USAID Implementing partners during a collaboration marketplace session in Burkina Faso. Photo: SCC, 2021

NIGER – BURKINA FASO

SAHEL COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

The Sahel is a very complex region with increasing socio-political instability and diverse environmental shocks and stresses. Disproportionately affected by high levels of poverty, food insecurity and security threats, the Sahel also has the fastest growing population in the world.

USAID, through its resilience, food security, health, economic growth and social cohesion portfolio, is working with the governments of Burkina Faso and Niger to help their citizens adapt to these shocks and break the cycle of poverty. Building on the lessons from prior investments in the Sahel, USAID promotes intentional sequencing, layering and integrating of activities in its portfolio and more rapid adaptation to emerging shocks and stresses to sustain development gains. Given the unique complexities of this region and the USAID portfolio, the Sahel Collaboration and Communication (SCC) activity supports collaboration, learning, and effective adaptive management among USAID's implementing partners to strengthen their collective action toward increased resilience.

SCC is implemented by Mercy Corps, in collaboration with Equal Access International and Tulane University, with support from the Center for Democratic Governance in Burkina Faso (CGD). This

project also fosters collaboration, learning, and adaptation among USAID implementing partners, civil society organizations, national governments, and research institutes.

OUTCOMES

While ensuring continuous collaboration with these different actors, the activity focuses on three main outcomes:
1. Enhanced collaboration for collective impact,
2. Improved learning and adaptive management, and
3. Increased awareness of USAID's contributions among key audiences.

METHODS

The SCC activity uses innovative user-friendly tools to facilitate the collection and transmission of information and learning. These include: workshops, mapping, learning and collaboration working groups, knowledge management platforms, and communication campaigns that are accessible and adapted to the local context. These methods help to increase knowledge of approaches and tools for collaboration, learning, and adaptation among different implementing actors, identify practices that can improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, improve coordination in areas of shared geographic interventions, and provide sustainable and integrated solutions for the benefit of populations.

APPROACHES

The Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation (CLA) approach enables USAID implementing partners, civil society, government partners, and research institutions to jointly understand and prioritize development actions and continuously adjust them based on real-time research and results. The Sahel Collaboration and Communication activity thus emphasizes collaboration, learning and adaptation as key resilience practices to drive better programing. This approach facilitates the sharing of tools, lessons, and resources among USAID implementing partners and governments partners through the easy and practical use of technology to access and collect information. It also supports knowledge management, effective collaboration, and communication strategies (workshops, working groups, messaging and communication platforms) and the use of data to facilitate and inform decision-making.

SECTORS

Collaboration, communication, knowledge management and learning around resilience, including food security, value chains, agriculture, water security, livestock, gender and youth, conflict and peace, livelihoods, sanitation and nutrition.

BUDGET: USD $16 000 000

DURATION : 5 years (2019-2024)

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:
- Niger (Maradi, Zinder, Tillabéry & Niamey)
- Burkina Faso (Centre Nord, Sahel, Est & Centre)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS :
Mercy Corps – Equal Access International – Tulane University – Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (CGD)

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