



COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY REPORT

Resilience and social cohesion of cross-border communities in Liptako-Gourma

Final Report



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TESTIMONIALS

Testimonial of Djénéba Walette Idrissa

Insights on the RECOLG project

In the village of Tin-Hamma, Djénéba Walette Idrissa is sharing her experience with the RECOLG project (Resilience and Social Cohesion of Cross-Border Communities in Liptako-Gourma). This project, funded by the European Union via Save the Children and TASSAGH, supports communities affected by insecurity and crises in the Ansongo Crecle. Each beneficiary, including Djénéba, received 60,000 CFA francs and goats, a crucial aid for her who acquired three goats and a billy goat.

Navigating Instability: Djénéba's Struggle Amidst Insecurity

However, the region is facing considerable instability. Insecurity has forced Djénéba and her community to abandon their homes, exposing them to food insecurity. Initial assistance included food for livestock, but this has now run out, forcing Djénéba to forage for grass for her animals. Jihadist attacks hamper access to pasture, threatening the survival of the animals.

Essential Livestock: Challenges and Contributions to Sustainability

These animals are essential not only as a source of food in times of critical need, but they also provide milk, curd and butter, contributing to the family's food self-sufficiency. Selling animals in difficult times also provides vital financial support.

Unfortunately, small ruminant breeding has been less productive this year, reflecting the vulnerability of communities to crises. Djénéba plans to use the wool for craft activities, opening up new economic opportunities.

Beyond Aid: Highlighting Persistent Challenges in Liptako-Gourma

This story illustrates the challenges faced by the cross-border communities of Liptako-Gourma. Despite the aid they have received, they are still threatened by insecurity, underlining the need for greater attention and support from humanitarian organisations and governments.

Testimonial of Aly Boureima Kassambara

Insights on the RECOLG project

The Résilience et Cohésion Sociale des Communautés Transfrontalières du Liptako-Gourma (RECOLG) project is a key initiative aimed at strengthening resilience and social cohesion among vulnerable populations in the Liptako-Gourma cross-border region. Launched in May 2020, the project was initially deployed in the communes of Watagouna and Tin-Hamma, before being extended to Ansongo. Aly Boureima Kassambara, First Deputy Prefect of Ansongo and Acting Central Sub-Prefect, shares his perspectives on RECOLG.

Inclusive Approach and Collaborative Success: Building Social Cohesion

The project adopts an inclusive approach, involving a wide range of players, such as representatives of the State, local elected representatives, notables and beneficiaries. This method has fostered social cohesion and helped to prevent conflicts. Training was provided for members of the Communal and Land Commissions and traditional chiefs, contributing to the success of the project. RECOLG has also equipped the Watagouna and Tin-Hamma town halls to support people displaced by insecurity.

Navigating Challenges: Adapting to Insecurity for Project Continuity

However, the project has encountered challenges, particularly due to the persistent insecurity making certain areas difficult to access. Despite the increased presence of the Malian armed forces and the destruction of terrorist bases, security problems persist. Local initiatives have been put in place to adapt the project to these conditions.

Ensuring Continued Support

In conclusion, Kassambara recommends the renewal and expansion of RECOLG. This renewal is crucial if we are to continue to support communities affected by insecurity. He expresses his gratitude to the Consortium of NGOs, donors and beneficiary communities for their commitment. This testimony highlights the significant impact of RECOLG on the cross-border communities of Liptako-Gourma.

Testimonial of Amadou: Embracing 'School Farms' for Resilience, Not Just Survival

Extending Reach Across the Sahel

With funding from the EU and DANIDA, the RECOLG project, supported by Save the Children and seven sister organizations, extends its reach across the Sahel. It supports thousands of communities affected by climate change and insecurities by teaching them innovative agricultural practices to overcome the challenges posed by climate change.

Community-Centric Solutions to Climate Challenges

The RECOLG project works closely with communities to be an integral part of solutions to climate change challenges in the Sahel. In Burkina, Mali and Niger, countries where rainfall and agricultural opportunities are worsening, RECOLG provide the most vulnerable households with the necessary means to get out of poverty and ensure a large part of their food security.

Empowering Communities

For Adamou, a member of a community living in the cross border Sahelian area of Liptako-Gourma (Mali-Niger-Burkina), harvesting in this period of the year would not be possible without the support of RECOLG project, supported by EU and DANIDA. Thanks to the “school-farm” activity, communities in Niger can now better manage and grow crops in areas affected by climate change.

Gratitude and Transformation

"We are immensely grateful to RECOLG," says Adamou. "Their support, ranging from material aid to agricultural expertise, has enabled us to utilize our lands effectively, ensuring food security for our families." Reflecting on the transformation in his community, Adamou adds, "We never thought it possible. Now, with RECOLG's guidance, we can produce more food and share our knowledge with others."

