OVERVIEW OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Series of Success Stories

Photo credit: Harande MEAL Unit, April 2019

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Unit
Harande Program
June 2019
BACKGROUND

The USAID-funded Harande program is implemented in the Mopti region for the 2015-2020 period with the aim of sustainably improve the food, nutrition and income security of 224,100 members of vulnerable households by 2020 in Youwarou, Tenenkou, Bandiagara and Douentza districts in the Mopti region — an area in Central Mali that suffers from frequent drought and current conflict and instability. The program is a DFAP (Development Food Assistance Program) and is implemented by a Consortium made of CARE International (lead), Save the Children International (SCI), Helen Keller International (HKI) and national NGOs: YAGTU and Sahel Eco.

Harande addresses the root causes of food and nutrition insecurity in 238 villages in 16 municipalities in the four districts of the Mopti region, focusing on vulnerable households with activity packages centered on the following areas:

(i) Nutrition and strengthening knowledge and best practices in nutrition, WASH, CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation);
(ii) Agriculture and household livelihoods, youth employability and literacy, etc.;
(iii) Adaptation to climate change, early warning and management of climate risks and hazards, etc.;
(iv) Conflict prevention and management and gender mainstreaming: intra-household conflict with a focus on gender-based violence, intra/inter-community conflict around the management and sharing of natural resources; conflict between farmers;
(v) Social accountability and good governance that will be a crosscutting for all areas of implementation. The Harande program is therefore a resilience program at all levels: community, households and individuals;
(vi) Emergency response and early recovery in a context marked by crises related to insecurity and environmental shocks, particularly those related to climate change.

These domains are integrated into a package summarized in the theory of change below:

Since the start of activities in 2016, the Harande program has directly affected nearly 53,000 beneficiaries, through all the activities implemented during the FY17 and FY18. It is currently
apparent that positive changes have been made in areas such as: knowledge, attitudes, practices, and building resilience at the individual, household and community levels. Harande’s MEAL Unit drafted this summary report using basic information collected through a participatory process of identifying, analyzing and documenting significant changes induced by the program.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY**
The objective assigned to this activity is to identify, analyze and document in a participatory way with the communities, the program staff, the most significant changes induced by the Harande program with a view to capitalization and sharing on a larger scale.

**METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**
The methodological approach was articulated around the participatory process of qualitative research of the effects induced by the program. This process of analysis, collection and documentation of changes was articulated in three phases: the review of secondary data, the collection of additional information with communities and the analysis of information and production of the report. The following actors participated in the different stages of this process:

- Specialists were involved in choosing which villages to visit, identifying areas of change, and analyzing change data;
- Co-coordinators and field agents were approached for the data collection and preliminary analysis phase;
- The M&E staff led the process in the review, collection and documentation stages.

**SAMPLING**
Reasoned choice sampling was favored in this study. It put forward the following criteria for the choice of eight (08) villages in Bandiagara:

- Communities in which the program has received the maximum integration of components;
- The high level of implementation of complete packages of components;
- Security accessibility.

The sample of villages selected for this activity is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cercle</th>
<th>Commune</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th># of Group Discussion Conducted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandiagara</td>
<td>Dandoli</td>
<td>Dandoli, Golgou, Wendeguelé, Sassadi</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dourou</td>
<td>Nombori, Kagnatanga</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pignari</td>
<td>Koe Dow, Gourel Bodio</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>8</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS**
The stories at the end of this process clearly demonstrate significant changes in:

- Nutrition and health status of children and women as well as access to nutrition and health knowledge of pregnant and lactating women and children:
  - This result is systematically confirmed by the participants of the care groups and men (especially the promoters) who accompany the setting up of the care groups. Communities that have benefited from enriched flour production activities and have
conducted them from rich local micronutrient products emphasize that the nutritional status of children is improved through the interventions of the program.

- Men confirm that improving the nutritional status of children has greatly reduced their health expenditures.

