



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Impact study of the integrated project destined to strengthen the resilience of rural communities in Kita and Timbuktu circles in MALI

Study period: 2019

Funded by:

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA

May 2019

1. CONTRACTUAL DETAILS FOR THE STUDY

1.1. Key dates

Starting date	11 June 2019
Forecasted end date	11 August 2019

1.2. Work language

To carry out the study	French and Local languages
Langue du rapport	French and « executive summary » in English

1.3. Steering Committee for the study

This study will be carried out by an external entity under the management and coordination of Action Against Hunger in Mali and in a close coordination with the Headquarters in Spain and United Kingdom. The steering committee will be set up in order to:

- Launch and oversee the study, ensuring that all the required information, documents and data are collected and collated.
- Validate the methodology and timeframe of the study.
- Support the logistics for the study to ensure that it is undertaken within the required time (transportation, accommodation)
- Review the reports produced throughout the evaluation period
- Organize workshops for disseminating the main results and highlights emerging from the study to different stakeholders.
- Validate and sign off the final version of the reports.

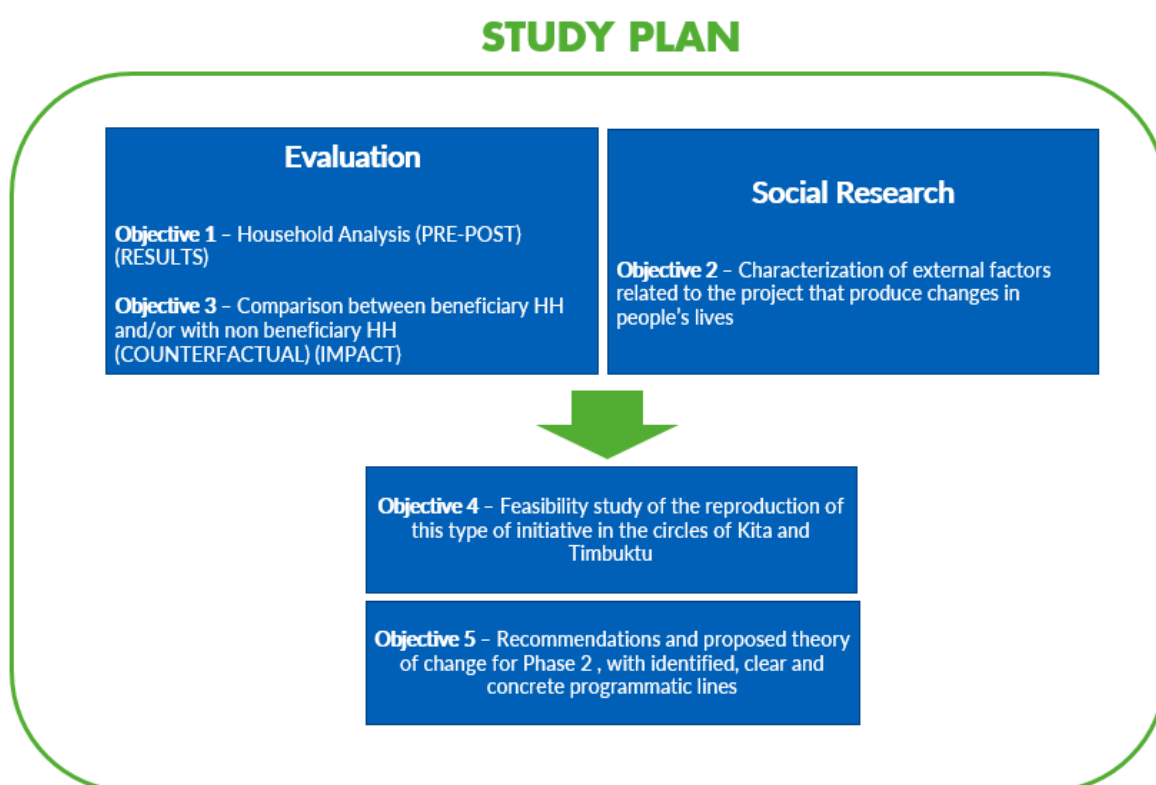
Action Against Hunger, represented by a Steering Committee, will be responsible for overall management of this assignment and will ensure that the selected organization is facilitated through provision of logistics and access to relevant documentation. This will ensure that the study is delivered within the required time, allocated budget and according to requirements of this ToR.

2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to draw the main lessons from the implementation of the project and to formulate practical recommendations highlighting good practices that can be replicated.

The logic to be followed by this study is shown on the following diagram:



The main objectives of the study and a list of **non-exhaustive** questions to be answered by the study are as follows (for more information you can go to annex 2):

Whenever relevant, the following objectives and questions will be responded and explored following a gender approach, caring also for socially excluded groups and/or people.