Testimonial of a Displaced Mother Whose Child Benefit from Healthcare Support

The RECOLG project at the bedside of sick children in the Sahel region

Wednesday, February 2, 2022: It is 10 a.m. at the Recovery and Nutritional Education Center (CREN) of the Urban Medical Center (CMU) in Dori, Sahel region of Burkina Faso. Admitted the previous day with his mother and a companion to a hospital room, little Moussa, 22 months old, has just spent a restless first night in intensive care. He was fortunate to have survived, given his critical condition upon arrival. His mother, Aminata, exhales a sigh of relief as she recounts the harrowing experience. *"I was terrified when we arrived yesterday. Moussa was so weak, vomiting everything and battling severe diarrhea. But I am relieved this morning because I already see a slight improvement. His diarrhea has slowed down, and he can follow the dietary regimen proposed by the health workers"*.

Moussa's improvement is attributed to the swift and thorough care he received at CMU. Diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition, his frail appearance underscores the severity of his condition. Weighing only 7.05 kg upon arrival, far below the expected 9 kg for his age, Moussa's diet lacks essential nutrients. Bouchoura Idrissa, a health worker, emphasizes the importance of breastfeeding and a balanced diet, which Moussa's family struggles to afford due to displacement and poverty.

After 2 weeks of care at the CREN, little Moussa's health has greatly improved

On February 16, 2022, two weeks later, we returned to CMU's CREN to check on Moussa. We found him in his mother's arms on an external terrace, still a bit sleepy but responsive to our presence. Aminata, eager to return home, received good news from the attending physician: Moussa's condition had improved, and they were cleared to leave. Moussa's cheerful demeanor and increased weight from 7.05 kg to 7.200 kg indicate progress, though he remains classified as malnourished. Doctor Sawadogo expressed optimism about Moussa's recovery, citing the positive impact of CREN's care. Dr. Michel Ouédraogo, the RECOLG project's health and nutrition coordinator, emphasized its significant role in improving children's well-being, including Moussa's, through enhanced health worker capacities and vital nutritional assistance during hospitalization.

A strict health and nutrition regimen to fully regain health

Moussa's journey to full recovery requires a strict three-month health and nutrition regimen, as explained by the attending physician. This regimen includes daily medical treatments and a diet primarily composed of enriched porridge and Plumpy'nut, a therapeutic food. Aminata will receive a weekly allowance for these necessities, along with training on preparing

enriched porridge at the CREN. Aminata is determined to adhere to these instructions diligently to ensure her son's swift restoration to health.

Testimonial of Salimata Yero

Challenges Before RECOLG Assistance

Salimata Yero resides in Danthiadi, located 20km from Dori, and is a mother of five. She juggles her roles as a farmer during the rainy season and a housekeeper, supplementing her income with occasional agricultural endeavors like selling cowpeas. Before receiving assistance from RECOLG, Salimata faced significant challenges including food shortages, health issues for herself and her family, and limited access to animal feed.

Benefiting from RECOLG Support

Upon receiving aid from RECOLG, Salimata was provided with a dairy cow and calf, which significantly boosted her milk production and income potential. Recognizing the difficulties in accessing affordable animal feed due to factors like climate change and poor rainfall, RECOLG supported Salimata and her community by distributing animal feed, thereby enhancing their food resilience and improving agro-pastoral activities.

Salimata also benefited from RECOLG's training sessions, which equipped her with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively care for her animals, optimize milk extraction and processing, and increase sales. This newfound empowerment has enabled her to generate substantial income to support her family and community.

Empowerment and Gratitude

Salimata expresses profound gratitude towards RECOLG, acknowledging the pivotal role it played in her empowerment. She feels adequately equipped and supported to navigate her endeavors with confidence, hoping that the project will extend its assistance to other households facing similar challenges.

In Salimata's words, *"Thanks to RECOLG, I have become self-sufficient and carry out my activities with a lot of serenity. I now hope that the project will turn to other households that, like me before, have urgent needs."*

She further emphasizes the transformative impact of RECOLG within her community, highlighting the distribution of essential items, provision of financial aid, and provision of training, all of which have significantly strengthened social cohesion and reduced vulnerability.

Testimonial of Oumar Barry

Challenges Before RECOLG Assistance

Oumar Barry resides in the village of Malléri, situated 18 km from Dori. At 21 years old, he is married and a father of 2 children. His livelihood revolves around agropastoral activities.

Before receiving assistance from RECOLG, Oumar faced daunting challenges, struggling to provide food, clothing, and healthcare for himself and his family due to extreme poverty. With limited means to cultivate land or raise animals, his resources were scarce. Before RECOLG's intervention, he relied on a single goat and some poultry for sustenance. To make ends meet, he engaged in brick-making, a resilient yet strenuous activity, to support his family.

Benefiting from RECOLG Support

Upon receiving assistance from RECOLG, Oumar's circumstances changed significantly. He was provided with three sheep, including two females, and tailored animal feed, addressing the challenges posed by the lean season and the high prices of animal feed exacerbated by climate change and poor rainfall. Additionally, Oumar received training and sensitization sessions on hay storage techniques, hygiene, and enclosure maintenance. These interventions equipped him with the skills and resources needed to thrive in his agropastoral endeavors.

Empowerment and Gratitude

Oumar expresses deep gratitude to RECOLG for the transformative impact it had on his life and community. He feels empowered and capable, equipped to navigate his responsibilities with newfound confidence. He hopes that RECOLG will extend its support to other households facing similar hardships, as he believes in the project's ability to uplift communities in need.

