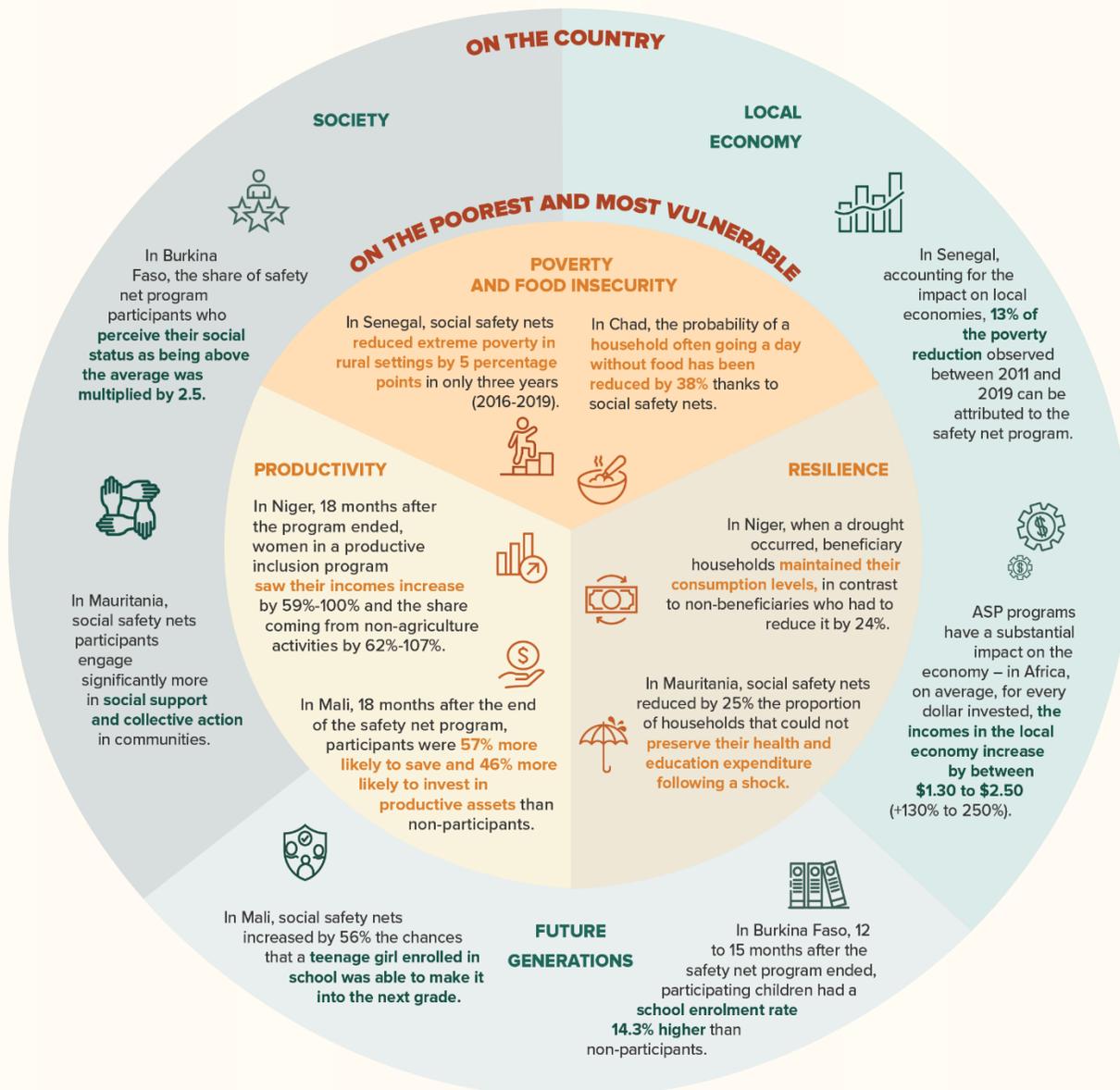


MAPPING IMPACT IN MALI:

Country-Level Impact of Adaptive Protection Programs in the Sahel

EVIDENCE FROM THE REGION

In the Sahel, Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is a set of social protection policies, systems, and programs that promote human capital, productivity, and resilience of the poorest and strengthen their capacity to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to shocks. Through the delivery of regular social safety nets, economic inclusion interventions, and shock-responsive programs, ASP has demonstrated strong positive impacts on various dimensions in the Sahel. For the poorest and most vulnerable, it has resulted in improvements in household welfare and food security, productivity, and resilience. More broadly, it has shown significant positive impacts on the economy, society, and future generations.¹



¹ Infographic on Impacts of Adaptive Social Protection in the Sahel – Evidence from rigorous impact evaluations of social safety nets, productive inclusion, shock response and other social protection program. More details on: www.worldbank.org/saspp

MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE FROM MALI

In 2014, the Government of Mali started the implementation of the *Jigisémèjiri* social safety net program (see box 1). By 2023, it had directly benefitted 576,907 people, almost half of them women.