1) Analyze the evolution of the situation of beneficiary households during the project period compared to their previous situation. (RESULTS ANALYSIS)

- 1.a.1) Are there observable changes in the socio-economic conditions of beneficiary households?
 - Analyze the evolution or not of the socio-economic situation of households during the project period, compared to their pre-project situation; our objective is to know if they have changed socio-economic status (very poor / mediocre / average / rich), stagnant or deteriorating (emphasis on the impact of the interventions on the barriers identified during the study of the NCA)

- 1.a.2) Has the food security of beneficiary households improved?
- 1.a.3) Is the perception of beneficiary households positive about the achievement of output 2 and 3?
- 1.a.4) The nutritional situation of beneficiaries has improved?
- 1.a.5) Were the processes implemented by the project effective, efficient and relevant (based on DAC criteria : Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability ¹)?
- 1.a.6) The resilience of beneficiary households has improved? (With the PRAM tool used at the beginning of the project to measure the resilience level of households)
- 1.a.7) Is the improvement of the resilience of beneficiary households sustainable?

2) Characterize external and positive (activating) and negative (inhibitory) factors that influenced household trajectory during the project period (SOCIAL RESEARCH)

- 2.b.1) What are the observable changes in terms of the living conditions of the beneficiaries?
- 2.b.2) What mechanisms have allowed the situation of beneficiary households to evolve during the program? (Influence of the intervention on the barriers identified by the Link NCA study)
- 2.b.3) What are the changes perceived by communities (beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) in the behaviour of beneficiary households produced by the project?
- 2.b.4) What are the techniques implemented by the beneficiary community to improve its resilience?
- 2.b.5) What factors have improved the socio-economic situation of beneficiary households?
- 2.b.6) What are the factors of improvement of the socio-economic situation which imply an improvement of the food and nutritional security of the beneficiaries?
- 2.b.7) What is the beneficiaries' perception of the cross-cutting aspects of the project?
- 2.b.8) What are the limitations of the processes implemented in the project compared to the project's theory of change?

3) Compare the evolution of the situation of beneficiary households during the project period compared to non-beneficiaries OR compare the evolution of the situation of beneficiary households between themselves according to activities packages of the project (to be further defined by the study methodology) (IMPACT ANALYSIS)

- 3.a.1.1) Has the socio-economic situation of beneficiary households of the project improved more than that of non-beneficiary households?
- 3.a.2.1) How much of this socio-economic improvement can be attributed to the project?
- 3.a.3.1) Has the food security of beneficiary households improved compared to other non-beneficiary households?
- 3.a.4.1) How much of the improvement in food security can be attributed to the project?
- 3.a.5.1) Does the community (beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) perceive changes in the behaviour produced by the project with regard to outputs 2 and 3?
- 3.a.6.1) Has the nutritional status (nutritional security) of the beneficiaries improved compared to that of the non-beneficiaries?
- 3.a.7.1) How much of this nutritional improvement (nutritional security) can be attributed to the project?
- 3.a.8.1) Has the resilience of the beneficiaries improved compared to that of the non-beneficiaries?
- 3.a.9.1) How much have the different response to emergencies in Timbuktu and Taoudénit regions have impacted the resilience level of the beneficiaries of the project? Also compared to non-beneficiary population in the same regions?

OR

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

- 3.a.1.2) Has the socio-economic situation of beneficiary households of specific activities packages of the project improved more than that other beneficiary households of other specific activities packages?
- 3.a.2.2) How much of this socio-economic improvement can be attributed to one or other activities package of the project?
- 3.a.3.2) Has the food security of beneficiary households improved differently between beneficiary households of different activities packages?
- 3.a.4.2) How much of the improvement in food security can be attributed to one or other activities package of the project?
- 3.a.5.2) Does the community (beneficiaries from one or other activities packages) perceive changes in the behaviour produced by the project with regard to outputs 2 and 3?
- 3.a.6.2) Has the nutritional status (nutritional security) of the beneficiaries improved differently between beneficiary households of different activities packages?
- 3.a.7.2) How much of this nutritional improvement (nutritional security) can be attributed to one or other activities packages of the project?
- 3.a.8.2) Has the resilience of the beneficiaries improved differently between beneficiary households of different activities packages?
- 3.a.9.2) Are the different response to emergencies in Timbuktu and Taoudénit regions have impacted the resilience level of the beneficiaries of the project? Also compared between beneficiary households of different activities packages?

4) Feasibility study of the reproduction of this type of initiative in the circles of Kita and Timbuktu

- Analyze as well the viability / sustainability (OECD DAC criteria) of the project : Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability.

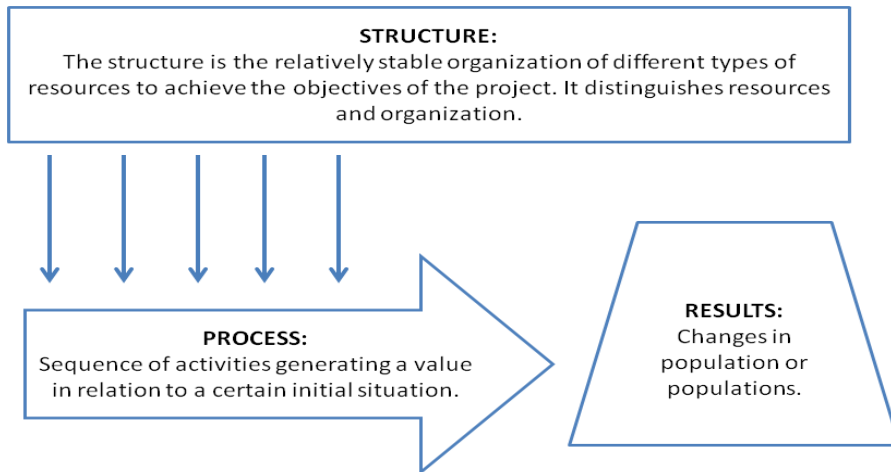
5) Recommendations and proposed theory of change for future resilience programs in these areas, and possible Phase 2 of the project, with identified, clear and concrete programmatic lines taking into account the Nexus approach.