In Oumar's own words, *"Thanks to RECOLG, I have regained my dignity and feel useful to my community. I am now more self-sufficient and can even assist others in need."*

He further underscores the significant contributions of RECOLG to his community's well-being, particularly through the distribution of essential items, financial aid, and training programs. These initiatives have strengthened social cohesion and reduced vulnerability among community members.

Testimonial of Aissata Hamad Ikane

My name is Aissata Hamad Ikane, and I live in Asslim, a neighborhood in the commune of Bankilaré. Our household is among the beneficiaries of the money that the RECOLG project has provided to support the most deprived households during the most difficult months for us, the lean period over the past three years.

We thank God because since the project began, we have felt truly strengthened. Indeed, it was an opportunity for us to focus mainly on our family fields because we used the money received to buy essential cereals for the family's dietary needs. Our able-bodied hands no longer need to scatter their physical strength by working elsewhere to earn enough to satisfy the family's food needs in agricultural activities. Despite the delay in planting for the last winter season, the fact that we dedicated more time to our field made a big difference compared to previous years. This year, we achieved an extraordinary record in terms of harvest. We harvested one hundred and ninety-eight bundles of millet with an average of twenty-two measures per bundle, compared to fourteen measures per bundle in previous years. We have never achieved this level of harvest in the household's life since our marriage. At present, we have no problems, and our meals are even diversified. Our children are thriving, and we can undertake other income-generating activities to further improve our living conditions.

We are very grateful to the RECOLG project, and we hope that it will continue to support us and other households in need.

Testimonial of Sonde Djénéba

I am Sonde Djénéba, 52 years old, and I live in Lerbou, one of the villages of Dori (6 km away). I am the head of the household, an agropastoralist and responsible for supporting 10 people.

Here's how cash assistance has impacted my life. In fact, for the past two dry seasons, my son has not ventured into an artisanal mining site because the cash has effectively replaced what he used to bring to the family. He has stayed to monitor our fields and has been applying organic manure for better harvests. Every year, I used to sell 2 to 3 goats to buy food for the family. But since I started receiving cash assistance, I haven't sold any goats. So, over the past three years, my goat herd has increased. The cash has also helped me support my daughter and granddaughter at school by providing them with a good meal every day and giving them 100 FCFA each school day. I am very happy to be one of the cash beneficiaries.

Before God shows us the next distribution, if the cash assistance were to resume, the number of beneficiaries would need to be increased or rotations of beneficiaries would need to be made. For example, if this year we give to 100 beneficiaries in one village, the following year we would give to another 100 in the same village because life has become more expensive with the precarious security situation. Whoever made the decision to stop the cash assistance should know that it was a very bad decision. Because forming people into cooperatives or providing them with food does not replace having your own money and being able to spend it yourself to meet your needs. Stopping the cash assistance can worsen poverty, and every head of the family will do everything to help their family, even if it means marrying off their daughters early to reduce expenses or interrupting their children's education so they can earn money for the family by working.

We thank you for all the assistance you provide us.

PRESS ARTICLES

More than 750,000 people empowered in the Central Sahel through peace-building, social protection and job creation as the successful RECOLG-project seeks funding for a new period

The press article is attached as an annexe to the final report, as it has not been approved by the European Commission yet.

The RECOLG project is transforming the lives of Cross-border Communities

Maïmouna Abdourazack Maiga and the Tierefaba Association: An Example of Determination and Independence

The border region of Liptako-Gourma is undergoing a remarkable transformation thanks to the "Resilience and Social Cohesion of Liptako-Gourma Cross-Border Communities" (RECOLG) project. The project has become a catalyst for change for its most disadvantaged residents, with Maïmouna Abdourazack Maiga, head of the Tierefaba Association, embodying a symbol of hope and strength.

RECOLG, designed to increase resilience and social unity, has provided essential support to vulnerable households. Thanks to RECOLG, communities that were once scattered and isolated have developed innovative and sustainable strategies to deal with their daily challenges.

Empowering Communities

As Maïmouna Abdourazack Maiga explains: "With God's help and that of a decisive project, we have overcome obstacles despite internal tensions". Before the consortium intervened, buying seeds was a major challenge. The introduction of RECOLG was a turning point, providing training, equipment and financial support.

The effect on the association's women has been significant. They are now able to earn a living and contribute effectively to the local economy. The vegetables they produce are sold at

markets, generating income that is split between the association's coffers, the financing of small businesses and support for families.

From Secondary to Central: Market Gardening's Role in Local Economy

Market gardening, once a secondary activity, is now central to the local economy for these women. With the support of various organisations, they have made enormous progress, making a living from farming and selling vegetables. Income is distributed in such a way as to guarantee a stable income and food security for their families.

The transformation is obvious. The Tierefaba Association has evolved spectacularly since its beginnings. Previously limited by its resources, it has grown and improved its operations thanks to technical, financial and material support.

In conclusion, the RECOLG project is much more than an example of cross-border development; it symbolises renewed hope for previously neglected communities. With initiatives such as these, autonomy and resilience become concrete realities for the women and families of Liptako-Gourma

Boosting Resilience and Social Cohesion in the Transboundary Areas of Liptako-Gourma

A New Impetus for the Tin-Hamma Region

The RECOLG (Résilience et Cohésion Sociale dans les Communautés Transfrontalières du Liptako-Gourma) initiative, run by Save the Children in partnership with the NGO TASSAGHT, represents a significant change for the Tin-Hamma area. This project aims to strengthen the resilience and social unity of the families most at risk in the cross-border areas of Liptako-Gourma.

