

Enhancing resilience in Mali



Context

For the majority of the people in the North of Mali, a poor and marginalized population, it is hard to achieve a sustainable livelihood. Repeatedly occurring droughts have led to a high level of food and nutrition insecurity. As a result of the political development since 2012, the situation is increasingly instable which has exacerbated the problems for families - especially in rural areas. For centuries, the Niger inner delta has served as a homeland to both pastoralists and settled smallholder farmers. More than half a million people has left the inland delta of the Niger due to violent conflicts and

found shelter in refugee camps outside the country or in “guest families” within Mali. Many families have now returned. Yet, they do not have the resources to cope with natural catastrophes and recurring conflicts. For this reason, the project supports the people with agricultural inputs, such as seeds, and with the reconstruction of water and sanitation facilities. Additionally, private and governmental advisors help people to expand their skills and knowledge mentoring them to apply them sustainably.

Activities in Mali

- Infrastructures to irrigate plants are rehabilitated so that more and divers foods can be grown in addition to the staple crop rice. This contributes to a healthy and varied diet. Moreover, the project supports small farmers with means of production and continuous advisory services by providing trainings to agricultural advisors.
- To ensure year-round access to drinking water for people and animals, wells and irrigation systems are renewed. Now people – especially women – need much less time to access clean water. It can be used to prepare food hygienically and therefore

contributes to a better hygiene and prevent households from infectious diseases.

- Information and awareness campaigns in villages and schools on water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition are also central components of the project.
- The farmers receive comprehensive advisory services in the field of animal husbandry (e.g. animal health, fodder production, pasture farming, herd management, marketing), which provides a livelihood for nomadic pastoralists in the north.

Our objective

Strengthening resilience of the poor population in the inland Niger inner delta against future food crises - especially of returning refugees and internally displaced people.



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Region(s)

Region of Tombouctou

Duration

12/2014 - 12/2019

Budget

EUR 6.5 Million

Implementation partners

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, NGO Action Against Hunger Spain, local partners

Lead executing agency

Ministry of Agriculture

Target group

30,900 returning refugees, internally displaced people, women and children



How we work

In the remoted North of Mali, the number of qualified private or governmental agricultural and health advisory services is largely limited due to security risks and lack of infrastructure. It is very difficult for smallholder farmers or pastoralists to receive support and assistance in agricultural activities. Through comprehensive training approaches in the fields of agriculture, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene we strengthen the personal, private and governmental structures in the North of country. We support the establishment of farmers' organizations so that members can pursue common interests and increase their negotiation power. This year alone, 30 farmers' organizations were founded. In addition, 25 agricultural advisors have been trained in the cultivation of rice and vegetables. With their knowledge the trainers are again able to support small farmers in the field. The participants learn about the benefits of being a member of a farmers' organization and are informed about the different roles and tasks within the organization. The staff of local governmental and non-governmental institutions is also strengthened and carries out information and awareness-raising campaigns independently. The trainings take place not only in villages but also in schools. Children will teach their parents what they have been thought at school and how the whole family can benefit from a better nutrition.



First Results

Severe flooding In our project area in the inland delta of the Niger river had critical consequences on pastoralists and their families. They were helped by a flexible budget line for unforeseen crises. Thus, 251 acute threatened households were able to secure their basic needs for food and other necessities. Besides, 1,050 people were taking part in training courses on nutrition-intensive agriculture. Additional 800 persons were involved in cash-for-work measures, through which 590 hectares of grazing land were successfully regenerated. The rehabilitation of 26 wells allowed 866 households, including their cattle, a safe access to water.

Impressum

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