLE: October 2013 – September 2019

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 8400 children aged 0-5 have now a minimum acceptable diet.
- 682 children received treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.
- Over 200 villages certified as “open defecation free”.
- 2,466 women trained as community leaders to educate others on breastfeeding and to promote nutritive cooking.
- 8,466 latrines constructed or rehabilitated.
- Over 20,000 households installed handwashing stations with soap and water.