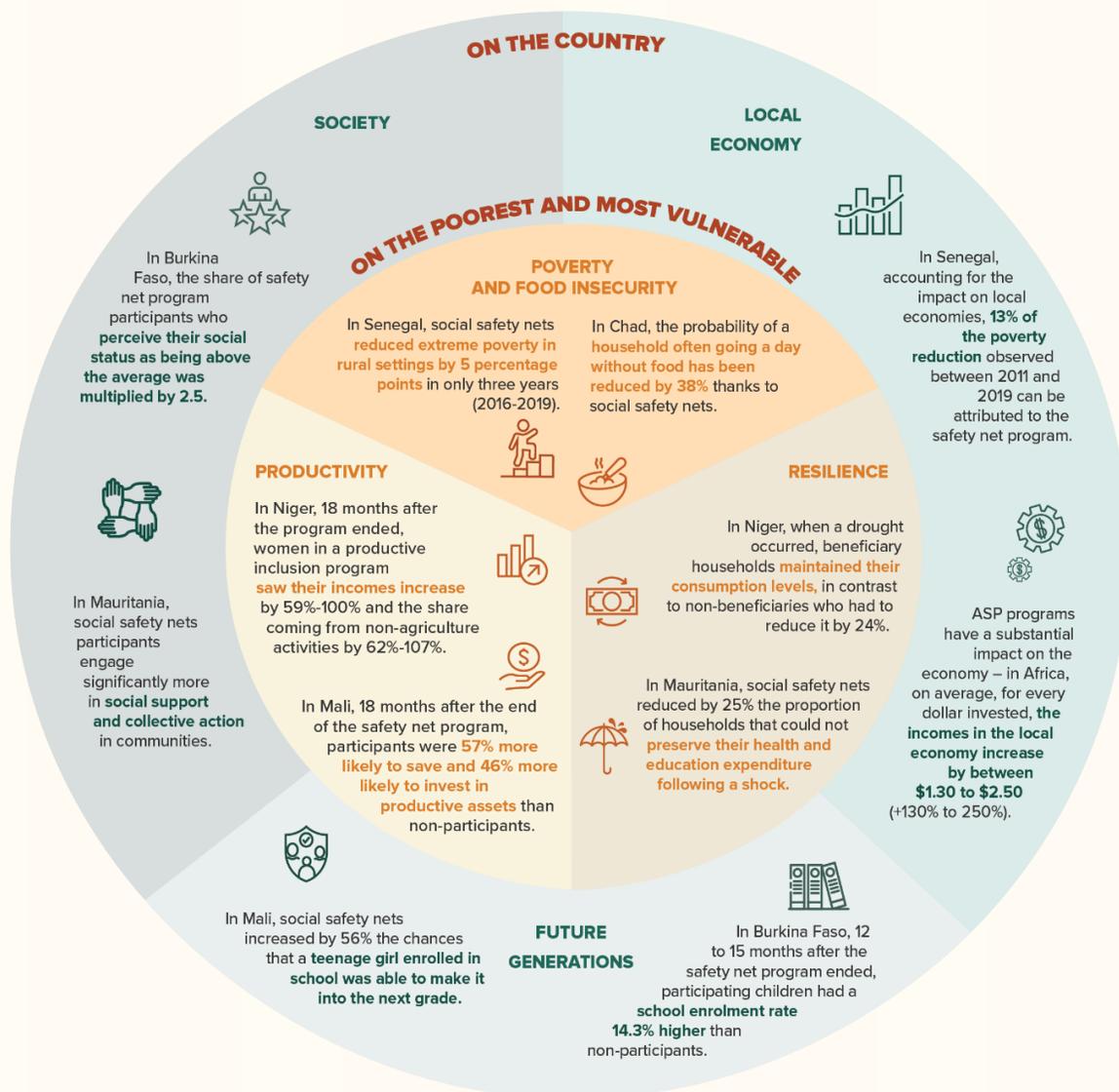


# MAPPING IMPACT IN NIGER:

## 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, economic inclusion interventions, and shock-responsive programs, ASP has demonstrated strong positive impacts on various dimensions of welfare 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.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.worldbank.org/saspp)

## MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE FROM NIGER

Over the last 10 years, impact evaluations have documented how Niger's government-led social protection programs have improved participants' welfare. This includes its safety net program – Wadata Talaka, as well as productive inclusion or shock response interventions.

The programs had large and sustained positive effects on beneficiaries.

This note summarizes evidence on the impacts of various interventions (see Box 1), starting with programs' core objectives of improving resilience, welfare, income-generating activities, and human capital.

### Box 1 | Adaptive Social Protection in Niger

#### Wadata Talaka Safety Net Program



Provided monthly monetary transfers in the amount of FCFA15,000 (around US\$25.5 in 2020) over a period of two years. (This increased from FCFA10,000 at the time of the evaluations - about US\$17 or 15 percent of the poverty line for rural households in 2015). Transfers are targeted to poor households selected based on a proxy-means test, and women are the recipients. The program expanded between 2012 and 2023 to reach approximately 190,000 households (1.65 million individuals).

#### Economic Inclusion Measures



Provided beneficiaries of the Safety Net program with a package of activities and a grant to promote income-generating activities by addressing the constraints faced by the poor (women in particular). It includes micro-entrepreneurship & life skills training, savings groups, coaching, psychological support, and a grant of FCFA 80,000 for start-up or expansion of income-generating activities.

#### Human Capital Measures



Human capital measures were delivered to beneficiaries of Wadata Talaka to promote behavioral changes for early childhood development and nutrition. They reached both safety net beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in targeted villages.

