Like much of the Sahel, Mali is experiencing frequent droughts and significant variability in rainfall. Climate change is expected to increase temperatures, rainfall variability, and the magnitude of extreme weather events such as drought. With more than 80 percent of Mali’s population found to be dependent on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihood, they are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

USAID/Mali’s Mali Climate Change Adaptation Activity (MCCAA) is developing interventions that build resilience to current climate variability, while laying the groundwork for increased resilience to longer-term climate change effects. The project works to strengthen the capacity of Mali’s meteorological agency, Mali Météo, to provide improved climate and weather information and forecasting. MCCAA takes a multidimensional approach to climate change adaptation because vulnerable farmers need access to timely, high quality climate information for decision-making, as well as information and assistance to adopt effective practices such as drought-tolerant varieties and soil and water conservation techniques for managing climate variability and change.

The project also works to incorporate climate change considerations into local-level planning and to build capacity of local institutions to address climate change. MCCAA informs and works with other development programs funded by USAID/Mali, particularly the Feed the Future activities to bring about transformational change by providing farmers with improved weather information and practices.