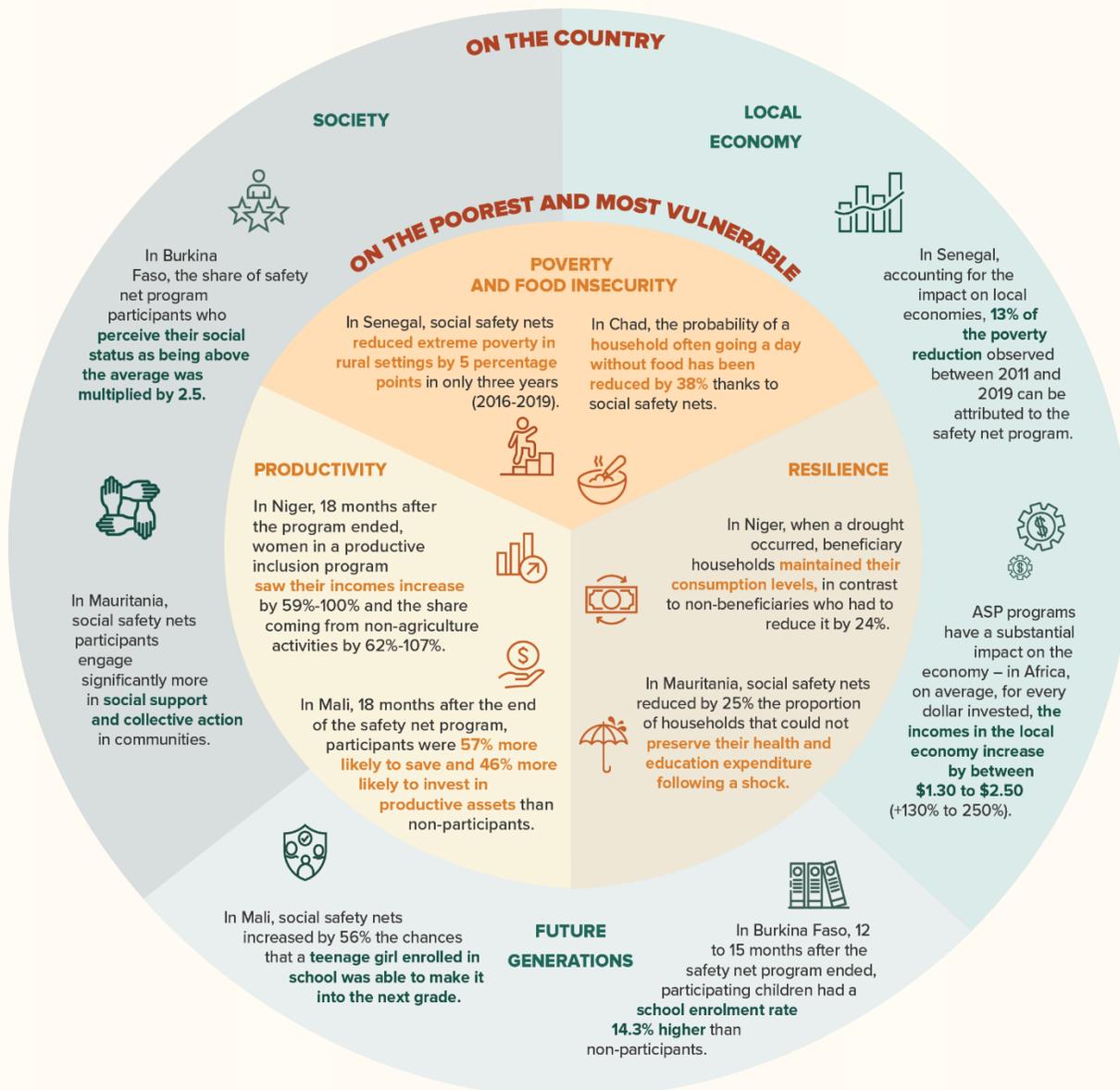


MAPPING IMPACT IN BURKINA FASO:

Country-Level Impact of Adaptive Social 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, productive 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 programs. More details on: www.worldbank.org/saspp

MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE FROM BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso has a long-standing practice of implementing social safety nets (SSN) to protect the consumption of poor and vulnerable households and the human capital of future generations, investing in children's health and education. Over more than a decade, impact evaluations have shown the impacts of these efforts.

A first phase of safety nets in 2008 resulted in positive impacts on children's education and health as well as households' socioeconomic conditions. A second, scaled up as the *Burkin Naong Sa Ya* (PFS-BNS) program, and implemented from 2014 to 2024, improved household income, asset ownership, savings, and child nutrition and educational outcomes of poor and vulnerable people.

Additionally, productive inclusion measures provided under the PFS-BNS boosted incomes and assets of the beneficiaries, most of whom were women, and helped them diversify their livelihoods, thus bridging gender gaps and building resilience to climate shocks.

Box 1. National Programs

First phase of a Social Safety Nets Program



Started in 2008, in southern Burkina Faso, about 2,600 families in 60 villages in *Nahouri* province benefited from safety nets for 2 years. Beneficiaries included families with children under 15 years who were either orphans, living with a person who had HIV, or living below the poverty line. Quarterly monetary transfers of approximately FCFA 3,500 (~US\$7) per month were provided.

