

Evidences

Study #2659

Contributing Projects:

- P688 - 4.1.2 Improving Design and Delivery of Social protection for Nutrition and Other Outcomes
- P687 - 4.1.1 Social Protection and Agriculture

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Ready to be reported on

Year: 2018

Title: Improving the design of the Government of Mali's social protection program for achieving better child nutrition

Short outcome/impact statement:

In collaboration with the Government of Mali and the Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement, a team of IFPRI/PIM researchers conducted an impact evaluation of Mali's cash transfer program "Projet Filets Sociaux (Jigisemejiri)". The recommendations of the evaluation have been used by the Government of Mali to improve the impacts of the program on child nutrition starting in 2019.

Outcome story for communications use:

Achieving better child nutrition through the Government of Mali's social protection program: the contribution of PIM

In 2014, with support from the World Bank, the Government of Mali launched the Projet Filets Sociaux (Jigisemejiri), a national program aimed at alleviating vulnerability and poverty through cash transfers, trainings, and distribution of fortified food. The first phase of the program ran from 2014-2018 in six regions (Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Koulikoro, Kayes, Gao) and the District of Bamako. In order to rigorously and independently assess the impacts of the program, the Government of Mali collaborated with the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement to undertake an impact evaluation.

The midline results of the evaluation [1] showed that the program significantly improved household food security, dietary diversity, savings and investments among the beneficiaries, but that it had limited impact on child nutrition - mostly because most of the mothers did not attend the trainings. To address these limitations, the evaluation formulated several recommendations: increase the size and frequency of the cash transfers; target women instead of household heads; increase the participation of mothers in trainings, and use new strategies to improve the effectiveness of trainings in increasing mothers' knowledge about maternal and child health.

The Government of Mali used these recommendations ([2], [3], [4]) in designing the next phase of the program, which begins in 2019 and aims to reach 100,000 beneficiaries by 2022. The size of the cash transfers has increased from 10,000 FCFA/month to 15,000 FCFA/month. The frequency of the distribution has increased from every three months to every two months. The training sessions on maternal and child health now include home visits for more individualized counseling, and new themes on child development and income-generating activities have been included.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : Yes

Policies contribution:

- 92 - Mali's cash transfer program (Filets Sociaux Jigisemejiri) (improved design)

Level of maturity of change reported: Level 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDs:

- Increased access to diverse nutrient-rich foods
- Optimized consumption of diverse nutrient-rich foods

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:

- # of more people, of which 50% are women, meeting minimum dietary energy requirements
- # of people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty

Comment: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- National

Country(ies):

- Mali

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms: <Not Defined>

Contributing Flagships:

- F4: Social Protection for Agriculture and Resilience

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- IRD - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
- The World Bank
- Government of Mali

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

N/A

Innovations: <Not Defined>

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

In 2014, with support from the World Bank, the Government of Mali launched the Projet Filets Sociaux (Jigisemejiri), a national program aimed at alleviating vulnerability and poverty through cash transfers, trainings, and distribution of fortified food. The first phase of the program ran from 2014-2018 in six regions and the District of Bamako. In order to rigorously and independently assess the impacts of the program, the Government of Mali collaborated with the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement to undertake an impact evaluation.

Outputs of the impact evaluation include among others a baseline report describing the characteristics of program beneficiaries before the program, a midline report describing the impacts of the program after 2 years of implementation, and a workshop where the midline findings were presented to the Government of Mali and other stakeholders in Bamako.

The midline report [1] showed that the program significantly improved household food security, dietary diversity, savings and investments among the beneficiaries, but that it had limited impact on child nutrition - mostly because most of the mothers did not attend the trainings. To address these limitations, the evaluation formulated several recommendations: increase the size and frequency of the cash transfers; target women instead of household heads; increase the participation of mothers in trainings, and use new strategies to improve the effectiveness of trainings in increasing mothers' knowledge about maternal and child health.

The Government of Mali used these recommendations in designing the next phase of the program, which begins in 2019 and aims to reach 100,000 beneficiaries by 2022. The size of the cash transfers has increased from 10,000 FCFA/month to 15,000 FCFA/month. The frequency of the distribution has increased from every three months to every two months. The training sessions on maternal and child health now include home visits for more individualized counseling, and new themes on child development and income-generating activities have been included.

The PIM recommendations are included in the 2017 annual report of the Jigisemejiri program [2]. The World Bank Implementation Status & Results Report [3] mentions the impact evaluation report as the rationale for modifying the design of the trainings. In an email to the IFPRI Principal Investigator dated November 2018, Mahamoud Ali Sako (Government of Mali staff) acknowledges the use of the evaluation findings and recommendations in the design of the second phase of the program [4].

References cited:

[1] "Filets Sociaux (Jigisémèjiri) program midline report" (IFPRI): <https://tinyurl.com/sz9m6et>

[2] 2017 annual report of the Jigisemejiri program, which includes the PIM recommendations: https://www.dropbox.com/s/4wa6l34cv66l2eg/rapport_annuel_2017.pdf?dl=0

[3] World Bank Implementation Status & Results Report: <https://tinyurl.com/yft2ekn5>

[4] Email sent by Mahamoud Ali Sako (Government of Mali) to Melissa Hidrobo (Research Fellow, IFPRI) on November 21, 2018, stating that recommendations of the midline report have been used to modify the design features of Jigisemejiri's cash transfers and accompanying measures

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: The midline report recommended changes in the design of the accompanying measures to improve the knowledge and practices of women related to child health, nutrition, and development. References 1 and 2 above attribute changes in the implementation of these accompanying measures to the recommendations made in the midline report.

Cash transfers and accompanying measures have been found to reduce intimate partner violence in polygamous households, with evidence suggesting that this occurred through improvements in men's emotional well-being due to reduced poverty. The increases in amount and frequency of cash transfers in the next phase are expected to strengthen these impacts.

Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: The midline report and dissemination workshop focused on communicating the impact evaluation findings to the Government of Mali to inform decision making.

Climate Change relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Other cross-cutting dimensions: No

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #2659](#)

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