

Strengthening resilience in Mali



Context

In northern Mali, it is very difficult to earn a sustainable livelihood for most people from poor and marginalised communities. Recurrent droughts are causing a high degree of food insecurity, while persistent political instability in the wake of the crisis that has been ongoing since 2012 is exacerbating the problem for families, especially in rural regions. For centuries, the Inner Niger Delta has been home to both nomadic herders and small scale farmers who have settled there permanently. Violent conflicts have forced more than half a million people to flee the region to seek refuge in refugee

camp outside Mali or with “host families” within the country. Although many families have since returned home, they lack the resources and capacity to cope with natural disasters and recurring conflicts. The project is therefore supporting people by providing agricultural material such as seeds or by rebuilding water supply and sanitation systems. State and private sector advisors are also supporting people to develop their knowledge and skills in plant and animal production, as well as nutritional and hygiene practices, and to apply them on a sustainable basis.

Activities in Mali

- ➔ The project supports small scale farmers by providing them with production resources and training to grow vegetables as well as rice, thus making nutritious foods more readily available.
- ➔ To secure the livelihoods of nomadic herders in northern Mali, farmers are being given extensive advice on animal health, feed production, pasture farming, herd management and marketing.
- ➔ Schemes to repair wells are making it easier for people, their livestock and agricultural production facilities to access water all year round.
- ➔ Educational and awareness-raising campaigns promote healthy eating and good hygiene practices.
- ➔ Capacity building of national authorities and local administrations help to improve the resilience against food and nutrition insecurity through national and regional programmes, policies and strategies.
- ➔ The measures are accompanied by temporary emergency assistance in acute crisis situations such as droughts or floods.

Our objective

The resilience of food-insecure populations against food and nutrition crises, especially returned and repatriated refugees and internally displaced persons, and the diversity of food consumption among women of reproductive age in the Inner Niger Delta are strengthened.



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN MALI

Regions

Timbuktu

Budget and term

EUR 27.35 million / December 2014 to March 2026

Commissioning party

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Implementation partner

Welthungerhilfe, Action Against Hunger (Spain), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), local partners

Lead executing agency

Ministry for Rural Development

Target group

40,800 food-insecure people

Sustainable Development Goals



Example of our work

Many people from the region of Timbuktu fled their villages in the wake of armed conflicts in 2012 and 2013. Returning internally displaced persons in particular are finding it difficult to rebuild their livelihoods. To ensure adequate nutrition for these people, the project activities are focusing on nutrition-sensitive small-scale irrigated farming and nomadic livestock husbandry.

Farmers, around half of them displaced persons, are being helped to grow rice and vegetables on irrigated land. More than 8,769 people, including 41 % women, have already received training in sustainable agricultural practices and growing nutritious vegetables.

Training in sustainable pasture, feed and herd management is being offered to livestock herders to help stabilise their livelihoods. No fewer than 8,400 people are already benefiting from these training schemes and putting their new knowledge into practice, for example when processing animal products.

On top of this, 84 wells on grazing land have been rehabilitated or rebuilt, ensuring that the returnees and their livestock can access water again and helping them rebuild their livelihoods.

Results

The supported agropastoral households have been able to increase their rice production since the start of the project – from 5 to 5.7 t/ha/year. More than 95,000 people have better access to rice and nutritious vegetables through the rehabilitation of irrigation systems.

The supply of home-grown vegetables, the processing and preservation of animal and agricultural products and training in good nutritional practices are helping to improve household nutrition in the long term. Support and organisation of farmer cooperatives help ensure sustainable access to inputs.



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