To do this, a methodology will be developed, taking into account the following activities:

- 1) Confirm the theory of change of the project and/or elaborate another framework that represents the impact pathways sought by the project.
- 2) Check the consistency and relevance of data collected to date around this theory of change (baseline, participatory surveys, CAP surveys, surveillance system, PRAM, etc.).
- 3) Reinforce the systemic approach by creating a logic model with the components of the structure, processes and results. This logic model will help create the analytical model that responds to the project's theory of change. The theory of change needs to be reviewed to reflect the program's activities and the mechanisms of change chosen by beneficiaries to produce changes in their lives.

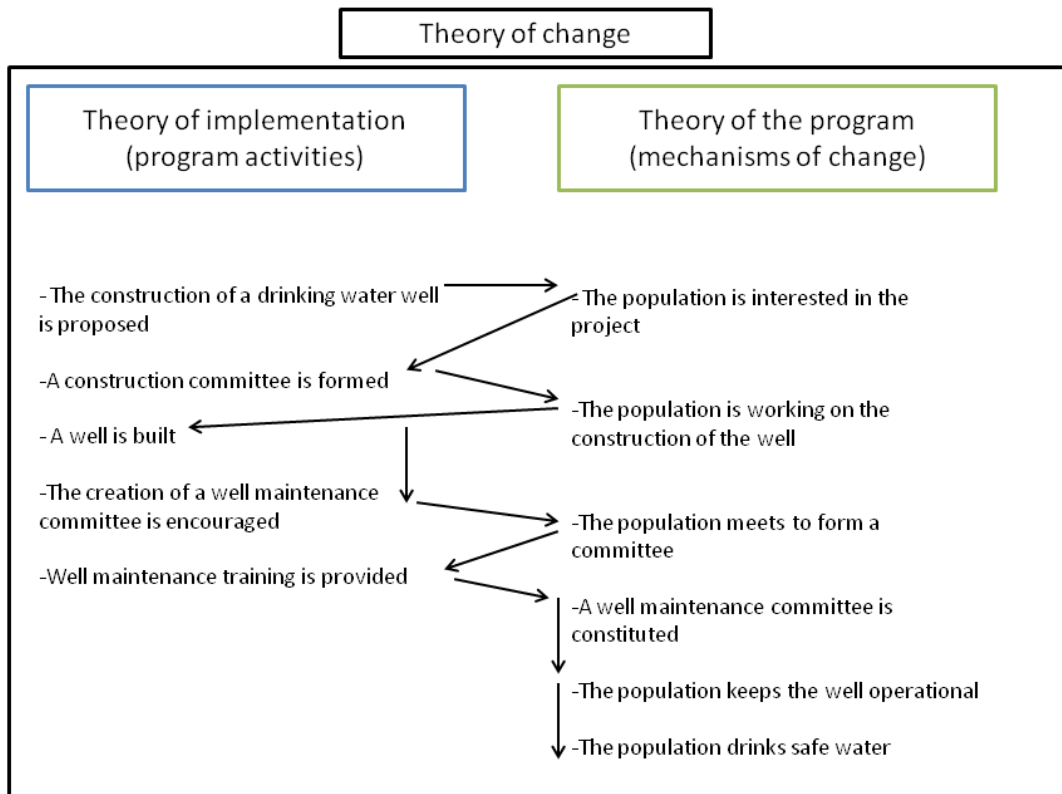
Example of systemic logic model:

Logic model with a systemic perspective



Source: Juan Andrés Ligeró. Máster Evaluación de programas y políticas públicas

Example of theory of change:



Source: Olmo Mateo. Based on the theory of change by Carol Weiss 1998

4) Translate this logic model in the basis of available data and identify eventual new required data for arguing the designed logic model (together with the corresponding calendar throughout this last period of project's life).

- 5) Establish a clear methodology together with all the tools, manuals and other required materials to ensure a proper and argued response to the logic model throughout this last period of project's life. The methodology will be agreed with the project team and the Steering Committee. The methodology will include the sampling to be applied, other statistical considerations as well as appropriate qualitative and quantitative methodologies that can be applied in the interest of the study.
- 6) Support the good development of data collection (qualitative and quantitative) and the production of reports.

Target population of the study

Direct beneficiaries; community leaders; local committees; decentralized state services, NGO partners; the team implementing the project. It would be necessary the creation of a representative sample of this population with specific distinction among men, women, boys and girls. In order to better understand the resilience sought through the implementation of this project, questions or specific explorations to differentiated and/or discriminated groups may be implemented.