Save the Children's commitment to communities

Aboubacrine Daouda, a local worker in the village of Tin-Hamma, is essential to the implementation of Save the Children and TASSAGHT programmes. Since 2020, these organisations have been focusing their efforts on empowering women's groups and developing income-generating activities (IGAs) in local communities. In-depth training has been provided in various localities, including Tinndirmatan, Amalaoulaw, Sournagador, Agarannga-Bout, Tafaghal, Banngou and Nebague.

Developments and progress in the villages

These initiatives have led to significant improvements in several villages. Women's groups and supervisors have been trained, and members of Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSCAs) have benefited from specific training in Bamako and Ségou. Significant progress has also been made in milk processing, promoting the economic empowerment of women.

Assistance and Community Impact

In addition to training, TASSAGHT, in cooperation with Save The Children, CARE International and DRC, has provided livestock and financial support to some women, strengthening the capacity of young people and women in the region. These measures have boosted and improved community activities.

Challenges and solutions

Despite this progress, the Tin-Hamma area still faces problems of insecurity, leading to violence and population displacement. The RECOLG project has addressed these challenges by revitalising local associations, which previously existed but were inactive.

Towards a Promising Future

At its second meeting, the local network showed increased participation by women and greater community involvement. The TASSAGHT network in Bagou, with 36 members, 29 of whom are actively involved, illustrates the positive impact and favourable development generated by the RECOLG project.

In summary, the RECOLG project illustrates how collaboration between NGOs, local communities and international actors can lead to significant social and economic change, particularly in regions facing multiple challenges.

More than 7 million children will suffer from severe hunger in central Sahel by mid-2023

Published in March 2023 on [Releifweb.int](https://releifweb.int)

DAKAR, 15th March – Significantly more children will face severe hunger in the next six months as the critical food crisis in the Central Sahel continues. The number of hungry people

in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso is projected to reach more than 7.5 million being in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) crisis level 3 or worse during the June-August 2023 lean season (see footnote). That is a significant rise from the level of 5.3 million people between October to December 2022. Though not as severe as the critical lean season last summer where 9.7 million people were in IPC level 3 or worse, the number is still very high. This is documented in a new joint survey by Save the Children and other agencies in the region.

The situation for children, who make up more than half of the populations in the three countries, will become even more desperate. Children are more vulnerable and suffer more from hunger than adults because it is more difficult for them to adapt to the challenging circumstances. The lack of adequate nutrition can lead to lifelong setbacks and increases young children's vulnerability to health problems, such as cognitive development, weak learning, low immunity, increased susceptibility to infections and in many cases, premature death.

"Without urgent action in the coming months, we expect to see a growing number of families resorting to increasingly desperate measures to survive, such as selling off the small number of assets they own to afford food and reducing or skipping meals. The time to act is now. Children's lives depend on it," says Abdou Malam Dodo, Regional Food, Security and Livelihood Advisor for Save the Children in West and Central Africa.

The international community must act

Save the Children is calling on world leaders, donors, members of the UN, and non-governmental organisations to prioritising funding in the Sahel region for the necessary services to support and protect children and their families impacted by the hunger crisis and ensure their resilience.

Many factors are causing the food crisis, including conflict, poverty and climate change in the form of droughts, floods and extreme weather. With generous funding from the European Union (17,640,000 EUR, through the **EU Trust Fund for Africa**) and **DANIDA** we have established the ambitious **RECOLG** project that prevents the most vulnerable and poor people, especially children and women, from extreme poverty, hunger and improves their livelihood and social cohesion.

Acute needs of families are met through actions including cash transfers, treatment of malnutrition, and improved healthcare access through mobile clinics. Strengthened resilience is achieved through community capacity building for climate and security change adaptation, development of sustainable agricultural production systems, and restocking of livestock for vulnerable households.

Over the span of project period from 2019 to the end of 2023 we are targeting more than 750,000 beneficiaries and creating sustainable and long-lasting solutions for the affected communities. However more help and support are needed from donors, world leaders and the international society to combat the hunger crisis unfolding in the Central Sahel. Without additional commitment, we risk losing the great progress that humanitarian aid and investments has contributed to in the region in recent decades.

Supervision mission for the RECOLG project in Liptako-Gourma

Published in July 2023 on [Maroobe.com](https://maroobe.com)

Supervision mission for the collection of food security survey data as part of the RECOLG project in Liptako-Gourma

To help achieve the R3, a supervision mission took place from 7 to 9 July 2023 as part of the "Resilience and social cohesion of Liptako-Gourma cross-border communities" (RECOLG) project. The RBM organised this workshop to support AREN in collecting IHEA survey data on food security in the communes of Ayorou, Bankilare, Gorouol, Kokorou and Tera.

The purpose of this mission was to remind the field teams of the overall methodological approach to the survey and the IHEA survey collection tools. It also aimed to consolidate the existing database of beneficiaries from the targeting operations and to determine the sampling of beneficiary households to be surveyed.