#### Youth Employment and Productive Inclusion Program (PEJIP)



Provided economic inclusion support to rural youth to diversify off-farm activities, increasing earnings, and enhancing ownership of productive assets. Over a period of 9 months, the program provided: sensitization workshops on aspirations and social norms focused on psychosocial constraints to youth, particularly for women; life skills and micro-entrepreneurship training, and capital support, in addition to support to access markets and link with services and coaching.

#### Shock-Response Support



Provided shock-response emergency transfers to 370,000 COVID-affected households (2020), 13,500 flood-affected households (2021), 15,300 and 5,000 drought-affected households (2021/22 and 2022/23). An innovative drought response program was deployed, using satellite data to test the impact of early responses – testing the impact of transfers being made before the lean season (March-June) rather than the traditional transfers between July and September.

## #1 | The regular safety net program improved rural households' welfare and food security.<sup>2</sup>

The program increased household consumption by about 10% on average, reducing the depth of their poverty by 9.4%. Impacts were sustained over time through saving and investments. For instance, 18 months after exiting the safety net, former beneficiaries held more livestock, with the value of livestock higher by 65,000–81,000 FCFA compared to non-participating individuals. Their capacity to save was sustainably increased, with former participants being more likely to be in savings groups (20.7% compared to 10.2% for non-beneficiaries) and saving larger amounts (by 365 to 420 FCFA per month).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Premand and Stoeffler. 2022. [Cash Transfers, climatic shocks, and resilience in the Sahel](#). *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, Vol. (116)

<sup>3</sup> Stoeffler, Quentin; Mill, Brad, and Patrick Premand. 2020. [Poor Households' Productive Investments of Cash Transfers: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Niger](#). *Journal of African Economies* 29(1): 63-89.

## #2 | The safety net program makes households more resilient and help mitigate the effects of climatic shocks.<sup>4</sup>

The safety net program contributed to resilience by helping households diversify and sustain revenues when shocks occurred. The program's impact on consumption is even stronger among households affected by drought shocks. Beneficiaries maintained their consumption, while other households had to reduce consumption by 24%. The program fostered poor households' resilience by facilitating savings and income smoothing in off-farm businesses and agriculture. When rainfalls fell early in the main agricultural season, beneficiaries were able to intensify agricultural production by increasing the number of plots where fertilizers were applied. They were also more likely to keep operating a household enterprise (by 14.8 percentage points) and operated on average 0.30 more such household enterprises than other households exposed to drought.

## #3 | When multi-faceted productive inclusion measures are added to regular safety nets, they induce lasting effects on women participants' livelihoods and income-generating activities.<sup>5,6</sup>

18 months after the end of the program, household consumption improved by 7-15% and food insecurity decreased by 20%. Female participants' total revenues increased by 59-100%, and their revenues from off-farm businesses by 62-107%. These economic impacts were of large magnitude, and in fact were already larger than costs 18 months after the intervention. This made the program very cost-effective, particularly when it included psychosocial interventions, with impacts 2-3 times larger than costs. The productive inclusion measures also improved psychosocial outcomes, such as women participants' mental health and social well-being. This was achieved by fostering not only personal initiatives but also inter-personal relations in a way that leveraged the local culture to boost women's agency.<sup>7</sup>

## #4 | Expanding comprehensive productive inclusion measures to new groups such as youth has demonstrated positive outcomes.

The Youth Employment and Productive Inclusion Program resulted in a 50% increase in income-generating activities among rural youth, a 95% increase in profits, a 30% increase in livestock ownership, and more diversification of activities (including increased diversity of small livestock). Rural households also nearly doubled the level of their contributions to savings groups (180% increase) and saved three times more than non-beneficiaries. Finally, beneficiaries demonstrated improved mental health and a 25% reduction in migration (especially among men).

## #5 | The behavioral change component improved parenting practices related to early childhood nutrition and development, with more limited effects on children's human capital.<sup>8</sup>

Behavioral change promotion improved parenting practices related to nutrition, health, stimulation, and child protection. It improved children's socioemotional development, but not anthropometrics or cognitive development. The monetary transfers themselves improved household outcomes (such as household food security and non-food consumption), while behavioral change promotion induced reallocations from adults toward children (improving food security at the child but not household level). Behavioral change promotion also had positive effects on parenting practices of households not benefitting from the program in targeted villages.

## #6 | Providing early support ahead of the lean season improves households' food security and promotes their psychological well-being.<sup>9</sup>

Compared with a traditional response delivered during the lean season, transfers of similar amounts delivered before the lean season had greater impacts on food security, food consumption, and psychological well-being (after harvest, impacts converge between modalities).

<sup>4</sup> Premand and Stoeffler. 2022

<sup>5</sup> Bossuroy, Thomas; Goldstein, Markus; Karimou, Bassirou; Karlan, Dean; Kazianga, Harounan; Premand, Patrick; Thomas, Catherine C.; Udry, Chris; Parienté, William; Vaillant, Julia and Kelsey A. Wright. 2022. [Tackling psychosocial and capital constraints to alleviate poverty](#). *Nature*

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<sup>8</sup> Premand, Patrick and Oumar Barry. 2022. [Behavioral Change Promotion, Cash Transfers and Early Childhood Development. Experimental Evidence from a Government Program in a Low-income Setting](#). *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 158.

<sup>9</sup> Pople, Ashley; Premand, Patrick, Dercon, Stefan; Vinez, Margaux; Brunelin, Stephanie. 2025. [The earlier the better? Cash Transfers for Drought Response in Niger](#). World Bank Policy Research Working Papers 11138, World Bank

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