



USAID Accelerated Economic Growth Program



Both men and women are employed by Mali's agricultural sector. Roughly 80 percent of the population is reliant on agriculture for their livelihood.

Photo: Devan Wardell, Abt Associates

The Accelerated Economic Growth team manages a portfolio of \$21 million in FY 2014 funds. This portfolio includes two Presidential Initiatives - Feed the Future and Global Climate Change. The team also serves as the technical resource for Agency priorities including Mobile Money, the Development Credit Authority, and Public Private Partnerships. The team includes the Food for Peace Program, which managed an additional \$35 million in humanitarian funds in FY 2014.

Feed the Future: A whole of government initiative, it is focused on reducing poverty and malnutrition, as measured by stunting, by 20 percent on a global scale. USAID Mali's 5-year Feed the Future Program, with an FY 2014 budget of \$18M, will launch a new generation of rural entrepreneurs by developing sustainable agricultural and health systems, delivering technology and knowledge, and building local institutional capacity to energize the Government of Mali and spur a vibrant private sector. The initiative

targets investments in three value chains: i) Millet and sorghum; ii) Rice; and iii) Livestock, focused on cattle and small ruminants. The Accelerated Economic Growth team works closely with the USAID Health team and contributes to the nutrition goals by promoting the production of nutrient dense vegetables and legumes and protein rich meat from livestock as the core of the strategy's nutrition interventions. Taken together, these value chains and nutritional interventions will increase food security and economic prosperity for the 80 percent of Malians who are directly reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.

To focus investments for maximum impact, USAID concentrates its interventions in 113 targeted communes in three of Mali's eight regions – Sikasso, Mopti and Timbuktu — and the two communes in the Millennium Challenge Corporation intervention zones in the Alatona region of Segou. Within this zone, there are approximately 2.5 million people, or roughly 440,000 households, dominated by smallholder subsistence farmers and their families, on farms that average between 3 and 5 hectares. An estimated 500,000 people in these communes are directly targeted through Feed the Future agriculture interventions, with an additional 1.26 million benefit indirectly. Targeted nutrition interventions will reach up to 600,000 mothers and children under 5 years old, contributing to the overall reduction of under-nutrition by 30 percent in the target areas.

Global Climate Change: Mali is projected to be one of the countries most affected by global climate change. It is expected to increase local temperatures, the variability of rainfall, and the magnitude of extreme weather events. However, the significant uncertainty around how the climate will change in the near future in Mali, creates the necessity to develop robust interventions that build resilience in the face of a wide range of current and future climate scenarios. 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 to help rural farming communities better adapt to an increasingly variable and unpredictable climate.

The global climate change adaption program will build on a 30 year-old agro-meteorological program implemented by Mali's Agence Nationale de la Météorologie or Mali National Meteorological Agency (Mali Meteo), which provides climate and weather information to rural farmers for agricultural decision-making. In most vulnerable to



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climate change areas of Mali identified by a detailed vulnerability assessment, the project will also compliment ongoing agricultural efforts through USAID's Feed the Future program, layer climate information within a basket of other farmer and community-scale agricultural interventions and improve the dissemination of effective climate change adaption strategies such as soil and water conservations and agro-forestry practices.

Food for Peace: Food for Peace provides non-emergency programming in agriculture, food, nutritional, and other assistance to reach beneficiaries in food-insecure communities in northern Sikasso. The programs were originally operating in the north, but relocated after security concerns in early 2012. The program is implemented through a consortium of non-governmental organizations including Africare, CRS, Helen Keller International, and Save the Children.