Deliverables of the study

- Data quality assessment report based on data collected so far
- Preliminary document that proposes the model of analysis to reach the scope of the study
- Preliminary systemic logic model with the components of structure, processes and results, and reviewed theory of change that reflects the activities of the program and the mechanisms of change held by the beneficiaries to produce changes in their lives
- Preliminary methodological document on the model of analysis to be developed, in line with the systemic logic model and the theory of change pursued by the project
- Final methodological document on the model of analysis to be developed with tools, manuals and the respective timeframe to be implemented along the study implementation.
- Periodic reports (frequency to be determined according to the analysis model, at least half-yearly reports) that respond to the model of analysis.
- Databases from the data collection.
- Final report of the study in French with executive summary in both English and French.
- Article for submission to Scientific Journal both in English and French.
- Dissemination material to present the main results and findings of the study, to public authorities, technicians and other involved stakeholders in Mali, humanitarian community in Mali and Spain.
- Progress reports on the smooth running of the study.
- Start-up report prior to field data collection which includes (detailed work schedule, data collection methodology, evaluation matrix and data collection tools)

Reference documentation for the study implementation

- Proposal of the project and all related documents
- Monitoring and evaluation reports
- Record of meetings with the donor
- Tools, databases and reports from previous surveys conducted (baseline, KAP, PCVA, PRAM, Link NCA, etc.)
- Beneficiary database
- Annual activity reports

- Reports of responses to emergencies carried out by Action Against Hunger in the regions: MLF7AG (2016-2017), MLF7AI (2017-2018) and MLF7AK (2018 - end March 2019), MLF4AE (November 2017 to September 2018), etc.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDY

Evaluation Team

- We are looking for a consultant / consulting firm with the following skills / qualifications:
- Advanced university degree or equivalent experience in social sciences (at least an University Degree);
- Minimum 10 years of experience in evaluation and / or research, ideally in the sector of Resilience measurement, Nutrition, Food Security, WASH and advocacy;
- Experience in developing the theory of change;
- Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills, including analytical skills;
- Excellent command of written and spoken French and English;
- Professional experience in MALI / West Africa.

Offer submission process

Offers must include the following:

- 1 technical offer detailing the evaluation framework, methods, evaluation matrix and evaluation team and study schedule (max 8 pages);
- 1 financial offer (Excel) detailing the costs of the evaluation clearly indicating the cost categories, units and explanations; transport to Mali and in-country, as well as insurance will be the responsibility of the consultant (the consultant could be accommodated at ACF Guesthouse) ; the financial offer will have to include costs for contracting local staff destined to collect data in areas with security constraints ;
- CV of the lead evaluator and team members demonstrating relevant experience / knowledge (maximum 10 pages);
- A letter of motivation clearly summarizing the experience related to this assignment and three professional references (maximum 1 page)
Please include the start date and mention where you found this publication.

Preference will be given to applicants who include at least one copy of a previous evaluation or research report.

Please submit completed bids to ACF-E Mali Logistic Coordination :

coordination.logistique@ml.acfspain.org

with the following statement: "**Integrated Project Impact Study to Strengthen the Resilience of Rural Communities in Kita and Timbuktu Circles in MALI**".

Date of application: 05 June 2019

ANNEXE 1. PROJECT DETAILS

Project information

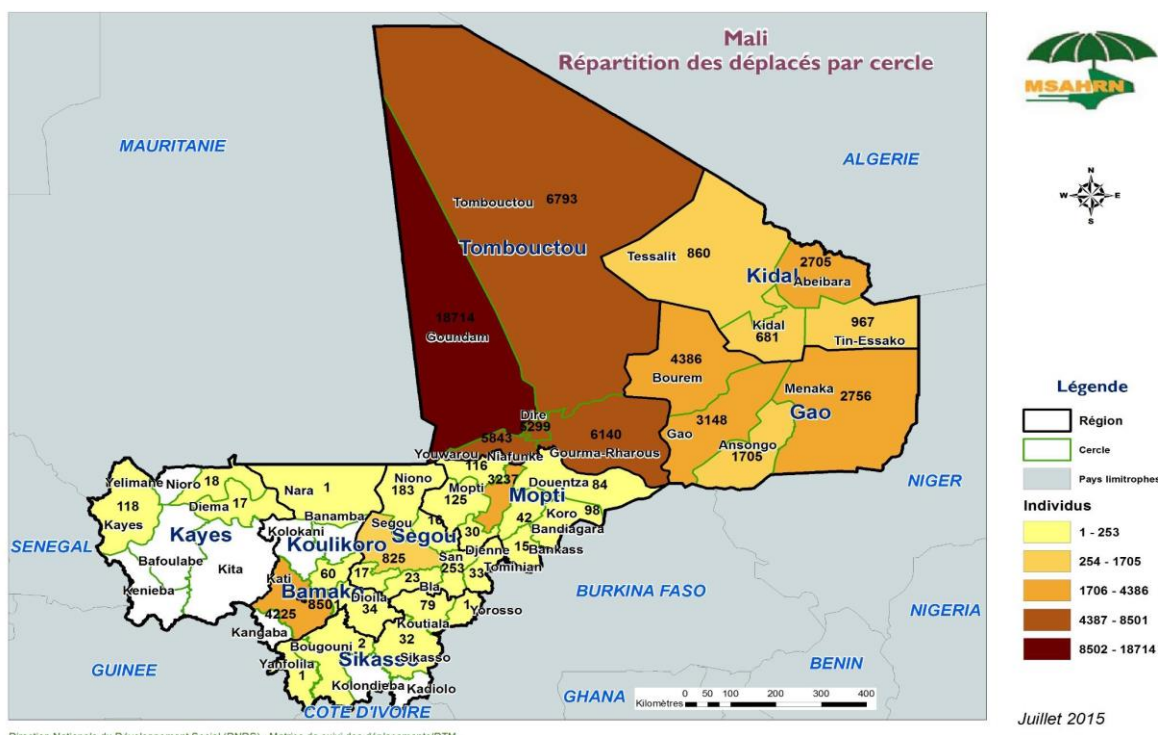
Program Title:	Projet intégré de renforcement de la résilience des communautés rurales dans les cercles de Kita et Tombouctou au Mali
Location:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cercle de Kita – Région de Kayes• Cercle de Tombouctou – Région de Tombouctou
Project period:	09/12/2015 – 30/09/2019

