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SUCCESS STORY

USAID Bolsters Data Collection to Assist Families in the Sahel

In FY 2015, HEA data helped response actors reach more than 14.2 million vulnerable people.



Photo Courtesy of SC/US

With USAID support, SC used HEA data to identify and reach the most vulnerable households in northern Mali's Gao region, thereby assisting more than 10,000 conflict-affected people.

Due to chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, vulnerable households across the Sahel Region are particularly susceptible to new shocks. Early warning systems are critical to analyzing the impact of food security and economic trends on these households, enabling response actors to both mitigate risk for potential crises and assist the region's most vulnerable families when emergencies strike.

To assist host country governments, UN agencies, and international relief organizations to predict and respond to households' food security and related needs, USAID is supporting Save the Children (SC) to conduct household-level food security data collection and analysis. Through the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) program, USAID assistance is strengthening early warning systems, informing UN and host country response plans, and enabling SC and other partners to target the region's most vulnerable households.

Since 2013, USAID has supported HEA data collection across seven countries in the Sahel, enabling SC to predict the impact of emergencies on households of various income levels. HEA data has been incorporated into Sahel countries' national early warning systems, as well as the Cadre Harmonisé, a tool used by UN and host country governments throughout West Africa for the analysis and reporting of food security data.

Countries such as Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal are utilizing HEA data in national and international response plans to ensure that response activities address crisis-affected families' most urgent needs. Similarly, relief actors throughout the Sahel are using HEA data to target the region's most vulnerable households. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, HEA data assisted response actors to reach more than 14.8 million vulnerable people with seasonal safety net, livelihoods, and other assistance.

Through the HEA program, USAID is building international and host country capacity to anticipate and respond to the needs of the Sahel's most vulnerable families and build their resilience to withstand future shocks.