- **Improved access and knowledge on hygiene and sanitation:**
  - Where the program has built water points, women are the first to talk about access to drinking water, lightening their chores, and improving their condition of health vis-a-vis waterborne diseases.
  - As the program often produces improved village water systems, it allows them not only to produce vegetables but also to have drinking water for household consumption.

- **Access to knowledge on agricultural technologies/techniques in FFBS - Farmers Field and Business School:**
  - Improved seed distribution has had a definite advantage in periods of climatic stress, especially in years when drought prevailed. These early seeds have allowed farmers to harvest and store seeds often for the countryside in the certainty of better production.

- **Improving the income of young people and producers through self-employment and the conduct of income-generating activities such as fattening:**
  - The young people who have been trained by master craftsmen-trainers (MAF) and equipped with starter kits by the program in different fields (cutting and sewing, motorcycle mechanics, hairdressing, wood carpentry, etc.) recognize their clear inclusion in the circuit of self-employment and income gain.
  - They have often fled the recruitment of armed and jihadist groups and now claim to be able to not only meet their own need for money but also to support their household members.

- **Lightening women's workload (water chores, milling work, cooking, etc.):**
  - The villages benefiting from mills or involved in the activities of producing improved stoves (clay cookers that are efficient with firewood) speak easily about the reduction of water chores, milling chores, and ease in the preparation of household meals.

- **Restoring the dignity of individuals and improving youth visions of the future:**
  - Several beneficiaries say that the activities of the Harande program have helped restore their dignity and build in them a greater confidence in the future. These are particularly: young people who had lost hope and were at risk of being recruited by armed groups and in whom no one still believed; women members of the MJT who do not know where to seek credit; young people who have returned from exodus, etc.

- **The reduction of migrations/rural exoduses by youth:**
  - Several young people returning from exodus and who have integrated the activities of the program, have received and confirmed their intention to no longer leave again. For example, this is the case of the Cailler Rachelle Guindo and Amadou Kampo who is fattening small ruminants following his participation in the Cash for Work activities (CFW).
The Self-Employment of Young Girls Out of School in Rural Mali

Life Reborn for the young Rachelle Guindo after her exclusion from school

Rachelle Guindo, 20, lives in the village of Nombori, commune of Dourou where she lives with her family. She was expelled from school at the age of 14 because of material and social difficulties that hampered her school performance. After her exclusion, she went into exile in Bamako where she got a job as a housekeeper. Her salary allowed her to enroll in a vocational training center but could not finish the cycle for lack of financial means once again. After all these ordeals, she had completely lost hope and returned to her village.

In 2017, when she learned about Harande's interventions, she did not hesitate to inquire and in 2018 was able to receive sewing training as part of the implementation of the Youth Employability component. At the end of her training, she obtained an 18/20 mark in the evaluation. In addition, Rachelle benefited from the starter kit of the program, including: a sewing machine, scissors, an iron, two meter-ribbons and consumables.

With this program support, Rachelle is now working as a full-time seamstress in her village. She recognizes a great change in her life and in her social relationships. She said, "The most significant change that Harande has brought me is the tranquility and respect of my community members." This change is attributable to the financial autonomy that she has for a long time from her current job. She adds, "Harande could do a lot to help other young people deal with shocks as it allowed me to solve my money problems with what I earn, and I can now help members of my family."

Today, the village women use Rachelle for sewing because she not only is a skilled tailor but she adapts prices to the purchasing power of the community members unlike the other tailors in the area. She earns more than usual during religious holidays and weddings through collective sewing - and for these occasions she employs temporary workers. Rachelle is convinced of the relevance of the self-employment activities of the Harande program and would like to see other village girls take similar training to provide opportunity and prevent outward migration which is becoming more and more a dangerous situation for girls.

"Many did not believe in my ability to succeed, but now the whole village is proud of me because women do not walk miles to sew their clothes."
Improvement of the Nutritional Status of Children of 6-23 months in Wendeguelé Village, Bandiagara Cercle, Mopti Region.