Scaled up Social Safety Net – *Burkin Naong Sa Ya*



In 2014, the PFS-BNS was launched on a large scale to protect the consumption of poor households, help build resilience to shocks and climate change and protect the human capital of future generations. For three years, households received monetary transfers of about FCFA 11,700 (around US\$19) per month, equivalent to 20% of their average monthly expenditure. These transfers were distributed quarterly. The program also provided village-level sessions sharing good practices on early childhood nutrition and development. As of 2024, the program covered 1,293,365 direct beneficiaries from poor and vulnerable households. About 54% of the recipients were women.

Productive Inclusion measures



Productive inclusion measures were also provided to 21,265 beneficiaries, almost exclusively women, who were recipients of the PFS-BNS. This package included savings and loan groups, business training and coaching, life skills training, community sessions on social norms, market access, and a lump-sum business grant of FCFA 100,000 (~US\$170).



IMPACT OF SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPANYING HUMAN CAPITAL MEASURES

#1 | Safety nets resulted in poor and vulnerable households increasing their income, which was sustained even after the end of the program.

The evaluation of the PFS-BNS program found that households that received direct transfers along with monthly information sessions on health and nutrition, had higher total income even 16 months after the program, driven by an increase in agricultural income of 15%. Results indicate that beyond using the safety net to meet essential and immediate consumption needs, households were able to boost their productivity and overall income, which can translate into better meeting future essential needs. The program demonstrated a potential for longer-term positive impacts on poor and climate-vulnerable households.

#2 | The program further enabled households to accumulate more assets and savings, thus boosting their future productive capacity, potential for income diversification, and resilience to climate shocks and climate change.

Households' total assets increased by 32% as a result of direct transfers and monthly village information sessions. Only direct transfers (without information sessions) increased participation in savings groups by 134%, household's informal savings by 65%, and animal ownership by 11%. Increased savings and assets boost households' resilience against future shocks by mitigating negative coping strategies such as foregoing essential consumption (food) and reducing investments in human capital (health and education). Accumulated assets and savings position households to invest further in productive activities, diversify their sources of livelihoods, and thus become more resilient to both climate shocks and longer-term climate change that affects traditional agricultural livelihoods.

#3 | Safety nets helped poor households to invest in future generations by protecting the health and education of children, including during shocks.

The first phase of the SSN implemented in 2008 substantially increased school enrolment, school attendance, and grade progression among young children in poor households. The nutrition of children under 5 years improved, particularly during poor harvest years, indicating increased resilience by preventing negative coping strategies. Poor households also increased routine visits to health clinics for children under 5 years and reported fewer illnesses. Similarly, the nationally scaled-up PFS-BNS program continued to demonstrate positive impacts for children. The program improved children's language skills, gross motor skills, and personal social skills. Nutrition of children under 5 years improved, as evidenced by medium-term anthropometric indicators. Among children ages 6 to 15 years, there was a 14.3% increase in school enrollment, 14.9% increase in years of schooling, 14.8% increase in the probability of completing any schooling, and a 16.4% increase in progression to next grade.

#4 | Safety nets improved participants' sense of their social standing.

The first phase of safety nets demonstrated a 2.5-fold increase in beneficiaries' sense of subjective social standing. At baseline, only 3% of beneficiaries felt they were better off than the average citizen of the country. After the program, 7.5% of beneficiaries held this perception. Beyond economic outcomes, the program improved a sense of social standing among the poorest and most vulnerable households.



IMPACT OF PRODUCTIVE INCLUSION MEASURES

#5 | Productive inclusion measures layered on the PFS-BNS safety net boosted young women's income, savings, and future productive capacity.

Despite measures being implemented in the context of COVID-19 and increased insecurity in the regions of program implementation, the program led to substantial improvements in beneficiaries' income, productivity, and savings: increasing non-agricultural annual income of the women beneficiaries by 37% and the number of days they spent on off-farm income generating activities by 75%. The program also increased beneficiaries' agricultural harvest value by 39-43%, depending on the package of benefits provided.

#6 | Productive inclusion measures strongly increased the resilience of women's economic activities to shocks and climate change, despite being implemented in the context of COVID-19 and insecurity.

Through boosting savings by 251%, increasing business assets by 94%, and raising livestock value by 34%, the productive inclusion intervention significantly enhanced women's capacity for future productivity and livelihoods diversification beyond traditional agriculture, building resilience to climate change. Most women continued to participate in savings groups even 12 months after the program ended, fostering a robust informal network of social insurance, and further improving resilience. These gains were achieved amidst COVID-19 and heightened insecurity, underscoring the protective effects even under challenging conditions.

#7 | Beyond income and assets, beneficiaries' social networks and participation in community activities increased, which further boosts both personal wellbeing and resilience.

Program participants reported an increased capacity to mobilize financial support in the case of shocks. They also increased their involvement in local community activities, such as participating in village associations, donating, and volunteering. Further, mental health and expectations for the future improved due to the program. The social and mental health impacts, particularly in the context of insecurity and shocks, highlight the protective effects of the intervention and the enhanced capacity for future resilience.

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Acknowledgements

The [SASPP](#) is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank that supports the strengthening of adaptive social protection systems in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) to enhance the resilience of poor and vulnerable households and communities to the impacts of climate change. The program is supported by Denmark, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