The program’s objectives were to reduce poverty and improve human capital accumulation through targeted monetary transfers, accompanying measures with preventive nutrition packages, and economic inclusion programs.

This document summarizes key impacts of social safety nets in Mali. These results shed light on how safety nets can improve the living conditions of Malian populations and support human capital accumulation.

Overall, the combination of cash transfers and accompanying measures led to significant improvements in households’ food security, poverty, savings and asset base, human capital, and household dynamics.

Box 1. *Jigisémèjiri* Social Safety Net

Monetary transfers



The program provided quarterly monetary transfers of FCFA 15,000 (~US\$24) for a period of 36 months to over 100,000 beneficiary households, offering predictable and timely support to increase their consumption and investments, and protect their productive assets.

Accompanying measures for human capital



Alongside monetary transfers, accompanying measures were provided, incentivizing participating households to invest in human capital and reduce vulnerability. This entailed 12 information sessions and community campaigns related to health, education, nutrition, family planning, and investments/savings planning. In addition, selected households participated in a pilot offering preventive nutrition packages to children under five and pregnant women.

Economic Inclusion interventions



Two economic inclusion interventions were implemented (but not the subject of impact evaluations). A labor-intensive public works program supported 13,800 poor households in communities vulnerable to shocks by providing short-term employment and building community assets. A productive inclusion program supported 30,000 subsistence or small-scale agriculture workers, poor and vulnerable households, youth at risk, and women. It aimed to increase the productivity and provided mentoring, financial literacy, training, and a productive grant of CFAF 180,000 (US\$300).

#1 | The safety net increased the consumption of poor and vulnerable households and improved their food security.

Households who received monetary transfers along with monthly information sessions experienced a 10-20% overall increase in consumption, compared with those who did not benefit from the intervention. Food remained a priority, accounting for 62% of monetary transfer use, followed by health (11%) and agricultural investments (7%). Beneficiaries also showed an 11% increase in their ability to purchase 50kg or more of cereals. This led to improvements in food security and diet quality, with a reduction by 35% of food insecurity. Overall, 94% of beneficiary households had a food consumption score above 35, 10% higher than non-beneficiary households.

#2 | The safety net program reduced poverty among beneficiaries.

Jigisémèjiri reduced poverty by 7%, equivalent to 5.64 percentage points, among beneficiaries, using the US\$1.9 a day poverty line (the reduction was 5% and 4.65 percentage points when using the national poverty line) over a period of around 2 years. The poverty gap (the distance between actual consumption and the poverty line) decreased by 8%.

#3 | The program enabled households to accumulate more assets and increase their savings, thus boosting their productive capacity.

Beneficiaries increased their savings by 4 percentage points. Similarly, participating households were 46% more likely to invest in productive assets. They increased their investment in small animals (7 percentage points) and large livestock (11 percentage points). Overall, the value of their assets was 23% greater than that of other households, particularly in terms of livestock and transport assets. These findings illustrate how social safety nets can help households build stronger foundations for greater productivity and resilience.

#4 | The preventive nutrition intervention contributed to poor households' investments in future generations by promoting children's health.

The pilot preventive nutrition package achieved a reduction in chronic malnutrition, reflected in the increase of 0.20 on the height-for-age Z score among beneficiary children, though no impacts were observed on stunting. The program also significantly increased the hemoglobin concentration in children, resulting in a 7-percentage point decrease in the prevalence of anemia among beneficiaries. The program positively impacted health and child nutrition knowledge in two key areas of child nutrition: timely introduction of semi-solid foods and achieving a minimally acceptable diet, though it did not change practices significantly.

#5 | The safety net program increased investments in education, especially for girls.

The safety net programs increased the educational outcomes of girls, in particular among younger (ages 6-9) and older girls (ages 15-18), by reducing the time girls spend working on agriculture, domestic work, or self-employment, and by increasing expenditure on school fees, materials, and transport. The program led to a 56 percent increase in the likelihood of adolescents advancing to the next grade, ensuring better educational outcomes. For young girls 6-9 years old, the program has a positive and significant impact on highest grade completed by 0.30 grades.

#6 | Jigisémèjiri improved household dynamics.

Jigisémèjiri improved household dynamics, significantly reducing the prevalence of domestic violence in polygamous households – reducing physical violence by 7 percentage points, emotional violence decreases by 12 percentage points and controlling behaviors by 16 percentage points. This reduction was mostly the result of significant reduction in stress, anxiety, and the number of disputes.

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