General context of the intervention

Mali is a landlocked country in the Sahel region and one of the least developed countries (LDCs) in the world: it is currently ranked 182 out of 186 in the Human Development Index (HDI) and 69% of the Malian population lives in below the poverty line. Inadequate basic infrastructure, low education rates, rudimentary food production systems are all reasons for the chronic food and nutrition insecurity that affects a large part of the country. This situation is weighed down by aggravating social and political factors such as deep-seated gender inequality, rapid population growth and weak political initiatives to meet the needs of the Malian population. In addition, climate change, including extreme and repeated episodes of droughts and showers, exacerbate cases of nutritional crises and food security in the southern and northern parts of the country, where the daily survival of the population depends largely part of agriculture and livestock. In 2012, Mali was confronted with a deep political and security crisis culminating in a coup on March 21, 2012 and the control of large areas in the north of the country by armed groups. This situation has led rebel groups such as separatist groups and jihadist groups to proclaim the independence of the country's north. In early 2013, in the face of an attack by these rebel groups towards the south of the country, the Malian army and its allies launched a military operation that allowed them to regain control of a large part of the northern regions of northern Mali. . This resumption of control was followed by the organization of presidential and legislative elections in July and August 2013. However, the security situation remains volatile and unstable in this region of the country, largely due to the lack of a durable political solution between the separatists and the government, the limited capacity of the army and its allies to secure the recovered areas, thus the jihadist attacks continue. These conditions of prolonged instability have contributed to a destabilization of already delicate communal relations in the area, as well as ethnic tensions and violence. They have allowed the proliferation of armed groups and various alliances either in support or against the government, favored by a growing impoverishment of the population of northern Mali. In addition, the absence of true territorial control has facilitated a climate of impunity by contributing to the intensification of crime in the area, making it difficult to establish a lasting solution to the crisis. This crisis has therefore resulted in serious political, socio-economic, humanitarian and security implications for the country. One of them was a considerable displacement of population to neighbouring countries but also to the southern regions of Mali. This has increased the vulnerability of households hosting IDPs and therefore has to bear additional costs and share available resources. As early as 2013, after the peak of the past crisis, IDPs began to return to their place of origin, but this approach has been limited in the expectation of the results of the Algiers negotiations to resolve the conflict in the north. The signing of the so-called Algiers peace agreements was effective in June 2015. Negotiations by the various parties were long and until the last moment some groups were considering not signing this agreement. This situation has had the consequence of keeping Northern Mali in a very volatile security situation. Despite the signing of these agreements and the launch of a strategy of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DRR) since, tensions persist between the various groups present in the north.

Incidents at the border between the Gao and Kidal regions in recent months show that the situation remains volatile with a willingness from some groups to control as much of the area as possible before the DRR process is put in place.

Currently, two trends are emerging, notably in Timbuktu and Gao: on the one hand, security stabilization of certain areas allowing the return of refugees, and on the other side, areas where fighting continues between armed groups, accompany movements of population. The displacement of people in this situation of conflict and chronic insecurity has increased the already existing vulnerability of households and the host population.



The political and socio-economic instability in Northern Mali has exacerbated the already persistent food and nutrition insecurity in the area, and associated with recurrent poverty and climate disasters (drought, etc.) that characterize northern regions, as well as the southern regions of the country. At the same time, the government's focus, as well as the international community on the north of the country, while understandable, has contributed to a weakening of the attention paid to the needs of the populations of the south of the country. However, this, a population is also in a situation of severe poverty and a difficult food and nutritional situation.

Strategy of the proposed intervention:

Based on the findings presented above, ACF-E proposes to intervene in order to strengthen the resilience capacities of the most vulnerable populations of Timbuktu and Kita circles. These two areas were identified on the basis of a set of indicators related to their nutritional and food vulnerability. (See 2.2 below the description of the specific context of each zone) In Mali, ACF-E has a two-pronged approach to addressing the immediate needs of communities and building local community capacity, as well as basic services to prevent malnutrition while building resilience capacity through a multisectoral approach, including actions in food security and livelihoods, water hygiene and sanitation and nutrition.

