

Global Climate Change Initiative in Mali

Like much of the Sahel, Mali is subject to frequent droughts and experiences a significant variability in annual rainfall. Climate change is expected to increase local temperatures, the variability of rainfall, and the magnitude of extreme weather events. With more than 80 percent of Mali's population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, which is predominantly rainfed, they are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

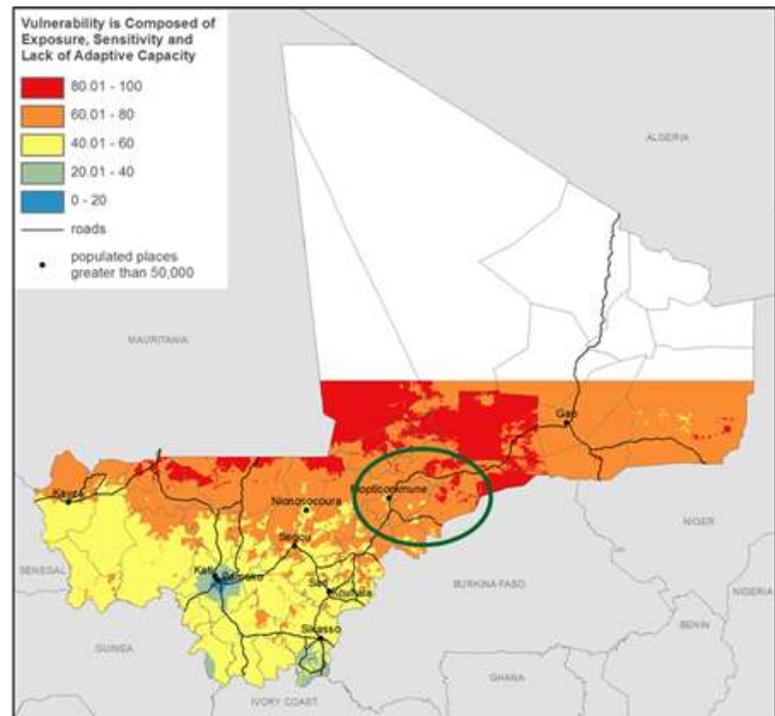
To address these challenges, USAID's mission in Mali has embraced President Obama's Global Climate Change Initiative goals and embarked on an ambitious new program built on a strong analytical foundation. Since 2012, USAID has collect evidence to help rural farming communities better adapt to an increasingly variable and unpredictable climate.

USAID will strengthen systems capable of building resilience under a range of climate scenarios through three interconnected results; 1) use of effective climate information by vulnerable populations from both sexes increased, 2) inclusion of climate change considerations in governance systems increased, and 3) adoption of local solutions to climate variability and change in targeted areas increased.

To achieve these outcomes, USAID Mali's Climate Change Adaptation Project will build on a 30 year-old agro-meteorological program implemented by Mali's *Agence Nationale de la Météorologie* or Mali National Meteorological Agency (Meteo), which provides climate and weather information to rural farmers throughout Mali. To ensure that their program is both effective and targeted toward the most vulnerable populations USAID assessed the Mali Meteo program, including social-cultural aspects that affect the uptake of climate information in rural communities.

Using a detailed vulnerability map (above), areas of Mali that are most vulnerable to the changing climate were identified. While spatial patterns of vulnerability vary significantly within Mali, the analysis indicated that the northern parts of Mali, in areas that are already at the edges of productivity, are among the most vulnerable.

Vulnerability Map





The rock line above demonstrates a soil and water conservation technique.

Photo: David Yanggen, USAID/Mali

Using the analysis, USAID will compliment ongoing agricultural efforts through USAID's Feed the Future program, and layer climate information within a basket of other farmer and community-scale agricultural interventions such as soil and water conservations and agro-forestry.

This holistic approach to agricultural livelihood production will help build resilience of vulnerable communities in Mali.