These moments of learning and sharing enabled RBM, in collaboration with its member AREN and its partner CARE, to launch the IHEA (Household Economy Analysis) surveys and the collection of data on food security in the target villages in 2023.

Conflict sensitivity is key to more effective and timely humanitarian aid

Published in December 2023 on [Reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int)

Lessons learned from the Central Sahel

DAKAR, December 2023 – As crises around the world become more diverse and complex, it is increasingly important to be aware of conflict sensitivity. Conflict sensitivity refers to the practice of understanding how humanitarian aid interacts with conflict in a particular

context, in order to mitigate unintended negative effects, and to influence conflict positively wherever possible, through humanitarian development and peacebuilding interventions.

One of the most complex and extensive humanitarian crises in the world is the one unfolding in the Central Sahel in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The region is deeply affected by conflict, political instability, climate change, poverty, hunger and record levels of mass displacement. The situation is constantly changing and often in unpredictable ways, making it particularly difficult and challenging for humanitarian organisations to operate. If they don't work with a detailed and comprehensive perspective on the many different factors that make up the crisis, their interventions run the risk of having unintended consequences.

Working holistically paves the way for greater impact

Save the Children and its partners has been working in the region for decades, and we have gradually improved our effectiveness by implementing innovative approaches, in this case the principles of conflict sensitivity. Organisations such as Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and CARE, with whom we are partnering on the ambitious and innovative EU-funded project RECOLG, which has been running since 2019, also implement this approach.

The RECOLG project prevents the most vulnerable and poor people, especially children and women, from extreme poverty, hunger and improves their livelihood and social cohesion through:

- Social protection with cash transfers and health and nutrition services, including mental health and psychosocial support.
- Development and job creation through youth and women's loan and saving groups.
- Peace building through conflict prevention, mitigation and activities aiming at improving the relations between the population and representatives of the state authorities.

Based on the experiences from the RECOLG project among others DRC has developed the comprehensive report *Operationalising conflict sensitivity in complex contexts*¹.

According to the report, it's generally accepted that conflict sensitivity is essential, but its operationalisation remains a key challenge for humanitarian and development organisations. Humanitarian organisations, while upholding and acting in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, are often put to the test in challenging environments such as the one in the Central Sahel. The complexity and volatility of the context, and the

¹ Can be downloaded her: <https://pro.drc.ngo/media/nyfmxa5/op%C3%A9rationnalisation-des-analyses-sensibles-aux-conflits.pdf>

underlying cleavages, expose them to a variety of risks, despite their compliance with humanitarian principles. This is why it is essential to understand that aid delivered in a conflict affected environment is not neutral. Aid itself, as well as the way it is delivered, can aggravate tensions or promote peace between communities in conflict.

How to implement conflict sensitivity

Applying a conflict-sensitive approach involves:

- Understanding the context - to have a thorough understanding of the dynamics of peace and conflict in the project's areas of operation.
- Use conflict analysis - to determine what will be monitored and evaluated during the project lifecycle, and how this will be done.
- Use the findings of the conflict analysis - to adapt the implementation approach of an ongoing project, if necessary, or to inform the design of a new project.

By prioritising the principles of doing no harm, understanding local contexts, fostering local capacities, and promoting inclusivity, stakeholders can work towards a more stable and resilient Sahel, where communities thrive and conflicts are effectively managed. This approach acknowledges the agency and resilience of the people of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso in shaping their own futures, and it lays the foundation for a more peaceful and prosperous region.

Our ability to implement conflict sensitivity in every aspect of the RECOLG project is one of the main reasons why our work has had such a strong impact despite the difficult circumstances. And since 2019 we have helped and supported more than 750,000 people in the Central Sahel with social protection, development and job creation and peace building. However the need is much greater and unfortunately our programme expires at the end of the year.

That's why the partner organisations in the consortium are actively fundraising for a new multi-annual phase of the RECOLG project building on lessons learned and adjusting the programming to the ever-changing context in the Central Sahel

About RECOLG

With funding (18.24 million euros) from the EUTF and DANIDA, we are implementing a Humanitarian, Development & Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus) project in the region of the Liptako-Gourma in the Central Sahel over a period of four years (December 2019 – December 2023) targeting 768,719 beneficiaries. The project prevents the most vulnerable and poor people, especially children and women, from extreme poverty, hunger and improves their livelihood

and social cohesion. The project addresses humanitarian needs through social protection with cash transfers and health and nutrition services, including mental health and psychosocial support; development through the creation of youth and women's loan and saving groups; and peace through conflict prevention, mitigation and activities aiming at improving the relations between the population and representatives of the state authorities. Overall, the project aims at building resilience and social cohesion.

Sahel Gorom-Gorom, RECOLG Project: Training AVEC groups in entrepreneurship, development support and implementation of IGA business plans

Published in August 2021 on [Civitac.org](https://civitac.org)

On Tuesday 03 and Wednesday 04 August 2021, a training session for AVEC (Association Villageoise d'Epargne et de Cr dit) groups was held in the meeting room of the GOROM town hall. Savings groups are small community-based groups that offer their members a safe space to save, obtain small loans and make investments in entrepreneurship and support the development and implementation of business plans around IGAs. This training is part of the RECOLG project (Resilience and social cohesion of cross-border communities in Liptako-Gourma).