Currently at the level of targeted areas and especially the Timbuktu district, ACF-E mainly respond to humanitarian needs with a focus 'Save lives'. At the same time, in order to ensure a sustainable impact and enable communities to overcome their vulnerability and face recurring and ongoing challenges, such as climatic, economic and security elements, ACF-E considers it necessary to put focus on community-based approaches. This community anchoring will ensure the relevance of the proposed actions and therefore their success, but also the sustainability of the installed dynamics. It is in this context that ACF-E proposes the present project.

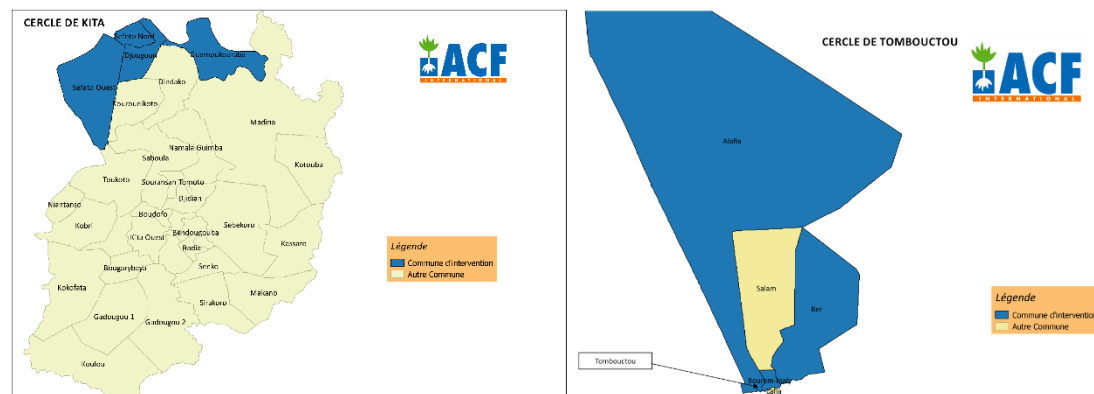
In addition, the choice of zones for this project makes it possible to intervene in two zones with different contexts but facing similar problems. This will develop a dynamic of exchange and mutual learning between these two areas. By bringing these two communities together, the project also aims to contribute to the dynamic of social cohesion, weakened in the last three years due to the conflict in the North of the country, by allowing these communities of the South and the North to better understand each other.

Project summary and logical framework

Summary

The intervention presented in this document and proposed by Action Against Hunger in Mali aims to strengthen the resilience of the communities of the 8 communes of the Circles of Timbuktu (Timbuktu Region) and Kita (Kayes region). Action Against Hunger proposes to support the communities (nearly 348,375 inhabitants including 149,850 for the 4 communes of the circle of Kita and 198,525 for the 4 municipalities of the circle of Timbuktu) in the reinforcement of their capacities of resilience.

Maps of the intervention area



Main objective of the project

Helping to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Timbuktu and Kita circles

Specific objective of the project

Improve the food and nutritional security of vulnerable households in 8 communes of Timbuktu and Kita circles

Project Pillars for Interventions

OUTPUT 1: Causes of food and nutrition insecurity, vulnerabilities and disaster risks are analyzed and multisectoral surveillance is improved

To effectively address the root causes of the crises faced by the people of Timbuktu and Kita, it is important to understand:

- What are the structural and cyclical factors that explain food and nutritional insecurity?
- Who is vulnerable and why?
- What are the current and likely future risks and their impacts on livelihoods?
- What are the adaptive capacities of communities and households on which to build positive strategies for building resilience?

Therefore, through this project, it is planned to conduct various studies that will better analyze the specific context of each area and define an analysis of the response adjusted to local realities in order to better program the proposed activities in the framework of outputs 2 and 3. These studies will be carried out in collaboration with the communities so that they are directly involved in identifying needs and possible solutions to reduce their vulnerability. This will also allow project ownership by the beneficiary communities, which will contribute to its sustainability. Once this baseline is established, and with a view to strengthening existing early warning systems, the project plans to strengthen vulnerability monitoring by putting in place an effective monitoring mechanism, which will allow for faster response mechanisms and thus to prevent the enormous damage to livelihoods and the loss of productive assets by vulnerable households when an acute food crisis occurs. Communities will be involved in defining the monitoring mechanism in order to retain the most effective indicators for early warning, thus taking into account the diversity of livelihoods.

Activities of Output 1:

- **Activity 1.1:** Analysis of the Causes of Undernutrition (Nutrition Causal Analysis)
- **Activity 1.2:** Participatory Risk, Vulnerability and Community Capacity Identification (PCVA), PRAM and Community Plan Development Study
- **Activity 1.3:** Monitoring and support to strengthen existing early warning systems

OUTPUT 2: Household livelihoods are strengthened through the improvement of basic social services and enhancement of productive spaces and food products

Through this second result, it is envisaged to strengthen the livelihoods of households and the improvement of basic social services and the valorisation of productive areas and food products, through the following measures:

- Restoring livelihoods by contributing to the regeneration of natural resources and improving access to productive resources for vulnerable populations;
- Strengthen livelihoods by improving basic infrastructure and social services for vulnerable populations, as well as testing pilot approaches to strengthen the link between agriculture and nutrition;
- Secure livelihoods by diversifying and increasing the incomes of the poorest households, especially through the recovery and processing of local products.