The benefits of the Enriched flour porridge, locally produced by Mérèka Kélépily

Guelemo KELEPILY is a farmer in the village of Wendeguélé, Bandiagara District who benefited from the interventions of the Harande program on sanitation, hygiene, water treatment, sweeping the village and the training on the production of enriched flour and the nutritional demonstration. She lives with her husband and seven children (including four girls). Her younger daughter Mérèka, is only 7 months old.

Previously, she used to give Lipton herbal tea and a porridge of millet to Meérèka. She found many illnesses that made her daughter sick more than 3 times during the month. In this situation, Ms. Guelemo was spending a lot of money on the cost of drugs. Through the care groups (group of ten mothers in nutrition), Guelemo learned to make enriched flour with local products. Thus, she prepares and regularly feeds enriched flour to little Mérèka.

Today, she is happy about her child’s condition, "My child has gained weight with the consumption of enriched flour porridge. My daughter does months without without getting sick, unlike before."

Without this recipe and the nutritional advice she received in the care group, she said, “My child would not be healthy as she is today.” This is directly tied to the availability of enriched flour which ensures a healthy diet. With the knowledge gained in the production of this enriched flour and nutritional demonstration, she feels able to prepare porridge made with local products. She is committed to sensitize the other women of the village for the adoption of the good nutritional practices learned through the care groups.
Living condition improvements in rural communities through the implementation of a package of activities

A sigh of relief for the women of Sassadi Village!

Mède TEMBELY, 37, is a farmer in Sassadi village, Dandoli commune, Bandiagara district. Married and mother of five children. She is also lead-mother in her village care group and member of the Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Committee (EHA). Mède summarized the difficulties of her community: "Before, women like me faced several problems: Our point of view was not considered by our husbands and when it comes to making decisions. We draw water from the only well in the village which is poorly maintained since access to drinking water is not easy with financial concerns. We are surrounded by seven villages where we go to seek water. There, we encounter a lot of forms of verbal abuse. The nearest village is 2.5 km away and the farthest is 4 km away. When we do not find water in one of the nearest, we must first return to our village before taking the path for the other village. Also, we spend most of our time pounding and often this does not happen in hygienic conditions because our village does not have a mill."

Mède and several women from the village participated in the activities of the program such as: (1) The implementation of an improved village water system (SHVA) integrating the garden perimeter; (2) Rehabilitation of the human motor pump (PMH); (3) The establishment of water, hygiene and sanitation committees (CEHA); (4) The establishment of care groups; (5) the preparation of the enriched flour porridge; (6) The construction of bunds through the Cash for work approach; (7) Thematic training in WASH, and functional literacy training in Dogosso; (8) Interventions on gender.

She said: “Thanks to the men's awareness activity, women's participation in Harande activities has been possible. Our opinions are favorable and taken into account. She added that raising awareness of WASH and good nutritional practices among children and women also helps reduce health-related costs, especially for children and pregnant women. Now, a literacy center exists in the village where women learn to read, write and calculate in the local language through literacy. She sees the future with more confidence.”
Building Resilience to Climate Change by Participating in the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS)  
Case of the FFBS of Koe Dow Village, Pignari Commune

Mamadou Kampo is a 52-year-old farmer from the village of Koe Dow in Pignari Commune, Bandiagara Cercle. He is married and has 3 daughters. Mamadou has participated in the Harande program activities in his village's Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) and also in the functional literacy center set up by the program.

He describes the difficulties of a local farmer as follows: "We experienced a severe drought last year until the arrival of the first rains. When the seed began to bloom, the rains stopped and I had a bad harvest. Also, for lack of means, I did not put fertilizer on my seeds and I did not respect the rules of association of crops, like millet and cowpea, for example. My field also flooded with heavy rains and I was forced with other growers to start sowing again - I cannot count the difficulties I was in. And at the end of the year, I had to buy food for the animals."

According to him, Harande was the first program to teach them how to use improved agricultural technologies. The producers have noticed a big change on the last harvest. The program provided seeds of Milet and Cowpea and training in FFBS.