A total of 44 participants, including 32 from Gorom and 12 from Markoye, took part in the training. This action is taking place against a backdrop of armed conflict and climate change, causing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Sahel, particularly in Liptako-Gourma, where people are experiencing the disastrous consequences, affecting their resilience on a daily basis. Within the consortium, CARE International is responsible for Outcome 3 with its local partners CRUS and RBM in Burkina Faso. Their objective is to preserve and promote livelihoods among very poor households benefiting from a multi-sectoral package. The NGO CRUS is in charge of this project in Gorom.

The training was provided by technicians from the Direction R gionale de la Jeunesse et de la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat des Jeunes techniques du Sahel, with the support of the RECOLG project's Economic Development and IGA Technical Manager. After the training, the facilitators and village agents will support the AVEC groups in implementing their micro-projects, as well as the Resilience and Social Cohesion of the Liptako-Gourma cross-border communities project.

The training was participative, taking into account the profile of the learners and their knowledge, which was revealed through a brainstorming session, carefully administered with respect for their traditional practices. This methodology prioritises the exchange of ideas through experience games, practical case studies, comparative studies and the analysis of

solutions. It is designed to be flexible and progressive. For this training, the modules are illustrated using picture boxes. This enabled the trainers to use them and play the role of facilitator. Concrete exercises were also carried out with the participants, from the gestation of the business idea to the design of the micro-projects.

The training was conducted in the local language and a number of techniques were used: short presentations, brainstorming, exchanges of experience, group work and simulations to test the rudiments acquired by the participants. The training lasted 02 days and consisted of reinforcing the skills of the participants in general entrepreneurship and the analysis of sectors and the development of business plans.

"The aim was to build participants' skills in setting up and managing a micro or small business, marketing using the 7Ps (Product, Price, Place, Personnel, Process and Physical Evidence) and simplified management tools. Although some beneficiaries are already involved in income-generating activities, we believe that they should first be given the module on how to come up with a business idea based on the business opportunities that will present themselves, followed by the module on how to set up a business, which will lead to the drafting of micro-projects. These two modules will enable the beneficiaries to project themselves in an entrepreneurial spirit", concluded the RECOLG project managers.

At the end of the training, the participants said they were satisfied because the initiators had taken into account the language they understand. They thanked the project and said they were well equipped to meet the challenges ahead.

Dori: Around sixty vulnerable people benefit from goats and sheep

Published in November 2021 on [Lefaso.net](https://lefaso.net)

The Conseil régional des unions du Sahel (CRUS) organised a ceremony to hand over goats and sheep on 17 November in Dori. The ceremony was attended by provincial authorities, including the prefect of the Dori department. Sixty vulnerable people each received vaccinated goats and sheep, as well as cattle feed. The ceremony was part of the RECOLG project: Resilience and Social Cohesion of Border Communities in Liptako Gourma.

In the Sahel region, the security situation and climate change have triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with local people directly affected by the consequences. A consortium of NGOs, including the Conseil régional des unions du sahel, SCI BF, CARE Internationale, DRC and RBM, is therefore implementing the RECOLG project: "resilience and social cohesion of border communities in Liptako Gourma". The aim is to improve people's living conditions

and their resilience in the face of food and nutritional insecurity in the 12 communes of Oudalan and Séno in Liptako Gourma.

The project, which is funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen the livelihoods of agricultural and pastoral populations. This action is aimed directly at beneficiaries from the groups most vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity: very poor households, children under the age of five, pregnant or breast-feeding women, young people aged between 6 and 30, etc.

With this in mind, the ceremony in Dori on 17 November 2021 saw the handover of goats and sheep as well as cattle feed to around sixty vulnerable people in the commune of Dori.

Anata Mamoudi Dicko, one of the beneficiaries, thanked CRUS and its partners for the four goats and the cattle feed she had received, and said that Burkina Faso would be a better place to live if all vulnerable people could benefit.

The prefect of the Dori department, Noufo Ouattara, agrees. In his view, CRUS's initiative is a lifesaver, because it will enable vulnerable people to feel involved.

According to Boubacar Cissé, coordinator of the Conseil régional des unions du Sahel, this donation for vulnerable people is a response to the difficult conditions faced by the people of Burkina Faso, particularly those of the Sahel region.

In his view, the initiative is helping to build the resilience of the affected populations. He explains that CRUS is providing this support by helping to rebuild livestock stocks and to carry out agricultural activities, through income-generating activities, and so on. According to him, 1,650 people will benefit from the support of CRUS and its partners through the RECOLG project in the two provinces of Séno and Oudalan.

Around 250 internally displaced people will also benefit. According to Boubacar Cissé, the project will run for four years, with a budget of at least 1 billion CFA francs. Mr Cissé called on the beneficiaries to be resilient and more responsible. He also appealed to the government, which he thanked for its efforts, because the Sahel region is in the eye of a cyclone this year. According to him, in addition to the security situation, the Sahel region has suffered a shortage of rainfall this year. All of which is going to make life even more difficult in this part of Burkina. On top of that, bush fires are rife. If nothing is done by the government to help the people of the Sahel, they will be exposed to a number of evils, warns Mr Cissé.