Activities of Output 2:

- **Activity 2.1:** Rehabilitation and enhancement of agropastoral production areas
- **Activity 2.2:** Support to nutrition-sensitive value chains for income improvement
- **Activity 2.3:** Improved Access to Drinking Water and Water for Agriculture and Livestock
- **Activity 2.4:** Improving access to public health services

OUTPUT 3: Local capacities for adaptation and preparedness in the face of shocks and nutritional risks are reinforced

This third output aims at strengthening the local capacity for adaptation and preparation of vulnerable communities and households in the face of nutritional shocks and risks. In terms of adaptation, it firstly provides for investments in the promotion of agro-ecological approaches for the long-term intensification of agriculture. More work is needed to change the attitudes and behaviours of agropastoral communities in order to make production systems more resilient. Behaviours are also linked to local constraints, from which the interventions planned here cannot be dissociated from those envisaged in the framework of output 2. This result also envisages strengthening local management capacities by supporting the preparation and the mechanisms of Social assistance at the community level, such as setting up savings and credit groups (Savings for Change Model-EPC / Saving Group or Savings Group (Traditional Tontines Enhanced). This approach favours the empowerment of household women based on the diversification of local sources of income without resorting to a conventional system of indebtedness with banks and microfinance institutions. During the savings pathway these women will be able to cope with social and nutritional needs of the household, and also after some maturity (having acquired financial management), these groups are coveted by financial institutions and will develop bankable micro-projects

Activities of Output 3:

- **Activity 3.1:** Establishment of Farmer Fields CEP
- **Activity 3.2:** Establishment of a support fund for the implementation of community preparedness plans
- **Activity 3.3:** Capacity building of local authorities and collective management structures (water points, hydro-agricultural works, community banks ...)
- **Activity 3.4:** Establishment of a pilot project of community-based ANJE groups and monitoring of the growth curve in the CSCOMs
- **Activity 3.5:** Information, education and communication (IEC) for sustainable change in behaviour

Output 4: Advocacy and sharing of experiences for building resilience are initiated at local and national levels

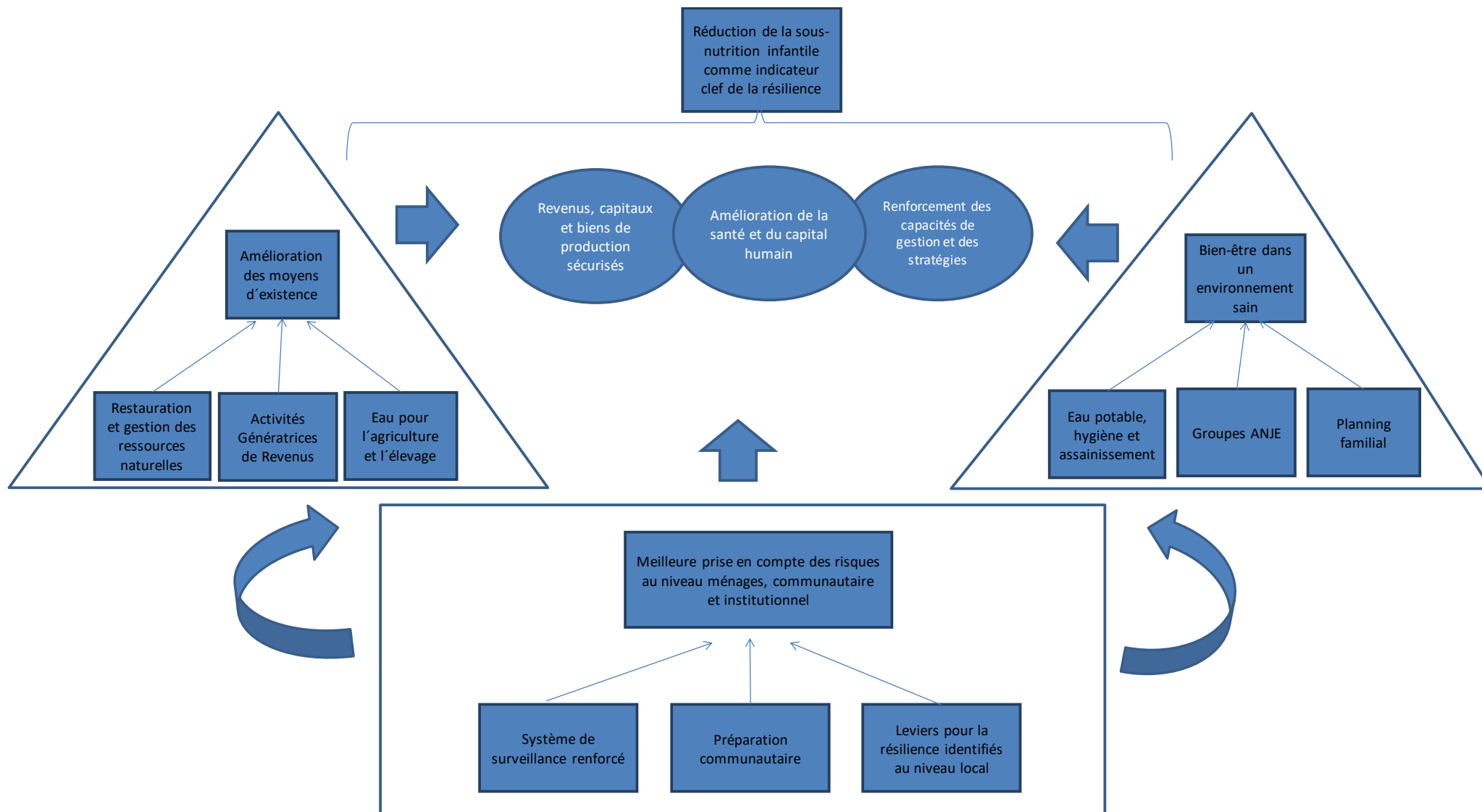
The success of the project finally requires a collaborative work between the various actors, hence the importance of this fourth output. Based on a research-action approach, the project relies on a solid monitoring and evaluation mechanism that will build a strong learning base for advocacy and promotion of innovation. Advocacy work for the right to food and essential public services is also envisaged.

