

DEPLOYING IMPROVED VEGETABLE TECHNOLOGIES TO OVERCOME MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY IN MALI

Taking a holistic approach to improving food security and health outcomes, these activities will improve the lives of families across Mali by increasing Mali's health outcomes and economic growth.

Combining Feed the Future; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; and Nutrition activities, the Deploying Improved Vegetable Technologies to Overcome Malnutrition and Poverty in Mali program conducts joint activities to build the capacity of smallholder farm gardens. The program, implemented by the World Vegetable Center, is active in Mopti, Sikasso, and Timbuktu.



Women at Sirakoroba Village during a nutrition cooking demonstration. Photo credit: World Vegetable Center

Improving Food Security

The Deploying Improved Vegetable Technologies to

Overcome Malnutrition and Poverty in Mali project addresses the two overarching goals of the U.S. government's Feed the Future (FTF) Presidential Initiative – reducing the rates of poverty and malnutrition in developing nations across the world. The project works with small-scale, women gardeners and their families, organized around “best practice hubs” and “vegetable technology immersion clusters,” designed for fast track dissemination of market-attractive and nutrient-rich vegetable varieties and associated technologies. These centers teach women and their families how to grow more and better quality vegetables; how to handle vegetables after harvest to preserve their quality and value and how to turn their gardening activities into thriving enterprises. A strong agricultural sector is necessary for Mali to grow, and helping small producers and women will help the country as a whole.

Improving Health Outcomes

In addition to agriculture production and business development, the centers created by this program are used as centers for health and nutrition related activities, ranging from the physical provision of improved water sources to behavior change communications on hygiene and other health improving practices. While other

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activities within the program focus on the first two pillars of food security – availability and accessibility – health-related interventions focus on the third pillar: utilization.

USAID/Mali's Strategy

USAID/Mali's Accelerated Economic Growth Office (AEG) supports the Feed the Future (FTF) Presidential Initiative as part of the Prosperity Development Objective under USAID/Mali's Country Development and Cooperation Strategy. The goal of the Prosperity Development Objective is to advance the socio-economic wellbeing of all Malians, and by employing 80 percent of the workforce and accounting for 34 percent of GDP, the agriculture sector does just that. USAID/Mali's FTF strategy focuses on the three key agricultural value chains: millet/sorghum; rice; and livestock; while also being concerned with nutrition. Livestock for Growth (L4G) is our flagship program for the livestock value chain, while the Cereal Value Chain (CVC) program works on millet, sorghum, and rice.

USAID/Mali Health Office's goal is to sustain the improvements of health through increased use of high impact health services and healthy behaviors. This will be achieved through programming in three component areas: 1) delivery of an integrated package of high-impact health services at the community level, 2) social and behavior change communication, and 3) health systems strengthening. Based on the epidemiology and conditions in Mali, the interventions are: maternal, neonatal, and child health; family planning and reproductive health; malaria; infectious disease; nutrition, water, and sanitation.

Goals

Over the 3-year, 2014-2016 life of cycle, the project will:

- Benefit 35,000 smallholder gardeners directly through increased knowledge and access to materials;
- Train 14,000 women, men, and community health workers in improved health practices;
- Increase the value of vegetable sales within the focus regions by \$150 million.

Contact Information

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