VISIBILITY

Regular mentions of the project have been made on websites and social media. Here are some examples:

- SC Burkina Faso own website [here](#)
- SC Burkina Faso Facebook site [here](#)
- SC Mali Facebook site [here](#)
- SC Mali X site [here](#)
- SC Mali LinkedIn site [here](#)
- Care Mali Facebook site [here](#)
- Care Mali Facebook site [here](#)
- SC Niger Facebook site [here](#)
- SC Niger X site [here](#)
- SC Europe Facebook site [here](#)
- CRUS Sahel Facebook site [here](#)
- JUDD Facebook site [here](#)
- DRC West Africa, Sahel & North Africa X site [here](#)
- DRC Denmark LinkedIn site [here](#)
- ONG Karkara Facebook site [here](#)
- RBM Maroobé Facebook site [here](#)
- BRM Maroobé X site [here](#)
- BRM Maroobé Instagram [here](#)
- BRM Maroobé LinkedIn site [here](#)
- BRM Maroobé Own website [here](#)
- Tassaght Facebook site [here](#)
- Tassaght X site [here](#)
- DRAH Sahel Facebook [here](#)



Des champs-école pour adopter des stratégies de résilience et non de survie
A travers des activités champs-école, le projet RECOLG participe à la réponse au changement climatique en enseignant de nouvelles pratiques agricoles aux communautés, afin de renforcer leur résilience et leurs capacités de production durant les périodes de soudure où les terres sont souvent laissées en friche.

Pour Adamou, membre d'une communauté vivant dans la zone sahélienne transfrontalière du Liptako-Gourma, la récolte de cette année ne serait pas possible sans le soutien du projet RECOLG. « Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers RECOLG car nous bénéficions déjà d'un soutien matériel, financier, médical, et maintenant l'expertise agricole qu'ils fournissent nous permet d'utiliser nos terres quand nous le voulons », témoigne-t-il.

Grâce à un financement de l'UE et de DANIDA, le projet RECOLG (Résilience et cohésion sociale des communautés transfrontalières du Liptako-Gourma) soutient des milliers de communautés touchées par le changement climatique et l'insécurité dans la zone transfrontalière sahélienne du Liptako-Gourma (Mali-Niger-Burkina).
#redbarnetdk, #InternationalPartnerships, #EuropeanCommission
#RECOLG #AfricaTrustFund, #EU, #UE, #COP26 #COP26Glasgow #ClimateTalks



#AdaptationAuxChangementsClimatiques
#SécuritéAlimentaireNutritionnelle #ApprochesInnovantes #Projet_RECOLG
#NOVO_NORDISK

Temps forts de la formation des acteurs à la base (Maçons locaux des communes de Tin Hama et Ouatagouna) à Gao sur le maraîchage hors sol initiée par CARE en partenariat avec le service technique de l'Agriculture.

Le maraîchage hors sol vise à aider les ménages vulnérables à faire face aux contraintes d'accès aux terres fertiles, aux légumes et à une eau en quantité pour l'irrigation.

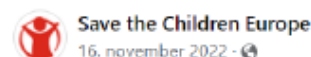
La disponibilité de compétences locales pour appuyer les femmes vise à renforcer l'appropriation et l'utilisation à large échelle de cette approche pour contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et l'amélioration du pouvoir économique des femmes. Une initiative du Projet RECOLG (Résilience et cohésion sociale des Communautés Transfrontalières du Liptako-Gourma) avec l'appui de CARE Danmark (Fonds Novo Nordisk) additionnel à RECOLG.
#Consortium Save the Children au Mali, CARE/DRC, Tassaght/RBM au Mali.



Projet RECOLG : Formation des agents techniques d'Agriculture de la DRAAH/SHL et des animateurs du projet RECOLG sur les fondamentaux de l'approche CEP

Le mercredi 24 juin 2020, M. Inoussa WAONGO, Directeur Régional en charge de l'Agriculture au Sahel a présidé l'ouverture de la session de formation des agents techniques de la DRAAH/SAHEL et des animateurs du Projet « Résilience et Cohésion Sociale des Communautés Transfrontalières du Liptako Gourma » (RECOLG) sur les fondamentaux de l'approche CEP. Durant 72 heures les capacités des participants ont été renforcées sur les principes de mise en place et la conduite d'un CEP.

Nous rappelons que le Projet RECOLG est un Projet de l'ONG CARE INTERNATIONAL Niger/Burkina qui vise l'amélioration des conditions de vie, la résilience à l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et la cohésion sociale des populations vulnérables dans 12 communes de Liptako-Gourma dont cinq (05) au Burkina Faso (Dori, Gorom-gorom, Falagountou, Markoye et Seytenga).
Bon vent au Projet RECOLG dans la Région du Sahel !

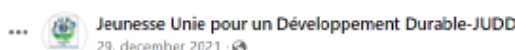


Undernutrition is one of the biggest killers of young children around the world 6 million children are expected to be acutely malnourished across Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Children's futures are at grave risk in this crisis.