Mamadou says, "The seeds I received are germinating faster than the ones we were using before. I sowed a part to observe the result myself. Before the beginning of the harvest, I already saw the difference - Cowpea seeds give more leaves than our local seed. At harvest, the improved seeds provided a large amount of production that I did not expect, although they were sown after our local seeds. With 1.5 kg of seeded cowpea seed, I harvested about 30 kg of cowpea in seed plus some leaves."

Convinced of the quality of the improved seeds, Mamadou selected and kept part of his production as seed with the assurance of making a better harvest in a 3-month agricultural campaign, and that with a moderate rain. The agricultural techniques learned in the FFBS are rendering farmers able to cope with climate shocks.

"The use of improved seeds and adapted cultivation techniques has improved our agricultural production. Because with little rain or a delay in the fall, I can hope to make a good harvest. Harvesting from improved seeds is more successful than our local seeds. The grains are larger and more pleasant to eat than those of the local seed"
Strengthening Rural Youth Resilience in Mali
Testimony of the Harande Program’s Effects

Amadou Kampo comes from the village of Koe Dow in the commune of Pignari, Bandiagara Cercle. Father of 5 children (including 3 girls), he practices agriculture as a primary activity.

He describes his situation before the program as follows: "Once after the harvest, I left my community to support my family. The lack of water in my community could not allow me to pursue other income generating activities such as fattening. We had numerous difficulties related to water for human consumption, especially for watering animals."

He continues: "With the intervention of Harande in Koe Dow, I stopped leaving. From participating in Cash for Work (CFW), I saved some money. Also, thanks to good agricultural practices shared by Harande, I managed to make a good production of shallot and this has greatly strengthened my financial capacity. The realization of the water point in my community allowed me not only to have drinking water but also to be able to do fattening."

Amadou also participated in outreach activities that improved his knowledge of water-related diseases, hygiene, sanitation and malnutrition. He continues: "Today, thanks to Harande, my household is very happy because my wife is a member of a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) and this has contributed enormously to strengthening the resilience of my household."

Recently, Amadou’s equipment (cart and horse) was looted by an armed group. He says, "I added my savings to a credit contract with the village bank to buy another horse and a cart. Thanks to my fattening activity and my shallot production, I have almost wiped out the credit and the future looks good."
Enriched porridge with Local Products Rich in Micronutrients:
Men report Benefits

Dogolou Kelepily is a village agent promoting health/nutrition in the village of Wendeguelé in the Bandiagara district, which has benefited from a mill, a village water system and activities related to agricultural production using improved technologies. He is married and 54 years old.

He describes the health situation before the care groups were set up by the Harande program, in the following terms: "Before, the children were very sick. There was no difference between feeding children and adults. We spent a lot of money on drugs and we did not often have money to deal with it."

The Harande program has worked with the care groups in the manufacture of the enriched flour porridge enriched with local products. Dogolou said: "I participated with Harande in the establishment of care groups in the village, the fight against malnutrition in families and children, training on the construction of latrines, and the preparation of the enriched porridge." These activities have led to tremendous changes in her family and community, particularly children's health. "Since my children began to consume enriched porridge, I see an improvement in their health status. There was the reduction of diseases. And I can save money for other expenses."

With local inputs (millet, cowpeas, peanuts, etc.) the village care groups prepare the enriched porridge used as a food supplement for children. It is kept in a clean environment and far from external contaminations. Today, with the improvement of access to drinking water and the production / consumption of this mush in the village, Dogolou, and the men of the village of Wendeguelé, remark a reduction of the sick episodes. Families are doing well, children are in shape!
A Source of Financing Women's Income Generating Activities: The Musow ka Jigiya Ton Group (MJT)

Yacoundjou Nantoumé is married and has five children in the village of Golgou, Dandoli Commune. She is President of the Cooperative Society of Women and President of the Community Development Committee (CDC), a privileged structure for planning and implementing village development activities.