Activities of Output 4:

- **Activity 4.1:** Developing and implementing an advocacy strategy
- **Activity 4.2:** Communal, regional and national workshops of exchange and capitalization on resilience and sharing lessons learned from the project

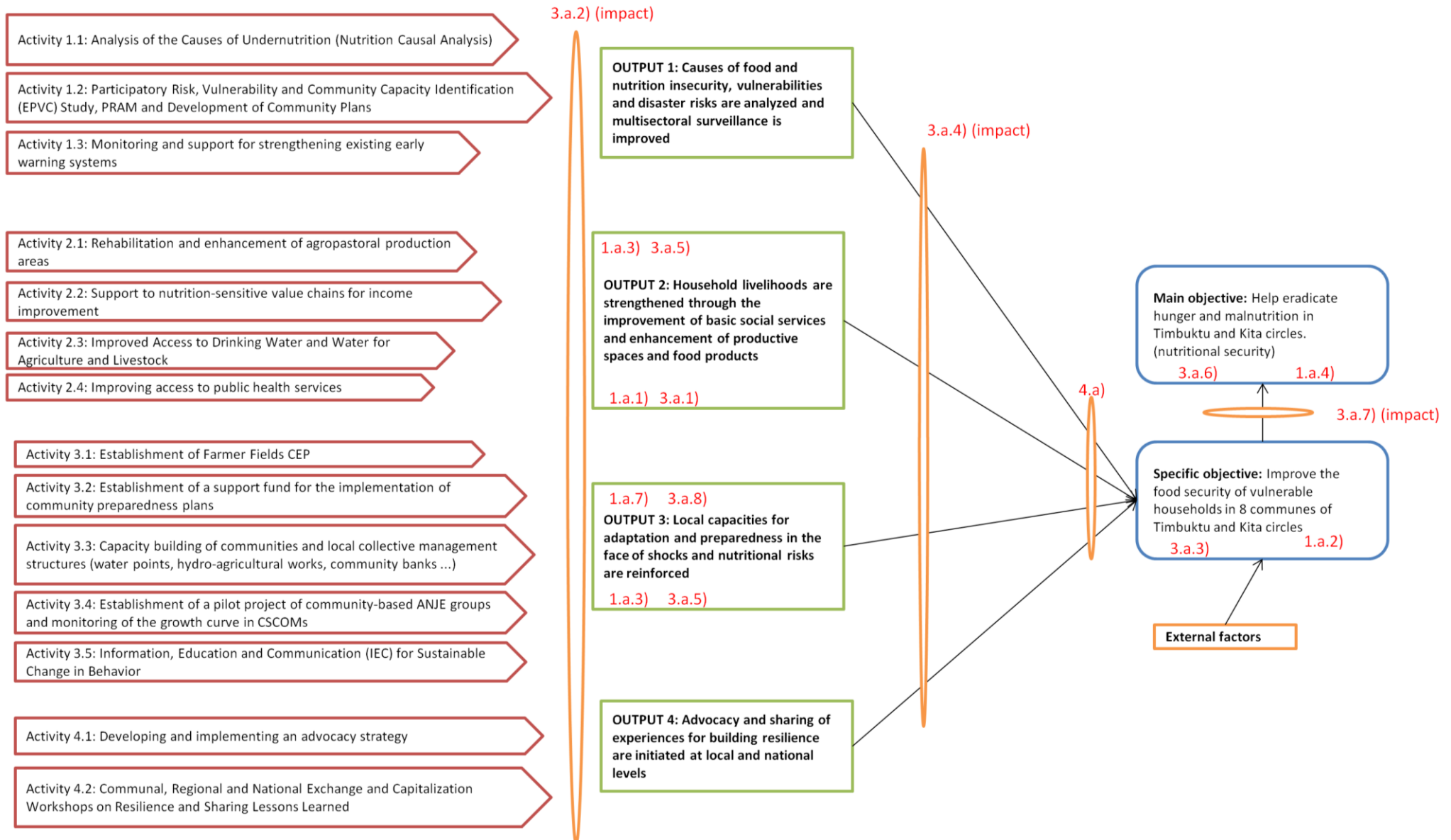
Theory of change of the project

The following diagram shows the dynamics of change that is pursuing the project:



ANNEX 2. SCHEME OF EVALUATION AND SOCIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

EVALUATION QUESTIONS



SOCIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