But with funding from European Commission, we have ensured that 35.000 children and their families receive food assistance covering their daily nutrition needs, while further 90.000 children have been vaccinated and 70.000 have received mobile health services

Children deserve a healthy start to life

Happy #ChildHealthWeek! #RECOLG

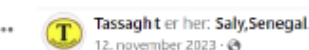


Des champs-école pour adopter des stratégies de résilience et non de survie

A travers des activités champs-école, le projet RECOLG participe à la réponse au changement climatique en enseignant de nouvelles pratiques agricoles aux communautés, afin de renforcer leur résilience et leurs capacités de production durant les périodes de soudure où les terres sont souvent laissées en friche.

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#redbarnetdk, #InternationalPartnerships, #EuropeanCommission
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Du 06 au 10 novembre 2023, s'est tenu à Saly au Sénégal l'atelier bilan du projet: « Résilience et Cohésion Sociale des communautés Transfrontalière de Liptako Gourma » (#RECOLG).

Cet atelier bilan et d'apprentissage vise essentiellement à apporter un regard critique sur les approches de mise en œuvre conformément aux résultats atteints sur les 4 années, mais également de réfléchir sur les défis/perspectives du projet.

Il a regroupé tous les membres du consortium à savoir : Save the Children US, @CARE, Danish Refugee Council, RBM Réseau Billital Marrobbé, #TASSAGHT, #CRUS, #AREN, #KARKARA ainsi que les membres de l'inter consortia du Mali et du Niger et la représentante de #SCD.

Le projet #RECOLG est mis en œuvre dans les Communes transfrontalières du Burkina Faso, Mali et Niger de 2020 à 2023 sur un financement de @l'Union Européenne et @Danida.



Atelier bilan des Champs Ecoles Paysans(CEP) et de mission conjointe de suivi de CEP en cours (Maraîchage, Pisciculture, Aviculture).

Cette activité intervient dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des activités du projet #RECOLG notamment le Résultat 3: «Préservation et promotion des moyens d'existence auprès des ménages TP bénéficiaires d'un paquet multi sectoriel » dans les Communes de: #Ouattagouna, #Tin_hama et #Ansongo, région de #Gao.

Le projet #RECOLG II est exécuté par le consortium Save the Children au Mali, #TASSAGHT, Danish Refugee Council, CARE MALI et le RBM Réseau Billital Marrobbé sur financement de L'Union européenne au Mali en partenariat avec Danida.

Save the Children US European Union
#tassaght #savethechildren #ue #care #drc #RBM
@drcwestafrica

(1/2) L'atelier bilan de l'an 2 du projet #RECOLG, qui vise à renforcer la résilience et cohésion sociale des communautés transfrontalières du #LiptakoGourma, soutenu par @EU_Commission et @DanishMFA s'est tenu en février à Niamey #Niger.

VIDEOS

Long videos up to 4 minutes²

- Save the Children, Testimonies of community needs: <https://we.tl/t-qYZ8GG6XL2>
- Save the Children, Flour making: <https://we.tl/t-blM29Ho7dN>
- Save the Children, Small livestock breeding: <https://we.tl/t-ltVwiTTJ5U>
- Care, Restocking livestock and dairy cows: <https://we.tl/t-pzjZfg6JxA>
- Care, The PACA: <https://we.tl/t-pkShO1XFnS>
- Care, MMD groups: <https://we.tl/t-s1J88Oufal>
- Care, Field schools: <https://we.tl/t-SnJgc7IDWE>
- DRC, Building social cohesion: <https://we.tl/t-rzAkKzDuiU>

Themed videos and portraits of up to 1.30 minutes³

- Save the Children, Testimony of a young girl: <https://we.tl/t-yv26G5Lfbh>
- Save the Children, Activities for pregnant and lactating women: <https://we.tl/t-Ll5fq6ltvR>
- Save the Children, Testimony by Daibate Hadjata: <https://we.tl/t-oDCGhOqhwH>
- Save the Children, Small ruminant animals (goats): <https://we.tl/t-jCZbzNMRf3>
- DRC, Fostering social cohesion through dialogues: <https://we.tl/t-iR3neaU4Pi>

PHOTOS

For access to photo bank of 600 photos, click [here](#)⁴:

² The transfer links expires in 7 days, please contact Ariane Rosenbeck at arro@redbarnet for a new link

³ The transfer links expires in 7 days, please contact Ariane Rosenbeck at arro@redbarnet for a new link

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A mother and her child, both beneficiaries of the programme - Burkina Faso



A female beneficiary contributes to a sustainable future through agro-pastoral livelihood activities - Mali



Beneficiaries engaged in a training lesson - Mali



Communities come together to form a resilient network for sustained positive transformations - Mali



With program support, this man plays a role in delivering vital services to the community – Mali



Female beneficiaries cultivating change through agro-pastoral livelihoods activities - Mali



Indigenous facilitator of the RECOLG project - Burkina Faso



Fishing plays a crucial role for some beneficiaries, providing both income and a source of sustenance - Mali



Leaders engage with the community to ensure inclusive decision-making – Mali



Livestock distribution has been instrumental in building resilience for this female beneficiary - Mali



These female beneficiaries work hand in hand, creating a powerful force for positive change - Mali



Training session with the RECOLG team leader – Burkina Faso



This man has participated in lessons on how to engage with his child – Mali



Cash for work for households most vulnerable to the crisis – Niger