She describes the situation before the Harande program in their village: "Previously, we did not have the idea to regroup regularly to contribute weekly to the purpose of giving credits and we had no other means to access credits in case of money problems. It did not help me to meet my own needs as well as those of the family. With the intervention of Harande in the village, she said: "We understood the interest of contributing weekly to take credit between us. We set up a savings group called " Malibemo " which means " Let's be united ", of which I am the president. Meeting together creates cohesion between us and credit is not only available but given in discretion."

After six months of contributions, Yacoundjou received a loan of 10,000 FCFA (USD 17) at the level of the MJT fund repayable over 6 months with 1000 FCFA (USD 1.7) interest. She paid 10 kg of shallot seed that she planted and harvested 430 kg of fresh shallots. It processed 300 kg of dried onions to be stored for collateral and the remaining 130 Kg were sold for a total of FCFA 20050 (USD $37.5). This sale allowed him to repay the credit of the fund and to meet family expenses.

With this economy already, she adds, "I could sell the processed shallot later when the price on the market goes up. This will help increase my income and be able to cope with my personal and family needs."
Rural Youth Self-Employment, Bandiagara Cercle (Mali)

A Young Man Reinforced and Equipped with Sewing Kit

Adou Guindo, 30, is currently a designer in the village of Nombori, Dourou Commune in the Bandiagara Cercle. He is married and has two daughters aged 4 and 1-year-old. Before the intervention of the Harande program, he describes his situation in these terms: "The village had only one tailor and the villagers went to other villages to sew their clothes. I decided to learn sewing but unfortunately I did not have equipment to practice the job."

The Harande program has been active in the village in several activities related to nutrition, agriculture and youth employment. Adou was placed with a Master Craftsman Trainer to learn sewing. His evaluation showed good results and he benefited from the sewing starter kit. Today he is self-employed with his brother and three other young people who are learning with him. He is also enrolled in the literacy center of the program in order to learn to read, write and count in Dogossio language. Thus, he can keep a register of customers and keep his accounts.

In addition, his wife participates in nutrition activities for children from 0 to 24 months in care groups. He says, "Since participating in the care groups, my children are well fed with enriched porridge and are in good health. My wife is no longer suffering from lack of milk in the breasts since she began to have porridge as well, she can breastfeed without any problem."

Through the sensitization on hygiene that Harande leads in the village, the village became clean and many heads of households began to build latrines. My children can play in the village and behind the huts without stepping on the droppings. According to him, the most significant change produced by the program at Nombori is the donation of kits for cutting and sewing. He says: "There are many customers in the village but the only designer could not satisfy all the requests. With this job, I can feed my family and help my father who is with me to support the family. During the week, I can make a net profit of 10,000 FCFA (USD $17)."
Care Groups: A Model for Improving Nutritional Practices in Rural Mali

The Story of a Mother

Marietou Nantoumé is a lactating mother of a 14-month-old boy and four other children in a polygamous household in the village of Wendeguélé where traditions are deeply rooted. She is not only a member of the VSLA groups but also a leading mother in a nursing group of lactating women aged 6-23 months.

Before the training and sensitization of Harande on good nutritional practices in care groups, Mariétou, like many women in her community, did not practice exclusive breastfeeding or nutritional supplementation based on local nutritious products. She was unaware of the good nutritional practices of pregnant and lactating women. Malnutrition was very common among some children in the household, and her husband spent a lot of money on health care and regularly went out to gather bush leaves to prepare traditional herbal teas.

In addition to her role as mother leader in nutrition, Mariétou participated in several activities such as: sensitization of neighborhood women in nutrition, agricultural knowledge sharing in FFBS - Farmer Field and Business School, water awareness, hygiene and sanitation. With these activity packages, she saw her improved knowledge of essential good practices in nutrition and hygiene through the training of promoters. She also shared her knowledge by sensitizing neighborhood women to adopt good practices in nutrition and hygiene. Currently, all her children are doing well. Her 14-month-old child is exclusively breastfed and is supplemented with supplemented porridge.

Mariétou is convinced that the replication activities will enable her village to become a model of nutrition in the Bandiagara Cercle.

