

RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE SAHEL- ENHANCED RESILIENCE (REGIS-ER)

NOVEMBER, 2013 - DECEMBER, 2020



AT A GLANCE

FUNDED BY:
USAID
\$76,645,520

TARGETS:

Hectares Under Improved Management:
70,513

People Using Information to Improve Resilience to Climate Change:
110,750

Children Under 5 Reached by Nutrition Programs :
143,859

USAID defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. In the broader context, USAID investments in resilience seek to address the root causes of this chronic vulnerability through nutrition-led agriculture and livestock rearing, better health and hygiene, stronger governance and natural resource management, and awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation to them. REGIS-ER contains three principal components:

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Diversifying economic opportunities through agricultural and animal production, marketing, and access to financial services

STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE

Regional capacity building, planning, natural resource management and land use, disaster and conflict risk management.

IMPROVED HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Access to potable water, capacity development of community health workers, training for nutritious local food consumption and gardening, behavior change communications for health actions, and latrine and well construction.



Local governance group meeting in Niger.





With more skills and knowledge, Alimata has become a community leader, a successful producer, and an entrepreneur.

A MOTHER'S JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

Alimata Korogo, a 39-year-old mother of six living in Keglesse village in Burkina Faso, and her family faced many challenges. Like many farming families in this region, her family often experienced low crop yields due to poor soil and insufficient rains. After multiple poor harvests, Korogo became very sick and her husband had to take on debt to provide necessary care and medicines to keep her alive. The family struggled to afford food, medical expenses, clothing and education for their children as they worked to pay off this debt.

A few years ago, Korogo saw an opportunity to overcome these challenges and generate additional income. In 2014, she participated in several trainings from a Feed the Future-supported project that empowers communities with knowledge and skills in conservation farming, home gardening, literacy and health and nutrition.

These trainings changed the trajectory of Korogo's life, as she stepped up to lead not only her own family, but her community and those around her to greater resilience.

Following these trainings, Korogo's conservation farming group selected her to be their leader. In this role, she trained the group's 14 members. While it was difficult for her at first, the project's literacy trainings empowered her to successfully lead her group.

"Now we get higher yields from smaller areas and our soil is rich," Korogo said.

"This year, I had such great yields that I could store 22 bags of cowpea to sell it later at a higher price."

Being able to store—and later sell at a better price—surplus harvests is an important part of resilience. It provides farmers like Korogo with future income and the ability to retain savings for emergency expenses and access credit to purchase agricultural inputs, such as better seeds and fertilizers, to increase yields in future growing seasons.

Korogo's group learned and exchanged best farming practices and shared resources. The group's success led to Korogo being chosen as a local leader to train and monitor 45 other conservation farming groups in six surrounding villages. Over the past three years, Korogo has helped many of these groups become formal cooperatives. New community groups have requested her help so they can use conservation farming in their fields as well.

"This changed my life," Korogo said. "I am now a successful producer and entrepreneur. I am recognized as a leader in my community. I will never stop practicing conservation farming, simply because it works! While being a leader and a trainer, I got to know and help many people all over my village and beyond."

Her success with conservation farming gave her the confidence and ambition to continue to make her community stronger and more resilient. Expanding into other activities after the main farming season, Korogo worked with other women from her producers' group to grow nutritional crops such as sorrel, moringa and carrots in a collective garden to improve the nutrition of their families. They also began growing onions and sold handmade soap and moringa leaves at local markets to diversify their income.

"I'm so proud of what we achieved through the diversification of our activities," Korogo said. "It gave me the means to send four of my children and two of their step-siblings to school, and pay for health expenses and clothing for my family. I also bought myself a motorbike, built my own house, and helped my husband build his home. My hard work has had an impact on the whole family."

Korogo says she's not the same person that she was when she started this journey.

"I am more confident and have more skills and knowledge," Korogo said. "I feel that my work has a positive impact on my family, my village and my county. I know that I am on the right path. I am somebody who matters and I hope that my children will have great futures."

NCBA CLUSA was founded in 1916 and is the primary voice in the United States for people who use cooperatives to build a better world. We currently work in Africa, Asia and Latin America building resilient communities, creating economic opportunities and strengthening cooperatives and producer groups.

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