"If malnutrition ended at home and my child is doing well as you see, it is really thanks to Harande, because in Dogon, we say" we must not thank the blade that used to shave your head, but rather the one who cleanly shaved your head without cutting you."
AMADOU KELEPILY FINDS A LARGE SMILE THROUGH USAID-HARANDE PROGRAM

“My dream came true, I will never go to exodus or daily work under anyone!”

Amadou Kelepily wears a large smile through the USAID Harande program, stating: “My dream came true! I will never go on exodus or daily work under anyone. My name is Amadou Kelepily; I have two wives and three children. My family and I live in the village of Golgou, in the commune of Dandoli, in the circle of Bandiagara. I established my business in my village in late 2018. I am very happy. Before the Harande project, I lived from day to day with small jobs as a day laborer or as an apprentice mason. Often when there is not enough construction, I went out into the urban centers to find work in order to provide the minimum for my family. In a construction contract, I never earned more than 10,000 FCFA ($17) and the work is not regular. I am well qualified, but I have no equipment (tools) to become self-sufficient. I thank God who brought the Harande project to our village and who helped us, particularly the youth of the villages.

With the Harande project, I learned about several topics such as how to manage a business. I further benefited by receiving a masonry equipment kit. With this support from Harande, I now regularly earn income from construction contracts that provide me with a minimum of 35,000 CFA ($60) as a net benefit. With this income, in addition to family expenses such as food, clothing, care and schooling of my children, I bought a motorbike for my daily commute to construction sites. In addition, I bought oxen to fatten in order to diversify my sources of household income. I am in my second round of fattening. For the first round, I sold the animals for over $670. I used a part of the money to purchase three oxen for a second animal fattening round. The remaining income serves to cover the needs of my family. I have only one mason apprentice who is permanent with me, but I also have daily workers who vary according to the size of the construction contract; anywhere from three to five youths.”
**Technical Partners:**

*Provide technical leadership and guidance including development of technical tools and guidance, training, supervision, monitoring and quality control.*

- **CARE Mali** is the lead of the consortium and accountable for overall program coordination and accomplishment of all targets. CARE’s role also extends into financial management; management of vouchers and cash transfers; monitoring, evaluation and learning; sub-recipient management; compliance with donor procedures and U.S. Government regulations; maintenance of the relationships with USAID/FFP. CARE is the technical lead for *Purpose 2*: Climate Change Resilience and Livelihoods; *Purpose 3*: Conflict Prevention, Governance and Gender; *Purpose 4*: Early Recovery and Emergency activities.

CARE also leads WASH interventions of *Purpose 1*: Human Capital. CARE provides leadership in ensuring that gender equity considerations are integrated into all aspects of the program.

- **HKI Mali** serves as the overall technical lead for *Purpose 1*: Human Capital and Nutrition, where they are responsible for the technical quality control of all integrated nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, and Family Planning/Reproductive Health interventions. HKI leverage their strength in Social and Behavior Change as well as facilitate adoption of practices that enhance participants’ nutrition, livelihoods, and resilient adaptation to changing conditions.

- **Save the Children Mali** leads the education (literacy and numeracy) and the youth entrepreneurship component of *Purpose 2*: Climate Change Resilience and Livelihoods.

**Implementing Partners:**

*Conduct field level facilitation of all activities, including: training relays, participant leaders and participants; monitoring activities and progress; facilitating community level activities; and supporting monitoring and learning.*

- **YA-G-TU** implements all activities in Bandiagara District.
- **Sahel-Eco** implements all activities in Douentza District.

**Others Partners:**

- **Nyeta Conseils** facilitates farmers’ harvest warrantage, link with MFIs and market related activities with value chains actors.
- **ILRI** helps in implementing livestock management and poultry related activities.
- **ICRAF and ICRISAT** are working on watersheds as well as wide spreading innovative agriculture production techniques.
- **IER** facilitates activities in Farmers Fields and Business Schools.
- **Government Technical Services** (Agriculture, Health, Livestock and Animal Production, Rural Engineering, Pollutions and Nuisances, etc.) as well as **Local Authorities** guide and monitor implementation of all activities related to their respective sectors and areas.

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